

Mar 19, 2026

Adrienne Thomas
NOAA PRA Officer

Electronic Submission

Subj: Public comment on information collection requirements for Cooperative Annual reports to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) [OMB Control Number 0648-0678]

Dear Ms. Thomas,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the collection requirements for Annual Cooperative reports to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), [OMB Control Number 0648-0678]. Please find below the Best Use Cooperative's (BUC) comments regarding the Rockfish Program (RP) Cooperative Annual Report. BUC represents all offshore participants in the Central Gulf of Alaska RP, with membership currently comprised of six companies and 7 catcher-processor vessels.

BUC does not support continuing the collection requirements for the Rockfish Program Cooperative Annual Report.

The report to NPFMC is voluntary and, in recent years, has been a written summary only. Since 2018, BUC has included all offshore participants, and there have been no substantial changes in program management. The written report has remained unchanged, with updates only to yearly catch information. While these reports have also included information on Chinook bycatch and intertemporal harvest, NPFMC retains the authority to request such information as needed. This information can also be found in Alaska Region (AKR) databases, NMFS catch reports, and AKR In-Season reports given to the Council. As a result, this annual report is duplicative, redundant, and lacks practical utility.

As this report has remained unchanged for many years, the estimated time and cost burden for this report should be reduced to approximately 2 hours.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Concepcion". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Concepcion, BUC Manager