

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms
OMB Control No. 0648-0674

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has developed instructions for the new reports approved under OMB control number 0648-0674, which was approved in February 2020. At the time OMB approved this control number, OMB requested NMFS to develop instructions for the new reports, as appropriate, and include them to this collection through a non-substantive change request. NMFS has since developed instructions that inform herring industry participants about how to comply with the reporting and monitoring requirements of the industry-funded monitoring (IFM) program. Additionally, we developed instructions for IFM service providers regarding how to apply to be considered as an approved provider. This information collection will remain unchanged by these instructions. There will be no burden added, and no additional public cost burden associated with this change.

The IFM Amendment was developed by the New England Fishery Management Council to increase monitoring, above levels required by the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology in certain fishery management plans, to assess the amount and type of catch and to reduce variability around catch estimates.