

restricted to waters seaward of a boundary line described in the states' statutes (Louisiana Title 76) and includes both state and some Federal waters. The majority of fishing activities under this EFP are expected to occur in Louisiana State waters, but fishing operations could occur in Federal waters as the menhaden migrate from inshore estuarine waters to offshore marine waters in October. NMFS estimates that 64 of the 400 sets anticipated for the 2024 menhaden season could occur in Federal waters.

The EFP would allow the applicant to harvest up to 200 individuals each of red drum, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel during the 2024 menhaden season to determine sex ratios. An additional number of red drum, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel (up to 400 per species) would be held for 24 hours in tanks with continuous water flow on board the catch-collecting vessel to assess short-term survival and then would be tagged and released. All other bycatch initially retained by the applicant would be returned to the water. Red drum, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel that die during normal fishing operations, or that die in the survival study, would be preferentially biopsied to minimize mortality attributed to this study. No red drum, king mackerel, and Spanish mackerel landed as part of the project would be sold.

Federal regulations at 50 CFR 622.92(b) prohibit the harvest and possession of red drum in or from the Gulf Federal waters and any red drum caught in the Gulf Federal waters must be released immediately with a minimum of harm. The EFP would allow the applicant to biopsy up to 200 red drum and possess for up to 24 hours an additional 400 red drum during the 2024 menhaden purse seine season (April 15–November 1, 2024).

Federal regulations at 50 CFR 622.375(a)(1)(iv) and 622.375(b)(3) prohibit the harvest of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel by purse seine gear. Additionally, regulations at 50 CFR 622.380(b) prohibit possession of king mackerel less than 24 inches (61 cm), fork length, and 622.380(c) prohibit possession of Spanish mackerel less than 12 inches (30.5 cm), fork length. The EFP would allow the applicant to biopsy up to 200 of each species, including undersized fish, and possess for up to 24 hours an additional 400 each of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel and using purse seine gear during the 2024 menhaden purse seine season.

If granted, the EFP would be effective from April 15, 2024, through December

31, 2024. The applicant and commercial menhaden fishermen and vessels participating in the EFP must comply with all other applicable laws and regulations.

NMFS finds the application warrants further consideration based on a preliminary review. At its January 2024 meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council reviewed the application and recommended that NMFS issue the EFP. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS' review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the appropriate fishery management agencies of the affected states, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that the activities to be taken under the EFP are consistent with all other applicable laws.

Authority: 16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 2, 2024.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 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; Northwest Region, Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery: Trawl Rationalization Cost Recovery Program

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite 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. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on August 22, 2023 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

Title: Northwest Region, Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery: Trawl Rationalization Cost Recovery Program.
OMB Control Number: 0648–0663.
Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission; revision of a current information collection.

Number of Respondents: 580.

Average Hours per Response: Cost recovery fee forms: 1 hour.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 580.

Needs and Uses: This request is for a revision of a currently approved information collection includes the collection of electronic fish ticket numbers on the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota Program's payment form. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) authorizes and requires that the Secretary of Commerce maintain a cost recovery program to cover part of the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement costs of the limited access privilege programs, such as the Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program (Trawl Program). Cost recovery fees may not exceed three percent of the ex-vessel value. The Trawl Program cost recovery program requires fish sellers to submit fees to fish buyers who then submit those fees to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Fish buyers must also submit information to NMFS on the volume and value of harvested groundfish when submitting the fees. Information is collected from monthly and annual reports as well as non-payment documents when necessary.

The information collected is used to track the payment of cost recovery fees, reconcile cost recovery payments with landings data from other sources, calculate average ex-vessel values, and, if necessary, help in the resolution of non-payment issues. The addition of a requirement to record electronic fish ticket numbers corresponding to cost recovery payments will aid in this reconciliation process.

This program is authorized under the Pacific coast groundfish fishery regulations, trawl rationalization cost recovery program at 50 CFR 660.115.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: Monthly and annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: NMFS and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council) manage the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone seaward of California, Oregon, and Washington under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Council prepared the FMP under the authority of the MSA, 16

U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* Regulations governing United States fisheries and implementing the FMP appear at 50 CFR part 660.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0663.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, 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; Individual Fishing Quotas for Pacific Halibut and Sablefish in the Alaska Fisheries

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 June 4, 2024.

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 0648–0272 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 Gabrielle Aberle, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668, (323) 372–0062, gabrielle.aberle@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting renewal of this currently approved information collection that contains requirements for the Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota Program (IFQ Program).

Commercial halibut and sablefish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands are managed primarily under the IFQ Program. The IFQ Program is managed under the authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773c; Halibut Act), with respect to Pacific halibut, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*; Magnuson-Stevens Act), with respect to sablefish. Regulations implementing the IFQ Program are set forth at 50 CFR part 679.

A key objective of the IFQ Program is to support the social and economic character of the fisheries and coastal fishing communities where many of these fisheries are based. Participation in the IFQ Program is limited to persons that hold quota share (QS), although there are several very limited provisions for “leasing” of annual IFQ. QS is a transferable permit that was initially issued to persons who owned or leased vessels that made legal commercial fixed-gear landings of Pacific halibut or sablefish in the waters off Alaska from 1988 through 1990.

NMFS annually issues eligible QS holders an IFQ fishing permit that authorizes participation in the IFQ fisheries. Those to whom IFQ permits are issued may harvest their annual allocation at any time during the eight plus-month IFQ halibut and sablefish seasons.

More information on the IFQ Program is provided on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/pacific-halibut-and-sablefish-individual-fishing-quota-ifq-program>.

Some of the collection instruments in this information collection are used by participants in the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program. The purpose of the CDQ Program is to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI); to support economic development in western Alaska; to alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska; and to achieve sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska. In fitting with these goals, NMFS allocates a portion of the annual catch limits for a variety of commercially valuable marine species in the BSAI to the CDQ Program. Pacific halibut is one of these species. More information on the CDQ Program is provided on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/community-development-quota-cdq-program>. Information collection requirements for the CDQ Program are also approved under OMB Control Number 0648–0269.

This information collection for the IFQ Program is required to manage commercial halibut and sablefish fishing under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Halibut Act, and under 50 CFR parts 300 and 679.

This information collection contains the forms used by participants in the IFQ Program to apply for, renew, or replace permits; transfer or lease IFQ and QS; determine compliance with IFQ program requirements; and designate a beneficiary for a QS holder. Two of the permit applications are also used by participants in the CDQ Program. This information collection also contains annual reports and other collections submitted by telephone or other methods and that do not have forms.

The type of information collected includes information on the applicants, transferors, transferees, permits, IFQ or QS types and owners, beneficiaries, vessels, business operations, medical declarations, landings, gear types, products, and harvests and harvest areas.

This information is used to identify and authorize participants in the halibut and sablefish fisheries, to track and transfer quota share, to limit transfers to authorized participants, and to monitor quota share balances and harvest in these fisheries.

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected primarily by mail, delivery, fax, email, telephone, or eFISH. eFISH is the NMFS Alaska