

- Section 315.803(b), Agency action during probationary period (general) (waived only for positions in the Scientific and Engineering Career path).

- Section 315.805, Termination of probationers for conditions arising before appointment (waived only for positions in the Scientific and Engineering Career path).

- Section 315.806, Appeal rights to the Merit Systems Protection Board (waived only for employees in the Scientific and Engineering Career path serving a probationary or trial period).

- Section 351.401, Determining Retention Standing.

- Section 351.402, Competitive area in RIF.

- Section 351.403, Competitive level in RIF.

- Sections 351.504(a) and (d), Credit for Performance.

- Section 351.701, Assignment involving displacement.

- Section 531.203, Minimum rate for new appointments.

- Part 575, Subpart A Recruitment Bonuses.

- Part 575, Subpart C Retention Allowances.

- Sections 752.401(c)(2), 752.401(c)(3), 752.401(c)(5), Coverage (waived only for positions in the Scientific and Engineering Career path). Department Administrative Orders.

- Section 202–302, Employment in the Excepted Service (waived to the extent inconsistent with the APMS).

- Section 202–315, Probationary and Trial Periods (waived to the extent inconsistent with the APMS).

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Vessel Information Family of Forms

**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 take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 20, 2012.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at [Jjessup@doc.gov](mailto:Jjessup@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Tom Graham, 808–944–2219 or [Tom.Graham@noaa.gov](mailto:Tom.Graham@noaa.gov)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued regulations under authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (WCPFCIA; 16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*) to carry out the obligations of the United States under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention), including implementing the decisions of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Commission). The regulations include requirements for the owners or operators of U.S. vessels to: (1) Apply for and obtain a WCPFC Area Endorsement if the vessel is used for fishing for highly migratory species on the high seas in the Convention Area (50 CFR 300.212), and (2) complete and submit a Foreign Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Form if the vessel is used for fishing for highly migratory species in the Convention Area in areas under the jurisdiction of any nation other than the United States (50 CFR 300.213).

The application for WCPFC Area Endorsements calls for specified information about the vessel and its operator that is not already collected via the application for high seas fishing permits issued under 50 CFR 300.13. The Foreign EEZ Form calls for specified information about the vessel, its owners and operators and any fishing authorizations issued by other nations.

This information collected under the two requirements is used by NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Commission to monitor the size and composition of the HMS fleets in the Convention Area for compliance-related and scientific purposes.

##### II. Method of Collection

Respondents must submit some of the information by mail or in person via paper forms, and have a choice of submitting some of the information electronically, by mail, or in person.

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0595.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission (extension of a currently approved information collection).

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 63.

*Estimated Time per Response:* WCPFC Area Endorsement Application, 60 minutes; Foreign EEZ Form, 90 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 69.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$63 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.

Dated: June 14, 2012.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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