

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

#### 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

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 May 2, 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:* Application for Commercial Fisheries Authorization under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0293.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission (extension of existing collection.)

*Number of Respondents:* 100.

*Average Hours per Response:* Initial registration 15 minutes.

*Total Annual Burden Hours:* 25 hours.

*Needs and Uses:* This is a request for an extension of a 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 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the MMPA List of Fisheries 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. There are no revisions to this information collection.

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

*Frequency:* One time for initial registration. Then only on an as needed if vessel owners' contact or vessel information changes after initial registration.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to lawfully take marine mammals' incidental to fishing operations.

*Legal Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*; MMPA.

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 either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648–0293.

**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

#### Notice of Modification to the Special Use Permit (SUP) Category for the Continued Presence of Commercial Submarine Cables Within the National Marine Sanctuary System

**AGENCY:** Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice; request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA hereby gives public notice that ONMS is modifying the special use permit (SUP) category for the continued presence of commercial submarine cables on or within a national marine sanctuary's submerged lands so that, for a two-year period, the SUP category does not apply to commercial submarine cables in any new sanctuaries designated after August 16, 2024. In addition, NOAA is seeking public comment on the use of the SUP category for the continued presence of commercial submarine cables, potential modifications to the SUP category, and input on developing an updated policy and permit guidance document for submarine cable projects. This temporary suspension affords NOAA time to consider and respond to public comment, evaluate the need for updating the SUP category and permit guidance document, publish a draft update of the SUP category and/or the permit guidance document for further public comment, and finalize any updates to the SUP category and/or permit guidance document, if needed. During this temporary two-year suspension, NOAA will not require or issue SUPs for the continued presence of commercial submarine cables on or within the submerged lands of any new sanctuaries designated after August 16,