

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Marine Recreational Fishing Expenditure Survey
OMB Control No. 0648-0693

Abstract

Marine recreational fishing is a popular pastime across the United States (U.S.) that generates economic activity and benefits to local communities, state economies, and to the nation. NOAA Fisheries is required to provide economic data and analysis on recreational fishing for use in fisheries management. The purpose of this data collection is to gather information on marine recreational anglers' expenditures on fishing trips and durable goods related to fishing. These data are used in fisheries management analyses by state fisheries agencies, regional fishery management councils, and NOAA Fisheries to understand the economic effects of fisheries regulations and policies. The survey will target marine recreational anglers who fish in all coastal states. As the survey is conducted across all coastal states and specifically targets marine recreational fishing, the benefits are that it can provide comparable data across states and at a national level and is easily available to federal and state agencies who need timely economic information on marine recreational fishing. Results of the survey are also used in NOAA Fisheries economic reports, by other NOAA and Department of Commerce offices, by academic researchers, and a wide variety of other groups and constituents interested in marine recreational fisheries. This request is for a renewal and revision. The revision consists of adding back in a trip expenditure survey for fishing trips targeting highly migratory species as was included in the 2014 approval.

Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

This request is for renewal and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Marine recreational fishing is a popular pastime across the United States (U.S.) that generates significant economic contributions to both local communities, state economies, and to the nation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages recreational fisheries, under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as reauthorized in 2007 (16 U.S.C. §1801 et. seq.). NMFS is required to enumerate the economic impacts of the policies it implements on fishing participants and coastal communities. In order to routinely fulfill this mandate and in recognition of the economic and social importance of recreational fisheries, NOAA conducts economic surveys on marine recreational anglers. The proposed data collection will be a continuation of the data collection approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0693.

Specifically, the MSA states "Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this chapter (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by utilizing economic and social data that meet the requirements of paragraph (2), in order to (A) provide

for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities” (16 U.S.C. §1851 (a)). Additionally, the MSA specifies that a fishery management plan must include a fishery impact statement that includes the social and economic impacts of conservation and management measures for participants in the fishery and fishing communities (16 U.S.C §1853 (a(9))). In addition to the MSA, the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (“MRFMA”; Public Law 115-405) states that economic factors are important criteria to be used in fisheries allocation decisions in mixed use fisheries (e.g. those having both commercial and recreational aspects). In addition to laws regarding economic analysis for fisheries, the [Regulatory Flexibility Act](#) (RFA), and [Executive Order 12866](#) (E.O. 12866) also legally mandate economic analysis by federal government agencies. A separate document with a summary of these laws and regulations is included with this submission.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

How the information is used

NOAA will continue to regularly conduct a nationwide survey to gather marine recreational fishing expenditures across the United States in order to have timely information on the economic expenditures of marine recreational fishers (e.g. anglers) and the contributions that these expenditures make to economies of local communities and coastal states. NOAA Fisheries publishes regular NOAA Technical Memorandums based on the results of the data collection. These reports detail the survey methods, sampling strategies, and other procedures used to conduct the survey. The reports provide information for each state on specific expenditure categories, and shows both mean and total angler expenditures. The technical memorandum undergoes an internal NOAA review process for data quality, accuracy, and editorial standards¹. NOAA Fisheries publishes annual marine recreational fishing expenditure estimates based on the survey data in the NOAA technical report series “Fisheries Economics of the United States (FEUS)”². The survey data and results published in the NOAA technical memorandums and FEUS provide NOAA fisheries managers and regional fishery management councils with quantitative information on expenditures made by recreational marine anglers on recreational fishing trips and related durable equipment. NOAA Fisheries and fishery management councils regularly refer to the information to understand the economic implications of decisions concerning fisheries management and the economic contributions of recreational anglers to the economy of their state and region. For example, if an annual catch limit is relaxed and anglers respond by taking more fishing trips, total trip based expenditures would likely increase and have a positive impact on the state’s economy. In the Northeast region for example, the expenditure data have been used in analyzing management decisions related to groundfish (e.g. cod and haddock), and on the economic impacts related to developing artificial reefs which may increase fishing opportunities. Trip characteristic and angler demographic data are used to provide descriptive information on marine recreational fishing participants that can be used to describe the affected communities from regulatory actions.

NOAA Fisheries and other parts of NOAA refer to the survey results for a variety of purposes including in economic analyses of actions affecting recreational fisheries such as fishery disaster assessments, on NOAA websites related to recreational fishing, outreach materials, in responses to constituents, and in press releases. The annual estimates of expenditures are often cited by both NOAA Fisheries leadership and by Department of Commerce leadership at public speaking events or press releases related to

¹ <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/socioeconomics/marine-angler-surveys>.

² <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-economics-united-states>

recreational fisheries. For example, information from the survey on for-hire expenditures was used in analyzing the effects of Covid-19 on the charter fishing industry and in May 2020, the Secretary of Commerce included recent estimates of angler expenditures in his remarks at a speaking event. Additionally, other federal and state agencies as well as academic researchers routinely ask for information from these technical memorandums or for the survey data to conduct their own analyses. The results are also presented at academic conferences related to economics and/or fisheries.

Description of the data collection

The primary objectives of this data collection are to 1) collect trip expenditures for an angler's most recent marine recreational fishing trip and 2) to collect annual expenditures on durable goods used for marine recreational fishing. Additional objectives include obtaining a brief description of the most recent marine recreational fishing trip and collecting limited demographic information on marine recreational anglers. The population targeted by the economic survey will be marine recreational anglers, 16 years of age and older, who fish in these states. Both residents and non-residents of the state will be included. The survey will target the general recreational angler as well as those anglers who specifically target highly migratory species (HMS) such as tunas, billfish, and sharks and who must hold a HMS recreational angler permit issued by NOAA Fisheries. As HMS trips typically involve longer offshore distances and specialized fishing gear, their expenditures are often different than shore based, charter based, or general private boat anglers. The revision to the PRA approval of 2017 consists of adding back in the trip expenditure phase of the survey for HMS fishing as was included in the 2014 approval. The survey will collect information on 1) expenditures on the angler's most recent fishing trips, 2) trip characteristics (including mode of trip), 3) expenditures on durable equipment used for marine recreational fishing, and 4) angler demographic information. The survey will be conducted in two phases. One phase will focus on trip expenditures and the second on annual durable good expenditures. The survey is conducted regularly on an approximately a 3 to 5 year schedule between the different phases (trip or durable). NOAA Fisheries has conducted nationwide surveys in 2006, 2011, 2014, 2016-2017, and 2019. Before 2006, three regional surveys were conducted starting in 1998 with the Northeast Region, the Southeast Region in 1999, and the Pacific Region in 2000.

Trip Expenditures and Trip Characteristics

For the states where NOAA Fisheries or its state partners conduct an interviewer based access point angler-intercept survey (APAIS), an economic add-on will be added to the existing catch survey questionnaire approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0659 and will be conducted in two month waves throughout the calendar year consistent with the survey sampling design described in OMB Control No. 0648-0659. The states include all those along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida, as well as Mississippi and Alabama. In those states where the APAIS survey is not conducted (Texas, Louisiana, California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska), state angler fishing license frames will be utilized to obtain angler contact information for a dual mode web/mail survey. The HMS permit/license frame will also be used to send surveys to the HMS permit holders along the Atlantic and Gulf coast. A specific HMS version of the web/mail survey will be used for HMS permit anglers and will ask about their most recent fishing trip targeting HMS species. In Hawaii, there is no state fishing license required so the sample frame is developed using two methods. The first is the state recreational boating license frame for private anglers. Second, NOAA Fisheries will develop a sample of anglers who fish from charter/for-hire boats. Following established methodologies and efforts implemented in the previous Hawaii recreational fishing expenditure surveys (2006, 2011, 2017), charter patron volunteer participants will be collected with assistance from a contracted outside vendor based in the state. Hawaii charter fishing trips occur on a daily basis at designated ports. Charter operators run half-day and full-day charters on rather consistent schedules, making it easy to know when charter patrons will return to port. NMFS will

randomize sample visits based on port, day of the week, and trip type (half day, full day) and on a given sample day collect contact information (email and/or mailing address) from willing charter boat patrons for inclusion in the survey population. Email invitations to the surveys will be the primary mode of contact with links to the online survey but for those anglers without email addresses in the license frame, we will employ a mail push to web format, with a final contact of paper questionnaires via mail for a small sample of those that do not respond via web. The web/mail survey of anglers will be conducted in two month waves to ensure a representative sample of trip expenditure data from throughout the year.

The questionnaire regarding trip expenditures will include the following questions:

- Date of most recent fishing trip,
- mode of fishing (e.g., shore, private boat, or for-hire vessel),
- location of trip (city and state),
- target species (or type of fishing gear and used level of fishing effort for the Hawaii version),
- (CA only) if on a boat based trip, whether or not the angler was fishing in US waters only, non-US waters only (e.g. Mexico); or both (this is needed to make sure we do not include trips occurring only in non-US waters);
- number of people traveling and fishing together,
- whether or not anglers were on an overnight trip, and if on an overnight trip, then they are asked the number of nights they were away from home, the number of days fished on the trip, and the primary purpose of the entire overnight trip (fishing, business, or personal),
- the number of total trips in the past 12 months (or totals by mode in the past 12 months for Hawaii only),
- Expenditures related to fishing trip, including costs such as auto fuel, auto rental, public transportation (airfare, bus, taxi, subway, ferry), lodging, food (from grocery stores and from restaurants), bait, ice, boat fuel, guide fees, tips to crew, fish processing, gifts or souvenirs, and tournament expenses, and
- the percentage of trip expenditures that are spent in the state of the most recent fishing trip.

The data collected are used to estimate expenditures on an angler-trip basis, defined as one day of fishing for one angler. In the survey, anglers are asked to estimate total expenditures for the entire trip away from their permanent residence if the trip involved an overnight stay. Data on the number of nights anglers spent away from their permanent or seasonal residence and the number of days spent fishing is collected and used to calculate expenditures per angler-trip. The percentages spent in the state of the trip are multiplied by each trip expenditure category to calculate the final expenditure per

respondent spent in the state of the trip.

Durable Goods Expenditures

The sample frame for the durable good expenditure questions will be angler license frames in all coastal states except Hawaii, and the HMS permit frame. The state of Hawaii does not require marine non-commercial fishermen to obtain a fishing license. This lack of a survey population frame complicates non-commercial fishing research and requires NOAA researchers to find another way to survey the angler population. The sample frame for this survey will be boat based license registries maintained by the state of Hawaii. In 2015, the state of Hawaii added a question on the boat registration form that asked if the recreational boat being registered was used for non-commercial fishing. All those registrations that answered yes to this question will be used as the sample frame as was done in the 2017 survey. The survey will be conducted as a dual mode web/mail. Email invitations to the survey will be the primary mode of contact with links to the online survey but for those without email, we will employ a mail push to web format, with a final contact of paper questionnaires via mail for a small sample of those that do not respond via web. Survey questionnaires will be similar in most states except for cover photos, state name, and reference to expenditures made in the specific state. The questionnaire regarding durable expenditures will include the following types of questions asking about purchases of durable goods in the prior 12 months the angler made in the state being surveyed:

- expenditures on semi-durable goods such as fishing tackle and gear (fishing line, hooks, lures, etc.), rods and reels, fishing licenses, special clothing, publications (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.), camping equipment, binoculars, dues and contributions to fishing clubs, and processing or taxidermy costs; the percentage of these expenditures that were spent in the state; and the percentage of use of the item for marine recreational fishing,
- If the angler owns a boat used for marine fishing, if the boat is motorized and the length; boat-related expenditures include purchases of motorboats and accessories, non-motorized boats, boating electronics, mooring and storage, boat insurance, boat and trailer license and registration, and boat and trailer maintenance and repairs; the percentage of these expenditures that were spent in the state; and the percentage of use of the item for marine recreational fishing. Also asked are whether or not purchases were financed, new or used, and purchased from a broker or private party, and the percentage of repairs done by the owner,
- If the angler owns a vehicle used for marine fishing, vehicle-related expenditures include purchases of vehicles, insurance, license and registration, and maintenance and repairs; the percentage of these expenditures that were spent in the state; and the percentage of use of the item for marine recreational fishing. Also asked are whether or not purchases were financed, new or used, and purchased from a broker or private party, and the percentage of repairs done by the owner,
- If the angler owns a second home used for marine fishing, related expenditures include purchases of a second home, insurance, and maintenance and repairs; the percentage of these expenditures that were spent in the state; and the percentage of use of the item for marine recreational fishing. Also asked are whether or not purchases were financed, new or used, and purchased from a real estate agent or private party, and the percentage of repairs done by

the owner, and

- socioeconomic and demographic variables, including days spent marine fishing in the state in past 12 months, gender, age, number of years the angler has been marine recreational fishing, ethnicity, race, annual household income, and education level.

A combined form for trip and durable expenditures for private boat/shore anglers will be used in Hawaii to appropriately address unique issues in identifying saltwater anglers in that state and is attached to this submission package. The questionnaire for Hawaii combines trip expenditures and durable good expenditures on the same survey form in an effort to minimize burden hours in a location that has been historically difficult to survey. In 1996, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act's National Standard 8 (NS8) specified that conservation and management measures take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities, to provide for their sustained participation in fisheries and to minimize adverse economic impacts. Section C of the survey affords us the opportunity to monitor the demographics of the non-commercial fishing community in the State of Hawaii, understand the social and cultural value of fishing in the community, and the scale of fish being caught by non-commercial fishermen. These questions mirror questions asked in previous versions of this survey (2006, 2011, 2017) providing value in consistent monitoring over time. Additional questions ask about the size of the household, how many household members fished, total catch of fish in the prior 12 months in Hawaii, how important the fish are as a source of food, and the use of the fish caught in the prior 12 months in terms of caught and released, eaten, shared with friends or family, or sold. The estimated time to complete the Hawaii survey is the same as comparable durable goods questionnaire in the other states.

Copies of the questionnaires are submitted with this PRA package (the trip add-on intercept form; the trip expenditures mail/web questionnaire for Louisiana (as an example for other states), the trip expenditures questionnaire for California, the trip expenditure questionnaire for Hawaii charter trips, the combined trip and durable expenditures form for Hawaii, the durable expenditures mail/web questionnaire (Alaska is used as an example), the HMS trip expenditures questionnaire, and the HMS durables expenditure questionnaire). All reporting of survey results will conform to data confidentiality requirements. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. After data has been processed and formatted subject to NOAA data archiving requirements, the general public will have access to the data through NOAA data archive websites where all personal identifiable information of anglers has been removed.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

The data collected via the angler intercept in-person survey has typically been recorded on paper but is transitioning to interviewers recording responses directly onto laptop computers and should be widely in use by the end of 2021. The survey will be conducted as a dual mode web/mail survey for that portion that relies on license frames. For the license frame surveys, respondents with an email addresses from angler fishing license databases will first receive an email invitation to the web survey. They will be provided with a unique username and password that takes them directly to the survey using a secure server. Anglers without email addresses on file will receive a mail cover letter which will include a link

to the web survey with a secure username and password and will ask them to go to the survey site and complete it online. Data entered via the web will be captured electronically at the time of entry, and should reduce errors in compiling the data in comparison to the mail surveys where data may be hand-entered by data entry staff.

The data that will be collected via the dual mode part of the mail survey will use automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques such as a mail merge to create personalized cover letters and mailing labels. The cover letter will involve the merging of the sampling database with prepared cover letters to create a personalized introduction to the survey. Survey responses for mail surveys will be automatically captured through optical character recognition (OCR), which will greatly increase the accuracy and efficiency of data collection.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Question 2

Based on discussions with other NOAA economists, both within and outside of NOAA Fisheries, there is no substantive duplication of effort within NOAA. This is the only nationwide angler expenditure survey conducted that gathers information on both trip and durable expenditures by marine recreational anglers specifically at the state level and that is conducted on a regular basis. Within NOAA Fisheries, this data collection is coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology (OST) on behalf of all the regions to reduce duplication of effort and expense. OST coordinates with the other NOAA Fisheries recreational fisheries economists to develop and conduct the survey. The Alaska Science Center has in the past collected similar information for anglers fishing in specific Alaskan regions as part of other surveys targeting narrow fishing sectors, but typically includes only a smaller geographic area of the state. Since 2006, state fisheries agencies have partnered with NOAA Fisheries to provide license frames for the expenditure survey and therefore are aware of the NOAA Fisheries survey effort. NOAA Fisheries economists frequently talk with their state contacts and have not been informed of any similar state level surveys. Due to few state agencies having economists on staff and with limited resources, state agencies rarely conduct, if ever, surveys on marine anglers to estimate expenditures or economic contributions.

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the U.S. Department of the Interior conducts the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (“NSFHWR”, OMB Control No. 1018-0088) every 5 years. NOAA Fisheries economists have established good working relationships with the economist that leads the NSFHWR and talk every few months to discuss progress and practices for both surveys. Based on discussions with USFWS, NOAA Fisheries is aware of their survey plans for future surveys as well as their methods and results from previous surveys. NSFHWR collects similar information about angler expenditures within the context of additional recreation activities (such as freshwater fishing and hunting). According to USFWS, future versions of the survey will not produce separate estimates of expenditures by freshwater and saltwater fishing, and instead, will be combined into one estimate for all types of fishing. NSFHWR also does not provide the same detail in terms of different expenditure categories as in the NOAA Fisheries expenditure survey and also does not provide the same spatial or temporal resolution regarding the saltwater only expenditures that allow for more detailed expenditure analysis needed by fisheries managers. One benefit of the NOAA fisheries trip expenditure survey is that other aspects of the fishing trip are captured that are not captured on a survey such as the NSFHWR survey, such species targeted and the location the trip left from in terms of a city or town. This level of detail is frequently requested by the regional offices, fishery management council

staff, or academic researchers.

A number of academic research projects have collected trip expenditures related to specific fish species in specific areas and are typically one time surveys rather than recurring ones. Frequently, NMFS economists are contacted by graduate students and faculty at the start of these projects. NMFS economists will provide information on the nationwide survey and advice to the researchers looking to conduct similar surveys on a smaller scale. Through these conversations, NMFS learns about new surveys being conducted. No other survey of marine angler expenditures that is consistent across states has been conducted that would duplicate the efforts or data being collected under the current data collection.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The respondents are individuals and households, no small businesses are surveyed.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

As stated in question 2 above, NOAA fisheries managers and regional fishery managers use the results of the survey to understand the economic effects related to proposed or enacted fisheries management decisions or the impacts of adverse natural or economic events (e.g. hurricanes, ocean conditions, changes in economic factors affecting recreational fishers, etc). If the survey were to be discontinued or delayed, the data and information used in fisheries policy analyses would become progressively outdated and therefore might not accurately describe current conditions or be as useful for predicting possible economic outcomes. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries would not be able to meet its statutory requirements for providing timely economic analyses.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The trip expenditure portion of the survey that is conducted in person at fishing access sites throughout the calendar year may result in an angler being intercepted and asked to participate in the survey more often than quarterly as the data being collected is based on a trip taken and anglers may take multiple trips. The number of anglers surveyed in person are proportional to the number of fishing trips taken in the state, which are generally quite large so the probability that an angler is surveyed more than once is low. Also, as participation in the survey is voluntary, all anglers have the option to decline the survey and/or take it one time only. For the mail/internet version of the trip survey, NOAA Fisheries will contact anglers every two months and as the license frame is large, it is unlikely that a given angler will be contacted more than once in a three month period. The angler always has the option not to respond at any time and may choose to do so after returning the survey once. For the durable goods portion it is a one time survey during the year.

The mail/internet version of the trip survey and the durable goods survey requests respondents to either write in responses on paper or to enter responses in the online web version within a few days of receiving the survey in either format, and sends reminders within a 1 week to 3 week time frame. The goal is to have all surveys returned no later than 4 weeks after being sent out in order to keep within the limits of the survey schedule and the typical timeframe for the survey contract with the survey research

firm.

The survey will otherwise be conducted in a manner consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publications in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

A Federal Register Notice published on Monday, February 24, 2020 (85 FR 10415) which solicited public comment. No comments were received in response to the Federal Register Notice.

NOAA Fisheries economists who conduct the survey communicate multiple times a year with recreational fishing constituents, such as fisheries management council staff, recreational fisheries associations, charter captain groups, marine manufacturer representatives, and academics to discuss the survey and its results among other issues. NOAA Fisheries has received a lot of positive feedback about the survey and it is well supported by the constituents. Also, numerous presentations about the survey objectives and results were given both before and after the previous surveys (in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 201, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019) at conferences of academic fisheries economists, regional fisheries commission meetings, and industry/constituent- based workshops. A workshop focused on the Economics of Recreational Fisheries sponsored by NOAA Fisheries and targeting representatives from the recreational fishing constituents was originally to be held in March 2020, but in light of the Covid-19 issues, is now scheduled for September 2020. The expenditures survey will be one of many projects on the agenda.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees. .

There will be no payment or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If the collection requires a systems of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.

We are not collecting any Personal Identifiable Information (PII) in the final datasets. Names and email/ mailing addresses are only used by NOAA Fisheries to send out and conduct the survey. When the survey closes, the files containing that information are deleted within 60 days as per NMFS requirements. The dataset sent to NOAA Fisheries by the survey contractor contains a randomly assigned code for each survey response as an identifier.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior or attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

The durable goods portion of the survey (license frame based) asks some basic demographic questions in order to get a general description of the angler population in each state. There are standard questions on race and ethnicity which are consistent with OMB standards. The demographics can also show how representative the angler population is compared to the general population in the region. This distinction is important when trying to understand if regulations may have disproportionate effects on some groups. Demographic data has been used when doing rapid assessments after hurricanes and other fishery disaster analyses in order to understand the affected populations as well as in understanding how to outreach to the recreational angler community. The NOAA Fisheries Fishing Effort survey also collects race and ethnicity data, and could be used but it is only for states along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts through Alabama, and Hawaii and leaves out Texas, Louisiana, the West Coast, and Alaska.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.

The sample sizes for the survey are determined in Part B of this supporting statement. The trip based expenditure portion of the survey that is based on the Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey sample will result in approximately 65,684 responses over three years resulting in a total, or 21,895 responses annually with an estimated annualized burden of 1,824, hours $((65,684/3)*(5\text{min}/60\text{min}))^3$. The number of estimated intercept responses is based on the results of the 2016/2017 trip expenditure survey. The time to complete the survey, 5 minutes, is based on feedback from field interviewers. The expected number of respondents for the states that use the angler license frame and where the survey is conducted by web/mail is 5,838 respondents over three years based on recent survey results. The survey takes about 8 minutes to complete; total burden hour estimate is 222 hours over 3 years $((5,004/3)*(8/60))$. The HMS permit holder version of the trip expenditure form is estimated to result in 1,112 responses total resulting in annualized burden hours of 49 hours $((1,112/3)*(8/60))$. The time to complete the web/mail version of the survey (state and HMS) is estimated to be around 8 minutes but no longer than 15 minutes based on feedback from NOAA staff who pretested the survey, anglers who called or emailed to discuss the survey, and from focus groups held in prior years. We estimate 8 minutes on average due to the fact that many anglers are able to skip questions as not applicable if they are not on overnight trips, for example, or they don't have expenditures in all categories. Results from prior surveys indicate that any individual respondent has only a limited number of expenditures out of all that are asked about on the survey. For the Hawaii combined form, we anticipate 556 responses, 15 minutes per response, for a total of 46 burden hours annually. For the HI charter trip form, we expect 278 responses for an annualized burden hours of 7.7 hours $((278/3)*(5\text{ minutes}/60\text{ minutes}=7.7)$. For the durable goods expenditure phase of the survey, conducted via web/mail survey, approximately 12,788 responses are expected over three years based on prior survey responses, 15 minutes per survey with an annualized total of 1,066 hours.

An hourly rate of \$25.72 is based on the average for all civilian workers across the United States from the May 2019 wage estimate tables from BLS. There are no other costs for maintaining records or preparing other documents.

A total of 28,474 annualized responses, 3,215 annual burden hours, and \$82,690 annual wage burden costs to respondents is anticipated across all parts of the survey both trip and durable goods phases.

³ We divide by 3 because the separate phases of the survey (trip and durable goods) will each be conducted on average once every 3 years.

Information Collection	Type of Respondent (e.g., Occupational Title)	# of Respondents/year (a)	Annual # of Responses / Respondent (b)	Total # of Annual Responses (c) = (a) x (b)	Burden Hrs / Response (d)	Total Annual Burden Hrs (e) = (c) x (d)	Hourly Wage Rate (for Type of Respondent) (f)	Total Annual Wage Burden Costs (g) = (e) x (f)
Trip Expenditures Intercept	Recreational anglers (all occupations)	21,895	1	21,895	0.0833	1,824	\$25.72	\$46,913
Trip Expenditures (Web/Mail)	Recreational anglers (all occupations)	1,668	1	1,668	0.1333	222	\$25.72	\$5,710
HMS Trip	Recreational anglers (all occupations)	370	1	370	0.1333	49	\$25.72	\$1,260
HI Trip/durable	Recreational anglers (all occupations)	185	1	185	0.25	46	\$25.72	\$1,183
HI Charter trip	Recreational anglers (all occupations)	93	1	93	0.0833	8	\$25.72	\$205.76
Durable Goods expenditures	Recreational anglers (all occupations)	4,263	1	4,263	0.25	1,066	\$25.72	\$27,418
Totals				28,474		3,215		\$82,690

* (May 2019 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates United States available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm)

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected on the burden worksheet).

There are no capital/start-up or ongoing operation/maintenance costs associated with this information collection. There are no requirements to keep any records.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

Based on the actual costs related to contract support of conducting the 2016/2017 and 2019 trip and durable goods phases of the survey, the estimated cost is \$111,447 annually for conducting angler intercept interviews, developing and cleaning the sample frames, developing online survey questionnaires, sending angler contacts such as emails or letters, for printing and mailing, and data entry. All analysis of the data and reporting, and any scientific publications will be developed by the NMFS

staff as part of their regular federal duties. One ZPIV staff member will devote 20 percent of annual labor hours to the project for a total annual cost of \$45,483; one ZPIII staff member will spend 6% of annual hours for a cost of 8,678. Total staff time costs are \$55,160. There are no anticipated costs for government employee travel or miscellaneous costs to conduct the survey.

Total contractor and staff costs are estimated to be \$165,608 annually.

Cost Descriptions	Grade/Step	Loaded Salary /Cost	% of Effort	Fringe (if Applicable)	Total Cost to Government
Federal Oversight	ZP4/3	227,416	20		\$45,483
Other Federal Positions	ZP3/3	144,627	6		\$8,678
Contractor Cost					
Trip Expenditure					\$55,117
Durable Goods Expenditure					\$56,330
Travel					0
Other Costs:					0
TOTAL					\$ 165,608

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in ROCIS.

We have updated the burden hours based on recent survey results of the number of actual respondents for the trip expenditures phase of the survey. We added in an HMS angler sub-sample to the trip portion (it was in the 2014 approval but taken out of the 2017 because we did not anticipate conducting it between 2017 to 2020) and removed the HI charter trip sub-sample as it is anticipated that we will not conduct a charter based survey in Hawaii during the next three years.

Information Collection	Respondents		Responses		Burden Hours		Reason for change or adjustment
	Current Renewal / Revision	Previous Renewal / Revision	Current Renewal / Revision	Previous Renewal / Revision	Current Renewal / Revision	Previous Renewal / Revision	
Trip Expenditures Intercept	65,684	64,800	21,895	21,600	1,824	1,800	Updated estimate of number of anglers/responses based on recent results
Trip expenditures- License frame	5,004	5,004	1,668	1,668	222	222	No change
HMS Trip expenditures	1,112	0	370	0	49	0	Program Change to re-include HMS angler sample
Hawaii combined trip/durable	556	556	185	185	46	46	No change
Hawaii Charter	278	278	93	93	8	8	No change
Durable Goods Expenditures	12,788	12,788	4,263	4,263	1,066	1,066	No change
Total for Collection	85,422	83,426	28,474	27,809	3,215	3,142	
Difference	1,996		655		73		

The government costs were reduced as a result of transitioning to mostly online/web survey formats. This resulted in a reduction in Federal Oversight costs and contract costs as mailing costs have been removed.

Costs to the Federal Government	Labor Costs		Miscellaneous Costs		Reason for change or adjustment
	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	
Contract costs			\$111,447	\$350,000	Mailing costs are reduced with transition to mostly online/web survey format
Federal Employee labor	\$55,160	\$63,100			Reduction in oversight costs with online survey format
Total for Collection	\$55,160	\$63,100	\$111,447	\$350,000	
Difference	\$7,940		\$238,553		

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

Publication Outlets

The results and analysis of the data will be published in NOAA Technical Memorandums which are available externally to any interested person via the NOAA website. There is one report each for the trip expenditure data and for the durable expenditure data focused on the general angler sample, and one of each focusing on the HMS angler sample. These reports are similar in nature and detail the survey methods, sampling strategies, and other procedures used to conduct the survey. The general angler data reports provide tables for each state and at the nationwide level. There are tables for mean angler expenditures by expenditure category and total angler expenditures. The HMS reports are similar but tend to provide regional level results rather than state level results. The latest reports are:

- Lovell, Sabrina, James Hilger, Emily Rollins, Noelle A. Olsen, and Scott Steinback. 2020. The Economic Contribution of Marine Angler Expenditures on Fishing Trips in the United States, 2017. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-201, 80 p.
- Sabrina J. Lovell, James Hilger, Scott Steinback, and Clifford Hutt. 2016. The Economic Contribution of Marine Angler Expenditures on Durable Goods in the United States, 2014. U.S. Dep. Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-165, 72 p.

Timeline

Data collection for the trip expenditures typically runs a full calendar year with states that have year round fishing starting in January for the intercept based sample and concluding in December; states that have a mail/web sample start in March or April and typically conclude in January to capture fishing from January through December with modifications for states where fishing starts up in March/April/May and that concludes in Sept/October (such as Alaska). To prepare for the survey, typically there is 3 to 4 months of preparatory work which includes obtaining a contractor to conduct the survey, outreach to anglers and state agencies, etc. Data collection for the durable goods expenditures runs approximately 5 months, including time to prepare the materials with the contractor, conducting the survey, and finalizing results. In prior years, the analysis of data from each part of the survey (trip or durables) took about 3 months of data analysis and estimation, and about 2 months of writing up the results. Internal review of the publication took anywhere from 4 to 6 months. Generally, reports are published approximately 12 to 15 months after the survey concludes. NOAA Fisheries anticipates fielding the trip expenditure portion of the survey in 2022 (starting in January and concluding in January

2023) with the durable expenditure portion to follow in 2023 or 2024.

Estimation Methods

Survey data for different categories of trip expenditures are used to estimate average (e.g. mean) trip expenditures per angler-day by state and for each of the three modes of fishing (for-hire, private boat, and shore). Mean trip expenditures are estimated by accounting for both the survey design of the underlying sample and the appropriate sample weights. For the intercept-based sample, the sample weights are based on MRIP sample weights adjusted for anglers over 16 years of age and for non-response to the economic add-on survey. The MRIP sample weights are designed so that each intercept in a particular stratum is weighted based on the estimated total effort in that stratum, and therefore, summing over the sample weights will equal total effort. For the license frame samples, sample weights are calculated based on the sampling strata (e.g. state and license type) and sampling design for each license frame state. These base survey weights, either from the intercept or license frame samples, are further adjusted in the process of estimating mean trip expenditures in order to account for item non-response to the full set of trip expenditure questions. Estimates of the mean and standard deviations for all expenditures categories are generated using standard statistical software, such as the *Proc Survey means* procedure in SAS which incorporates survey weights. To calculate total expenditures by state and mode, the number of trips in each state/mode is multiplied by the corresponding total average expenditure per angler-day. Estimates of the number of trips by state/mode are obtained from the MRIP program in cooperation with state fishery agencies.

Mean durable expenditures are estimated by state and resident status for each durable expenditure category on the survey. Anglers are asked to estimate the percent of time that they use the items for marine fishing and the percentage spent in the survey state. The percentages are then multiplied by the expenditure amount in order to get the amount attributed to marine fishing spent in the survey state. Only durable goods used primarily for marine fishing (50% or over) are included. For any items that anglers report using less than 50% of the time for marine fishing, expenditures are recorded to zero. In order to correctly capture zero expenditures, the questionnaire instructs respondents to write zero if they spend nothing for an item. Additionally, screening questions are added to the survey for every grouping of expenditure categories. Respondents are asked if purchases of boats, boat accessories, vehicles, and second homes were made new or used, from dealers or private parties, or were financed. These secondary questions are used to estimate fees for things like real estate commissions and finance charges. Weighted mean estimates for all expenditures categories are generated using the *Proc Survey means* procedure in SAS. Total annual durable expenditures were estimated by multiplying mean durable expenditures in each category by the estimated annual number of participants. Estimates of the number of anglers are obtained from the MRIP program in cooperation with state fishery agencies.

Mean and total expenditures for the sample drawn from the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Permit database are estimated separately from the state totals and not included in the total U.S. or state level trip or durable goods estimates. This likely underestimates the totals in those states, but they are kept separate to avoid any potential double-counting. In the durable goods part of the survey, respondents are also asked how many days they had spent saltwater fishing in the previous 12 months and how many of those days were spent fishing for HMS. These numbers are used to estimate what percentage of each angler's fishing effort is spent targeting HMS. This ratio is then used to calculate separate estimates of durable good expenditures that could be minimally credited to HMS fishing. Total HMS durable good expenditures are estimated by extrapolating the estimated mean HMS related expenditures by the number of Atlantic HMS Angling permit holders.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

NOAA Fisheries will display the expiration date on all forms and online versions.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.”

The agency certifies compliance with [5 CFR 1320.9](#) and the related provisions of [5 CFR 1320.8\(b\)\(3\)](#).