

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Recovery and Implantation of Archival Tags.

Agency Form Number: N/A.

OMB Approval Number: 0648-0338.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 14 hours.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 1.5 hours for implantation of tags and 30 minutes for report on recovery of a tag.

Number of Respondents: 18.

Needs and Uses: To investigate the migratory patterns of Atlantic bluefin tuna, a program has been undertaken to implant archival tags in selected tuna. Under a scientific research exemption, any person may catch, possess, retain, and land any regulated species in which an archival tag has been affixed or implanted, provided that the person immediately reports the landing of such fish. In addition, any person affixing or implanting an archival tag into a regulated species is required to provide written notification to the National Marine Fisheries Service in advance of commencing the activity, and upon completion of the activity, must provide a written report.

Affected Public: Individuals, businesses or other for-profit organizations, and not-for-profit institutions.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker, (202) 395-3897.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-11999 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Bureau of the Census****Generic Clearance for Customer Satisfaction Surveys**

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, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before July 6, 1998.

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 Joanne Dickinson, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Room 3019-3, Washington, DC 20233-0800, and 301-457-4081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The Census Bureau is requesting an extension of the generic clearance to conduct customer satisfaction research surveys which may be in the form of mailed or electronic questionnaires and/or focus groups or personal interviews.

The Census Bureau has ranked a customer focused environment as one of its most important strategic planning objectives. The Bureau routinely needs to collect and analyze customer feedback about its products and services to better align them to its customers' needs and preferences. Several products and distribution channels have been designed/redesigned based on feedback from its various customer satisfaction research efforts.

Each research design is reviewed for content, utility, and user-friendliness by a variety of appropriate staff (including research design and subject-matter

specialists). The concept and design are tested by internal staff and a select sample of respondents to confirm its appropriateness, user-friendliness, and to estimate burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information. Collection techniques are discussed and included in the research concept design discussions to define the most time-, cost-efficient and accurate collection media.

The clearance operates in the following manner: a block of hours is reserved at the beginning of each year, and the particular activities that will be conducted under the clearance are not specified in advance. The Census Bureau provides information to OMB about the specific activities on a flow basis throughout the year. OMB is notified of each activity in a letter that gives specific details about the activity, rather than by means of individual clearance packages. At the end of each year, a report is submitted to OMB that summarizes the number of hours used as well as the nature and results of the activities completed under the clearance.

Some modifications of the clearance from previous years are planned. The number of hours is expanded from 3,500 per year to 3,750 to allow for larger-scale research efforts with increased analytical power. In addition, incentives as a survey procedure may also be the subject of research under the clearance.

II. Method of Collection

This research may be in the form of mailed or electronic questionnaires and/or focus groups or personal interviews.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0760.

Form Number: Various.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, State or local governments, farms, businesses or other for-profit organizations, Federal agencies or employees, Non-profit institutions, Small businesses or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 45,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,750 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: There is no cost to respondents, except for their time to answer the questions posed.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Executive Order 12862.

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: April 30, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-12000 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Closed Meeting

A meeting of the Information System Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will be held May 21, 1998, 9:00 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 1617M-2, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The ISTAC advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration with respect to technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.

The Committee will meet only in Executive Session to discuss matters properly classified under Executive order 12958, dealing with the U.S. export control program and strategic criteria related thereto.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on October 3, 1997, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings of the Committee and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C., 552b(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and 10(a)(3), of the

Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of the Committee is available for public inspection and copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. For further information, contact Lee Ann Carpenter on (202) 482-2583.

Dated: April 30, 1998.

Lee Ann Carpenter,

Director, Technical Advisory Committee Unit.

[FR Doc. 98-12008 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 98-022. Applicant: Texas A&M University, Plant Genome Mapping Laboratory, Heep Center for SCSC, Room 610, College Station, TX 77843-2474. *Instrument:* Robot, Model X8000. *Manufacturer:* Genetix Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used for studies of recombinant bacteria containing cloned DNA inserts from flowering plants (for example cotton, sorghum or rice) or other non-infectious sources. Experiments will be conducted which involve the identification of specific bacterial clones that contain DNA which corresponds to particular genes or related DNA elements previously assigned to a "map position" along the chromosomes of the source organism (flowering plant). In addition, the instrument will be used for

educational purposes in the courses: (a) GENE 485: Undergraduate Research, (b) GENE 691: Postgraduate Research and (c) GENE 654: Analysis of Complex Genomes. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: April 20, 1998.

Docket Number: 98-023. Applicant: University of Iowa, Department of Ophthalmology, 200 Hawkins Drive, 11190E PFP, Iowa City, IA 52242. *Instrument:* Electron Microscope, Model JEM-1220. *Manufacturer:* JEOL, Ltd., Japan. *Intended Use:* The instrument is intended to be used for studies of ocular tissues and cells from humans and animals to determine the extent of, and to quantitate, pathological changes in ocular tissues of human donors afflicted with age-related macular degeneration and animal models of this disease. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: April 21, 1998.

Frank W. Creel

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 98-12046 Filed 5-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 041598A]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Offshore Seismic Activities in the Beaufort Sea

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of application and proposed authorization for a small take exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from the BP Exploration (Alaska), 900 East Benson Boulevard, Anchorage, AK 99519 (BPXA) for a renewal of an authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals by harassment incidental to conducting seismic surveys in the Beaufort Sea in state and Federal waters. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to authorize BPXA to incidentally take, by harassment, small numbers of bowhead whales and other marine mammals in the above mentioned areas during the open water period of 1998.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than June 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the application should be addressed to