

estimate the biomass and distribution of Pacific sardine and certain other CPS in nearshore waters in the Southern California Bight since 2012, and in the Monterey-San Francisco area since the summer of 2017. The CPS–NCS survey would capture CPS schools identified by aerial spotter pilots, and weigh and sample the catch onshore to validate the biomass and species composition of the schools observed in the nearshore aerial survey. If approved, this EFP would allow up to eight participating vessels to directly harvest a total of 150 mt of Pacific sardine during the 2024–2025 fishing year. A portion of each point set (*i.e.*, an individual haul of fish captured with a purse seine net) would be retained for biological sampling, and the remainder would be sold by participating fishermen and processors to offset research costs and avoid unnecessary discard.

(2) *Request renewal of exempted fishery permit (EFP) to allow fishing of Pacific sardine for biological samples in 2024–2025 nearshore research program:* The CWPA submitted a renewal application for their biological sampling EFP project. The primary directed fishery for Pacific sardine has been closed since 2015 and, consequently, scientists at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) have a limited amount of fishery-dependent data to use in their stock assessment. The goal of this EFP project is to provide fishery-dependent catch data, including biological data (*i.e.*, age and length data from directed harvest), for potential use in Pacific sardine stock assessments. If approved, this EFP would allow up to eight participating vessels to directly harvest up to 520 mt of Pacific sardine during the 2024–2025 fishing year. A portion of each landing would be retained for biological sampling by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the remainder would be sold by participating fishermen and processors to offset research costs and avoid unnecessary discard.

Altogether, these EFP projects total 670 mt. If NMFS does not issue one or more of these EFPs, the requested tonnage would be available for harvest by other permissible fishing activities during the 2024–2025 fishing year (*e.g.*, live bait or minor directed harvest).

After publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS may approve and issue permits to participating vessels after the close of the public comment period. NMFS will consider comments submitted in deciding whether to approve the applications as requested. NMFS may approve the applications in their entirety or may

make any alterations needed to achieve the goals of the EFP projects and the FMP. NMFS may also approve different amounts of Pacific sardine allocation for each EFP project if any changes are made to the 2024–2025 proposed sardine harvest specifications before final implementation.

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

Dated: June 21, 2024.

**Karen H. Abrams,**

*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; Generic Clearance for Marine Recreational Information Program: Design & Field Test Studies

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 April 10, 2024 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce

*Title:* Generic Clearance for Marine Recreational Information Program: Design & Field Test Studies

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission [new information collection].

*Number of Respondents:* 46,000.

*Average Hours Per Response:* Surveys five minutes, Cognitive interviews one hour, focus groups one hour, and panel designs fifteen minutes.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 4,375.

*Needs and Uses:* This request is to initiate a new information collection using a generic clearance to allow the

Marine Recreational Information Program to develop, test, and improve its surveys and methodologies. Marine recreational anglers are surveyed to collect catch and effort data, fish biology data, and angler socioeconomic characteristics. This request is part of an on-going initiative to improve MRIP surveys as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852) and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 1881) and recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. Marine recreational fishing catch and effort data are collected through a combination of mail surveys, telephone surveys and on-site intercept surveys with recreational anglers. The procedures utilized to this effect will include but are not limited to experiments with levels of incentives for various types of survey operations, focus groups, cognitive laboratory activities, pilot testing, exploratory interviews, experiments with questionnaire design, and usability testing of electronic data collection instruments.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* On Occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852) and the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 1881).

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://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](http://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 the title of the collection.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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