

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Nautical Discrepancy and Data Reporting System
OMB Control No. 0648-0007

SUPPORTING STATEMENT PART A

Abstract

This is a request for revision and extension of an approved information collection. The *Permit/Public Notice Status Report* form was comprehensively revised to include expanded hydrographic survey data fields, specific coordinate reference system datums, mandatory organizational contact information, detailed technical instructions, and a new open-data licensing section. Additionally, the Citizen Science Chart Update Project has been removed from this specific data collection.

The Nautical Discrepancy and Data Reporting System (System) provides NOAA's Office of Coast Survey with a standardized mechanism to update nautical charts and the United States Coast Pilot. Because marine environments constantly change, the System allows maritime stakeholders to formally report discrepancies, construction updates, and project completions. Maintaining charting accuracy and precision is extremely critical for ensuring safe navigation and protecting coastal communities from environmental disasters occurring at sea.

The current reporting system encompasses both the Aimed Stakeholder Interaction and Survey Tool (ASSIST) and three Project Status Report Forms covering permits, artificial reefs, and submerged underwater pipelines. The tool receives crucial discrepancy reports and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) construction notifications. The status forms gather as-built survey data from permittees and diverse maritime operators.

Utilizing the System allows Coast Survey to capture complete, registration-ready source packages, drastically reducing the need for prolonged correspondence with permittees. This efficiency significantly accelerates the delivery of critical navigational data to cartographic production branches for charting action. Furthermore, the recent System enhancements guarantee that all incoming third-party data submissions align with modern open-data policies and consistently meet the strict, rigorous quality standards required for authoritative, highly reliable nautical charting nationwide.

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 Coast and Geodetic Survey Act of 1947 gives the Secretary of Commerce (and by delegation, NOAA and the Office of Coast Survey) the authority to conduct hydrographic surveys and publish the resulting nautical charts and data. Under 33 U.S.C. § 883a, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to conduct hydrographic, topographic, and geodetic-control surveys, as well as tide and current observations, to provide charts and related information for the safe navigation of marine and air

commerce. Furthermore, 33 U.S.C. § 883b authorizes the compilation, printing, and distribution of nautical charts of the United States. The Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 specifically ties the collection and dissemination of hydrographic data to the promotion of safe, efficient, and environmentally sound marine transportation. To fulfill these duties, 33 U.S.C. § 892a requires the Administrator to acquire and disseminate hydrographic data, provide hydrographic services, and maintain a national database of hydrographic data.

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey is the nation's nautical chart maker, maintaining and updating over a thousand charts covering the 3.5 million square nautical miles of coastal waters in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and the Great Lakes. The marine transportation system relies on charting accuracy and precision to keep navigation safe, efficient and environmentally sound.

Coast Survey also writes and publishes the *United States Coast Pilot*®, a series of ten nautical books that supplement nautical charts with essential marine information that cannot be shown graphically on the charts and are not readily available elsewhere. Subjects include, but are not limited to, channel descriptions, anchorages, bridge and cable clearances, tides and tidal currents, prominent features, pilotage, towage, weather, ice conditions, wharf descriptions, dangers, routes, traffic separation schemes, small craft facilities, and Federal Regulations applicable to navigation. Charts and Coast Pilots are used by all segments of the marine public, including U.S. and foreign commercial vessels and millions of recreational boaters. Government assets, including U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard vessels, also rely on this information. Federal regulations (33 CFR 164.33) require all vessels of 1,600 gross tons and greater to carry marine charts and the U.S. Coast Pilot while traversing U.S. waters.

The marine environment and shorelines are constantly changing. NOAA makes every effort to update information portrayed in charts and described in the Coast Pilot. Sources of information include, but are not limited to pilot associations, shipping companies, towboat operators, state marine authorities, city marine authorities, local port authorities, marine operators, hydrographic research vessels, naval vessels, Coast Guard cutters, merchant vessels, fishing vessels, pleasure boats, U.S. Power Squadron Units, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Units, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The purpose of ASSIST is to offer a formal, standardized instrument for recommending changes, corrections, and updates to nautical charts and the Coast Pilot, and to monitor and document the accepted changes.

Coast Survey's Nautical Data Branch (NDB) receives numerous potential construction notifications in the form of USACE-issued Public Notices, Permit Applications, and Permits, which could include a proposal or authorization to dredge and/or construct, remove, or abandon structures. NDB vets these Public Notices, Permit Applications, or Permits for the potential of a charting action and registers them into a database. To facilitate the ability of NDB to learn the status of USACE-permitted projects and to obtain as-built and/or survey data associated with the completion of these projects, Coast Survey utilizes three Project Status Report Forms. The solicitation forms, titled *Permit/Public Notice Status Report*, *Artificial Reef/Mariculture Status Report*, and *Submerged Pipeline Status Report Form*, provide a standardized method for reporting project statuses to the NDB and provide special instructions regarding the submission of digital as-builts and/or survey data. Upon receipt of the forms, NDB may register the forms, along with the USACE Permit and any as-built data, into the Marine Chart Division's (MCD's) internal database in support of potential updates to the applicable NOAA nautical chart(s).

The Project Status Report Forms provide an effective way for permittees to notify Coast Survey of the status of their permitted projects and help Coast Survey's MCD garner pertinent data necessary for chart application. This mode of data delivery facilitates the ability of the NDB to capture complete, more efficient, registration-ready source packages that require less frequent correspondence with the permittee.

prior to source registration. This process is instrumental in accelerating the availability of important, and/or possibly critical, nautical data to the cartographic production branches for charting action. In addition, the Permit/Public Notice Status Report form was comprehensively revised to include expanded hydrographic survey data fields, specific coordinate reference system datums, mandatory organizational contact information, detailed technical instructions, and a new open-data licensing section.

Data obtained through ASSIST and the Project Status Report Forms will be used to update nautical charts and the *United States Coast Pilot*.

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.

When a user of a nautical chart or the Coast Pilot notices information is missing or has changed, he/she uses the <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/customer-service/assist/index.html> webpage to report the discrepancy. The information is evaluated by cartographers in NOAA's Office of Coast Survey. Coast Survey ascertains that the information is germane and, if so, that it is complete. If the information requires clarification, Coast Survey will contact the respondent, by telephone or email, for more information. Once complete, the information is assigned a control number and routed to the applicable production branch to update the chart and/or Coast Pilot master files. If the change is critical to safe navigation, Coast Survey issues a change for publication in the Coast Guard's Local Notice to Mariners and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Weekly Notice to Mariners.

Upon receipt of Project Status Report Forms from the permittee or their agent, Nautical Data Branch (NDB) cartographers will update internal Permits Database records to reflect the status of a project, (e.g., Pending, Complete, etc.); add notes to the record if necessary; and add the form and other associated data as a PDF to the existing PDF file of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice and/or Permit that is linked to the record. If the permittee indicates on the form that the project is complete, and they provide accompanying, adequate post-construction and/or post-dredge survey data, then the cartographer will register the form, survey data, and other pertinent information in the document registry database, which serves as a digital archive and the virtual pipeline for the majority of chart source data from NDB to Coast Survey's Marine Chart Division cartographic products branches. Upon receipt of the source records via the document registry database, the production cartographers may update the Nautical Information System (NIS), which is the charting database from which NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) are exported and then provided to the public.

If a permitted project has not started or is in progress, then an annual hard-copy mailing for that project will be sent to the permittee until the project is completed as indicated by the permittee via the form. If a permitted project includes maintenance dredging over a period of years, then an annual hard-copy mailing for that project will be sent to the permittee until the maintenance dredging period has expired.

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 submissions for the ASSIST information collection are provided electronically or via telephone.

Discrepancy reporters may fill out the online form at <https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/customer-service/assist/index.html> or they may call Coast Survey directly (888-990-6622).

The Nautical Data Branch (NDB) will generate an annual hard-copy mailing of a form for each U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-permitted project, which will be sent via standard mail to the address of the permittee or their agent. Each of the forms will also be available for download from the Coast Survey website. The permittee or agent can a) fill out the form, include other relevant data, and mail the hard copy to Coast Survey, b) fill out the form, scan the form, include other relevant data, and then send it via email, or c) download a digital copy of the form in PDF from the website, enter data into the fields, and then send the form and other relevant information via email.

The hard-copy mailing is necessary because the Corps of Engineers Public Notice and/or Permit for a project may only include a mailing address for the applicant / permittee. In cases where an email address is provided by the permittees, NDB will send the form via email.

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

Extensive databases catalog and document changes to nautical charts and *United States Coast Pilot*®, with electronic documentation extending back to the 1970s. Every change or germane report is entered into the databases and reviewed prior to making the document updates; therefore, there are no duplicate entries. There are no other federal or state sources that collect this data.

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

The use of these forms is voluntary and has no significant impact on small businesses, organizations or government entities. The forms require no records to be kept by the respondent.

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 this collection is not conducted, critical information might not be brought to Coast Survey's attention, or the information might be incomplete. This could result in a maritime accident with possible loss of life or harm to the environment.

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

This collection will be conducted in a manner 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 June 9, 2026, 91 FR 34810, solicited public comments. No comments were received.

Coast Survey contacted three external stakeholders 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. The stakeholders did not respond to Coast Survey's request for comment.

Additionally, Coast Survey automatically solicits public comments whenever someone submits a correction notice through NOAA's Nautical Discrepancy Reporting System (<http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx>) in order to verify the information.

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

No remuneration of any kind is provided 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.

No confidentiality is offered to respondents. Individual data providers are not identified on charts or in the text of Coast Pilot.

Basic contact information is collected pursuant to system of record notice COMMERCE/NOAA-11¹, Contact Information for Members of the Public Requesting or Providing Information Related to NOAA's Mission. This information is only used if NOAA needs to contact the respondent to clarify the submitted information or respond to inquiries. The privacy impact assessment for NOAA6001², National Ocean Service Enterprise Information System (NOSEIS) contains the security and privacy controls for this information.

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 questions of a sensitive nature are asked.

¹ <https://www.commerce.gov/node/4985>

² https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NOAA6001%20PIA%202025-SAOP_Approved.pdf

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

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)
ASSIST Discrepancy Reports	General Public	900	1.2611	1,135	0.5	568	\$33.54	\$19,051
Permit/Public Notice Status Report	Civil Engineer	340	1	340	10 min	57	\$52.24	\$2,978
Artificial Reef/Mariculture Status Report	Biological Scientist	55	1	55	10 min	9	\$43.27	\$389
Submerged Pipeline Status Report Form	Civil Engineer	40	1	40	10 min	7	\$51.91	\$363
Totals		1,335		1,570		641		\$22,781

General Public: Occupational Code 00-0000, All Occupations

Civil Engineer: Occupational Code 17-2051, Civil Engineers

Biological Scientist: Occupational Code 19-1020, Biological Scientists

BLS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics Query System: <https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/area/0000000/2025>

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).

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)
ASSIST Discrepancy Reports	900	1.5	1,135	0	\$0
Permit/Public Notice Status Report	340	1	340	0.78	\$265
Artificial Reef/Mariculture Status Report	55	1	55	0.78	\$43
Submerged Pipeline Status Report Form	40	1	40	0.78	\$31
TOTALS	1,335		1,570		\$339

*There are no capital costs or operating and maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

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.

The Commerce Alternative Personnel System (CAPS) pay tables³ for the Rest of U.S. locality rates were used to determine the base salary. The Rest of U.S. locality was used since NOAA staff are geographically dispersed. The upper bound for Interval 3 of each Pay Band was used as the base salary and a multiplier of 1.5 was used to calculate the loaded salary.

Cost Descriptions	Grade/Step	Loaded Salary /Cost	% of Effort	Fringe (if Applicable)	Total Cost to Government
Federal Oversight	ZP-4	\$245,271	35%		\$85,845
Contractor Cost					
Travel					
Other Costs:					
TOTAL					\$85,845

³ <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.

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	
ASSIST Discrepancy Reports	900	900	1,135	1,350	568	675	Reduction in the number of reports received in the past 3 years.
Permit/Public Notice Status Report	340	550	340	550	57	88	Reduction in the number of respondents based on reports received in the past 3 years.
Artificial Reef/Mariculture Status Report	55	70	55	70	9	11	Reduction in the number of respondents based on reports received in the past 3 years.
Submerged Pipeline Status Report Form	40	50	40	50	6	13	Reduction in the number of respondents based on reports received in the past 3 years. Burden response time was lowered from 15 minutes to 10 minutes based on public feedback received online.
Citizen Science Discrepancy Reports	0	5	0	5	0	5	Removed from the collection since the project has concluded.
Total for Collection	1,335	1,575	1,570	2,025	641	792	
Difference	-240 (-5 = prgm chg) (-235 = adjustment)		-455 (-5 = prgm chg) (-450 = adjustment)		-151 (-5 = prgm chg) (-146 = adjustment)		

Information Collection	Miscellaneous Costs		Reason for change or adjustment
	Current	Previous	
ASSIST Discrepancy Reports	\$0	\$0	
Permit/Public Notice Status Report	\$265	\$319	Reduced number of reports received.
Artificial Reef/Mariculture Status Report	\$43	\$41	Increase in postage costs.
Submerged Pipeline Status Report Form	\$31	\$29	Increase in postage costs.
Citizen Science Discrepancy Reports	0	0	Removed from the collection since the project has concluded.
Total for Collection	\$339	\$388	
Difference	- \$49		

Differences between ROCIS and these tables is the result of rounding.

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.

Individual submissions will not be published, although verified discrepancies will result in an update to the appropriate charts.

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 yields data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information is 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."

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