

incidental take of small numbers of a species or stock:

- The take of marine mammal stocks authorized for take comprises less than 10 percent of any stock abundance (with the exception of harbor seals); and
- Many of the takes would be repeats of the same animal and it is likely that a number of individual animals could be taken 10 or more times.

Based on the analysis contained herein of the proposed activity (including the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures) and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the population size of the affected species or stocks.

#### Unmitigable Adverse Impact Analysis and Determination

There are no relevant subsistence uses of the affected marine mammal stocks or species implicated by this action. Therefore, NMFS has determined that the total taking of affected species or stocks would not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of such species or stocks for taking for subsistence purposes.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A, NMFS must review our proposed action (*i.e.*, the issuance of an IHA) with respect to potential impacts on the human environment.

This action is consistent with categories of activities identified in Categorical Exclusion B4 (IHAs with no anticipated serious injury or mortality) of the Companion Manual for NOAA Administrative Order 216-6A, which do not individually or cumulatively have the potential for significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which we have not identified any extraordinary circumstances that would preclude this categorical exclusion. Accordingly, NMFS has determined that the issuance of the proposed IHA qualifies to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

#### Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that each Federal agency insure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. To ensure

ESA compliance for the issuance of IHAs, NMFS consults internally whenever we propose to authorize take for endangered or threatened species.

No incidental take of ESA-listed species is authorized or expected to result from this activity. Therefore, NMFS has determined that formal consultation under section 7 of the ESA is not required for this action.

#### Authorization

NMFS has issued an IHA to MEDOT for the potential harassment of small numbers of seven marine mammal species incidental to the Falls Bridge Replacement Project in Blue Hill, Maine, provided the previously mentioned mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements are followed.

Dated: December 9, 2021.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Pacific Islands Logbook Family of Forms

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before February 14, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov](mailto:adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-

0214 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Walter Ikehara, Fishery Information Specialist, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, [walter.ikehara@noaa.gov](mailto:walter.ikehara@noaa.gov) or (808) 725-5175.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This request is for revision of a currently approved information collection. The revision will merge the logbook and transshipment log from the currently approved collection 0648-0462 Pacific Islands Coral Reef Ecosystems Logbook and Reporting and the logbook from the currently approved collection 0648-0577 Non-commercial Permit and Reporting Requirements in the Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Fishery into the 0648-0214 information collection that includes logbook and reporting from other Federally-managed fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region (PIR). After this revision is approved, 0648-0462 and 0648-0577 will be discontinued.

Vessel operators or owners in Federally-managed fisheries in the PIR are required to provide certain information about their fishing activities, catch, and interactions with protected species by submitting reports to NMFS, per 50 CFR part 665.14. These data are needed to determine the condition of fish stocks and whether current management measures are having the intended effects, to evaluate the benefits and costs of changes in management measures, and to monitor and respond to accidental takes of endangered and threatened species, including seabirds, sea turtles, and marine mammals.

The reports are submitted using paper logbooks or electronic logbooks (computer tablets or other devices) to the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. The Hawaii pelagic longline fishery and large vessels (50 ft or longer) in the American Samoa pelagic longline fishery will submit reports using electronic logbooks, although paper logbooks will be used if there are equipment or transmission failures. Electronic logbooks collect the same information as paper logbooks. All other PIR fisheries use only paper logbooks.

Longline vessel operators are also required to submit pre-trip notifications, including information on trip type,

departure time, and transit through a protected species zone per 50 CFR 665.803. Other fisheries are required to submit notifications of trip return, unloading, or sales reports per regulations in multiple Subparts of 50 CFR 665.

## II. Method of Collection

Respondents will report their catch using paper logbooks or electronic logbooks. Methods of submittal include submission by mail or facsimile for paper logbooks, and via the vessel monitoring system or online for electronic logbook data. Notifications may be made by phone or email.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0214.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular (Revision of a currently approved collection of information).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, and small businesses.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 667.

*Estimated Time per Response:* From 5 to 35 minutes per report or notification, depending on type; average 16 minutes per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 6,926.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$663.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* 50 CFR 665.

## IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this information collection request. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal

identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB577]

#### Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Exempted Fishing Permit Applications

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that applications received from Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) sponsors to renew the Electronic Monitoring EFP program warrant further consideration. NMFS requests public comment on the applications.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by December 29, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2021–0115, by the following method:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter NOAA–NMFS–2021–0115 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. The EFP applications will be available under Supporting and Related Materials through the same link.

- **Instructions:** Comments must be submitted by the above method to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information

(e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Justin Kavanaugh, West Coast Region, NMFS, (206) 526–4140, [justin.kavanaugh@noaa.gov](mailto:justin.kavanaugh@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action is consistent with Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan and the regulations implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act at 50 CFR 600.745, which state that EFPs may be used to authorize fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited.

On January 2, 2015 (80 FR 30), NMFS announced notice of receipt of four EFP applications to test electronic monitoring (EM) in lieu of human observers. NMFS approved the EFPs in 2015 and renewed them annually in subsequent years through 2021, in order to further test the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the EM EFP program.

On June 28, 2019 (84 FR 31146), at the recommendation of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), NMFS published a final rule that authorized the use of EM in place of human observers to meet requirements for 100-percent at-sea monitoring for catcher vessels in the groundfish trawl catch share fishery (Trawl Rationalization Program). EM video systems are used to record catch and discards by the vessel crew while at sea. Vessel operators are responsible for recording catch and discards in a logbook, which is then used to debit individual fishing quota (IFQ) accounts and cooperative allocations. Recently, the Council recommended, and NMFS implemented, a delay to the start of the regulatory program (86 FR 55525; October 6, 2021). The Council recommended the renewal of the EM EFPs during this delay to provide more time for industry and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to test a model for industry to fund PSMFC for review of video from their fishing trips and to further evaluate the costs of the regulatory program. PSMFC has been reviewing video data from the experimental EM EFP program, funded by NMFS, since 2015.

NMFS received applications to renew the EM EFPs for 2022 and 2023. A summary of each EFP application is provided below.