

1000 Pope Road MSB #213, Honolulu, HI 96822, has been issued an amendment to scientific research Permit No. 969 to import tissue samples from all species of Cetacea and Pinnipedia (except walrus).

ADDRESSES: The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);

Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001); and

Protected Species Program Coordinator, Pacific Area Office, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396 (808/949-7400).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Johnson or Sara Shapiro 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 27, 1998, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 3881) that an amendment of Permit No. 969, issued October 24, 1995 (60 FR 55543), had been requested by the above-named individual. The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit (1) was applied for in good faith, (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit, and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: July 27, 1998.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-20636 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Structured Reporting System (SRS) for the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program

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 October 2, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce—Room 5327, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Gay Shrum, NTIA—Room 4892, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230. (202-482-1056).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The purpose of the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP) is to promote the widespread and efficient use of advanced telecommunications services in the public and non-profit sectors to serve America's communities. It does this by providing matching funds to public and non-profit sector organizations to use information infrastructure to provide community-wide information, health, life-long learning, education, public safety and other public services.

The Program has the following objectives:

- To increase awareness in public and non-profit sectors of the National Information Infrastructure and its benefits.
- To stimulate public and non-profit sector organizations to examine potential benefits of, and plan for, investments in the information infrastructure.
- To provide a wide variety of model information infrastructure projects for

public and non-profit sector organizations to follow.

- To educate the public and non-profit sectors about best practices in implementing a wide variety of information infrastructure projects.
- To help reduce disparities in access to, and use of, information infrastructure.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in administering TIIAP, awards a varying number of awards each year, but there are an average of 2,225 active grantees involved in some, or all, of the reporting requirements each year. In order to ensure that grant recipients are effectively promoting the efficient and widespread use of advanced telecommunications services to serve American communities and to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act, NTIA will collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data relating to start-up documentation, quarterly and annual progress, and close-out documentation on TIIAP-funded projects.

NTIA seeks a mechanism whereby it can evaluate the impacts of its projects on an ongoing basis, monitor grants more efficiently and effectively, and provide timely technical assistance to grant recipients. Currently, grantees provide qualitative quarterly progress reports and close-out documentation. Grantees also provide evaluation reports covering a wide array of sophistication and complexity of design.

To enable the Program to monitor and to analyze the impacts of the funded projects, TIIAP seeks to incorporate standardized quantitative and qualitative data elements into an online structured reporting system. The reporting system will include a set of core data elements that apply to all projects and other data elements that are specific to the applications areas of the projects.

NTIA is interested in the effects that the funded projects are having at the local level and, over the long term, at the national level. It is NTIA's intention to understand the nature and degree of those effects on the organizations implementing the projects, other organizations that are involved with the projects, the individuals who are served by the projects, and the community as a whole.

II. Method of Collection

Data will be collected through the use of automated collection techniques. The information collection instrument to be used for this study will include a web-based structured reporting system for both quantitative and qualitative project

information for 50 new projects for 1998.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: State and Local Government and Non-Profit Institutions.

Burden Hours Calculations/Reporting

The total estimated response burden for the grant recipients that receive TIIAP funding in FY 1998 is 8,400 hours (the overall burden on any given grant recipient would be approximately 168 hours (21 days) over their participation in the TIIAP project). This estimate is based on the following assumptions:

- **Start-Up Documentation.** Each of the 50 initiatives will spend an average of 40 hours on the following activities: (accessing and learning the web-based system; (2) developing answers to the items; and (3) verifying the accuracy and completeness of the data that are to be submitted (50 projects \times 40 hours equals 2,000 hours).
- **Quarterly Reports.** Each of the 50 initiatives will spend an average of 8 hours developing answers to the items contained in the quarterly report (50 projects \times 8 hours \times 10 quarterly reports equals 4,000 hours).
- **Annual Reports.** Each of the 50 initiatives will spend an average of 4 hours developing answers to the items contained in the annual report (50 projects \times 4 hours \times 2 reports equals 400 hours).
- **Final Closeout Reports.** Each of the 50 initiatives will spend an average of 40 hours developing answers to the items contained in the final closeout report (50 projects \times 40 hours equals 2,000 hours).

Estimated Total Annual Cost: Cost to respondents is consistent with their normal administrative overhead. No material or equipment will need to be purchased to provide information.

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 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: July 28, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-20583 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-60-P

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 the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

Title: Patent Application Bibliographic Data Entry Format (Proposed Addition to the Initial Patent Application).

Form Numbers: None.

OMB Approval Number: 0651-0032.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 1,915,500 hours.

Number of Respondents: 243,100.

Avg. Hours Per Response: The PTO estimates that it will take an average of 7.88 hours to complete a patent application using the Patent Application Data Entry Format. This figure is an average based on the number of each type of application received by the PTO per year times the amount of time that it takes an applicant to complete each type of application. This total is then divided by the total number of applications submitted per year. The bibliographic takes approximately 12 minutes to complete.

Needs and Uses: The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) plans to accept from applicants, on a voluntary basis, papers containing the bibliographic information for a patent application in a specific format termed a "Patent Application Data Entry Format." This format groups the bibliographic information into different information sections composed of headings and labels. Providing the bibliographic information for a patent application to the PTO in the Patent Application Data Entry Format will enable the PTO to automate the data entry process for the application. The purpose of the program

is three fold. First, the system will improve the quality of Filing Receipt information mailed by the PTO to applicants. Second, the program will provide the PTO with experience in establishing a simplified system that completely captures the bibliographic information for all patent applications. Third, the system will accurately and directly feed this bibliographic information into the Patent Application Locating and Monitoring (PALM) system, an automated electronic information management system.

Although use of the Patent Application Data Entry Format is strictly voluntary, there are definite benefits for applicants if they do submit their bibliographic data in this format. The applicant is benefited because it takes less time to process a filing receipt when the bibliographic information is provided using the Patent Application Data Entry Format.

It must also be noted that the Patent Application Data Entry Format is not a PTO form, but rather a specific format that the public can use to submit their bibliographic information. This format may be created either by typing the bibliographic information directly onto blank sheets of paper in the specified format (using a typewriter or word processor), or by using electronic templates in a word processor. Since using the Patent Application Data Entry Format is strictly voluntary, applicants will be encouraged, but not required, to provide bibliographic information in this format.

When this program is implemented, the PTO will provide a copy of the Patent Application Data Entry Format Guide for Preparing Bibliographic Data for Electronic Capture to users who request one. This user guide will provide instructions for the format, guidelines for a variety of requirements, such as paper size, font, font sizes, etc., designed to minimize errors in the scanning and text conversion, and examples of various formats. The user guide, as well as electronic templates of the various formats for Microsoft Word and WordPerfect word processing programs, can be accessed by the public on the PTO's Internet Web site or by requesting (by mail or telephone) a copy from the PTO.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, farms, federal government, and state, local, or tribal governments.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Maya A. Bernstein, (202) 395-3785.