

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
West Coast Region U.S. Pacific Highly Migratory Species Logbooks
OMB Control No. 0648-0223

Abstract

This request is for an extension of a current information collection, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is updating the title of this information collection to clarify that this applies not only to hook and line logbooks, but also to a broader group of gear types (i.e., deep-set buoy gear, coastal purse seine, large-mesh drift gillnet, and harpoon HMS gear types). U.S. fishermen participating in the Pacific highly migratory species (HMS) fishery are required to obtain an HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) permit. A requirement for the permit is to complete and submit logbooks documenting their daily fishing activities, including catch and effort for each fishing trip. Submissions must be made within 30 days of the completion of a trip. The information obtained is used by the agency to assess the status of Pacific HMS stocks and to monitor the fishery.

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 U.S. is a major consumer of Pacific HMS. Assessments of the status of HMS stocks and the monitoring of both the foreign and domestic fisheries are vital to U.S. fishermen, consumers, and producers. Data collected through a recordkeeping and reporting program are essential to assess the status of these stocks by providing abundance indices and locations of catches. The ability to collect fishing information or other vessel activities is crucial to fisheries management under the authority of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#)¹ (Magnuson-Stevens Act), HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP), as well as a High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA; [16 U.S.C. 5501](#)² *et seq.*). The HSFCA authorizes a system of permitting U.S. fishing vessels that operate on the high seas (beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone) and establish management measures, which includes maintaining a complete record of fishing activities.

Under the FMP and regulations at [50 CFR 660.707-708](#)³, West Coast Region (WCR) fishing vessels are required to obtain a permit and provide logbook information on daily fishing activity, including catches, effort and position. These data and associated analyses help the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (Center) provide the needed management advice to the U.S. in its negotiations with foreign fishing nations exploiting Pacific HMS. These data have been collected since the early 1960s, and future collections will ensure a complete series of data for monitoring analysis purposes.

As of April 1, 2019, California logbook requirements were repealed by the California Fish and Game Commission for HMS fisheries drift gillnet and swordfish harpoon. As a result, the California commercial fishing fleet with HMS permits will no longer be able to obtain these logbooks to meet the Federal reporting requirements. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) developed Federal logbooks to replace the California logbooks to continue collecting important fishing information. In

¹ <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3//dam-migration/msa-amended-2007.pdf>

² <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title16/chapter75&edition=prelim>

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

addition, NMFS developed a purse seine logbook for vessels smaller than 400 short tons (st; 362.8 metric tons (mt)) carrying capacity or less to provide a replacement for using the Pacific Tuna Fisheries Logbook (OMB control number 0648-0148) developed for vessels larger than 400 st carrying capacity. This logbook is designed to collect data that better represent the smaller purse seine fleet.

Background on DSBG Development

Since the early 20th century, gear types for harvesting swordfish off the U.S. West Coast have included harpoon, hook and line, drift gillnet (DGN), and longline gear. Motivated by reduced production by fishing vessels on the U.S. West Coast and increased reliance on foreign supplies of swordfish to meet demand, NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council have indicated an interest in the development of new gear types for targeting swordfish while minimizing interactions with protected species and bycatch of non-target finfish. Results of DSBG trials indicate its potential as a productive, profitable swordfish gear type with low environmental impacts.

DSBG employs a hook-and-buoy system to catch target species during the daytime in deep water, while they are feeding, with hooks commonly set at depths below 250 meters. DSBG configurations include “standard” buoy gear (SBG) and “linked” buoy gear (also referred to as deep-set linked buoy gear; LBG). Standard DSBG configurations consist of strike indicator buoys deployed at the surface, a vertical mainline, baited circle hooks at depth, and a weighted sinker to ensure that hooks reach depth rapidly. Linked DSBG configurations include additional sub-surface branch lines connecting the various strike indicator buoys and more hooks at depth.

Final rule [0648-BK09](#)⁴ added new gear endorsements to the existing Federal General HMS permit for both SBG and LBG. These endorsements permit open access DSBG fishing in all Federal waters offshore of California and Oregon outside of the Southern California Bight. DSBG fishing within the Southern California Bight would require possession of a valid DSBG limited entry permit.

Existing regulations describe requirements for the submission of logbooks (50 CFR 660.708) and obligations for any HMS-permitted vessel to accommodate a NMFS certified observer when required by the agency ([50 CFR 660.719](#)⁵). NMFS would annually determine the level of observer coverage for the DSBG fishery based on anticipated fishing effort and available funding.

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.

Logbook data will be collected throughout the year and submitted within 30 days of the end of each fishing trip. The collected information is used by the NMFS to assess the status of HMS stocks and monitor the fisheries. Data on catches and catch locations are used to determine population size, abundance levels and data on vessel characteristics are used to standardize fishing effort and for economic analyses. After data are standardized, catch and effort information are used to determine year class strength, fishing mortality, maximum sustainable yields and descriptive information on where and how many fish are caught.

Environmental data are used to correlate catches with certain environmental conditions in an effort to predict locations of favorable catches. The information is stored on computer databases and analyzed

⁴ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/08/2023-09748/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-highly-migratory-fisheries-amendment-6-to-the-fishery-management>

⁵ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-660/subpart-K#660.719>

through standard population dynamics models. Results of these analyses will show the condition of the stock and, if the stocks are underexploited, will indicate where increased catches can be made or, in the case where the stocks are overexploited, can be used to determine quotas, area closures or other methods to enhance stock recovery. This information will be used by U.S. negotiators in international and domestic forums to develop policy related to the continued harvesting of Pacific HMS. These data will also be summarized yearly and provided to the fishermen for their use.

Hook and Line Logbook: In the early 1970s, the collection of the data was contracted through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission). The Commission then decided to collect the data through a uniform logbook system and developed a predecessor to the current logbook. This logbook focuses on hook and line gear (troll, pole & line, and rod & reel). Fishermen record the amount of target catch species (albacore, yellowfin, and bluefin tunas) caught, incidental catch and any bycatch. In addition, information on fishing trip dates, fishing area, and landing ports is collected. Completed logbook pages are sent to the Center for analysis of the fishery.

Currently, West Coast Region (WCR) charter vessel logbooks are issued by the states of California and Washington with the exception of Oregon. Oregon recreational charter vessels are requested to use the Hook and Line logbook to meet logbook requirements.

Drift Gillnet Logbook: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Fish and Game Commission required that California Limited Entry Drift Gillnet permit holders complete and submit a State Gill and Trammel Net Fishing Log which is required of large mesh drift gillnet permittees. To continue to collect necessary catch information, a Federal Drift Gillnet Logbook was designed to replace the information previously obtained from CDFW. Fishermen record fishing effort including the amount of target species (swordfish, common thresher sharks) caught, other species, and any bycatch. In addition, information on fishing trip dates, fishing area, and landing ports is collected. Completed logbook pages are sent to the Center for analysis of the fishery.

Harpoon Logbook: CDFW and the California Fish and Game Commission required California Swordfish permittees to complete and submit a State Swordfish Harpoon Logbook. The Federal Harpoon Logbook will continue to record swordfish fishing effort including fishing trip dates, fishing area, landing ports, and the number and weight of the fish caught. Completed logbook pages are sent to the Center for analysis of the fishery.

Purse Seine Logbook: U.S. participation in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) requires purse seine vessels who fish in the IATTC's area of management responsibility to meet record keeping requirements using the IATTC Regional Purse Seine Logbook (Purse seine logbooks are under a separate PRA process; OMB control number 0648-0148) developed for vessels 400 short tons (st) (362.8 metric tons (mt)) or more. Coastal purse seine fishing vessels with a carrying capacity less than 400 st (362.8 mt) participating in the coastal pelagic species fishery also opportunistically target HMS. To improve data collection from this small fleet, NMFS developed a logbook to better represent the reporting of fishing effort for these vessels. The Purse Seine Logbook will be used to report target species (bluefin, skipjack, and yellowfin) caught, bycatch, fishing area, and landing ports. Completed logbook pages are sent to the Center for analysis of the fishery.

DSBG Logbook: HMS FMP regulations require logbooks (50 CFR 660.708). Final Rule 0648-BK09 (88 FR 29545) implemented a new logbook requirement for vessels using DSBG in 2023. This logbook is focused on DSBG (SBG and LBG). Fishermen record the amount of target catch caught, incidental catch and any bycatch. In addition, information on fishing trip dates, fishing area, landing ports, gear configuration, and time of set is collected. Completed logbook pages are sent to the Center for analysis

of the fishery.

Table 1: Information Requirements and Needs and Uses of Information Collected

Item #	Requirement	Statute	Regulation	Form #	Needs and Uses
1	Reporting and Recordkeeping	16 U.S.C. § 1801	50 CFR 660.708	NOAA 88-197	Used by the NMFS and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) to manage fisheries stocks and reporting compliance

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 logbooks are distributed in paper form, and the hook and line logbook is available as an electronic logbook. DSBG, harpoon, and hook and line fishermen are encouraged to use the electronic logbooks available on the West Coast Region’s website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/sustainable-fisheries/west-coast-highly-migratory-species-logbooks>, which is used to inform the public about WCR logbooks and provides a means for fishermen to request logbooks and download electronic forms.

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.

No other collection of these data exists that fulfills the reporting obligations of the HMS FMP.

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

Most HMS vessel owners are small business entities. Federal logbooks are similar to actual logs that vessels would keep as standard records. Fishermen have been an integral part of both the development and modification of the forms and sampling program to minimize burden. The current data collection system and forms are continuously updated to be the least burdensome.

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.

Collections of logbook data are required for HMS permit holders. Cancellation or decrease in coverage will hinder management of these permit programs and allocation of quotas in the future.

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

The collection is conducted in a manner that is consistent with OMB guidelines.

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 Federal Register Notice published on January 15, 2026 (91 FR 1753) solicited public comment on this extension. NOAA also consulted with four stakeholders, one from each gear type, 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.

Two comments were received.

Comment (from FRN comment period): One comment from the American Albacore Fishing Association highlighted the learning curve to the use of electronic logbooks as fishermen transition to this new technology and mentions that more use of electronic logbooks going forward may reduce the estimated total annual costs to the public.

Response: NMFS agrees there can be variation in times to complete logbooks and also supports the idea that time estimates could go down over time when users become more familiar with e-logbooks.

Comment (from external stakeholder): One comment was received from an individual representing the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research. This commenter supported the option to submit either paper or electronic logbooks, stating the importance of giving fishermen ample time to transition to electronic logbooks if they were to become a requirement. The commenter suggested that it would be helpful to clearly lay out reporting expectations before the fishing season, ensuring straightforward, bullet point instructions. This comment also mentioned that the estimated number of respondents seemed high, estimating himself that filling out a logbook should only take “about 5 minutes per day,” and noting that there are not ~700 active buoy gear fishers in the West Coast. This estimated number of respondents includes all HMS permit holders, not just buoy gear.

Response: Regarding the comment that the time burden seemed high, NMFS recognizes there is variation in the time it takes fishermen to fill out a logbook, and this supporting statement covers a range of different types of logbooks. While NMFS acknowledges some individuals can take much less time, NMFS estimates the maximum time estimate for this burden remains one hour given the longer amount of time it can take some applicants, particularly those learning to use the new e-logs.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are made 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 system of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.

As stated on the form, per [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#), data are considered confidential and can only be distributed in summary form so as not to reveal the operations of a unique vessel. This practice is consistent with the [Trade Secrets Act](#)⁶.

Consistent with OMB's guidance implementing the Privacy Act of 1974, "an agency record-keeping system on firms it regulates may contain "records" (i.e., personal information) about officers of the firm incident to evaluating the firm's performance. Even though these are clearly "records" under the "control of" an agency, they would not be considered part of a system as defined by the Act unless the agency accessed them by reference to a personal identifier (name, etc.). That is, if these hypothetical "records" are never retrieved except by reference to company identifier or some other nonpersonal indexing scheme (e.g., type of firm) they are not a part of a system of records." NOAA believes this guidance speaks directly to this scenario and suggests that while the information system certainly will collect and maintain personally identifiable information (PII), it is not maintained in a system of records.

System of record notice [NOAA-19](#)⁷, Permits and Registrations for United States Federally Regulated Fisheries, covers the collection of logbook data. The PII/BII collected under this OMB control number is reflected in the privacy impact assessment [NOAA4500](#)⁸.

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.

No information of a sexual, religious, or other private nature is collected.

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

NMFS will distribute HMS logbooks to permit holders upon their entry into the fishery and whenever they request a replacement logbook. There are currently 1,397 HMS permit holders with a combined total of 1,414 endorsements for hook and line, harpoon, DSBG, DGN, and purse seine gears. The number of permits fluctuates continuously, as they are renewed on the permit holder's birthday. Therefore, between the publication of the 60-day Federal Register Notice and the time of publication for this supporting statement, the numbers have slightly changed. The amount of fillable data sheets in each logbook exceeds the number of fishing trips in a season, anticipating a replacement of a logbook every two years and 709 respondents each year. Respondents are required to provide data for each trip, therefore, the rate of submission of data sheets should be 100 percent. The number of trips per year differs by gear, so each respondent is estimated to make between 2 and 31 trips a year, for a total of 3,897 responses. The burden is approximately 1 hour per response (it should be noted that data supplied would be recorded by the captain for their own use and carbons are kept for the vessel's records).

The burden estimate for logbook submission is derived as follows:

1,104 hook and line vessels + 137 harpoon vessels + 125 DSBG vessels + 21 DGN vessels + 27 small

⁶ <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title18/part1/chapter90&edition=prelim>

⁷ <https://www.commerce.gov/node/4991>

⁸ https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NOAA4500%20PIA%20FY25-SAOP_Aproved_Delegated.pdf

purse seine vessels = 1,414 HMS permits / 2 years = 707 respondents (552 hook and line respondents, 68.5 harpoon respondents, 62.5 DSBG respondents, 10.5 DGN respondents, and 13.5 small purse seine respondents)

Numbers in supporting statement A chart and in ROCIS were rounded for approximation.

Hook and line: 552 respondents x 4 trips a year = 2,208 responses

Harpoon: 69 respondents x 10 trips a year = 690 responses

DSBG: 63 respondents x 10 trips a year = 630 responses

DGN: 11 respondents x 31 trips a year = 341 responses

Small purse seine: 14 respondents x 2 trips a year = 28 responses

***All totals include rounding to support calculations via ROCIS.**

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)
Hook and Line Paper Logbook	fishermen	552	4	2,208	1	2,208	\$19.96	\$44,071.68
Federal Harpoon Logbook	fishermen	69	10	690	1	690	\$19.96	\$13,772.40
Deep-set Buoy Gear Logbook	fishermen	63	10	630	1	630	\$19.96	\$12,574.80
HMS Drift Gillnet Logbook	fishermen	11	31	341	1	341	\$19.96	\$6,806.36
IATTC Regional Purse Seine Logbook	fishermen	14	2	28	1	28	\$19.96	\$558.88
Totals		709		3,897		3,897		\$77,784.12

* Occupational Code *Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (45-0000)* was used to determine the mean hourly wage rate for respondents. <https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/area/0000000/2025>

*For granularity, the ICs were separated due to the different number of annual and total responses. Instead of one large IC, the ICs are detailed into five different ICS for each individual logbook.

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).

Mailing costs are estimated to be \$0.78 postage per submission, for a total of \$3,039. There are no other costs.

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)
Hook and Line Paper Logbook	552	4	2,208	\$0.78	\$1,722
Federal Harpoon Logbook	69	10	690	\$0.78	\$538
Deep-set Buoy Gear Logbook	63	10	630	\$0.78	\$491
HMS Drift Gillnet Logbook	11	31	341	\$0.78	\$266
IATTC Regional Purse Seine Logbook	14	2	28	\$0.78	\$22
TOTALS	709		3,897		\$3,039

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	ZP II	\$ 132,534	75%		\$99,401
Other Federal Positions					
Contractor Cost					
Travel					
Other Costs:					
TOTAL					\$99,401

The [Commerce Alternate Personnel System \(CAPS\)](#)⁹ pay tables for the Rest of U.S. locality was used to determine the base salary. The Rest of U.S. locality was used since NOAA employees are geographically dispersed. The high-water mark for a ZP-II Interval 3 was used to determine the base salary and a multiplier of 1.5 was applied to calculate the loaded salary.

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

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	
U.S. Pacific HMS Hook and Line Logbooks	0	850	0	3,400	0	3,400	Change in the number of HMS permit holders. The previous PRA package did not break out different logbooks, so they are totaled here. Increase in the number of HMS permit holders resulting in an increase in the number of responses and burden hours.
Hook and Line Paper Logbook	552	0	2,208	0	2,208	0	
Federal Swordfish Harpoon Logbook	69	0	690	0	690	0	
Deep-set Buoy Gear Logbook*	63	0	630	0	630	0	
HMS Drift Gillnet Logbook	11	0	341	0	341	0	
IATTC Regional Purse Seine Logbook	14	0	28	0	28	0	
Total for Collection	709	850	3,897	3,400	3,897	3,400	
Difference	-141		497		497		

* It is assumed that all new DSBG respondents already have an HMS permit and therefore already have an HMS logbook.

Information Collection	Miscellaneous Costs	Reason for change or adjustment
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⁹ <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/CAPS%20Standard%20Pay%20Tables%202026.pdf>

	Current	Previous	
U.S. Pacific HMS Hook and Line Logbooks	0	\$2,040	This IC was broken into 5 individual ICs to provide greater granularity of the fisheries.
Hook and Line Paper Logbook	\$1,722	0	
Federal Swordfish Harpoon Logbook	\$538	0	Postage costs were adjusted based on current costs.
Deep-set Buoy Gear Logbook	\$491	0	
HMS Drift Gillnet Logbook	\$266	0	
IATTC Regional Purse Seine Logbook	\$22	0	
Total for Collection	3,039	2,040	
Difference	999		

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.

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](#).

Annual reports are distributed to the Pacific regional fisheries management council and made available to the public.

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.”

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