

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Permit and Reporting Requirements for Non-commercial Fishing in the Rose Atoll,
Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments
OMB Control No. 0648-0664

Abstract

This is a request for an extension of a current information collection. There are no changes or revisions to the collection. NMFS manages non-commercial fishing activities in the Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments. Regulations at [50 CFR Part 665](#)¹ require the owner and operator of a vessel used to non-commercially fish for, take, retain, or possess any management unit species in these monuments to hold a valid permit issued by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The permit application collects basic information about the permit applicant, type of operation, vessel, and permit area to confirm the identity of the applicant and determine permit eligibility. Regulations also require the vessel operator to report a complete record of catch, effort, and other data on a NMFS log sheet. This information collection is required to monitor fishing to determine whether changes in management are needed to sustain the productivity of the stocks or to address economic issues.

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.

Under [50 CFR Part 665](#), NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) oversees non-commercial fishing operations within the Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments. These regulatory frameworks are detailed in 50 CFR §§ 665.905 (Marianas Trench), 665.935 (Pacific Remote Islands), and 665.965 (Rose Atoll), alongside general permitting and reporting criteria in §§ 665.13 and 665.14.

Permitting Requirements

A valid NMFS-issued permit is required for any vessel owner and operator engaging in non-commercial fishing to catch, keep, or possess management unit species in these protected areas. Similarly, owners and operators of charter vessels conducting recreational fishing for these species must maintain a valid NMFS permit. Key requirements include:

- The fishing vessel must be formally registered under the permit.
- Charter businesses must maintain legal establishment within their operational permit area.
- Individual clients on charter vessels are exempt from permit requirements.

¹ <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665>

Permit Application & Purpose

Applicants must supply basic details regarding the operator, vessel, operational type, and designated permit area. NMFS utilizes these submissions to verify applicant identity and assess eligibility. Beyond qualification, this data offers crucial insights into fishery dynamics and participant demographics while reinforcing enforcement of monument fishing regulations.

Log Sheet Reporting Mandatory Rules

Vessel operators are mandated to document comprehensive catch, effort, and associated data using official NMFS log sheets. Reporting obligations include:

- Recording all mandatory information on log sheets within 24 hours of completing each fishing day.
- Signing, dating, and submitting the completed log sheets to NMFS within 30 days after a fishing trip concludes.

Log sheet data allows NMFS to track fishing activity, evaluate fish stock health, and implement necessary management updates to safeguard marine resources and ensure long-term fishery productivity.

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.

Permits

NMFS collects applicant and vessel information on permit applications under the authority of the [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#)² (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.). Applicable regulations for each Monument are detailed under 50 CFR § 665.905. Issued permits are valid for one year. Application details allow NMFS to verify an applicant's identity and eligibility, while vessel documentation and registration details confirm U.S. vessel ownership. NMFS may share this information with the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. Private information is kept confidential and only released in aggregate or non-confidential formats.

Daily Fishing Log

Vessel operators conducting non-commercial fishing in the Monuments must submit a completed Marine National Monument Daily Fishing Log to NMFS within 30 days of completing each trip. These log sheets provide essential data for NMFS and the Council to monitor fishing activities, evaluate stock health, and assess dependent fisheries. This information helps determine if management updates are necessary to maintain stock productivity or address economic concerns. Without these reports, NMFS and the Council cannot evaluate whether the Monument management program meets the goals of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Fishery Ecosystem

² <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/dam-migration/msa-amended-2007.pdf>

Plans (FEP). Catch report data is also used by fishery and enforcement officials from NMFS, USCG, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to ensure regulatory 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.

Permit information will be gathered using fillable PDF application forms, accessible online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/resources-fishing/pacific-islands-fishing-permits>. Completed applications must be transmitted electronically through a secure email portal (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/commercial-fishing/apply-pacific-islands-fishing-permit>) to the Pacific Islands Regional Office. Daily fishing logbooks will be collected on paper forms mailed directly to the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. To date, NMFS has not issued any permits under this information collection; as a result, no fishing logbooks have been submitted, and an electronic reporting system has not been established.

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

The proposed data collection activities do not duplicate existing efforts. Currently, no unified permit or catch reporting requirement exists for non-commercial fishing in American Samoa (Rose Atoll) or Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Marianas Trench). Existing NMFS requirements in these regions cover only specific species (e.g., lobsters), gear types (e.g., longline), or sectors (e.g., commercial). To prevent overlapping reporting burdens, this collection establishes a streamlined permit and reporting process for non-commercial fishing within the Federal waters of the Rose Atoll Monument and the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Monument, replacing standard regional requirements in those areas.

In the Pacific Remote Islands Area (PRIA), NMFS avoids duplication by continuing to rely on existing permits and catch reporting previously approved under OMB Control Nos. 0648-0490 and 0648-0214. However, Presidential Proclamation 8336 authorized recreational fishing—including passenger-for-hire charter fishing—which was not covered under the original PRIA Fishery Ecosystem Plan or existing collections. Presidential Proclamation 11035 (June 11, 2026) pertains strictly to commercial fishing in Pacific Islands Region monuments and does not alter these non-commercial data collection activities. Consequently, this non-commercial permit and catch reporting process was specifically created to cover these previously unaddressed non-commercial charter and individual vessel activities without duplicating existing mechanisms.

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

Most charter boat vessels meet Small Business Administration criteria as small businesses with annual gross revenue under \$11 million, only the absolute minimum required data is collected to fulfill statutory mandates. Furthermore, flexible reporting methods are provided to keep administrative burden to a minimum.

Permits

Federal Monument fishing permit applications are available online at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/resources-fishing/pacific-islands-fishing-permits>. Applications may be downloaded, printed, signed, and then securely emailed to NMFS. Permits will be issued by NMFS and delivered via email as PDFs.

Daily Fishing Logs

NMFS will provide blank logbook report forms and instructions via U.S. mail or at Honolulu Service Center, whichever is more convenient for permit holders. Fishermen may contact the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in Honolulu by email or phone for help in completing the monument log sheets.

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.

Permits

Omitting or reducing the frequency of this data collection would compromise NMFS's ability to ensure sustainable fishery management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Specifically, NMFS would lack the data required to assess eligibility for non-commercial fishing within the Monuments. Reduced collection frequency would also hinder efforts to monitor fishery operations, track participant entry and exit trends, oversight compliance, and conduct accurate impact assessments for management policies. Additionally, enforcement personnel would struggle to verify participating fishermen, and NMFS would lose a reliable channel to communicate regulatory updates to permit holders.

Daily Fishing Logs

Mandatory catch reporting delivers critical metrics on fishing effort and total harvest within Monument waters. This data is essential to maintaining long-term sustainability as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Presidential Proclamations governing the Monuments.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be

conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

There are no special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines. Specifically:

- This collection does not require respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- This collection does not require respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- This collection does not require respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- This collection does not require respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in- aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- This collection is not connected to a statistical survey, and is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;
- This collection does not require the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- This collection does not include a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; and
- This collection does not require respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

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 May 4, 2026 (91 FR 23976) solicited public comments. No public comments were received.

NOAA consulted with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council 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, whether other stakeholders may have specific concerns, and ways to improve the clarity of instructions and forms. The Council had no comments.

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.

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 forms, under Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and [NOAA Administrative Order 216-100](#)³, information submitted in accordance with regulatory requirements under the Act is confidential. This includes personal and proprietary information contained in the permits and catch reports.

This information collection is included in a comprehensive NMFS Permits and Registrations System of Records Notice (SORN), [COMMERCE/NOAA-19](#)⁴, Permits and Registrations for United States Federally Regulated Fisheries. The privacy act statements for [NOAA4920](#)⁵, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) Local Area, and [NOAA4960](#)⁶, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, identify the security and privacy controls for this collection.

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.

NMFS does not ask questions of a sensitive nature.

³ <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-216-100-protection-of-confidential-fisheries-statistics>

⁴ <https://www.commerce.gov/node/4991>

⁵ https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NOAA4920%20PIA%20FY25-SAOP_Approved_Delegated.pdf

⁶ https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/NOAA4960%20PIA%20FY25-%20SAOP_Approved.pdf

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

Permits

NMFS estimates up to 15 permits annually, with 5 fishing permit applications each for the Rose Atoll, Marianas Islands Unit, and the Pacific Remote Islands Monument. At this time, NMFS cannot estimate what portion of applications will be in businesses, including small businesses versus individuals/households. NMFS estimates that each of the applicants are expected to spend 15 minutes completing the application for a maximum information collection burden of 3.75 hours per year.

Mean hourly wage for First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers (occupational code 45-1011) was used to estimate the hourly wage of vessel owners. Salary rates were derived from https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_hi.htm#45-0000 for Hawaii.

Daily Fishing Logs

NMFS estimates the time requirement for completing Federal log sheets to be approximately 20 minutes per daily log. Assuming 15 permit holders take one trip per year to the Monument, and each fishing trip lasts three days, the program generates up to 45 reports (15 trips x 3 days) annually. Thus, the total collection of information burden estimate for catch reporting (based on 45 reports at 20 minutes each) is 14.85 hours per year.

Mean hourly wage for Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (occupational code 45-0000) was used to estimate the hourly wage of vessel operators. Salary rates were derived from https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_hi.htm#45-0000 for Hawaii.

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)
Marine National Monument Fishing Permit application	Vessel owner	15	1	15	0.25	4	\$27.83	\$111
Marine National Monument Daily Fishing Log	Vessel operator	15	3	45	0.33	15	\$22.32	\$335
Totals				60		19		\$446

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).

There is no start-up capital cost for complying with this requirement. Permit applicants may submit applications via secure email. Permit holders may use paper forms provided by NMFS for daily logs. Based on an annual estimate of 45 daily logs and \$0.78 for the cost of a postage stamp in 2026, the maximum estimated cost to respondents for postage related to this collection is \$35 per year.

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)
Marine National Monument Permit application	15	1	15	0	0
Marine National Monument Daily Log	15	3	45	0.78	\$35
TOTALS	30		60		\$35

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 tables](https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/CAPS%20Standard%20Pay%20Tables%202026.pdf)⁷ for the 2026 Hawaii locality rates were used to determine the base salary. The upper bound of Interval 3 was used as the base salary for each Pay Band and a multiplier of 1.5 was used to calculate the loaded salary. Employee time to administer this information collection was calculated as follows:

- ZP-03 spends 5 hours annually, or 15 hours for the 3-year collection period, on administration.
- ZP-03 spends 20 minutes per permit on administration and processing for a total of 4.5 hours to process 15 permits annually, or 13.5 hours to process 45 permits for the 3-year collection period.
- ZP-03 spends 15 minutes per daily logbook on processing for a total of 11.25 hours to process 45 daily fishing logs annually, or 33.75 hours to process 135 daily fishing logs for the 3-year collection period.

⁷ <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2026-01/CAPS%20Standard%20Pay%20Tables%202026.pdf>

- ZP-04 spends 5 hours annually on federal oversight, or 6 hours for the 3-year collection period.
- Percent of effort is rounded to the nearest half percent.

The total costs to government for this information period for the 3-year collection period is up to \$4,081 and can be described as follows:

- *Overall program administration and oversight* - The estimated annual cost to the Federal government to provide administration and oversight for this information collection is up to \$2,191. This cost is addressed in the ZP-04 and the first ZP-03 in the table below.
- *Permits* - The estimated annual cost to the Federal government to administer this information collection is up to \$911. This cost is addressed in the second ZP-03 in the table below.
- *Daily Fishing Logs* - The estimated annual cost to the Federal government to administer this information collection is up to \$979. This cost is addressed in processing of forms by the third ZP-03 in the table below, and the cost of printing blank daily catch report forms of \$67.50 (based on 135 forms x \$0.50 per form).

Cost Descriptions	Grade/Step	Loaded Salary /Cost	% of Effort	Fringe (if Applicable)	Total Cost to Government
Federal Oversight	ZP-04	\$256,062	0.5		\$1,280
Other Positions	ZP-03	\$182,223	0.5		\$911
	ZP-03	\$182,223	0.5		\$911
	ZP-03	\$182,223	0.5		\$911
Travel					n/a
Other Costs					n/a
Printing Costs					\$68
TOTAL					\$4,081

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 for the number of respondents, responses, or burden hours. Miscellaneous costs increased due to increased postage costs.

Information Collection	Miscellaneous Costs	Reason for change or adjustment
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	Current	Previous	
Marine National Monument Fishing Permit application	\$0	\$0	There have been no changes to the information collection since the last OMB approval.
Marine National Monument Daily Fishing Log	\$35	\$26	Misc. costs increased due to increased postage costs.
Total for Collection	\$35	\$26	
Difference	\$9		

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.

No formal scientific publications based on these collections are planned at this time. NMFS and the Council will use the information (primarily in an aggregated, non-confidential format) for developing management reports and fishery management plan amendments and evaluations. Subsequent use of the data collected over a series of years may include scientific papers and publications.

NMFS aggregates and/or summarizes any publicly disseminated information to maintain the confidentiality of the information pertaining to the individual vessels. NMFS retains control over the information and safeguard it from improper release, access, modification, and destruction, consistent with Federal law and regulations, and NOAA policies 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. The information will be subjected to quality control measures, and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to [Section 515 of Public Law 106-554](#) prior to dissemination.

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 forms.

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