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4. By participating, participants agree to indemnify the Federal Government in the event that it suffers liability or damages as a result of its use of the contribution.

Submission of a nomination is entirely voluntary and submitters are encouraged to ensure they understand the scope of the obligation before volunteering. More information, as well as information on asking questions beforehand, at <https://www.globalchange.gov/nca6>.

III. Call for Technical Inputs

In addition, this request presents an opportunity to submit relevant scientific/technical inputs to inform the assessment. Any interested parties are encouraged to submit relevant sources of information (e.g., papers, articles, reports, Indigenous Knowledge, and other local knowledge) for the NCA6 author teams to consider and assess for their work. Technical submissions will be accepted electronically via the USGCRP Public Contribution System: <https://contribute.globalchange.gov> Instructions for submitting technical inputs are available on the website.

Submitters may enter text or upload files in response to this notice.

After the closure of this FRN, submissions of technical inputs will still be accepted throughout the NCA6 development process. This call for technical inputs is expected to remain open until the close of the NCA6 call for public comments on the NCA6 Third Order Draft, anticipated to end in early 2027. Additional information on the process for submitting technical inputs can be found after the closure of this FRN on USGCRP's website. See <https://www.globalchange.gov/nca6> for more information.

Response to this call for technical inputs is voluntary.

IV. Notice of Planned Public Engagement Opportunities for NCA6

Multiple opportunities for public engagement to inform NCA6 will be presented throughout the report's development. The following planned public engagement schedule is presented to notify the public of these coming opportunities. The time ranges proposed are subject to change based on the timing of various development stages for NCA6.

Public call for comments on the Draft Prospectus (Q2 2024)

Public call for authors and technical inputs (Q2 2024)

Public comment on NCA6 annotated outline (Q3 2025)

Public engagement workshops and webinars (Q3 2025)

Public call for art (Q2 2026)

Public call for Review Editors (Q3 2026)

Public comment on NCA6 Third Order Draft (Q4 2026 and Q1 2027)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine peer review of NCA6 Third Order Draft (Q4 2026 and Q1 2027)

Interested parties are invited to participate in these public engagement opportunities to ensure robust public input to NCA6. Specific dates and locations for all engagements will be provided on <https://www.globalchange.gov/notices>. Members of the public may also sign up to receive updates through USGCRP's bimonthly newsletter at <https://www.globalchange.gov/newsletter-signup>.

David Holst,

Chief Financial Officer and Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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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; Application 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 July 1, 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 0648-0293 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, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Hwy., Bldg. SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282, 301-427-8402 or Jaclyn.Taylor@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources sponsors this information collection and is requesting renewal of the currently approved collection.

Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires any commercial fisherman operating in Category I and II fisheries to register for a certificate of authorization that will allow the fisherman to take marine

mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations. Category I and II fisheries are those identified by NOAA as having either frequent or occasional takings of marine mammals. All states have integrated the NMFS registration process into the existing state fishery registration process and vessel owners do not need to file a separate federal registration. If applicable, vessel owners will be notified of this simplified registration process when they apply for their state or Federal permit or license. A valid certificate of authorization protects the vessel owner from prosecution under the MMPA for violation of the moratorium on taking marine mammals. The information needed to register or update a commercial fishery authorization is found at 50 CFR 229.4

II. Method of Collection

Fishermen’s information is imported directly into the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) from their state. If they do not have a state or Federal fishery permit or license, fishermen can request a MMAP registration form (OMB no. 0648–0293) from their NMFS regional office and mail or email the registration form.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0293.
Form Number(s): None.
Type of Review: Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].
Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 100.
Estimated Time per Response: Initial registration 15 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 25 hours.
Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$2,555 in recordkeeping/ reporting costs and application fees.
Respondent’s Obligation: Required for participants in Category I and II fisheries to lawfully take marine mammals’ incidental to fishing operations.
Legal Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*; MMPA.

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 ICR. 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 Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD903]

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.
ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries,

Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) renewal application from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the applicant. Regulations under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 17, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by the following method:

- *Email:* nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line “NHFG Early Benthic-Phase Lobster Trap EFP”.

All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing in <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/information-technology/foia-reading-room> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Ford, Fishery Management Specialist, Christine.Ford@noaa.gov, (978) 281–9185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The EFP would allow NHFG to continue pilot testing of early benthic-phase (EBP) lobster traps, designed to target juvenile lobsters between 15- and 60-millimeter (mm) carapace length, to determine their feasibility for broader use in lobster surveys. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the Federal regulations in table 1:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
50 CFR 697.21(c) and § 697.21(d)	Gear specification requirements	To allow for the use of modified traps with no escape vents or ghost panels.