



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Billing Code 3510-22-P**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Foreign Fishing Vessel Permits, Vessel, and Gear Identification, and Reporting Requirements**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the Federal Register on March 25, 2020, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

*Title:* Foreign Fishing Vessel Permits, Vessel, and Gear Identification, and Reporting Requirements.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0075.

*Form Number(s):* None

*Type of Request:* Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

*Number of Respondents:* 4

*Average Hours Per Response:* Permit applications: 1.5 hours for an application for a directed fishery; 2 hours for a joint venture application, and 45 minutes for a transshipment permit; Fishing activity report: 6 minutes for a joint venture report; 30 minutes per day for joint

venture record-keeping; and 7.5 minutes per day for record-keeping by transport vessels; Weekly reports, 30 minutes per response; Foreign vessel and gear identification marking: 15 minutes per marking.

*Total Annual Burden Hours: 16*

*Needs and Uses:* This request is for extension of a currently approved information collection. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues permits, under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*; MSA), to foreign fishing vessels fishing or operating in United States (U.S.) waters. MSA and associated regulations at 50 CFR part 600 require that: 1) vessels apply for fishing permits, 2) vessels and certain gear be marked for identification purposes, 3) observers be embarked on selected vessels, and 4) permit holders report their fishing effort and catch or, when processing fish under joint ventures, the amount and locations of fish received from U.S. vessels. These requirements apply to all foreign vessels fishing, transshipping, or processing fish in U.S. waters.

Information is collected from persons who operate a foreign fishing vessel in U.S. waters to participate in a directed fishery or joint venture operation, transship fish harvested by a U.S. vessel to a location outside the U.S., or process fish in internal waters. Each person operating a foreign fishing vessel under MSA authority may be required to submit information for a permit, mark their vessels and gear, or submit information about their fishing activities. To facilitate observer coverage, foreign fishing vessel operators must provide a quarterly schedule of fishing effort and upon request must also provide observers with copies of any required records. For foreign fishing vessels that process fish in internal waters, the information collected varies somewhat from other foreign fishing vessels that participate in a directed fishery or a joint venture operation. In particular, these vessels may not be required to provide a permit application

or mark their vessels. The information submitted in applications is used to determine whether permits should be used to authorize directed foreign fishing, participation in joint ventures with U.S. vessels, or transshipments of fish or fish products within U.S. waters. The display of identifying numbers on vessels and gear aids in fishery law enforcement and allow other fishermen to report suspicious activity. Reporting of fishing activities allows monitoring of fish received by foreign vessels.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations

*Frequency:* Annually, weekly and on occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits

*Legal Authority:* Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648-0075.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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[FR Doc. 2020-15939 Filed: 7/22/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/23/2020]