



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Economic Surveys of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Small Boat-based Fisheries

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written or on-line comments must be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Adrienne Thomas, PRA Officer, NOAA, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 159, Asheville, NC 28801 (or via the Internet at PRAComments@doc.gov). All comments received are part of the public record. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Minling Pan, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, 1845 Wasp Blvd., Building 176, Honolulu HI 96818, (808) 725-5349 or Minling.Pan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for the extension of a currently approved information collection. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) collects information about fishing trip expenses in the American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) boat-based reef fish, bottomfish, and pelagics fisheries with which to conduct economic analyses that will improve fishery management in those fisheries; satisfy NMFS' legal mandates under Executive Order 12866, the Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act (U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act; and quantify achievement of the performance measures in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans. An example of these performance measures is the fishing cost trend that is one of the economic performance indicators reported in the Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports of each Fishery Ecosystem Plan (<http://www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports/>). In addition, the economic data collected will allow quantitative assessment of the fisheries sector's social and economic contribution, as well as show linkages and impacts of the fisheries sector to the overall economy through Input-output (I-O) models analyses. Results from I-O analyses will not only provide indicators of social-

economic benefits of the marine ecosystem, a performance measure in the NMFS Strategic Operating Plans, but will also be used to assess how fishermen and the economy will be impacted by and respond to regulations likely to be considered by fishery managers. These data are collected in conjunction with catch and effort data already being collected in this fishery as part of its creel survey program. The creel survey program is one of the major data collection systems to monitor fisheries resources in these three geographic areas. The survey monitors the islands' fishing activities and interviews returning fishermen at the most active launching ramps/docks during selected time periods on the islands. Participation in this economic data collection is voluntary.

II. Method of Collection

The economic surveys are conducted via in-person interviews when a fishing trip is completed. Captains of selected vessels by the creel survey are interviewed to report information about trip costs, input usage, and input prices.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0635.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 480.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes per trip survey.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 80.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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