

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Southeast Region Individual Fishing Quota Programs
OMB Control No. 0648-0551

Abstract

This request is for an extension of approved information collections. The purpose of these information collections is for the administration of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs for red snapper, and groupers and tilefishes in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf), and the individual transferable quota (ITQ) program for wreckfish in the South Atlantic. The purpose of these programs is to address and prevent overcapitalization, prevent derby fishery conditions, and prevent overfishing of these fisheries resources. The NMFS Southeast Regional Office manages three commercial individual fishing quota (IFQ) and individual transferable quota (ITQ) programs in the NMFS Southeast Region under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* The IFQ programs for red snapper, and groupers and tilefishes occur in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf), and the ITQ program for wreckfish occurs in Federal waters of the South Atlantic.

The NMFS Southeast Regional Office proposes to extend the information collection currently approved under OMB Control Number 0648-0551. This collection of information tracks the transfer and use of IFQ and ITQ shares, and IFQ allocation and landings by commercial fishermen necessary for NMFS to operate, administer, and review management of the IFQ and ITQ programs. Regulations for the IFQ and ITQ programs are located at [50 CFR part 622](#). NMFS proposes no revisions to the existing information collections for the IFQ and ITQ programs approved under OMB Control Number 0648-0551.

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 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act ([Magnuson-Stevens Act](#)) authorizes each of the regional fishery management councils to prepare and amend fishery management plans (FMPs) for any fishery in federal waters under U.S. jurisdiction. In the U.S. southeast region, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages three catch share programs for commercial fisheries. The IFQ programs for red snapper, and groupers and tilefishes are managed under the FMP for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf (Gulf Reef Fish FMP), which was developed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. NMFS implemented the Gulf IFQ programs via regulations in 2006 and 2009, respectively. The wreckfish ITQ program is managed under the

FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region, which was developed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. NMFS implemented the South Atlantic wreckfish ITQ program via regulations in 1992.

At the start of each IFQ and ITQ program, NMFS distributed shares (a percentage) of the commercial quota to commercial fishermen. Each year shares result in annual allocation (pounds of fish) that limits how many pounds of fish that fishermen can harvest annually. Fishermen can transfer shares or allocation to other IFQ and ITQ program participants to increase or decrease the amount they can harvest. Share and allocation transfers, as well as landing transactions and landing notifications are completed electronically through an online web-based accounting system for Gulf red snapper and Gulf groupers and tilefishes, and through the NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division, Limited-Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) and Data Management Branch for paper-based South Atlantic wreckfish share transfer transactions.

Since the IFQ and ITQ programs began, NMFS has been collecting this information to administer and operate the programs that are intended to address and prevent overcapitalization, prevent derby fishery conditions, and prevent overfishing of these fishery resources.

The information collection under OMB Control No. 0648-0551 addresses IFQ shares, ITQ share certificates (for wreckfish ITQ), and allocation debits and transfers, as well as collection of landings information necessary to operate, administer, and review management of commercial red snapper, and groupers and tilefishes in the Gulf, and wreckfish in the South Atlantic.

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.

Gulf Red Snapper and Groupers and Tilefishes IFQ Programs

IFQ share and allocation debits and transfers are tracked using an electronic accounting and reconciliation process developed by NMFS, in which IFQ shareholders or allocation holders, dealers, NMFS personnel, IFQ vessel account holders, and 24-hour customer service personnel participate. The IFQ share or allocation holder and dealer records the share, allocation, and landing transactions, as well as landing notifications using the online web-based system (<https://secatchshares.fisheries.noaa.gov/>). Transactions are completed and tracked in real-time to ensure proper accounting of share and allocation transfers, landing notifications, and landing transactions. Each participant of the IFQ online system is assigned a User ID and password for logging in.

Frequency of use of the online system varies greatly among participants, depending on total shareholdings, and numbers of fishing trips and landing transactions completed. Question 12 provides a summary of the number of annual responses NMFS expects to receive for online activities. NMFS and a 24-hour customer call service use the online system daily.

NMFS monitors and audits IFQ transactions to ensure that share caps are not exceeded, landing notifications are made, and landing transactions are completed in a timely fashion. NMFS also monitors quota shares suspended prior to issuance and other legal actions taken against IFQ

shareholders in which IFQ is garnished. For enforcement purposes, IFQ landings must occur at pre-approved landing locations, fish must be sold to IFQ permitted dealers, and fish can only be offloaded between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. Persons landing IFQ species are required to notify NMFS at least 3 hours, but no more than 24 hours, in advance of the time of landing and of the dealer location information where landing will occur.

During catastrophic conditions only, the IFQ program provides for use of paper forms for basic required functions as a backup. NMFS determines when catastrophic conditions exist, the duration of the catastrophic conditions, and which participants or geographic areas are deemed affected by the catastrophic conditions. NMFS will notify affected participants via the *Federal Register* and other appropriate means, such as fishery bulletins, and will authorize the affected participants' use of paper forms for the duration of the catastrophic conditions. NMFS will provide each IFQ dealer the necessary paper forms and instructions for submission of the forms to NMFS. The program functions available to participants or geographic areas deemed affected by catastrophic conditions will be limited under the paper-based system. Assistance in complying with the requirements of the paper-based system will be available via IFQ Customer Service 1-866-425-7627, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern time.

South Atlantic Wreckfish ITQ Program

Wreckfish ITQ shares transfers are paper-based and are completed through the NMFS' Sustainable Fisheries Division, LAPPs and Data Management Branch. The transfer form is printed on the back of the percentage shares certificate. With each transfer of ownership, the certificate will be reissued. The certificate identifies the seller, but the buyer must provide their name, address, corporate (employer's) federal tax identification number, and telephone number. The sale price is necessary for economic analysis. The signatures of buyer, seller, and witness will secure the transaction. If the party purchasing shares is a shareholder, the share certificate must be surrendered so that it can be reissued.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. NMFS 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 to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

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.

Gulf IFQ Programs for Red Snapper, and Groupers and Tilefishes

Information is collected via a Web-based system, through satellite-linked vessel monitoring system (VMS) units attached to vessels, and through a 24-hour call hotline, with paper submission an option only in NMFS-declared catastrophic circumstances, such as after a

hurricane.

Debits and transfers of IFQ shares and allocations are tracked using an electronic accounting and reconciliation process developed by NMFS, in which the IFQ shareholder or allocation holder, dealer, NMFS, and a 24-hour call service participates. The following information is currently collected and monitored through the electronic accounting and reconciliation process:

- Sale of IFQ managed species to an IFQ dealer by an IFQ vessel account holder.
- Sale price of IFQ species, IFQ shares, and IFQ allocation.
- The weight of the landed catch and the state-specific trip ticket number for the transaction.
- Cost recovery fees collected by the dealer from the fisherman at the time of the landing transaction (our site links to the page the participants complete in order to submit their cost recovery fee payments to the IFQ system, a site maintained by <https://pay.gov>).
- To whom the catch was sold and their dealer or permit number.
- To whom shares or allocation were sold and their shareholder or vessel account User ID.
- Whether recipients hold enough IFQ allocation.
- IFQ shareholdings, to ensure no one entity holds an excessive amount of shares.
- IFQ landing notifications, including vessel involved in landing, landing location, dealer to whom fish will be sold, time and date of landing, and estimated pounds to be landed.
- Reconciliations of IFQ share or allocation holders, and dealer transactions, which would be confirmed and authorized using NMFS approval codes.
- Adding an IFQ landings location.
- Landing approvals.
- Administrative update capabilities to a program participant's account security information and adding a trip ticket number to a previously completed landing transaction form.
- Non-IFQ landing notifications, including vessel involved in landing, landing location, and time/date of landing.

South Atlantic Wreckfish ITQ Program

The wreckfish share transfer process requires the signatures of witnesses on paper forms. The ITQ program remains paper based until the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and NMFS consider whether to implement an electronic system. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council is discussing recommendations for NMFS to transition the Wreckfish ITQ program to an electronic system at their public meetings. NMFS will provide detail later as appropriate.

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.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act's operational guidelines require each FMP and FMP amendment to evaluate existing state and federal laws that govern the fisheries in question, and the findings are made part of each FMP. Each fishery management council is comprised of state and federal officials responsible for resource management in their area. These two circumstances allow identification of other collections that may be gathering the same or similar information. In addition, each FMP undergoes extensive public comment periods where potential applicants

review the proposed permit application requirements. Therefore, NMFS is confident it is aware of similar collections if they exist.

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

Because all applicants are considered small businesses, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data to meet the current and future needs of NMFS fishery managers are requested from participants in the NMFS Southeast Region IFQ and ITQ programs.

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.

NMFS would be unable to manage the Southeast Region IFQ and ITQ programs if this overall collection were not conducted or were conducted less frequently. The approved participants would be unknown and landing transactions could not be effectively tracked or enforced, which could result in the exceedance of regulatory catch limits.

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

- Requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
 - Transfer Allocation: Allocation must be in the vessel account to be landed.
 - Landing Notifications: Vessels must report landing notifications for every trip to provide law enforcement the opportunity to meet the vessel at the time of landing.
 - Landing Transaction: Dealers must report landing on the day of offload. It must be done more often than quarterly in order to report landings in real time and deduct the allocation from the vessel account. Without deducting on day of offload, the vessel could potentially harvest more fish than allowed, thus risking exceeding the annual catch limit. Additionally, catch cannot be transported or processed with a completed Landing Transaction.
 - Landing Location: New participants must be able to submit new landing locations for review whenever they need to get landing locations approved by law enforcement.
 - Share Transfers and Share Receipt: The IFQ program constituents depend on transferability of the shares in order to enter or expand their participation. Participants can sell assets anytime throughout the year as part of their normal business practice, which will affect a participant's net worth, valuation, or ownership.
 - Cost recovery fees (CRF) Forms: CRF is only collected quarterly.
 - Landing Correction: Corrections must be done in a timely manner to adjust the allocation in a vessel account to ensure they have the correct allocation or else the vessel could potentially harvest more fish than allowed, thus risking exceeding the annual catch limit. Corrections may also be made to the price, resulting in an adjustment in the total CRF due. It is important the CRF due is accurate so the dealers do not pay more than they are supposed to.

- Close Accounts: Participants may want to close their IFQ account after life changing events (e.g., divorce, death, etc.) and need to be able to close whenever and only when it fits their personal needs.
- Account Application: Participants need to be able to request a new account whenever they need so they can enter the program. Without an IFQ account, they cannot participate in the IFQ program. Participants also use the Account Application to certify their citizenship, as required by the regulations. If a participant is unable to renew their account by certifying their citizenship, they will not be able to harvest IFQ species.
- Wreckfish: Wreckfish shareholders depend on transferability of the shares in order to enter or expand their participation. Participants can sell assets anytime throughout the year as part of their normal business practice, which will affect a participant's net worth, valuation, ownership.
- Requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
 - None of the collections require respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information.
- Requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
 - None of the collections requires respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document.
- Requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
 - None of the collections requires respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years.
- In connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;
 - None of the collections are in connection with a statistical survey.
- Requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
 - None of the collections require the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB.
- That includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use;
 - None of the collections include a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use.
- Requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.
 - None of the collections require respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information.

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.

On February 13, 2024, NMFS published a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting public comments on the proposed extension of the information collections under OMB Control Number 0648-0551 (89 FR 10042). NMFS received one comment.

Comment: Please accept the following comments from the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance) for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Regional Office (SERO) Request For Comment on the proposal to extend the information collection currently approved under OMB Control Number 0648–0551. The Shareholders' Alliance supports the existing information collections for the Gulf of Mexico individual fishing quota (IFQ) programs. These collections – including data and systems – support real-time tracking and accountability mechanisms that support a successful commercial IFQ management system. The proposed information collection has practical utility and is necessary for the proper functions of NMFS and commercial IFQ managers. We believe that the estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used, is accurate.

At this time, we do not have suggestions on ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. We do propose, however, that one way to minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond would be to implement the commercial electronic logbook program approved by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and formally transfer this fishery away from paper logbook reporting. We ask that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and SERO continue to work with the commercial fishing industry to allow us to pilot test this software as soon as possible in 2024. Doing so will support a rapid implementation transition and will help commercial fishermen familiarize themselves with this program prior to its requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Response: Comment was received and acknowledge. It was also stated that these data collection programs are part of fishery management plans, both scientific and constituent advisory committees have reviewed all aspects of the IFQ programs. Furthermore, comments and suggestions from affected fishermen are routinely submitted, reviewed, and considered. Experience with the IFQ programs, some of which have been operating for many years, provides a continual feedback mechanism to NMFS on issues and concerns to the respondents.

Additionally, NOAA reached out to four fishermen to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than

remuneration of contractors or grantees.

There are no payments or other remunerations 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.

Gulf Red Snapper and Groupers and Tilefishes IFQ Programs

As stated on the forms, all data are treated as confidential in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics.

South Atlantic Wreckfish ITQ Program

Regulations at 50 CFR 622.172 require NMFS to provide each wreckfish shareholder with a list of all wreckfish shareholders with the names, addresses, and the percentage of shares for each shareholder on an annual basis. Based on past court decisions, the Freedom of Information Act serves as the basis for release of confidential name and address information via a NOAA Internet website for informational purposes. All other data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics.

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.

One question that could be deemed sensitive is the value paid for the shares. Values are confidential and only released in aggregate form. This information is necessary for economic analysis to manage the wreckfish ITQ program. No one has ever objected to providing any of the information on the form.

The IFQ Online Account Application requires participants to submit their Social Security number for identification purposes. It is essential that entities are entered into the database and are able to be identified and distinguished from other entities. The IFQ programs are linked to the NMFS Permits database so the majority of the participants will not fill out the application because the data is already collected through the separate permit application process. However, not all IFQ participants are federal permit holders, so NMFS must collect their Social Security numbers through the IFQ Online Account Application. The applications that participants submit to NMFS are kept in a secure, locked cabinet to protect confidential data.

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

Information Collection	Type of Respondent (Occupational Title)	# of Respondents per Year (a)	Annual # of Responses per Respondent (b)	Total No. of Annual Responses (c) = (a) x (b)	Burden Hour per Response (d)	Total Annual Burden Hr (e) = (c) x (d)	Mean Hourly Wage Rate (\$) * for Type of Respondent (f)	Total Annual Wage Burden Costs (\$) (g) = (e) x (f)
Dealer Landing Transaction Report***	First Receiver/Processor	112	44.94	5,033	6 min	503	29.23	14,703
Cost Recovery Fee Submission (dealers)	First Receiver/Processor	111	3.24	360	3 min	18	29.23	526
IFQ Online Account Application	Fishermen	102	1	102	13 min	22	29.23	643
IFQ Notification of Landing	Fishermen	394	13.89	5,473	5 min	456	29.23	13,329
Transfer Shares	Fishermen	93	3.59	334	3 min	17	29.23	497
Share Receipts	Fishermen	93	3.59	334	2 min	11	29.23	322
Transfer Allocation	Fishermen	625	21.29	13,306	3 min	665	29.23	19,438
Wreckfish Share Transfer	Fishermen	1	1	1	20 min	0	29.23	29
Landing Transaction Correction Request	Fishermen	26	3.19	83	5 min	7	29.23	205
Reef Fish Landing Location Request*	Fishermen	65	1	65	5 min	5	29.23	146
Account Update	Fishermen	28	1	28	2 min	1	29.23	29
Trip Ticket Update	Fishermen	7	36.29	254	2 min	8	29.23	234
Gulf Reef Fish Notification of Landing	Fishermen	44	2.82	124	3 min	6	29.23	175
IFQ Close Account	Fishermen	2	1	2	3 min	0	29.23	29
Totals		1,703		25,499		1,719		50,305

*The current ICs displayed will mirror in the ROCIS submission. Note: the Reef Fish Landing Location Request will include both IFQ & Non-IFQ requests.

** Wage rates obtained from <https://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>. 45-1011 First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers. Compiled on May 9, 2024.

*** This information collection form is collected electronically but also has a paper form that may be used during NMFS-declared catastrophic conditions, such as in a localized area negatively affected after a hurricane. The estimated burden for the paper form is 5 minutes per response due to slightly less requested information. NMFS does not estimate the burdens for this paper form separately because its use would be limited both in duration and in numbers of respondents and responses. Further, the provided estimates account for any responses and corresponding burden for use of the paper form.

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.)

NMFS collects cost-recovery fees for the red snapper, and groupers and tilefishes IFQ programs, pursuant to section 304(d)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which provides the Secretary of Commerce the authority to establish a fee to assist in recovering the actual costs directly related the management and enforcement of any IFQ program. However, such fees are not considered recordkeeping or reporting cost under the PRA.

For several information collections, the estimated annual recordkeeping or reporting costs are limited to postage and envelopes to mail forms to NMFS.

Recordkeeping and reporting costs for the Gulf Reef Fish Notification of Landing would be based on which VMS vendor and data plan is used by each vessel owner or operator to submit the form. While Woods Hole Group and some other VMS vendors are known to be more widely used than others in the commercial fleet, NMFS does not have information on the numerical breakdown of plan types used by individual participants for any VMS manufacturer. Therefore, to estimate total additional costs, NMFS assumes each respondent uses a MetOcean VMS unit with the highest per message cost at \$0.33 per response (trip).

Information Collection	No. of Respondents Annually (a)	Annual No. of Responses per Respondent (b)	Total No. of Annual Responses (c)=(a) x (b)	Cost Burden per Response (\$) (h)	Total Annual Cost Burden (\$) (i) = (c) x (h)
Dealer Landing Transaction Report	112	44.94	5,033	0	0
Cost Recovery Fee Submission by dealers	111	3.24	360	0	0
IFQ Online Account Application	102	1	102	1	102
IFQ Notification of Landing	394	13.89	5,473	0	0
Transfer Shares	93	3.59	334	0	0
Share Receipt	93	3.59	334	0	0
Transfer Allocation	625	21.29	13,306	0	0
Wreckfish Quota Share Transfer	1	1.00	1	1	1
Landing Transaction Correction Request	26	3.19	83	1	83
Reef Fish Landing Location Request*	65	1	63; 2 by mail	1	2
Account Update	28	1	28	0	0
Trip Ticket Update	7	36.29	254	0	0
Gulf Reef Fish Notification of Landing	44	2.82	124	0.33	41
IFQ Close Account	2	1.00	2	1	2
TOTALS			25,499		231

*The current ICs displayed will mirror in the ROCIS submission. Note: the Reef Fish Landing Location Request will include both IFQ & Non-IFQ requests.

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	Loaded Salary (\$)	Percent of Effort	Total Cost to Government (\$)
Manager	186,477	33	61,537
Customer Service Rep	126,990	80	101,592
Analyst	117,033	50	58,517
Application Developer	190,000	100	190,000
Contractor Cost	315,386	100	315,386
24-hour Call Service			11,400
Office of Law Enforcement			682,044
Research and Monitoring			376,505
TOTAL			1,796,981

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

The number of respondents in the IFQ program can fluctuate on a daily basis with the addition of new accounts or the closure of unused accounts. IFQ shareholders and dealers can request new accounts or request to close their existing account at any time. IFQ program staff also regularly close inactive accounts. Similarly, wreckfish ITQ shareholders can transfer their shares at any time and leave the fishery. Accounts can also fluctuate between statuses (e.g., “active” and “suspended”). Accounts in suspended status cannot perform any activities, thus are not considered active participants. However, the fluctuations do not vary widely. The number of respondents overall can vary inter- and intra-annually.

There was an increase in commercial reef fish landing location requests after the implementation in 2020 of the final rule for Amendment 36A to the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan, which established the requirement for all commercial vessels landing reef fish to land at pre-approved landing locations. Previously, only vessels landing IFQ species were required to land at pre-approved landing locations. After Amendment 36A, the increased number of vessels required to land at pre-approved landing locations increased the need for new pre-approved landing locations. Amendment 36A also resulted in an increase in non-IFQ landing notifications. Commercial vessels that previously did not need to make a pre-landing notification are now required to if they are landing any federally managed reef fish. The last extension and revision of this information collection parsed out the Reef Fish Landing Location Request form into sub-categories, because it was a recent change at that time and an accounting decision only - those fishermen that land IFQ-managed reef fish species and those that do not. Those sub-categories are removed in this extension and the figures combined into the parent category. NMFS uses one form for fishermen in both circumstances and there is no regulatory difference to complete the form based on those circumstances. This simple accounting change is non-substantive, is not a new requirement, does not change the collection, and has no effect on the public.

The number of landing transactions decreased due to the ability to grade landings in a single landing transaction. The previous collection revision estimated burden based on years 2017 through 2019, but the Catch Shares online system was redesigned in 2020. In the previous online system, if the dealer bought the same species at different prices, they were required to submit multiple landing transactions. However, in the current online system, IFQ dealers have the ability to land IFQ species at two different prices in the same landing transaction. This also correlates to a decrease in trip ticket updates because there are fewer landing transactions to update.

Changes in catch limits affect the frequency of allocation transfers, share transfers, and landing notifications. The catch limits determine how much of each species can be landed which also explains the decrease in landing transactions and landing notifications (fewer trips). Allocation transfers increased due to the need to transfer limited amounts of allocation between fishermen (someone who did not receive enough allocation would need to purchase it from another participant). A decrease in catch limits also affects share transfers because participants do not want to sell shares, thus reducing their future allocation further.

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	
Dealer Landing Transaction Report	112	125	5033	7151	503	715	Routine variation.
Cost Recovery Fee Submission by dealers	111	119	360	397	18	20	Routine variation.
IFQ Online Account Application	102	107	102	107	22	22	Routine variation.
IFQ Notification of Landing	394	444	5473	7468	456	622	Routine variation.
Transfer Shares	93	139	334	560	17	28	Routine variation.
Share Receipt	93	139	334	560	11	19	Routine variation.
Transfer Allocation	625	604	13306	11899	665	595	Routine variation.
Wreckfish Share Transfer	1	6	1	1	0	0	Routine variation.
Landing Transaction Correction Request	26	42	83	163	7	14	Routine variation.
Reef Fish Landing Location Requests	65	131	65	40	5	3	See text before table.
Account Update	28	31	28	31	1	1	Routine variation.
Trip Ticket Update	7	34	254	378	8	13	Routine variation.
Gulf Reef Fish Notification of Landing	44	105	124	1033	6	52	Routine variation.
IFQ Close Account	2	9	2	9	0	1	Routine variation.
Total for Collection	1703	2035	25499	29830	1719	2105	
Difference	-332 (adjustment)		-4,331 (adjustment)		-386 (adjustment)		

Information Collection	Labor Costs		Miscellaneous Costs		Reason for change or adjustment
	Current \$	Previous \$	Current \$	Previous \$	
Dealer Landing Transaction Report	14,703	23,955.85	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
Cost Recovery Fee Submission by Dealers	526	670	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
IFQ Online Account Application	643	348.27	102	107	Revised labor cost estimates.
IFQ Notification of Landing	13,329	9,373.54	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
Transfer Shares	497	421.96	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
Share Receipt	322	286.33	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
Transfer Allocation	19,438	8,966.65	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
Wreckfish Share Transfer	29	15.07	1	1	Revised labor cost estimates.
Landing Transaction Correction Request	205	210.98	83	163	Revised labor cost estimates.
Commercial Reef Fish Landing Location Request	146	90.42	2	4	Revised labor cost estimates.
Account Update	29	15.07	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
Trip Ticket Update	234	195.91	0	0	Revised labor cost estimates.
Gulf Reef Fish Notification of Landing	175	783.64	41	341	Revised labor cost estimates.
IFQ Close Account	29	15.07	2	9	Revised labor cost estimates.
Total for Collection	50,305	45,348.76	231	625	
Difference	-\$4,956.24		-\$394		

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.

The results from this collection are not planned for peer-review publication. IFQ program staff complete a summary report for each program annually and posts these reports online. These reports comply with Information Quality Act guidelines. NMFS aggregates collected data as needed to maintain confidentiality when disseminating data.

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.

NMFS 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.”

NMFS certifies compliance with [5 CFR 1320.9](#) and the related provisions of [5 CFR 1320.8\(b\)\(3\)](#).