

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
West Coast Region Permit Family of Forms
OMB Control No. 0648-0204

Abstract

This request is for a revision and extension of a currently approved information collection. Two information collections (IC) are being removed from this collection as they were duplicate entries for renewals. Reports are added for exempted fishing permits, scientific research, and exempted educational activity authorizations. Reports are required by regulation, however, these ICs were not previously accounted for.

This OMB Control Number addresses several collections of information authorized by the Fishery Management Plans (FMP) under the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) FMP and the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) (FMP). Both documents are developed and maintained by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, U.S.C. 1801 et seq. (MSA). The HMS FMP governs Pacific HMS fisheries, and the CPS FMP governs CPS fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the West Coast.

Section 303(b)(1) of the MSA specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. Almost every international, federal, state, and local fishery management authority recognizes the value of and uses permits as an integral part of their management systems. Identification of the participants, their gear types, descriptions of their vessels, and expected activity levels are needed to measure the consequences of management controls and is an effective tool in the enforcement of other fishery regulations. Experience has shown that fines for violations of specific fishery regulations are not as effective as the threat of a permit revocation that would exclude the vessel from the fishery altogether.

Responses to the items in the supporting statement are split by permit function:

- 1) Fisheries permits - These are permits which are administered by the NMFS's West Coast Region (WCR) under the CPS FMP and HMS FMP and are used to manage the fishery. These permits are required for fishermen and/or their vessel to participate in the fishery, and
- 2) Experimental/Testing permits - These are permits which are used for experimental and research activities to inform management decisions about fishery. These could include application and reporting requirements for experimental exempted fishing permits (EFPs), scientific research plans/letters of acknowledgement (LOAs), and exempted educational activity authorizations (EEAAs). These permits are voluntary.

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.

I. Fisheries Permits

When managing HMS and CPS fisheries, the WCR uses two types of permit structures: open access (OA) permits and limited entry (LE) permits.

OA permits are used in fisheries where there are no specific limitations or eligibility criteria for entry to the fishery. These permits are open to anyone that wants to apply. These permits are helpful in knowing the amount of effort in a fishery, gears used, and keeping a contact list to notify fishery participants about changes in the fishery. LE permits are generally used to prevent overcapitalization in the fishery by limiting entry into the fishery to a preselected number of participants, providing permit data to enforcement agents to assist their tracking vessels in the vessel monitoring system, and establishing whether fishing violations may have occurred.

In addition, current and historical permit data is used by states, the PFM, United States Coast Guard (USCG), NMFS staff, industry, and academia for various purposes, but primarily to analyze management aspects of the fishery. State agencies use this permit data to confirm vessel participation in a fishery when entering data into a state fish ticket system. There are provisions for transfers among owners and for appeals of actions of certain LE permits, such as the Federal CPS, drift gillnet (DGN) and deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) LE permits. There are provisions in the permit process for appeals of permit denials. General permit requirements are found in 50 CFR 660.1-3 ([Subpart A](#)¹) with the specific requirements contained in relevant sections of 50 CFR 660 ([Subpart I](#)² and [Subpart K](#)³).

Permits and the information obtained through permit applications are essential in the management of these fisheries. These data are needed to help measure the impacts of management controls on participants in the fisheries. Permits are also effective tools in the enforcement of other fishery regulations. The threat of permit sanctions that would exclude a vessel from the fishery are more effective than fines for violations of specific fishery regulations. Further, transferable limited access/entry permits may have a resale value and may be an asset that the government can seize in settlement of penalties for fishery violations.

Permits also provide an important link between the NMFS and fishermen via the permit application process. They make it easier for NMFS staff to contact fishermen and advise them of changes in the regulations or fishery conditions and give fishermen a direct point of contact in case they have questions or issues they want to bring to the attention of NMFS or the PFM. Below is a description of the specific fisheries permits under this collection.

Pacific Highly Migratory Species Permits

Under 50 CFR part 660.707, Pacific HMS permits are issued to vessels that fish for HMS or land

¹ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-660/subpart-A>

² <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-660/subpart-I>

³ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-660/subpart-K>

HMS in the states of California, Oregon, and Washington. Permits are open access, issued for a 2-year term and remain valid until the first date of renewal. Permits are endorsed for specific gear types including troll/jig, longline, bait boat, purse seine, drift gillnet, deep-set buoy gear, and charter fishing. Currently, active permits range from 1400 – 1500 with that number fluctuating daily as vessels continuously leave and join the fishery.

Limited Entry Drift Gillnet Permit

Regulations at § 660.707(f) require individuals who want to target, retain, transship, or land fish captured with a large-mesh (14 inches or greater stretched mesh) to hold a valid federal LE DGN permit. Permits are valid for one year with an annual renewal period.

Permit holders are eligible to transfer permits every three years using a transfer form to monitor changes in the fishery. This transfer form asks both parties to provide information regarding captains, vessel ownership, transfer history, and evidence of fishing with DGN gear. In most instances, the Transferee completes the response and sends it in and NMFS contacts the current owner to confirm the transfer. Transferees must have at least three years of fishing history using DGN gear. Evidence of fishing includes copies of logbook pages with names of the vessel's crew or a letter from a vessel operator verifying the transferees fishing history.

Permit holders are also required to be onboard the vessel when fishing but authorized to designate an alternate operator for up to 15 days. Designation of an alternate operator for over 15 days for reasons of serious illness requires a physician's note to be submitted to NMFS. Physician notes must be sent to the Fisheries Permits office for review and approval. This allows the Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD) to provide the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) with a record of clearance for an alternate operator.

Limited Entry Deep-Set Buoy Gear Permit

Regulations at § 660.707(g) require individuals who want to target and retain fish using DSBG inside the Southern California Bight (SCB) (as defined at § 660.715(d)(2)) to hold a valid LE DSBG permit. For a vessel to be used to fish with DSBG in the Southern California Bight, that vessel must be registered for use with a LE DSBG permit.

Permits are valid for one year with an annual renewal period. LE DSBG permits expire April 30 of each year and must be renewed between February 1 and March 31 of each year to remain in force the following permit year (May 1-April 30). If the permit will be used with a vessel other than the one registered on the permit, the permit owner must register that permit for use with the new vessel through NMFS. Permit ownership can only be transferred to a family member in the event of death or legal incapacitation. A permit owner must submit their request for a transfer of a LE DSBG permit if there is a change in permit owner and/or change in the vessel currently registered to the permit via a LE DSBG Transfer Form. The regulations provide that NMFS may request additional documentation or other such credible documentation necessary to determine compliance with the transfer regulations. As appropriate, the permit owner may be requested to provide evidence of authority to authorize a transfer.

Limited Entry Coastal Pelagic Species Permit

Since 2000, regulations at § 660.512(a)(2) require vessels to have a LE CPS permit if the vessel is carrying more than 5 metric tons (mt) on board the vessel in the CPS Limited Entry Zone. In 2023, NMFS established a capacity goal for the CPS fleet. The fleet capacity was set to an aggregated gross tonnage of 5650.9 gt with 65 LE CPS. Each permit has a fixed gross tonnage determined by applying the United States Geological Survey (USGS) formula at [46 CFR 69.209](#)⁴ to vessels using their overall length (l), depth (d), and breadth (b). Permits can be transferred with the following restrictions: (1) full transferability of permits only to vessels of comparable capacity (vessel GT +.10 (GT) or less), and (2) permits can be combined up to a greater level of capacity in cases where the vessel to which the permits would be transferred to is of greater harvesting capacity than the vessel from which the permit originated. No new permits are being issued; renewals and transfers still apply.

II. Experimental/Testing Permits -

NOAA Fisheries supports testing of alternative fishing practices in situations where necessary fishing or research activities would normally be prohibited by regulations. To do so, NOAA fisheries may issue exempted fishing permits (EFPs), letters of acknowledgement (LOAs), and/or scientific research permits (SRPs).

Exempted Fishing Permits

Exempted fishing permits (EFPs) are issued to individuals or organizations for the purpose of conducting testing of alternative fishing activities using private (non-research) vessels. Regulations at § [600.745\(b\)](#)⁵ specify the information necessary to include in applications. However, there is no specific application form, and it is up to the applicants to compile all the necessary information for the EFP to be issued. The Regional Administrator (RA) reviews each application and makes a preliminary determination whether the application contains all the required information and constitutes an appropriate activity. The RA may request additional information that is necessary to determine whether the application has merit. Incomplete applications will not be considered until corrected in writing. If the RA determines that the application does not warrant further consideration, all affected parties are notified in writing, with justification of the decision.

EFPs are issued to conduct limited experimental/research activities in support of projects that may benefit West Coast fisheries and the environment. These activities may include gear testing, public display, data collection, exploratory fishing, compensation fishing, conservation engineering, health and safety surveys, environmental cleanup, and/or hazard removal purposes. The intent is to respond to changes in the resource, fishery and other applicable laws, and to requests of the public or government, resulting in better management of the fishery resource.

In order to control this fishing and determine the extent of this fishing, regulations at §

⁴ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-46/chapter-I/subchapter-G/part-69/subpart-E/section-69.209>

⁵ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-600/subpart-H/section-600.745>

600.745(c) require applicants to submit reports periodically (as determined in the terms and conditions) to determine if granting an EFP is justified. Further, NMFS collects catch and landing data resulting from these authorized EFP activities. The EFP regulations supplement existing information collections required by the various FMPs by establishing minimum standards for these activities. The regulations related to the specific fisheries may impose additional requirements on participants. The regulations do not provide an appeals process for unsuccessful EFP applicants.

Scientific Research Plan/Letters of Acknowledgment

This section has historically described the Letters of Acknowledgment (LOA). However, the scientific research plan is the application requirement for the public so this section has been updated to focus on the scientific research plan. The LOA is a letter that NMFS created in response to the request and does not represent a burden to the public.

Regulations at § 600.745(a) require persons planning to conduct scientific research activities on board a scientific research vessel in the EEZ, or on the high seas, to submit to the appropriate region a scientific research plan for each scientific activity. NMFS evaluates the research activity based on the merits of the individual proposal and the institution(s) involved; whether the proposed activity meets the definition of scientific research activity; and whether the vessel meets all the requirements for a scientific research vessel. The RA will acknowledge notification of scientific research activity by issuing to the operator of that vessel, or to the sponsoring institution, a Letter of Acknowledgment (LOA). This LOA is separate and distinct from any permit or consultation required by any statute or applicable law. The LOA informs the applicant that such a permit may be required and should be obtained from the appropriate agency prior to embarking on the activity. If the RA, after reviewing a research plan, determines that it does not constitute scientific research but rather fishing, the Regional Administrator or Director will inform the applicant as soon as practicable and in writing.

In order to facilitate identification of the activity as scientific research, persons conducting scientific research activities are advised to carry a copy of the scientific research plan and the LOA on board the scientific research vessel and to make it available for inspection upon the request of any authorized officer. It is recommended that for any scientific research activity, any fish, or parts thereof, retained pursuant to such activity be accompanied, during any ex-vessel activities, by accompanied by a copy of the LOA. Activity conducted in accordance with a scientific research plan acknowledged by such a LOA is presumed to be scientific research activity.

Exempted Educational Activity Authorizations

Known as an exempted educational activity authorization (EEAA), regulations at § 600.745(d) describe the process for authorizing, for educational purposes, the take or incidental harvest of species managed under an FMP or fishery regulations that would otherwise be prohibited. Criteria for the application are specified under paragraph (d)(2) of the same section. The RA will review each application and will make a determination whether the application contains all of the required information, is consistent with the goals, objectives, and requirements of the FMP or

regulations and other applicable law and constitutes a valid exempted educational activity.

Appeals (applicable to all permits)

Permit appeal requirements are found at 50 CFR 660.512(g), 50 CFR 660.707(b)(3)(iv), 50 CFR 660.707(f)(7) and 50 CFR 660.707(g)(10). The appeals process is available to any permit applicant who has had their permit application (initial, transfer, or renewal) denied by NMFS. An appeals request must be made by the permit requester or owner in writing within 30 calendar days of NMFS initial determination and must explain how the requirements for transfer or renewal of a permit have not been met and/or provide pertinent information that was not considered by the NMFS in making the initial determination.

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.

I. Fisheries Permits

The information requested by NMFS for the fisheries permits is utilized to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for a permit for the fishery in which the applicant plans to participate. These data may also be used by several offices within NMFS, the PFMC, USCG, and state and territorial fishery-management, research, and enforcement agencies. Information on the vessel (as provided in documentation or registration certificates) is used to ascertain actual or potential participants in different sectors of each fishery and the amount of harvesting pressure they might exert on the fishery. This is important in determining the potential effectiveness and impacts of different management approaches and in assessing the capacity of the fleets in the fisheries.

The information collected is basic data on applicants, such as name of owner and vessel operator, name of vessel and its official number (USCG documentation or state registration number), address, telephone number, and international radio call sign (IRCS). Independently verifiable data on the vessel's USCG documentation or state registration certificates identify the legal ownership of the vessel being permitted. This latter requirement is essential for imposing permit sanctions, which are an effective fisheries enforcement tool. Since many vessels may be owned by partnerships or corporations, identification of ownership on the application form allows NMFS to sanction the company as well as the individual vessel operator for repeated violations of federal regulations. By having addresses, NMFS can mail fishery information to vessel owners and operators; also, permit renewal forms are sent to permit holders quickly and easily. Telephone numbers (business, home, facsimile) and email addresses are used to assist NMFS in processing the application by allowing questions to be resolved more quickly than by correspondence. Photos of vessels may also be collected in conjunction with IATTC resolutions and High Seas Fishing Compliance Act ([16 U.S.C. 2431](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2024-title16/pdf/USCODE-2024-title16-chap44A-sec2431.pdf)⁶ *et seq*).

⁶ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2024-title16/pdf/USCODE-2024-title16-chap44A-sec2431.pdf>

Disclosure of the Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) of the corporate applicants is mandatory in accordance with the Debt Collection Improvement Act ([31 U.S.C. 7701](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/31/7701)⁷), which requires that agencies obtain taxpayer identification numbers (TIN) or date of birth (DOB) from applicants for Federal permits. Vessel owner or his or her agent's signature is required as legally binding actions, which ensure eligibility to receive or transfer a permit under specific FMP regulations. False statements without the signature of the applicant would be difficult to prosecute.

NMFS collects the TINs (for business entity) and DOB (for an individual) for any permit owner or vessel owner as part of a transfer request and as part of the DSBG Identification of Ownership Interest Form required of business entities that own or hold a LE DSBG Permit. TIN and DOB information allow NMFS to uniquely identify entities and individuals that own or hold permits. This is important to accurately quantify how many permits are owned or held by a person or entity. This information assists NMFS law enforcement in identifying businesses that may be under investigation for fishing activities. The LE DSBG Permit Change of Vessel, Permit Holder, or Vessel Owner Application Form and LE DSBG Permit Identification of Ownership Interest Application Form both include a statement that advises the permit owner and vessel owner that TINs and DOBs are considered confidential and will not be released to the public.

Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

The information collection for EFPs involves a written application made to the PFMC and NMFS and, if approved, there are specific reporting requirements detailed in the terms and conditions of the permit. EFPs are issued to various applicants and allow them to undertake fishing activities that would otherwise be prohibited by regulation. Every two years the PFMC will request EFP applications. This coincides with the issuance of bi-annual fishery specifications, which include set-asides for research purposes. On a voluntary basis, applicants make an application for an EFP to the PFMC and to NMFS. An application for an EFP must contain all information required for an EFP application given at 50 CFR 600.745(b)(2). A narrative description of the proposed activity is required to fully document the proposed project. The PFMC initially reviews EFP applications and makes a recommendation to NMFS on whether to approve or disapprove individual proposals. Subsequently, NMFS conducts a separate review and the recommendation of the PFMC either approves or disapproves the individual applications. These decisions are final; there is no appeal process.

The EFP application allows the PFMC and NMFS to evaluate the exempted fishing activity and weigh the possible benefits and costs of a particular project. EFPs may lead to better management of the resource by allowing innovation that may resolve existing technological barriers or by providing additional scientific and management data. The total number of EFP applications and the proposed activities described in EFP applications may vary for each exempted fishery. An EFP is usually valid for two years or less. The approval of an EFP project by the PFMC and NMFS may result in several individual EFPs being issued to sponsoring organizations and participating vessels or processing plants. Such EFPs are required to hold participants individually accountable for their activities under the terms and conditions of the overarching EFP project.

⁷ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/31/7701>

NMFS has required more detailed information as EFPs have become more numerous and complex, with greater associated impacts on the fisheries and other parts of the environment. An application from a sponsor organization (*e.g.*, state agency, non-profit organization) or individual or entity includes a statement of the purposes and goals of the exempted fishing activities, with justification for issuance of the EFP; the species (target and incidental) and amounts expected to be taken under the EFP; the disposition of the catch; anticipated impacts on marine mammals or endangered species; description of project activities; and the names and responsibilities of participants. Information on the vessel (including a copy of the USCG documentation, state fishing license, state vessel registration, or the information from those documents), gear used, fishing area, and dates of fishing are needed for identification of the participants at sea, and for boardings and inspections by NMFS enforcement vessels or overflights. The information also precludes substitution of gear or vessels that may otherwise be prohibited by other regulations in effect. Information on the gear being utilized assists in making management decisions, since it helps show how gear restrictions affect the members of the fishery. Gear, fishing areas, and the duration/timing of fishing activities may be important factors to consider in determining appropriate permit conditions to attach to the EFP. Similarly, information from processors (first receivers) about offloads of fish caught under an EFP may require information about plans to weigh, sort and process fish, efforts to monitor these activities, and details on the data to be collected and documented.

The information collection for a processor or vessel participating in an EFP project (overseen by sponsored organization) includes applicant name, address and telephone number, DOB of the vessel operator and/or vessel owner or plant manager; vessel name and official number; Pacific Coast Groundfish LE permit number; and date of the application. If a business entity owns the vessel, a TIN may be required. This information is used to identify the permit applicant and the legal ownership of the processor or vessel to be registered to the permit. The collection of this information is essential to comply with the regulations and for enforcement purposes. The TIN/DOB allows enforcement to conduct an enforcement check prior to issuing the EFP. For example, violations of catch regulations may result in disqualification of the EFP applicant and/or suspension or revocation of a permit. Since many vessels are owned by corporations, identification of the owner on the application form allows NMFS to sanction the company, as well as the individual vessel operator, for repeated violations of federal regulations. Telephone and fax numbers are required so that NMFS staff can contact applicants to resolve outstanding issues in a quick and efficient manner, or to notify permit holders of the need to cease fishing activities.

Supplemental application information may be requested. For example, other information on the physical vessel characteristics, such as hold or fuel capacity, units and size of gear, or refrigeration capability, may be used to inventory the relative fishing power of each craft. This information may be used in estimating the effects of fishing effort on the biological status of stocks, or to assist NMFS in its national security role for the Federal Emergency Planning Administration. In some cases, EFPs are issued allowing the permit holder to keep fish (made available as a research set-asides) in compensation for collecting resource survey information according to a NMFS-approved protocol. In these cases, the application must state that the vessel's participation is contingent upon compensation. In other EFPs, the participating vessels fish what is normally available under current regulations.

An authorized representative of the vessel/processor owner or applicant organization must sign the EFP application to certify that the information provided is correct and true and that the applicant is eligible to receive a permit under the other FMP regulations. The signed document provides NMFS evidence that the applicant attests to the authenticity of the application. If there are false statements or misrepresentations made by the applicant, a signed document will be important in successfully taking legal actions against the permit holder. All the information in this section is needed to help effectively evaluate the proposed fishing activity, its scope and impacts, and to determine whether the activity is appropriate and whether it should be approved or disapproved. NMFS also requires an authorized representative to sign the EFP certifying that they and all vessel operators, crew, owners, and applicant staff understand and will comply with the terms and conditions.

After an EFP is approved, the permit holder will be required to provide various reports and information as required by the terms and conditions of the EFP. The types of reports and information submitted under EFPs vary according to the nature of the EFP. In some cases, the applicant is a state requesting permits for multiple vessels, and the state is required to collect catch information from the vessels and submit summary reports. Participating vessels may be required to have an observer. The frequency of data reports depends upon the nature of the fishery and monitoring requirements set by NMFS. The frequency may start as bi-weekly, go to weekly, and then every 2-3 days when the remaining allocation is small (the normal season is 10-12 weeks). In other cases where only individual vessels are involved, a data report submitted at the end of the fishing trip covered by the permit or a vessel may need to provide logbooks after a trip or at some other prescribed interval. In addition, vessels and/or first receivers may be required to provide notifications to enforcement or fishery monitors in advance of EFP trip or offload. Some EFPs' objective is to test reporting and monitoring systems on a large scale that may require the purchase of electronic equipment. Equipment costs are usually covered by one of the many federal grant programs targeted at supporting this type of research.

NMFS Regions, Centers, and enforcement use exempted fishing activity reports to ensure activities are carried out as described in the permit, document the catch for inclusion in the total catch, and consider the permittee for future permits. For all EFPs, NMFS will require a final report (and sometimes interim reports) that presents the results of the EFP project. The latter is important for NMFS and the PFMC in considering changes in management requirements based on the EFP results or to determine whether further research or data collection is required.

Scientific Research Plan/Letters of Acknowledgment

NMFS reviews each scientific research plan submitted to establish that the sponsoring organization and personnel involved are recognized scientific investigators, that the specific project contemplated appears to be scientific research and not fishing, and that the vessel or vessels to be used are or will be used exclusively for research for the duration of the scientific research cruise. The information collected, which is likely to include confidential research catch statistics and proprietary research information, will not be disseminated to the public except in aggregate as part of the total mortality in the fishery. Total mortality is part of a routine NMFS determination of the status of the affected stocks and is subject to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#) whenever conducted.

NMFS also uses any reports or articles, voluntarily submitted, to confirm that the activities conducted were scientific research, and to consider the appropriateness of acknowledging future requests.

Exempted Educational Activity Authorizations (EEAAs)

Regulations at [50 CFR 600.745\(b\)\(2\) and \(d\)\(2\)](#) identify the information that an applicant must submit to receive an EFP or EEAA. This information includes:

- (i). Date of the application.
- (ii). Applicant's name, mailing address, and telephone number.
- (iii). A statement of the purposes and goals of the exempted fishery for which an EFP/EEAA is needed, including justification for issuance of the EFP/EEAA. For EEAA's, evidence the sponsoring institution is a valid educational institution.
- (iv). For each vessel to be covered by the EFP/EEAA, as soon as the information is available and before operations begin under the EFP:
 - (a) A copy of the USCG documentation, state license, or registration of each vessel, or the information contained on the appropriate document.
 - (b) The current name, address, and telephone number of the owner and master, if not included on the document provided for the vessel.
- (v). Species (target and incidental) expected to be harvested under the EFP, the amount(s) of such harvest necessary to conduct the exempted fishing, the arrangements for disposition of all regulated species harvested under the EFP, and a detailed explanation of any anticipated impacts on marine mammals or endangered species. See (viii) for authorization.
- (vi). For each vessel covered by the EFP, the approximate time(s) and place(s) fishing will take place, and the type, size, and amount of gear to be used.
- (vii). Signature of the applicant.
- (viii). The Regional Administrator or Director, as appropriate, may request from an applicant additional information necessary to make the determinations required under this section. NMFS Regions, and NMFS and USCG enforcement use EFP and EEAA applications to identify the entities and vessels involved and ensure the applicant carries out activities within the restraints of the permit.

NMFS evaluates EEAA applications to confirm their educational value and determine their usefulness to the overall goals of the applicable FMP and for issuance of permits. NMFS Regions use the species (including marine mammals and endangered species) and amounts to be caught, the time and location of the projected catch, and any additional information requested to be provided to analyze the impact of the activity on the fishery stocks, endangered species,

marine mammals and cumulative effects on the environment for the purposes of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NMFS anticipates that the information collected, which is likely to include confidential fish catch statistics and proprietary fishing practice and strategy information, will not be disseminated to the public unless specifically authorized as part of the EFP or EEAA. If NMFS makes public nonconfidential information, then 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](#).

The information requested by NMFS for the Federal fisheries permit application forms is utilized to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for a permit for the fishery the applicant intends to participate in. This data may also be used by several offices of NMFS, USCG, and state and territorial fishery-management, research, and enforcement agencies. Information on the vessel (as provided in documentation or registration certificates) is used to ascertain actual or potential participants in different sectors of each fishery and the amount of harvesting pressure they might exert on the fishery. This is important in determining the potential effectiveness and impacts of different management approaches and in assessing the capacity of the fleets in the fisheries.

The information collected is basic data on applicants, such as name of owner and vessel operator, name of vessel and its official number (USCG documentation or state registration number), address, telephone number, and IRCS. Independently verifiable data on the vessel's USCG documentation or state registration certificates identify the legal ownership of the vessel being permitted. This latter requirement is essential for imposing permit sanctions, which are an effective fisheries enforcement tool. Since many vessels may be owned by partnerships or corporations, identification of ownership on the application form allows NMFS to sanction the company as well as the individual vessel operator for repeated violations of federal regulations. By having addresses, NMFS can mail fishery information to vessel owners and operators; also, permit renewal forms are sent to permit holders quickly and easily. Telephone numbers (business, home, facsimile) and email addresses are used to assist NMFS in processing the application by allowing questions to be resolved more quickly than by correspondence. Photos of vessels may also be collected in conjunction with IATTC resolutions and High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (16 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq*).

Disclosure of the EINs of the corporate applicants is mandatory in accordance with the Debt Collection Improvement Act ([31 U.S.C. 7701](#)), which requires that agencies obtain TINs or DOBs from applicants applying for Federal permits. Vessel owner or his or her agent's signature is required as legally binding actions, which ensure eligibility to receive or transfer a permit under specific FMP regulations. False statements without the signature of the applicant would be difficult to prosecute.

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.

The West Coast Region's Web site at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/commercial-fishing/west-coast-fishing-permits> is used to inform the public about the WCR permit programs and provides a means to obtain the application forms for the all-Pacific HMS fisheries, and transfer forms for LE DGN, LE CPS and LE DSBG permits. Currently, EFPs managed by the PFMC for supplemental gear for swordfish can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/sustainable-fisheries/highly-migratory-species-exempted-fishing-permits>.

A public interface option is available through the National Permits System (NPS) website at <http://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov> to allow WCR permit applicants to apply for and renew Pacific HMS and CPS permits. LE DGN renewals and transfers are accepted by mail or via the NPS website. LE DSBG new permit applications, renewals, and transfers are only accepted online through the NPS website.

There is no standard application form for EFPs, scientific research plans/LOAs, or EEAAAs. For EFPs, the initial application is usually made to the PFMC, which provides guidelines on the types of information that must be submitted as part of the application (Pacific Fishery Management Council Operating Procedure – COP 19). Those vessel owners who will participate in an EFP project need to provide basic identifier information (*e.g.*, vessel owner's name and business address, phone number, vessel name and number) as per EFP regulations. Sponsors of an EFP project (*e.g.*, states, non-profits, research institutes) must provide an expanded set of information that will allow the PFMC and NMFS to judge their application. Applicants may be required to provide revised applications to NMFS incorporating changes directed by the PFMC and/or NMFS. Applications who wish to receive a LOA or EEAA shall prepare an application according to parameters specified in the regulations at § 660.745(a) and (b), respectively.

Forms submitted electronically that require signatures are able to be electronically signed. Forms submitted via paper that require signatures will be signed by hand.

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

One Federal program that provides some similar information is the vessel documentation program of the USCG. The permit process incorporates verification of the current USCG Certificate of Documentation data on file for vessels to determine information about the vessels and their ownership. This is achieved via a NMFS internet site that reflects quarterly updates from USCG data sources. Similar verification is occasionally conducted via state vessel registration contacts. The Pacific HMS permit application does not contain a requirement to provide duplicate information. The CPS permit form for transfers and renewals does request vessel information, in which a request for USCG Certificate of Documentation, vessel tonnage certificate, or marine survey is necessary to verify the calculated gross tonnage of vessels. Although USCG Certificate of Documentation data is available, vessel tonnage certificates and marine surveys are not. For consistency, it is necessary to include all options available on the

form. The LE DGN and LE DSBG permit forms for new applications and transfers requests vessel information to verify vessel ownership and federal fishery participation eligibility.

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

All of the vessels in the Pacific CPS and HMS fisheries are categorized as small business entities of similar size and are affected comparably. No special measures are needed to accommodate different sized businesses. Only the minimum data to meet the permit program objectives are requested from the permit applications.

EFP, LOA and EEAA respondents to this information collection vary from large research organizations to individual fishermen or educators. Many respondents are categorized as small businesses or entities. These regulations were drafted with the consideration that the typical respondent would be a small entity, with the requirement made flexible enough that the RA can tailor them to the scope of the project.

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.

If permit data are not available or are collected less frequently, NMFS will have difficulty monitoring the fishery, determining entry and exit patterns, and providing information needed to ensure full impact analysis from the regulatory programs. NMFS Enforcement will not be assured of being able to identify current permit holders for purposes of compliance monitoring and enforcement of the regulations. There will be less frequent contact with fishermen and our ability to contact permit holders to consult them prior to adopting new regulations and to advise them of regulatory changes will diminish. Our ability to document transfers of marketable permits under the Federal CPS, DGN and DSBG limited access permit programs will be compromised.

A written EFP application is required so that the PFMC, NMFS, and other interested parties can evaluate the proposed activity. For those applications that are approved, the EFP document becomes the basis of the EFP, which essentially serves as a signed agreement to conduct specified activities. The PFMC has recently changed the interval for submission of applications to once every two years, because most projects are two years in duration and the allocations of groundfish are on a set biennial basis. Because an EFP authorizes activities that otherwise would be prohibited, review of the application assures that the experiment is designed appropriately to achieve its purposes, and to allow law enforcement agents and management staff to monitor EFP fishing activities. In addition, an application helps state and Federal officials to consider emerging changes in the fishery, account for EFP landings and their impacts on the overall fishery, and to closely monitor scheduled activities. A longer permit period would allow prohibited activities to take place beyond the time needed to evaluate the activity. If various EFP reports are not provided at various intervals (bi-weekly, monthly, etc.), NMFS staff will not be able to effectively track impacts of EFP fishing on the fishery, evaluate interim progress, and judge the overall success or failure of concluded EFP projects.

If the information requested in the scientific research plan is not obtained, enforcement of violations of the MSA where the violator asserts he/she was conducting scientific research and not fishing will continue to be difficult to prove. Legitimate researchers will continue to be inconvenienced, and enforcement units will continue to conduct needless and inappropriate boarding of scientific research vessels whose activities are confused with fishing. If the information requested by EFP and EEAA is not obtained, there will be no standard way of dealing with these activities from Region to Region, there will be more incidents of persons who believe they are conducting scientific research being found in violation of the MSA, and the catches of some activities taking large amounts of fish currently considered scientific research may go unrecorded, possibly contributing to overfishing.

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

For Pacific fisheries permit programs, the collection is consistent with the OMB Guidelines.

For EFPs and EEAAAs, summary data reports may be required more often than quarterly depending on the project. The frequency is necessary in summary and data reports to keep track of the catch to date compared to the project allocation of fish. The level of reporting is stipulated in the terms

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.

A 60-day notice was published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2025 (90 FR 59793). The comment period closed on February 2, 2026. No comments were received.

In addition to the Federal Register notice, NMFS contacted stakeholders outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format, 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.

No payments or gifts are provided under this program.

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 system

of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.

As stated on the applicable forms, some of the information collection described above is confidential under section 402(b) of the MSA. It is also confidential under [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#), Protection of Confidential Fisheries Statistics. Phone number, fax and email information, TIN, and DOB are not released to the public. The information collected is part of a Privacy Act System of Records (SORN), [COMMERCE/NOAA-19](#)⁸, Permits and Registrations for United States Federally Regulated Fisheries. The privacy impact assessment for NOAA system [NOAA4000](#)⁹ captures the information collected under this control number.

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.

This information collection does not require the submission of information of a sensitive nature.

⁸ <https://www.commerce.gov/node/4991>

⁹ <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/NOAA4000%20PIA%20FY25%20SAOP%20Approved.pdf>

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

The entire burden (cost and time) has decreased since the last review. This is because the number of applicants has decreased overall. Please note that Pre-trip Notifications, Protected Species Workshops, and any burden related to the protected species workshops are housed within another collection (OMB 0648-0498, the West Coast Region Vessel Monitoring System and Pre-Trip Reporting System Requirements Collection).

Information Collection	Type of Respondent (e.g., Occupational Title)	# of Respondents/year (a)	Annual # of Responses / Respondent (b)	Total # of Annual Responses (c) = (a) x (b)	Burden Hrs / Response (d)	Total Annual Burden Hrs (e) = (c) x (d)	Hourly Wage Rate (for Type of Respondent) (f)	Total Annual Wage Burden Costs (g) = (e) x (f)
Fisheries Permits								
Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)								
CPS Permit Renewal (Paper)	Fisherman	10	1	10	0.166667	2	\$20.57	\$41
CPS Permit Renewal (Online)	Fisherman	22	1	22	0.08333	2	\$20.57	\$41
CPS Transfer *	Fisherman	3	1	3	0.5	2	\$20.57	\$41
Highly Migratory Species (HMS)								
HMS New Permit (Paper)	Fisherman	2	1	2	0.333333	1	\$20.57	\$21
HMS New Permit (Online)	Fisherman	141	1	141	0.25	35	\$20.57	\$720
HMS Permit Renewal (Paper)	Fisherman	33	1	33	0.166667	6	\$20.57	\$123
HMS Permit Renewal (Online)	Fisherman	235	1	235	0.08333	20	\$20.57	\$411
Limited Entry (LE) Drift Gillnet (DGN)								
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Paper)	Fisherman	11	1	11	0.166667	2	\$19.23	\$38
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Online)	Fisherman	16	1	16	0.08333	1	\$19.23	\$19
LE DGN Transfer *	Fisherman	1	1	1	0.5	1	\$19.23	\$19
LE DGN Designation Request	Fisherman	1	1	1	0.5	1	\$19.23	\$19
LE DGN Exemption Request	Fisherman	1	1	1	0.5	1	\$19.23	\$19
Limited Entry (LE) Deep-set Buoy Gear (DSBG)								
LE DSBG Initial Permit Qualification Application	Fisherman	30	1	30	0.5	15	\$19.23	\$288
LE DSBG ID of Ownership Interest Application	Fisherman	2	1	2	0.166667	0	\$19.23	\$0
LE DSBG Renewal	Fisherman	138	1	138	0.166667	23	\$19.23	\$442
LE DSBG Transfers *	Fisherman	3	1	3	0.5	2	\$19.23	\$38

Experimental / Testing Permits								
Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Application	Fisherman	50	1	50	1	50	\$20.57	\$1,029
EFP Reports	Fisherman	50	1	50	4.5	225	\$20.57	\$4,628
Scientific Research (SR) Plan (previously listed as Letter of Acknowledgement)	Fisherman	1	1	1	13	13	\$20.57	\$267
SR Reports	Fisherman	1	1	1	7	7	\$20.57	\$144
Exempted Educational Activity Authorization (EEAA)	Fisherman	1	1	1	5	5	\$20.57	\$103
EEAA Reports	Fisherman	1	1	1	2.5	2.5	\$20.57	\$51
Applies to All Permits & Transfers								
Appeals	Fisherman	1	1	1	4	4	\$20.57	\$82
Totals		754		754		421		\$8,588

* Transfers are completed by the Transferee and NMFS contacts the Transferor to confirm the transfer. Therefore, Transfers reflect a single individual completing the form, instead of two.

Wage information from May 2025 was used. Average wage used for burden calculations reflects location of fishery:

Mean hourly wage fishermen by state:

- California - \$19.23
- Oregon - \$20.89
- Washington \$21.58

Average for three states: \$20.57

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).

The costs shown in the table below are for the cost for permits or applications. For documents transmitted via paper, the current cost of postage (\$0.78) has been added to the permit fee. Permit fees are reviewed every two years and are updated based on the NOAA finance handbook and the actual cost of the fee. The are called Unit Cost Computations. NMFS HQ updated the rent costs last year which resulted in all the permit fees changing.

Information Collection	# of Respondents/year (a)	Annual # of Responses / Respondent (b)	Total # of Annual Responses (c) = (a) x (b)	Cost Burden / Respondent (h)	Total Annual Cost Burden (i) = (c) x (h)
Fisheries Permits					
Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)					
CPS Permit Renewal (Paper)	10	1	10	\$0.78	\$8
CPS Permit Renewal (Online)	22	1	22	\$0	\$0
CPS Transfer	3	1	3	\$0	\$0
Highly Migratory Species (HMS)					
HMS New Permit (Paper)	2	1	2	\$18.78	\$38
HMS New Permit (Online)	141	1	141	\$18	\$2,538
HMS Permit Renewal (Paper)	33	1	33	\$18.78	\$620
HMS Permit Renewal (Online)	235	1	235	\$18	\$4,230
Limited Entry (LE) Drift Gillnet (DGN)					
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Paper)	11	1	11	\$22.78	\$251
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Online)	16	1	16	\$22	\$352
LE DGN Transfer	1	1	1	\$0	\$0
LE DGN Designation Request	1	1	1	\$0	\$0
LE DGN Exemption Request	1	1	1	\$0	\$0
Limited Entry (LE) Deep-Set Buoy Gear (DSBG)					
LE DSBG Initial Permit Qualification Application	30	1	30	\$110	\$3,300
LE DSBG ID of Ownership Interest Application	2	1	2	\$0	\$0
LE DSBG Renewal	138	1	138	\$110	\$15,180
LE DSBG Transfers	3	1	3	\$0	\$0
Experimental / Testing Permits					
Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Application	50	1	50	\$0	\$0
EFP Reports	50	1	50	\$0	\$0
Scientific Research (SR) Plan (previously referred to as Letters of Acknowledgement)	1	1	1	\$0	\$0
SR Reports	1	1	1	\$0	\$0

Exempted Educational Activity Authorization (EEAA)	1	1	1	\$0	\$0
EEAA Reports	1	1	1	\$0	\$0
Applies to all Permits & Transfers					
Appeals	1	1	1	\$0	\$0
TOTALS	754		754		\$26,516

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	Grade/Step	Loaded Salary /Cost	% of Effort	Fringe (if Applicable)	Total Cost to Government
Federal Oversight					
1 FTE (ZP-III) Seattle, WA	ZP-III	\$196,179	50%		\$98,090
1 FTE (ZP-II) Long Beach, CA	ZP-II	\$154,509	50%		\$77,255
Contractor Cost		\$116,403	50%	N/A	\$58,202
Travel					
Other Costs:					
TOTAL					\$233,547

The Commerce Alternative Personnel System (CAPS) [pay tables](https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/CAPS%20Standard%20Pay%20Tables%202026.pdf)¹⁰ were used to determine base salaries. The upper bound for Interval 3 of each pay band was used as the base salary and a multiplier of 1.5 applied to determine the loaded salary. The costs reflect the amount of time the staff dedicates to the permit's programs listed here. The staff annually manages about 2,500 permits across programs, including programs outside of this collection. The split reflects the split between programs.

¹⁰ <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/CAPS%20Standard%20Pay%20Tables%202026.pdf>

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

There are overall fewer applications and several of the permits have had reduced fees which has resulted in the reduction of permit numbers. Additionally, individuals are using more online permits than paper. We have removed the ICs: Yr 1 LE DSBG Renewal and Yr 2 LE DSBG Renewal. The way the ICs were previously presented in ROCIS implied that the initial year and second year are two different forms which is incorrect. The removal of said ICs also removed the redundancy and accurately displays the true number of respondents. Similar with our calculations for HMS applications and respondents we have averaged the numbers over the three years.

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	
Fisheries Permits							
Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Permit Renewals & Transfers	0	69	0	35	0	6	This IC was removed from the collection and broken down into individual ICs for improved granularity.
Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)							
CPS Permit Renewal (Paper)	10	19	10	10	2	2	-
CPS Permit Renewal (Online)	22	44	22	22	2	2	-
CPS Transfer	3	6	3	3	2	2	-
Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Permits	0	769	0	385	0	64	This IC was removed from the collection and broken down into individual ICs for improved granularity.
Highly Migratory Species (HMS)							
HMS New Permit (Paper)	4	12	2	6	1	2	Fewer applications are submitted via mail resulting in a decreased in the number of responses.
HMS New Permit (Online)	282	223	141	112	35	28	Increased # of applications received electronically resulting in an increase in the number of responses and burden hours.
HMS Permit Renewal (Paper)	65	290	33	145	6	24	Fewer applications are submitted via mail resulting in a decreased in the number of responses.
HMS Permit Renewal (Online)	470	244	235	122	20	10	Increased # of applications received electronically resulting in an increase in the number of responses and burden hours.
Limited Entry Drift Gillnet Renewal	0	32	0	32	0	5	This IC was removed from the collection and broken down into individual ICs for improved granularity.
Limited Entry (LE) Drift Gillnet (DGN)							
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Paper)	11	11	11	11	2	2	Fewer renewals are submitted via mail resulting in a decreased in the number of responses.
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Online)	16	16	16	16	1	1	Increased # of applications received electronically resulting in an increase in the number of responses and burden hours.

LE DGN Transfer	1	1	1	1	1	1	No Change
LE DGN Designation Request	1	1	1	1	1	1	No Change
LE DGN Exemption Request	1	1	1	1	1	1	No Change
Limited Entry (LE) Deep-set Buoy Gear (DSBG)							
LE DSBG Initial Permit Qualification Application	30	150	30	150	15	75	2025 was the first year of the program so there was a large influx of applications, however the number received as about 1/2 of the expected 150 applications. Each year the application period is reopened for any new interest, but the majority of interested parties signed up the first year.
LE DSBG ID of Ownership Interest Application	2	50	2	50	0	8	2025 was the first year of the program so there was a large influx of applications, however the number received was significantly lower than the expected 50 applications. Only 3 applications were received the first year and 1 received this year.
LE DSBG Renewal	138	0	138	0	23	0	The increase in the number of respondents is a direct result of the influx of new applications received last year.
Yr 1 LE DSBG Renewal	0	50	0	50	0	8	Removed IC to merge with LE DSBG Gear Renewal
Yr 2 LE DSBG Renewal	0	75	0	75	0	13	Removed IC to merge with LE DSBG Gear Renewal
LE DSBG Transfers	3	15	3	15	2	8	Decrease in the number of applications.
Experimental / Testing Permits							
Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Application	50	51	50	51	50	51	Decreased in # of applicants
EFP Reports	50	0	50	0	225	0	IC was not captured in previously renewals
Scientific Research (SR) Plan (previously referred to as Letters of Acknowledgement)	1	1	1	1	13	7	Updated the title of the IC from Letters of Authorization (which NMFS provides) to Scientific Research Plans which are the application requirement for the public.
SR Reports	1	0	1	0	7	0	IC was not captured in previously renewals
Exempted Educational Activity Authorization (EEAA)	1	1	1	1	5	7	Burden hours were broken out between the applications and reports.
EEAA Reports	1	0	1	0	3	0	IC was not captured in previously renewals
Applies to all Permits & Transfers							
Appeals	1	1	1	1	4	4	No Change
Total for Collection	1,164	1,267	754	849	421	259	
Difference	-103		-95		162		

Information Collection	Miscellaneous Costs	Reason for change or adjustment
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	Current	Previous	
Fisheries Permits			
Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Permit Renewals & Transfers	0	0	This IC was removed from the collection and broken down into individual ICs for improved granularity.
Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)			
CPS Permit Renewal (Paper)	\$8	\$0	Includes postage costs
CPS Permit Renewal (Online)	\$0	\$0	
CPS Transfer	\$0	\$0	
Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Permits	\$0	\$9,997	This IC was removed from the collection and broken down into individual ICs for improved granularity.
Highly Migratory Species (HMS)			
HMS New Permit (Paper)	\$38	\$156	Fewer applications are submitted via mail resulting in a decreased in the number of responses. Decrease in permit fees.
HMS New Permit (Online)	\$2,538	\$2,899	Increased # of applications received electronically resulting in an increase in the number of responses and burden hours. Decrease in permit fees.
HMS Permit Renewal (Paper)	\$620	\$3,770	Fewer applications are submitted via mail resulting in a decreased in the number of responses. Decrease in permit fees.
HMS Permit Renewal (Online)	\$4,230	\$3,172	Increased # of applications received electronically resulting in an increase in the number of responses and burden hours. Decrease in permit fees.
Limited Entry Drift Gillnet Renewal	\$0	\$704	This IC was removed from the collection and broken down into individual ICs for improved granularity.
Limited Entry (LE) Drift Gillnet (DGN)			
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Paper)	\$251	\$528	Fewer renewals are submitted via mail resulting in a decreased in the number of responses. Increase in permit fees.
LE DGN Permit Renewal (Online)	\$352	\$176	Increased # of applications received electronically resulting in an increase in the number of responses and burden hours. Increase in permit fees.
LE DGN Transfer	\$0	\$0	No Change
LE DGN Designation Request	\$0	\$0	No Change
LE DGN Exemption Request	\$0	\$0	No Change
Limited Entry (LE) Deep-set Buoy Gear (DSBG)			
LE DSBG Initial Permit Qualification Application	\$3,300	\$15,150	2025 was the first year of the program so there was a large influx of applications, however the number received was significantly lower than the expected 50 applications. Only 3 applications were received the first year and 1 received this year.
LE DSBG ID of Ownership Interest Application	\$0	\$0	No Change
LE DSBG Renewal	\$15,180	\$0	The increase in the number of respondents is a direct result of the influx of new applications received last year. There was also an increase in permit fees.
Yr 1 LE DSBG Renewal	\$0	\$5,050	Removed IC to merge with LE DSBG Gear Renewal

Yr 2 LE DSBG Renewal	\$0	\$7,575	Collection merged into IC: Limited Entry DSBG Renewal
LE DSBG Transfers	\$0	\$0	No Change
Experimental / Testing Permits			
Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Application	\$0	\$0	No Change
EFP Reports	\$0	\$0	IC was not captured in previously renewals
Scientific Research (SR) Plan (previously referred to as Letters of Acknowledgement)	\$0	\$0	No Change
SR Reports	\$0	\$0	IC was not captured in previously renewals
Exempted Educational Activity Authorization (EEAA)	\$0	\$0	No Change
EEAA Reports	\$0	\$0	IC was not captured in previously renewals
Applies to all Permits & Transfers			
Appeals	\$0	\$0	No Change
Total for Collection	\$26,517	\$38,476	
Difference	(\$11,959)		

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.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 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](#).

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.

The agency 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."

There are no exceptions for compliance with provisions in the certification statement. The agency certifies compliance with [5 CFR 1320.9](#) and the related provisions of [5 CFR 1320.8\(b\)\(3\)](#).