

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**  
**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration**  
**Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program**  
**OMB Control No. 0648-0269**

## **Abstract**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office (AKRO), requests extension of this currently approved information collection.

This information collection is necessary for NMFS to manage the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program (CDQ Program). The purposes of the CDQ Program are to provide eligible western Alaska communities the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area, to support economic development in western Alaska, to alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska, and to achieve sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska. The four components of this information collection are used by NMFS to manage the small vessel CDQ fisheries, transfer quota among the CDQ groups, and authorize the use of alternative harvest regulations under certain circumstances.

Minor administrative changes were made to the forms (update to the expiration date). No other changes were made to this collection other than adjustments to reflect the most current data available.

## **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.**

NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) manage the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska under the authority of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#)<sup>1</sup> (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) are managed under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI FMP).

The CDQ Program is an economic development program authorized under the Magnuson Stevens Act to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the BSAI Management Area; to support economic development in western Alaska; to alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska; and to achieve sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska.

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

The Magnuson-Stevens Act allocates a portion of the annual catch limit for each directed fishery of the BSAI among six non-profit corporations (CDQ groups) representing 65 western Alaska villages. The CDQ groups and the villages associated with each of the groups are specifically named in section 305(i) (1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The CDQ groups are the Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, the Central Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association, the Coastal Villages Region Fund, the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, and the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association. The CDQ groups’ boards of directors and staff manage and administer CDQ allocations, investments, and economic development projects. The person authorized and required to submit information to NMFS on behalf of a CDQ group is a “CDQ group representative.”

This information collection contains four components necessary to manage the CDQ fisheries.<sup>2</sup> The components of this information collection are used by NMFS to manage the small vessel CDQ fisheries, transfer quota among the CDQ groups, and authorize the use of alternative harvest regulations under certain circumstances.

**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.**

The following addresses the purpose for this information collection and some additional information about the components of this information collection. No changes have been made to this information collection since the previous renewal was approved by OMB in 2023. The table below lists the instruments in this collection, and for each provides the regulations for the requirements, who submits the information, the submission method, whether a form is available, and the frequency of submission. The text that follows provides a description of each item listed in the table.

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<sup>2</sup> The CDQ groups also are required under section 305(i)(1)(E)(v) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to submit an Annual Statement of Compliance to the Secretary of Commerce. Because this statement is required by statute, it does not require OMB approval or inclusion in this supporting statement or information collection budget.

| Item # | Requirement                                                                | Regulation                                                                   | Respondent                                                                                     | Submission Method <sup>3, 4</sup> | Form | Frequency                                                                                                                |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | CDQ Vessel Registration System                                             | <a href="#">50 CFR 679.32(c)(3)(iii)</a> and <a href="#">50 CFR 679.5(m)</a> | CDQ group representative                                                                       | eFISH                             | No   | As needed.                                                                                                               |
| 2      | Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request | <a href="#">50 CFR 679.5(n)</a>                                              | CDQ group representative                                                                       | eFISH<br>Mail<br>Fax<br>email     | Yes  | As needed whenever a CDQ group wants to transfer CDQ or PSQ to another CDQ group.                                        |
| 3      | Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations             | <a href="#">50 CFR 679.32(e)</a>                                             | CDQ group representative; association representing CDQ groups; a voluntary fishing cooperative | Mail<br>Fax                       | Yes  | As needed.                                                                                                               |
| 4      | Appeals                                                                    | <a href="#">50 CFR 679.32(e)</a> and <a href="#">15 CFR part 906</a>         | CDQ group representative                                                                       | Fax<br>Mail<br>Delivery           | No   | By choice of the CDQ group if NMFS were to disapprove an Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations. |

## CDQ Vessel Registration System

Participation in most federally managed Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries requires that catcher vessels over 32 feet in length overall (LOA) be named on a License Limitation Program (LLP) license. Amendment 109 to the BSAI Fishery Management Plan authorized Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups to use vessels up to 46 feet LOA without an LLP license under specific conditions. Detailed information is available in the final rule ([81 FR 26738; May 4, 2016](#)<sup>5</sup>).

The CDQ Vessel Registration System, accessed through eFISH using a NMFS Person ID and password, allows CDQ groups to register vessels for these exemptions. This system manages the list of vessels participating in BSAI groundfish CDQ fisheries under less restrictive prohibited species catch and observer coverage requirements. Registration adds the vessel to the public NMFS Alaska Region list, where it remains until manually removed.

Upon registration, the system generates an LLP exemption letter. The CDQ group representative must provide a copy to the vessel operator, who is required to keep a legible copy on board at all times while fishing.

<sup>3</sup> **eFISH:** <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/webapps/efish/login>; **Fax:** (907) 586-7131; **Mail:** NMFS Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

<sup>4</sup> Appeals—**Fax:** (301) 713-2384; **Mail or delivery:** National Appeals Office, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-05-04/pdf/2016-10356.pdf>

To remove a vessel from the registry, the CDQ group representative must notify the vessel operator and certify in eFISH that notice was given and that the vessel is not currently fishing. The system then provides a printable removal confirmation. Once removed, the vessel is no longer exempt from LLP requirements.

Since the program's inception in 2016, no vessels have been registered. Although CDQ groups initially requested this flexibility to develop small-boat fisheries without the cost of LLP licenses, they have not yet utilized the exemption for their operations.

### **Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request**

The Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program is a catch share program that allocates a portion of BSAI groundfish, halibut, and prohibited species catch (PSC) limits to six CDQ groups. These groups receive annual account balances for these species, which can be transferred among groups as groundfish CDQ, halibut CDQ, or prohibited species quota (PSQ).

To transfer these allocations, groups must submit a request to NMFS. While submissions can be made by mail or fax, all transfers in the last six years have been conducted electronically through eFISH. Online requests require designated representatives to log in and follow on-screen prompts; submission serves as certification that the information is true, correct, and complete. Required data includes contact information for both parties, transfer amounts, PSQ conversion details (if applicable), the applicable year, and authorized signatures.

### **Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations**

Under Section 305(i)(1)(B)(iv) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Secretary must regulate the harvest of Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program allocations for individual quota or cooperative fisheries in a manner that is no more restrictive than for other participants in that sector. This requirement includes the harvest of nontarget species. NMFS interprets "no more restrictive" to mean that fishery management regulations for CDQ harvests should not be more costly, complex, or burdensome than those applying to comparable non-CDQ sectors managed under individual fishing quotas (IFQs) or cooperative allocations. While these non-CDQ regulations are typically detailed in Federal regulations, in some instances, vessel owners may form voluntary cooperatives that operate without a direct license or permit from NMFS.

To utilize non-CDQ regulations, eligible entities must submit an "Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations." This allows NMFS to verify the formation of a voluntary cooperative. Further details are available in the authorizing regulations ([77 FR 6492; February 8, 2012](#)<sup>6</sup>).

A CDQ group representative, an association representing CDQ groups, or a voluntary fishing cooperative may apply at any time. A complete application requires:

- The official application form, including contact information for the cooperative and applicant.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2012/02/08/2012-2751/fisheries-of-the-exclusive-economic-zone-off-alaska-community-development-quota-program>

- A copy of the cooperative contract or an affidavit.
- The name, FFP number, and LLP number for each participating vessel.
- The applicant's signature.

NMFS approves applications meeting 50 CFR § 679.32(e) requirements, provided the listed vessels represent a majority of the sector and existing CDQ regulations are more restrictive than non-CDQ alternatives. If an application is deficient, NMFS will provide a written opportunity for correction. Failure to address discrepancies results in an Initial Administrative Determination (IAD) denial, which the applicant may then appeal.

Since mid-2012, vessels in the Freezer Longline Cooperative have operated under non-CDQ harvest regulations following the approval of an application submitted by CDQ group representatives that same year.

## Appeals

The approval or disapproval of an Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations constitutes an administrative determination. If NMFS issues an initial administrative determination (IAD) to deny this application, it must provide an opportunity for an administrative appeal. Details regarding the right to appeal are found at 50 CFR 679.32(e).

The NOAA National Appeals Office (NAO) handles appeals of any NOAA IAD. Appellants must submit all necessary information to ensure the NAO can fully consider the appeal.

Filing instructions for administrative appeals are located at 50 CFR 906 and on the NAO website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/rules-and-regulations/appeals>. Regulations require that appeals be submitted via facsimile; however, individuals without fax access may file by regular mail or commercial carrier.

**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.**

### Online Submission via eFISH

The CDQ Vessel Registration System and the Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request can be submitted online through [eFISH](#). Beyond applications, eFISH provides participants with 24/7 access to NMFS permit accounts to check balances (account, vessel, and GAF), view landing reports, manage quota holdings, and renew specific permits.

### Paper-Based Submissions

The Groundfish/Halibut CDQ/PSQ Transfer Request and the Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations are available as fillable PDFs on the [NMFS Alaska Region website](#)<sup>7</sup>. These forms may be submitted by mail or fax. Note that the Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska-community-development-quota-cdq-program-applications-and-forms>

Harvest Regulations cannot currently be submitted via email, as it often requires supplemental documentation and written explanations.

#### Administrative Appeals

To maintain the required legal record, the National Appeals Office requires all administrative appeal documents to be submitted via fax, mail, or hand delivery.

#### Future Enhancements

NMFS Alaska Region is developing a new integrated system to replace the current data entry platform. Once launched, this system will transition remaining paper-based applications to a fully electronic submission and processing workflow.

#### **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**

NMFS has reviewed this information collection and identified no duplication with other information collections.

In general, Alaska Region information collections are prepared and reviewed by staff familiar with all of the information collection requirements for the region. Staff work together to develop information collection requirements for new programs. In addition, NMFS staff work closely with the staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the International Pacific Halibut Commission to reduce duplication in information collection requirements to the extent possible given overlapping jurisdictions and complex fisheries. Senior staff at the Alaska Region, NMFS headquarters, and the Department of Commerce General Counsel review all new and revised information collection requirements that are associated with rulemakings. This process minimizes the potential for duplication of information collection requirements for participants in the Federal fisheries off Alaska.

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

The CDQ groups are considered small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act because they are non-profit corporations. In most cases, using the online application eFISH to submit applications and requests is the preferred and most cost-effective method for the CDQ groups to submit information to NMFS. Allowing the back-up method of submitting a form by fax or mail provides options in the case of internet outages or other operational difficulties.

#### **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.**

NMFS established most components of this collection at the request of the Council and Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups. While these components are used infrequently, they are necessary for CDQ groups to invoke specific regulatory provisions. Although there are no fixed deadlines, groups must submit the required documentation whenever they seek to apply for program benefits or initiate CDQ or Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) transfers.

Without this information collection, NMFS would lack a reliable mechanism to gather the data needed to evaluate quota transfers or requests for specific program components.

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

Except for the groundfish and PSC transfer requests that occur as frequently as CDQ groups wish to transfer groundfish or PSC, this collection does not require respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly.

This collection will be conducted in a manner consistent with all other 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 March 16, 2026 ([91 FR 12584](#)<sup>8</sup>), that solicited public comments. No comments were received.

In addition to the *Federal Register* notice, NMFS contacted seven stakeholders to obtain their views on the need for and practical utility of the data collected, the accuracy of the burden and frequency of collection, suggestions to minimize the burden, and ways to improve the clarity of instructions and forms. No comments were received from the stakeholders.

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

No payment or gift will be 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 systems of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.**

All information collections by NMFS, Alaska Region, are protected under confidentiality provisions of section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as amended in 2006 (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.) and under [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#)<sup>9</sup>, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery

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8 <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/03/16/2026-05110/agency-information-collection-activities-submission-to-the-office-of-management-and-budget-omb-for>

9 <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-216-100-protection-of-confidential-fisheries-statistics>

statistics.

The System of Records Notice that covers this information collection is [COMMERCE/NOAA-19, Permits and Registrations for United States Federally Regulated Fisheries](#)<sup>10</sup>.

The Privacy Impact Assessment that covers this information collection is [NOAA NMFS Alaska Region Local Area Network \(NOAA4700\)](#)<sup>11</sup>.

**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 collection of information does not include questions of a sensitive nature.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.commerce.gov/node/4991>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/NOAA4700%20PIA%20FY25%20SAOP\\_Approved.pdf](https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/NOAA4700%20PIA%20FY25%20SAOP_Approved.pdf)

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

The rate \$63.36 is the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) mean hourly wage for Occupation Code 11-9121 (Natural Sciences Managers; [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_ak.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ak.htm)) for Alaska. The rate has been updated to use the most current BLS rate available (May 2025) and to improve consistency in the rates used for the same respondent types in NMFS Alaska Region information collections.

| Information Collection                                                      | Type of Respondent<br>(e.g., Occupational Title) | # of<br>Respondents/<br>year<br>(a) | Annual # of<br>Responses /<br>Respondent<br>(b) | Total # of<br>Annual<br>Responses<br>(c) = (a) x (b) | Burden Hrs /<br>Response<br>(d) | Total Annual<br>Burden Hrs<br>(e) = (c) x (d) | Hourly Wage Rate<br>(for Type of<br>Respondent)<br>(f) | Total Annual Wage<br>Burden Costs<br>(g) = (e) x (f) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations <sup>2</sup> | CDQ group representative                         | 0                                   | 0                                               | 0                                                    | 5 hrs.                          | 0                                             | \$63.36                                                | 0                                                    |
| Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request  | CDQ group representative                         | 6                                   | 12                                              | 72                                                   | 30 min.                         | 36                                            | \$63.36                                                | \$2,280.96                                           |
| CDQ Vessel Registration System <sup>1</sup>                                 | CDQ group representative                         | 0                                   | 0                                               | 0                                                    | 10 min.                         | 0                                             | \$63.36                                                | 0                                                    |
| Appeals <sup>3</sup>                                                        | CDQ group representative                         | 0                                   | 0                                               | 0                                                    | 4 hrs.                          | 0                                             | \$63.36                                                | 0                                                    |
| <b>Totals</b>                                                               |                                                  |                                     |                                                 | <b>72</b>                                            |                                 | <b>36</b>                                     |                                                        | <b>\$2,280.96</b>                                    |

<sup>1</sup> NMFS has not received any registrations through the CDQ Vessel Registration System since it was implemented in 2016. NMFS is not expecting to receive any during the 3-year renewal period of this information collection.

<sup>2</sup> NMFS does not expect to receive any Applications for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations during the 3-year renewal period of this information collection. The one voluntary cooperative that exists in the BSAI groundfish fisheries submitted its application in 2012 and has not submitted any amendments or withdrawn its application since then.

<sup>3</sup> NMFS has not received any administrative appeals related to this collection because NMFS has not issued any disapprovals of an Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations, nor does NMFS expect to during the 3-year renewal period of this information collection. The opportunity to submit an administrative appeal must be provided in our regulations, but it is very rarely used except for issuance of initial allocations or permits for Alaska Region catch share programs.

**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).**

Operating costs account for the typical inclusive general office services packages that include expenses for email, fax, copying, mailing, printing, and internet. Submission of information for the CDQ Vessel Registration System and the Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request are completed online and assumed to have zero additional cost burden to the respondent because the costs of using the internet to submit this information through eFISH would not change their overall annual costs for internet services.

In addition to the 4 hours that are estimated for a CDQ group representative to prepare and submit information necessary for an appeal, the CDQ group would be likely to hire an attorney to prepare the actual appeal documents. NMFS estimates that preparation of the appeal would take 4 hours of an attorney's time. The cost of \$322.88 is based on the BLS mean hourly wage for Occupation Code 23-1011 (Lawyers; \$80.72/hr; [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_ak.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ak.htm)) for Alaska, May 2025.

| Information Collection                                                     | # of Respondents/year<br>(a) | Annual # of Responses / Respondent<br>(b) | Total # of Annual Responses<br>(c) = (a) x (b) | Cost Burden / Respondent<br>(h)                           | Total Annual Cost Burden<br>(i) = (c) x (h) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations             | 0                            | 0                                         | 0                                              | Operating costs - \$5                                     | 0                                           |
| Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request | 6                            | 12                                        | 72                                             | \$0                                                       | 0                                           |
| CDQ Vessel Registration System                                             | 0                            | 0                                         | 0                                              | \$0                                                       | 0                                           |
| Appeals                                                                    | 0                            | 0                                         | 0                                              | Attorney - \$322.88 <sup>1</sup><br>Operating costs - \$5 | 0                                           |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                                              | <b>6</b>                     |                                           | <b>72</b>                                      |                                                           | <b>0</b>                                    |

<sup>1</sup> 4 hours \* \$80.72/hour = \$322.88

**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.**

A cost recovery program is in effect for the CDQ Program (81 FR 150; January 5, 2016). Under this cost recovery program, NMFS is authorized to collect direct program costs from the CDQ groups. The direct program costs for the CDQ Program in fiscal year 2025 were \$793,287. That cost includes \$32,124 collected for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to cover eLandings program management. The cost recovery reports are found here:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/commercial-fishing/cost-recovery-programs-fee-collection-and-fee-payment-alaska>.

The following are examples of the types of tasks that were included under the 2025 CDQ direct program costs:

- Patrols, investigations, outreach and education, and compliance assistance,
- Analysis and rulemaking activities,
- At-sea scale inspections and video equipment inspections,
- Cost recovery fee determination and collection process,
- Responding to questions about permits,
- Maintenance of the catch accounting system and eLandings, and
- In season operations, sampling, and quality control.

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

There are no changes to the information collection since the last OMB approval.

**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.**

This information collection is designed to meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#)<sup>12</sup> (the Information Quality Act), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) ensures the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of publicly disseminated information through quality control measures and pre-dissemination reviews. Public dissemination is further governed by [NOAA's information quality guidelines](#)<sup>13</sup>. NOAA NMFS and the National Appeals Office safeguard collected data from improper access, modification, or destruction, consistent with agency standards for confidentiality and privacy. For more information on these protections, see the response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/106/plaws/publ554/PLAW-106publ554.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/information-technology/policy-oversight/information-quality/information-quality-guidelines>

Reports and analyses derived from CDQ and PSQ transfer requests are generally classified as "synthesized products." These products result from the analysis of original data using well-documented, routine scientific methods. Because these procedures are standard, formal peer review is generally not required.

Instead, these products undergo internal agency review by experts familiar with the underlying fisheries data. Additionally, any analyses presented to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council are reviewed by its Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Information from this collection is not published in dedicated reports. However, data may be summarized qualitatively or quantitatively in general CDQ Program reports or regulatory analyses. Such summaries are provided to the Council or the public only after applying strict confidentiality requirements.

The CDQ Vessel Registration List tracks vessels exempt from LLP license requirements. When a vessel is registered, its name is posted on the NMFS Alaska Region website for public and law enforcement transparency. To date, no such registrations have been received or disseminated.

When data is released, NMFS ensures it is either non-confidential or presented in an aggregated, synthesized format. For instance, NMFS publicizes approval letters for the use of non-CDQ harvest regulations, including vessel names and LLP license numbers, as this information is not considered confidential.

The National Appeals Office publishes appeal decisions on its website, but redacts all information identifying the appellant or the specific case to protect respondent privacy.

Individual CDQ or PSQ transfer details are not public. While summary data regarding the volume or types of transfers may be used in Council management analyses, the identities of the groups and specific transfer amounts remain confidential.

**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\(b\)\(3\)](#).