

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Applications and Reporting Requirements for the Incidental Take of Marine
Mammals by Specified Activities Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act
OMB Control No. 0648-0151

Abstract

This request is for an extension of an existing information collection under OMB Control No. 0648-0151. NMFS does not anticipate that the extension will substantially add to the burden to individual private applicants for incidental take authorizations under the existing Control Number. The main difference we expect related to this extension is that there will be a larger number of applicants/respondents than accounted for in the existing OMB Control Number. In preparing this renewal, it was observed that some totals in the previous Supporting Statement were inaccurate. These have been corrected in this document.

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.

The [Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972](#) (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) prohibits the “take” of marine mammals unless otherwise authorized or exempted by law. Among the provisions that allow for lawful take of marine mammals, sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by United States (U.S.) citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing), within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review. Authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if the Secretary, acting by delegation through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an immitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

Issuance of an incidental take authorization (Authorization) under section 101(a)(5)(A) or (D) of the MMPA requires three sets of information collection:

- (1) a complete application for an Authorization, as set forth in our implementing regulations at [50 CFR 216.104](#), which provides the information necessary for us to make the necessary statutory determinations;
- (2) information relating to required monitoring; and
- (3) information related to required reporting.

These collections of information enable us to:

- (1) evaluate the proposed activity's impact on marine mammals;
- (2) arrive at the appropriate determinations required by the MMPA and other applicable laws prior to issuing the Authorization; and
- (3) monitor impacts of activities for which we, NMFS, have issued Authorizations to determine if predictions regarding impacts on marine mammals were valid.

Letters of Authorization – MMPA § 101(a)(5)(A)

In 1981, Congress amended the MMPA to provide for Authorizations for activities other than commercial fishing, provided that we found that the takings would consist of small numbers and would have no more than a "negligible impact" on those marine mammal species not listed as depleted under the MMPA, and not having an "immitigable adverse impact" on subsistence harvests of these species by Alaskan Natives. NMFS, may prescribe regulations authorizing take for periods of up to five consecutive years. Implementing regulations require that any such regulations set forth:

- Permissible methods and the specified geographical region of taking;
- The means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat and on the availability of the species or stock for "subsistence" uses; and,
- Requirements for monitoring and reporting, including requirements for the independent peer-review of proposed monitoring plans where the proposed activity may affect the availability of a species or stock for taking for subsistence uses.

[50 CFR 216.105](#). Once we issue the regulations to authorize the taking, those conducting the activity must request and obtain a subsequent Letter of Authorization from us. Once we issue the Authorization, the applicant must abide by the prescribed reporting requirements.

Incidental Harassment Authorization – MMPA § 101(a)(5)(D)

In 1994, Congress amended MMPA section 101(a)(5) to establish an expedited process by which U.S. citizens can apply for an authorization to take incidentally, but not intentionally, small numbers of marine mammals by harassment. This amendment eliminates the need for applying for regulations but retains the requirements for applications for the Incidental Harassment Authorization, including monitoring and reporting interactions with marine mammals. This type of Authorization does not reduce the paperwork burdens significantly on the activity, but, rather, it expedites our review and subsequent approval or denial of the application. The 1994 amendments also established specific time limits for public notice and comment on requests for an Incidental Harassment Authorization.

The Endangered Species Act

In 1986, Congress amended both the MMPA, under the Incidental Take Program, and the [Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to authorize takings of depleted (and endangered or threatened) marine mammals. The amendments required that the taking (lethal, injurious, or harassment) would be small in number and would have a negligible impact on marine mammals. The 1986 amendments provided for an authorization to incidentally take ESA-listed marine mammals provided the taking (including mortality) was authorized under section 101(a)(5) of the MMPA. As a result, we must authorize any take of ESA-listed marine mammals under both the MMPA as well as the ESA.

The National Environmental Policy Act

Issuance of an Authorization is subject to our conducting an environmental review under the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) which may take the form of either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or we may Categorically Exclude the action from NEPA. Adequate and complete applications allow us to determine whether an EA or EIS is appropriate because the information provided is sufficient to complete our NEPA analyses. On the other hand, incomplete applications or applications without sufficient information on the environmental impact of the proposed activity would typically delay our evaluation under NEPA.

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.

If the applicant determines that their activity has the potential to cause take, they may request an Authorization and/or regulations from us to obtain an exemption under the MMPA. Once the applicant determines that it is appropriate to request an Authorization and/or regulations, it is their responsibility to collect the information required to answer the fourteen questions listed in [50 CFR 216.104\(a\)\(1-14\)](#) to support their request. We provide additional guidance on the fourteen questions (including PRA statement) on our website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/apply-incident-take-authorization>).

The collection of information is the responsibility of the individual, organization, state, local, or tribal government, or business petitioning us for an authorization to allow the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals. Without this collection of information requirement, we cannot authorize the incidental taking of marine mammals for the applicant's activities. The Authorization does not permit the underlying activity and only authorizes the incidental take of marine mammals during the course of that activity. Failure to obtain an Authorization and/or regulations does not mean the activity cannot take place, but if an applicant takes a marine mammal (by harassment, injury, serious injury, or mortality) while conducting that activity, the applicant may be subject to prosecution under the MMPA or vulnerable to third party litigation.

The Director, Office of Protected Resources will use the information collection as:

- (1) a basis for a decision on issuance or denial of an Authorization and/or regulations under the MMPA (application); and
- (2) a basis for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of the authorized activity's impact on marine mammals (monitoring and reporting);

Information Collection – Application and Supporting Documentation

The regulations for an Authorization (Incidental Harassment Authorization or Letter of Authorization) require applicants to include responses to fourteen questions listed in [50 CFR 216.104\(a\)\(1-14\)](#).

All applications for marine mammal Authorizations and/or regulations must include this information in sufficient detail necessary for us to conduct appropriate analyses and make necessary findings under the MMPA and other applicable laws. In addition to the information collection required under 50 CFR 216.104, applicants often voluntarily provide environmental analyses, raw data, and/or geospatial data files to further support their request for an ITA.

We use the information to:

- (1) review the application and ensure that it is adequate and complete.

- (2) determine the status of the proposed action under the ESA and NEPA.
- (3) determine the size, scope and duration of the proposed activity (Questions 1 and 2).
- (4) determine the environmental setting of the activity (Questions 3 and 4).
- (5) complete an analysis of the effects of the action on marine mammals, their habitat, and subsistence uses (including methods of take) (Questions 5 -10).
- (6) verify an estimate of the numbers of animals likely to be taken (Questions 5-10).
- (7) ensure that the applicant included adequate mitigation measures (Question 11).
- (8) ensure the applicant included adequate monitoring and reporting measures (Question 13).

Question 12 is specific to actions in Alaska. For activities conducted in the Arctic, the MMPA and/or implementing regulations require that the applicant's monitoring plan undergo an independent review. Question 14 requests information on what plans the applicant may have to conduct research on the impacts on marine mammals from the activity. This information is requested to effectuate legislative intent behind the 1981 Amendments to the MMPA (H. Rept. 97-228, p. 20) that persons operating under the incidental take authority engage in appropriate research designed to reduce incidental take.

We review the application and analyze the information collection to make statutory findings under the MMPA that the taking: will satisfy the small numbers requirement, where applicable; will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) (Questions 1-11); and will not have an immitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant) (Questions 8, 11, and 12). The authorization (if issued) must set forth the permissible methods of taking, other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat, and monitoring and reporting of such takings.

Our review of a complete application is followed by one 30-day public comment period in the Federal Register for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (Section 101(a)(5)(D)) or by two public comment periods (e.g., one 30-day upon receipt and one 30-45-day period when regulations are proposed) for regulations and subsequent Letters of Authorization ([Section 101\(a\)\(5\)\(A\)](#)).

Information Collection – Monitoring and Reporting

We use monitoring requirements and interim, annual, and comprehensive reports to determine:

- (1) if the activity took place as described in the request for an Authorization;
- (2) if the applicant complied with the terms and conditions of the Authorization;
- (3) if the applicant conducted the monitoring plan as authorized;
- (4) if the taking of marine mammals was more than that authorized; and
- (5) if the impacts of the activity are consistent with what we anticipated and permitted in the Authorization.

The reports must include a description of the activity including the time, location, and place; a summary of the monitoring program; and an assessment of the effects of the activity on marine mammals including the estimated level of incidental take by species.

We may require additional reporting requirements (submission of raw data and/or geospatial data files) on a case-by-case basis for activity-specific regulations and authorizations.

Compliance with the Information Quality Act Guidelines

We disseminate the information collection to the public to provide a detailed description of the proposed action and to explain how we arrived at a determination (either preliminary or final) that an Authorization and/or a regulation is or is not appropriate under the MMPA.

The information collected is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act and on-line at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. We provide the information in a standard data format (Adobe PDF files) and provide unit style conventions within the Federal Register notice to facilitate the public's understanding.

Before disseminating information in any format, we review the data internally (pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#)) to ensure that they are scientifically sound and meet standards for data quality. The review process for Authorizations and/or regulations includes review of the application by the principal drafter of the Authorization to ensure that the applicant has met the requirements under section 101(a)(5) of the MMPA. The principal drafter's supervisor and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of General Counsel review the proposed and final Federal Register notices for the Authorization and/or regulation, as well as the actual Authorization or regulation. If applicable, a NMFS biologist also conducts an independent review of the action's effects on ESA-listed species under Section 7 of the ESA.

Our dissemination of all electronic information adheres to the standards set out in Appendix III, Security of Automated Information Resources, [Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130](#); the [Computer Security Act](#); and the [Government Information Security Reform Act](#).

We 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. See Response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy.

This information collection meets the standards for utility under the Paperwork Reduction Act, as we use the information collection to meet statutory requirements under the MMPA, ESA (e.g., ESA section 7 and/or section 10), and NEPA.

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.

Applicants may transmit an electronic application or report (e.g., a Microsoft Word (.docx) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file) via email or deliver paper forms via hand delivery, the U.S. Postal Service, fax, or by an overnight delivery service. During the processing of the application for an Authorization, we correspond with the applicant either by e-mail or by telephone.

All Authorization applications and reports are available on the internet as Adobe Acrobat .pdf files at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> as electronic format allows the public easy access to applications and activity reports. The interested public may also obtain a copy of the application by writing to the Office of Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division or by telephoning the contact listed in the Federal Register notice.

The application instructions are available for downloading on our website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/apply-incidental-take-authorization>. Upon request, we can forward these instructions to the interested party via e-mail in either Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word format.

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

We and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of the Interior (DOI), are responsible for different species under the MMPA. Our agency manages and conserves whales, dolphins, porpoise, seals, and sea lions and the USFWS is responsible for the manatee, dugong, sea otter, walrus, and polar bear populations. *The applicant may submit a single application to both agencies when there is a potential to take a marine mammal species within the same activity under each agency's jurisdiction.*

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) of the DOI has an overlapping collection requirement with us and the USFWS for reporting impacts on the marine environment from offshore oil and gas activities. This is a large information collection which mostly does not involve us (or the USFWS). There is a small overlap of collecting responsibilities when oil companies apply for an Authorization. When there is an overlap, we work cooperatively with the USFWS and BOEM to implement unified mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements to reduce duplicative information collection on the part of the applicant.

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

There should not be a significant burden to small businesses or other small entities. We do not anticipate significant impacts to small businesses, unless they are involved in an activity that will otherwise have an unauthorized taking of a marine mammal (e.g., they have not applied for an Incidental Take Authorization and are subject to prosecution).

We anticipate that the affected applicants would include university researchers, municipalities, oil and gas exploration companies, other energy companies, and their contractors. While contractors fall within the category of a small business, in many cases they supply the information required under this collection to Federal agencies, and thereby obtain a benefit. Otherwise, they are unaffected.

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.

Without the information collection, required by statute and regulations, we would be:

- (1) unaware of the applicant's need for an exemption to the MMPA's moratorium on taking marine

mammals;

- (2) unable to evaluate the proposed activity's impact on marine mammals;
- (3) unable to arrive at the appropriate determinations required by the MMPA and other applicable laws prior to issuing the authorization;
- (4) unable to meet the "shall allow" or "shall issue" requirements of the MMPA due to the agency's inability to make the appropriate determinations without adequate information; and
- (5) unable to monitor impacts of activities for which take authorizations have been issued to determine if predictions regarding impacts on marine mammals were valid.

The interim (e.g., 90-day), annual, and/or comprehensive report must summarize activities conducted during the reporting period. If the applicant does not submit this information, we would not be able to adequately monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of the Authorization. Additionally, we use the information mined from the annual reports in making management decisions to aid in our assessment of potential impacts of the incidental take on marine mammals. We also use this information to comply with any analyses required under section 7 of the ESA and/or the NEPA.

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

This collection will 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 60 day comment notice soliciting public comment on this information collection was published in the Federal Register on January 29, 2020 ([86 FR 7544](#)).

We received 1 public comment from Jean Q. Public. She did not have comments addressing the cost or hour burden estimates. Most of the comment was not to be pertinent to the collection, addressing the number of incidental take authorizations we issue and their asserted impact on the health of marine mammals.

External Consultation: We receive input regularly from the Marine Mammal Commission, industry, the scientific community, and other interested parties, to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, clarity of instructions and record keeping, the amount of burden imposed, and ways to minimize burden. Such information exchanges occur via phone/email from applicants and during professional society meetings such as the Biennial Conference on Marine Mammals and other national and international protected species meetings and workshops.

Solicitation of Comments from Stakeholders: In their application for the GOM incidental take authorization, BOEM provided burden estimates for the number of respondents we should expect based on their historical amount of activity in this sector and their outreach with stakeholders that we used in revising this application relative to prior version of this information collection.

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

We do not provide payments 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.

The information collection is a matter of public record (with the exception of classified military materials), and the MMPA and our regulations do not require the submission of confidential material.

The statute and our regulations require that we publish a notice of receipt of an application in the Federal Register requesting comments on the proposed action. The interested public can review the application and supporting documentation at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act> and submit comments electronically. For each Federal Register notice, we include a disclaimer that a commenter should not submit Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information with his/her public comment, as we typically post the comments online without change.

The authorization documentation, including reports, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). However, any personal information that is subject to the Privacy Act is redacted if contained within documents released under FOIA.

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 statute and regulations do not require the submission of sensitive material.

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

We estimate the total annual burden hours at 259,743 hours, as shown in the below tables. We base our burden estimates on discussions with current Authorization holders from three different sectors (e.g., oil and gas, state agency, and other non-NOAA Federal agencies) and an accounting of the number and different types of actions that we have processed recently and expect to process during this renewal.

As our application process has not changed, we do not anticipate a substantial increase in burden hours per applicant as a result of this extension. The complexity of the information required in applications or reports varies greatly due to the following: (a) level of controversy over the activity; (b) level and type of incidental take of marine mammals; and (c) level of unresolved questions involving the activity's long-term impact on marine mammals, habitat and/or subsistence needs for marine mammals. Response times will vary for the public based upon the complexity of the requested action.

Information Collection	Type of Respondent (e.g., Occupational Title)	# of Respondents (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)
IHA Application	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	50	1	50	281	14050	\$ 32.31	\$453,955.50
IHA Interim Draft Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	1	1	1	30	30	\$ 32.31	\$969.30
IHA Draft Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	50	1	50	140	7000	\$ 32.31	\$226,170.00
IHA Final Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	50	1	50	28	1400	\$ 32.31	\$45,234.00
LOA - Initial Application Preparation	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	10	1	10	1200	12000	\$ 32.31	\$387,720.00
LOA - Annual LOA Application	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	137	1	137	70	9590	\$ 32.31	\$309,852.90
LOA - Draft Annual Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	10	1	10	225	2250	\$ 32.31	\$72,697.50
LOA - Final Annual Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	10	1	10	70	700	\$ 32.31	\$22,617.00
LOA - LOA Draft Final Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	2	1	2	640	1280	\$ 32.31	\$41,356.80
LOA - LOA Final Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	2	1	2	300	600	\$ 32.31	\$19,386.00
GOM - Draft Annual Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	127	1	127	140	17780	\$ 32.31	\$574,471.80
GOM - Final Annual Report	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	127	1	127	28	3556	\$ 32.31	\$114,894.36
PAM/PSO Surveys	Zoologist/Wildlife Biologist	123	1	123	1540	189507	\$ 32.31	\$ 9,017,000***
Totals				699		259,743		\$11,286,325.16

*Wage rate obtained from 2019 Occupational Employment data at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#19-0000

**The GOM Rule RIA Appendix C Exhibits C-2 and C-3 provide separate incremental cost ranges for industry for PSO and for PAM information collection. This value represents the sum of the midpoint for both ranges, \$1,112,000 for the PSO requirements, \$7,905,000 for the PAM requirements.

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).

We estimate the total annual cost burden to the respondents at \$756,318 (approximately \$1,082.00 per respondent). The reporting and recordkeeping estimates include costs for equipment/software (not required, but incidental based on respondents' needs), copying and printing, faxing/telephony, and postage and shipping. We base these estimates on discussions with Authorization holders from three different sectors (e.g., oil and gas, state agency, and non-profit) from previous efforts. As our burden hours and costs are not anticipated to have changed substantially, we estimate that the cost burden would be approximately the same.

Information Collection	# of Respondents (a)	Annual # of Responses / Respondent (b)	Total # of Annual Responses (c) = (a) x (b)	Cost Burden / Respondent (h)	Total Annual Cost Burden (i) = (c) x (h)
IHA Application	50	1	50	\$ 1,082	\$ 54,100
IHA Interim Draft Report	1	1	1	\$ 1,082	\$ 1,082
IHA Draft Report	50	1	50	\$ 1,082	\$ 54,100
IHA Final Report	50	1	50	\$ 1,082	\$ 54,100
LOA - Initial Application Preparation	10	1	10	\$ 1,082	\$ 10,820
LOA - Annual LOA Application	137	1	137	\$ 1,082	\$ 148,234
LOA - Draft Annual Report	10	1	10	\$ 1,082	\$ 10,820
LOA - Final Annual Report	10	1	10	\$ 1,082	\$ 10,820
LOA - LOA Draft Final Report	2	1	2	\$ 1,082	\$ 2,164
LOA - LOA Final Report	2	1	2	\$ 1,082	\$ 2,164
GOM - Draft Annual Report	127	1	127	\$ 1,082	\$ 137,414
GOM - Final Annual Report	127	1	127	\$ 1,082	\$ 137,414
PAM/PSO Surveys	123	1	123	\$ 1,082	\$ 133,086
TOTALS			699		\$ 756,318

There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

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.

Cost Descriptions	Grade/Step	Loaded Salary /Cost	% of Effort	Fringe (if Applicable)	Total Cost to Government
Federal Oversight	GS-15 (ZP-5) x 1	256,200	60		\$ 153,720
Federal Oversight	GS -13/14 (ZP-4) x 3	\$ 236,550	75		\$ 532,238
Federal Oversight	GS 11/12 (ZP-3) x 4	168,360	80		\$ 538,752
	GS-7 (ZP-2) x 10	\$68,809.50	100		\$ 688,095

Gov't Data Collection Costs for PSO/PAM Surveys					\$ 9,180
Contractor Cost (4FTE)		\$128,064	85		\$ 435,418
Travel					
Other Costs:					
TOTAL					\$ 2,357,402

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

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	
IHA Application	50	19	50	19	14050	5,339	Increased Applications
IHA Interim Draft Report	1	1	1	1	30	30	
IHA Draft Report	50	19	50	19	7000	2,660	Increased Applications
IHA Final Report	50	19	50	19	1400	532	Increased Applications
LOA - Initial Application Preparation	10	1	10	1	12000	1,200	Increased Applications
LOA - Annual LOA Application	137	105	137	105	9590	7,350	Increased Applications
LOA - Draft Annual Report	10	10	10	10	2250	2,250	
LOA - Final Annual Report	10	10	10	10	700	700	
LOA - LOA Draft Final Report	2	2	2	2	1280	1,280	
LOA - LOA Final Report	2	2	2	2	600	600	
GOM - Draft Annual Report	127	24	127	24	17780	3,360	Gulf of Mexico rule implementation
GOM - Final Annual Report	127	24	127	24	3556	672	Gulf of Mexico rule implementation
PAM/PSO Surveys	123	123	123	123	189507	189,506	
Total for Collection	699	359	699	359	259,743	215,479	
Difference	340		340		44,264		

Information Collection	Labor Costs		Miscellaneous Costs		Reason for change or adjustment
	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	
IHA Application	\$453,955.50	\$172,503.09	\$ 54,100	20,558	Increased Applications
IHA Interim Draft Report	\$969.30	\$969.30	\$ 1,082	\$ 1,082	
IHA Draft Report	\$226,170.00	\$85,944.60	\$ 54,100	20,558	Increased Applications
IHA Final Report	\$45,234.00	\$17,188.92	\$ 54,100	20,558	Increased Applications
LOA - Initial Application Preparation	\$387,720.00	\$36,588.00	\$ 10,820	\$ 1,082	Increased Applications
LOA - Annual LOA Application	\$309,852.90	\$237,478.50	\$ 148,234	\$ 113,610	Increased Applications

LOA - Draft Annual Report	\$72,697.50	\$72,697.50	\$ 10,820	\$ 10,820	
LOA - Final Annual Report	\$22,617.00	\$22,617.00	\$ 10,820	\$ 10,820	
LOA - LOA Draft Final Report	\$41,356.80	\$41,356.80	\$ 2,164	\$ 2,164	
LOA - LOA Final Report	\$19,386.00	\$19,386.00	\$ 2,164	\$ 2,164	
GOM - Draft Annual Report	\$574,471.80	\$108,561.16	\$ 137,414	\$ 25,968	Gulf of Mexico rule implementation
GOM - Final Annual Report	\$114,894.36	\$21,712.32	\$ 137,414	\$ 25,968	Gulf of Mexico rule implementation
PAM/PSO Surveys	\$ 9,017,000***	\$9,017,000**	\$ 133,086	\$ 133,086	
Total for Collection	\$ 11,286,325.16	\$ 9,854,003.19	\$ 756,318	\$ 388,438	
Difference	\$ 1,432,321.97		\$ 367,880		

Changes to Reponses and Burden

We based our prior burden estimates on our discussions with current Authorization holders from three different sectors (e.g., oil and gas, state agency, and Federal government) and an accounting of the number and different types of actions that we have processed during the past three years for the existing Control Number approval. The total number of respondents is expected to increase as a result of adjustments due to the [Gulf of Mexico final rule](#) and regular increases in other applications; there are no program changes. The makeup of our applicant pool and the nature and complexity of their requested activities may vary from one information collection request cycle to the next. This inter-cycle variability will contribute to fluctuations in estimations.

The incremental burdens associated with the PSO and PAM requirements are provided in the GOM Rule Regulatory Impact Analysis Appendix C. Please refer to Exhibits C-1, C-2, and C-3 for the incremental costs to industry by survey type. Exhibit C-4 provides an explanation for the incremental cost burden for the government.

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.

There are no immediate plans for the government to publish the data. However, at times the public may extract the information contained in annual reports to analyze and publish the information in peer-reviewed journals or reports.

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.

The agency plans to display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection on all instruments.

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\(b\)\(3\)](#).