

tuna. The collection serves three purposes of ICCAT: (1) Provides stock assessment and research information, (2) verifies catch monitoring programs so as not to exceed the country quota, and (3) augments NMFS's ability to better quantify all bluefin tuna that enter into commerce of the United States.

II. Method of Collection

A Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document must accompany all imports or exports of bluefin tuna. Copies must be retained for 2 years. In certain cases NOAA authorization can be obtained by firms to validate the Document in place of a government official.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0040.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Importers and exporters.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 311.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$300.00.

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.

Dated: May 12, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-12945 Filed 5-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Information Needed for Wreckfish Share Transfer

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

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 take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Edward E. Burgess, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702, (813) 570-5326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The wreckfish fishery for the South Atlantic is managed under an Individual Transferable Quota System. Under this system fishermen are issued a share of the fishery and an individual annual quota. Shares are issued by certificate and may be bought and sold. Buying and selling of shares are not completed until the transfer is recorded by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The information in this collection is necessary so the National Marine Fisheries Service can record the sale.

II. Method of Collection

When shares in the wreckfish fishery are sold, information concerning the sale is recorded on the back of the share certificate and sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service. The transfer of ownership is recorded and new share certificates issued.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0262.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Businesses (commercial fishermen).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4.
Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: Shareholders are charged for the administrative cost of the share transfer. This annual cost is expected to be \$160.00.

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.

Dated: May 12, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-12946 Filed 5-15-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Economic Data for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fisheries and Alaska Halibut Fisheries

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

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 take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Dave Colpo, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115, (206) 526-4251.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Data on cost, earnings and employment in Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish fisheries and the Alaska halibut fisheries will be collected from the following four groups: (1) On-shore processors; (2) motherships; (3) catcher/processor vessels; and (4) catcher vessels. Companies associated with these groups will be surveyed for cost, earnings and employment data. In general, questions will be asked concerning ex-vessel and wholesale prices and revenue, variable and fixed costs, dependence on the fisheries, and fishery employment. During the first year of this data collection program, data will be collected for the BSAI pollock fishery. The BSAI pollock fishery data are expected to be used for the following three purposes: (1) To evaluate methods for collecting cost, earnings and employment data on an ongoing basis for the Alaska groundfish and halibut fisheries in order to better assess inter-annual changes in the economic performance of the fishery and the effects of alternative management measures; (2) to allow the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to conduct such assessments for the BSAI pollock fishery; and (3) to prepare the Regulatory Impact Review (E.O. 12866) and Regulatory Flexibility Act Review of the BSAI pollock allocation alternatives that the Council and the Secretary of Commerce will consider before the current inshore, offshore and CDQ allocations expire at the end of 1998. As required by law, the confidentiality of the data will be protected.

The ex-vessel and product value of the BSAI pollock fishery in 1995 exceeded \$250 million and \$800 million, respectively. The large scale of many of the harvesting and processing

operations and the concentration of ownership in this fishery mean that improved economic data for the management of this fishery is a high priority for the individuals who will provide data for each of the four groups. This is demonstrated by the fact that the associations representing the four groups support this data collection effort and have volunteered to assist in proving the data.

In each subsequent year, the data collection effort will focus on a different component of the groundfish and halibut fisheries and more limited data will be collected for the previously surveyed components of these fisheries. The latter would be done to update the models that will be used to track economic performance and to evaluate the economic effects of alternative management actions. This cycle of data collection will result in cost, earning and employment data being available and updated for all the components of the groundfish and halibut fisheries.

II. Method of Collection

During the first year, data will be collected from a sample of the owners and operators of catcher vessels and factory trawlers that participate in the BSAI pollock fishery and from the owners of each of the principal on-shore processing plants and motherships that participate in the BSAI pollock fishery. The data are expected to be collected principally by NMFS economists unless funding becomes available to collect some of the data under contract. Questionnaires will be mailed to the selected members of each of the four survey groups and in many cases those individuals will be interviewed to ensure the clarity of their responses. To the extent practicable, the data collected will consist of data that the respondents maintain for their own business purposes. Therefore, the collection burden will consist principally of transcribing data from their internal records to the survey instrument and participating in personal interviews.

In subsequent years, a similar method will be used to collect the same types of information from comparable groups for other components of the groundfish and halibut fisheries and brief questionnaires will be sent to a sample of previous respondents to update that data. Current data reporting requirements will be evaluated to determine if they can be modified to provide improved economic data at a lower cost to respondents and the Agency.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Selected harvesters and processors in the Alaska groundfish and halibut fisheries.

Estimated Number of Respondents First Year: 45 in total consisting of 20 catcher vessel owners, 15 factory trawler owners, 5 mothership owners, and 5 on-shore processing plant owners.

Estimated Time Per Response First Year: 2 hours per catcher vessel and on average 2 catcher vessels per respondent; 5 hours per factory trawler and on average 2 vessels per respondent; and 5 hours per mothership and on-shore processor.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours First Year: 255 hours.

Estimated Number of Respondents in Subsequent Years: 60-200.

Estimated Time Per Response in Subsequent Years for New Respondents: 2 hours per catcher vessel per respondent; 5 hours per processing vessel or plant per respondent.

Estimated Time Per Response in Subsequent Years for Previous Respondents: 1 hour per catcher vessel per respondent; 2 hours per processing vessel or plant per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours Subsequent Years: 400-600 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0. Respondents will not be required to purchase equipment or materials to respond to this survey.

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.

Dated: May 12, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

(FR Doc. 97-12947 Filed 5-15-97; 8:45 a.m.)

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P