

TABLE 1—TAKE ANALYSIS—Continued

Species	Authorized take	Scaled take ¹	Abundance ²	Percent abundance
Short-finned pilot whale	480	141.7	1,981	7.2

¹ Scalar ratios were applied to “Authorized Take” values as described at 86 FR 5322, 5404 (January 19, 2021) to derive scaled take numbers shown here.

² Best abundance estimate. For most taxa, the best abundance estimate for purposes of comparison with take estimates is considered here to be the model-predicted abundance (Roberts *et al.*, 2016). For those taxa where a density surface model predicting abundance by month was produced, the maximum mean seasonal abundance was used. For those taxa where abundance is not predicted by month, only mean annual abundance is available. For Rice’s whale and killer whale, the larger estimated SAR abundance estimate is used.

³ Includes 24 takes by Level A harassment and 424 takes by Level B harassment. Scalar ratio is applied to takes by Level B harassment only; small numbers determination made on basis of scaled Level B harassment take plus authorized Level A harassment take.

Based on the analysis contained herein of CGG’s proposed survey activity described in its LOA application and the anticipated take of marine mammals, NMFS finds that small numbers of marine mammals will be taken relative to the affected species or stock sizes and therefore is of no more than small numbers.

Authorization

NMFS has determined that the level of taking for this LOA request is consistent with the findings made for the total taking allowable under the incidental take regulations and that the amount of take authorized under the LOA is of no more than small numbers. Accordingly, we have issued an LOA to CGG authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to its geophysical survey activity, as described above.

Dated: July 13, 2022.

Catherine G. Marzin,

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

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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; Reporting Requirements for Commercial Fisheries Authorization Under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

AGENCY: National Oceanic and 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 September 19, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0292 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 Jaclyn Taylor, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301) 427–8402; or Jaclyn.Taylor@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection and is sponsored by National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*; MMPA or the Act) mandates the protection and conservation of marine mammals and makes the taking of marine mammals, except under limited exceptions, a violation of the Act. MMPA section 118 provides an exception to that prohibition for taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations subject to requirements listed in that section. The owner of any fishing vessel engaged in any fishery identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as having either frequent (Category I) or

occasional (Category II) takes of a marine mammal is to register with the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) in order to obtain an authorization for the purpose of lawfully, incidentally taking marine mammals. Fishers operating in fisheries identified by NMFS as having only a remote chance (Category III) of taking marine mammals need not register for such an authorization.

The owner or operator of a commercial fishing vessel, regardless of the classification of the fishery, is required under the Act to report all incidental mortality and injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations. Supplying the information within 48-hours after the end of a fishing trip is mandated under Section 118(e) of the MMPA and is needed by NMFS to determine the correct category placement for fisheries. MMPA section 118(c) requires NMFS to reexamine the classification of fisheries based on information gathered under the MMPA, including these injury and mortality reports from fishermen.

Minor revisions are being made to the form to clarify the instructions for completing the “Description of the mortality/injury incident” (DESCRIPTION OF UNKNOWN SPECIES OR CIRCUMSTANCES OF MORTALITY/INJURY INCIDENT field) and the “Coast Guard document number” (COAST GUARD DOCUMENT NO. or VESSEL’S STATE REGISTRATION NO field).

II. Method of Collection

Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms. Methods of submittal include online forms, email of electronic or scanned forms, mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0292.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of currently approved collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; Individuals or

households; State, local, or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1387 Sec. 118.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau 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

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Green Sturgeon 4(d) Rule Take Exceptions and Exemptions

AGENCY: 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 September 19, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0613 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 Susan Wang, Fishery Biologist, NMFS West Coast Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, Susan.Wang@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for an extension, without change, of a currently approved information collection.

Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to adopt regulations determined to be necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. Such regulations may include any or all of the prohibitions described in section 9(a)(1) of the ESA. As the agency with jurisdiction over the Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American

green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*; hereafter, "Southern DPS"), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined that protective regulations (a "4(d) rule") are necessary and advisable for the conservation of the Southern DPS after it was listed as a threatened species in April 2006. Protective regulations under section 4(d) of the ESA were promulgated for the species on June 2, 2010 (75 FR 30714) (the final ESA 4(d) Rule) and codified at 50 CFR 223.210. To comply with the ESA and the protective regulations, entities must obtain take authorization prior to engaging in activities involving take of Southern DPS fish unless the activity is covered by an exception or exemption. "Take" is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Certain activities described in the "exceptions" provision of 50 CFR 223.210(b) are not subject to the take prohibitions if they adhere to specific criteria and reporting requirements. Under the "exemption" provision of 50 CFR 223.210(c), the take prohibitions do not apply to scientific research, scientific monitoring, and fisheries activities conducted under an approved 4(d) program or plan; similarly, take prohibitions do not apply to tribal resource management activities conducted under a Tribal Plan for which the requisite determinations described in 50 CFR 223.210(c)(3) have been made.

To ensure that activities qualify under exceptions to or exemptions from the take prohibitions, local, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic researchers, and private organizations are asked to voluntarily submit detailed information regarding their activity on a schedule to be determined by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff. This information is used by NMFS to (1) track the number of Southern DPS fish taken as a result of each action; (2) understand and evaluate the cumulative effects of each action on the Southern DPS; and (3) determine whether additional protections are needed for the species, or whether additional exceptions may be warranted. NMFS designed the criteria to ensure that plans meeting the criteria would adequately limit effects on threatened Southern DPS fish, such that additional protections in the form of a federal take prohibition would not be necessary and advisable.