SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for revision of a currently approved information collection.

The collection consists of vessel and dealer permits that are part of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) program to manage fisheries in the Southeast Region. The fisheries in the Southeast Region are managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) (16 U.S.C. 1801) and regulations at 50 CFR part 622, 50 CFR part 635 and 50 CFR part 300. NMFS issues permits to fishing vessels and dealers in order to collect information necessary to comply with domestic and international fisheries obligations, secure compliance with regulations, and disseminate necessary information.

This revision would amend the “Federal Permit Application for Vessels Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)” to add the collection of an International Maritime Organization/Lloyd’s Registry (IMO/LR) number to the permit application for commercial HMS vessels ≥ 20 meters (65’ 7”) in length that are obtaining or renewing a HMS limited access permit, including the Atlantic tuna longline, shark incidental, shark directed, swordfish incidental, swordfish directed, and swordfish handgear permits. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) approved a recommendation (13–13) for Contracting Parties to require commercial vessels ≥ 20 meters (65’ 7”) in length to obtain an IMO/LR number from IHS/Fairplay by no later than January 1, 2016. Permit applications that do not contain the required supporting documents will be considered incomplete.

This revision would also change the Report for the Deposit or Harvest of Aquacultured Live Rock to adding language to the instructions, specifically, “If not originally approved, then provide a new sample of rock.” adding the USCG documentation number or state registration number for the primary vessel the permit is used on, changing the wording in the instructions for the box describing the deposited material to include the “type and specific geographic origin” of the material, and adding a yes/no check box for whether a sample of the deposit material has been provided to NMFS.

II. Method of Collection

The requirement for commercial HMS vessels to obtain an IMO/LR number is accomplished by accessing a secure Internet automated system supported by IHS/Fairplay (http://www.imonumbers.lrafairplay.com/). Applicants may fill out and submit an application electronically. This automated system is available on a 7 day/24 hour basis, and the IMO/LR number is available at no additional charge to the permit holder. The Report for the Deposit or Harvest of Aquacultured Live Rock can be obtained online at the Southeast Region’s Web site (http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/permits.htm). This Web site allows the public to obtain a copy of this form, complete it electronically, download it, and print it out.

The Southeast Region’s Web site also includes other forms under this collection, including the vessel permit application and the dealer permit application, which can be downloaded and completed electronically, and printed. There is also an option now to complete a vessel permit application online and submit it online, for certain fisheries. All other permitting requirements are currently still paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0205. Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (revision of a currently approved collection).

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

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,664.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,172.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $539,949.

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.

Sarah Brabson, NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD926

International Pacific Halibut Commission Appointments

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

ACTION: Notice; call for nominations.

SUMMARY: In January 2013, NOAA Fisheries publicly solicited nominations for two presidential appointments to serve as U.S. Commissioners to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). This multi-step nomination process provided for extensive participation by stakeholders in the Pacific halibut fishery and resulted in the appointment of two highly qualified individuals to serve in this important position.

U.S. Commissioners to the IPHC Commission are appointed for a term not to exceed 2 years, but are eligible for reappointment. In order to ensure that the views of relevant stakeholders and others with an on-going interest in the Pacific halibut fishery are adequately reflected, NOAA is again soliciting nominations for two individuals to serve as U.S. Commissioners to the IPHC. Nominations are open to all qualified individuals and may include current Commissioners.

DATES: Nominations must be received by June 4, 2015. A list of nominees will be published on the NMFS Alaska Regional Office Web site (http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/) by June 9, 2015. Public comments relating to this list of nominees will be accepted until by July 9, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Nominations for U.S. Commissioners to the IPHC may be made in writing to Mr. Patrick E. Moran, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, at 1315 East-West
The IPHC is a bilateral regional fishery management organization established pursuant to the Convention between Canada and the United States for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea (Convention). The Convention was signed at Ottawa, Ontario, on March 2, 1953, and was amended by a Protocol Amending the Convention signed at Washington, DC, on March 29, 1979. The Convention’s central objective is to develop the stocks of Pacific halibut in waters off the west coasts of Canada and the United States to levels that will permit the optimum yield from the Pacific halibut fishery and to maintain the stocks at those levels. The IPHC fulfills this objective in part by recommending Pacific halibut fishery conservation and management measures for approval by the United States and Canada. Pursuant to the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, may accept or reject, on behalf of the United States, conservation and management measures recommended by the IPHC. 16 U.S.C. 773b. Measures accepted by the Secretary of State are adopted as binding regulations governing fishing for Pacific halibut in Convention waters of the United States. 16 U.S.C. 773ct(b)(1). More information on the IPHC can be found at http://www.iphc.int.

Section 773a of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773a) requires that the United States be represented on the IPHC by three U.S. Commissioners. U.S. Commissioners are appointed for a term not to exceed 2 years, but are eligible for reappointment. Of the Commissioners:

(1) One must be an official of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(2) Two must be knowledgeable or experienced concerning the Northern Pacific halibut fishery; of these, one must be a resident of Alaska and the other shall be a nonresident of Alaska. Of the three commissioners described in paragraphs (1) and (2), one must also be a voting member of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(3) Commissioners who are not Federal employees are not considered to be Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in section 8101 et seq. of title 5 and section 2671 et seq. of title 28.

In their official IPHC duties, Commissioners represent the interests of the United States and all of its stakeholders in the Pacific halibut fishery. These duties require a modest amount of travel (typically two or three trips per year lasting less than a week), and travel expenses are paid by the U.S. Department of State. Commissioners receive no compensation for their services.

Nomination Process

NOAA Fisheries is currently accepting nominations for two U.S. Commissioners for the IPHC who are not officials of NOAA. Successful nominees will be considered for appointment by the President and (pending Presidential action) interim designation by the Department of State. Nomination packages should provide details of an individual’s knowledge and experience in the Pacific halibut fishery. Examples of such knowledge and/or experience could include (but are not limited to) such activities as: Participation in commercial, tribal, Community Development Quota (CDQ) and/or sport and charterboat halibut fishing operations; participation in halibut processing operations; and participation in Pacific halibut management activities.

Nomination packages should document an individual’s qualifications and state of residence. Self-nominations are acceptable, and current and former IPHC Commissioners are eligible for reappointment. Résumés, curriculum vitae, and/or letters of recommendation are useful but not required. Nomination packages will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by officials in NOAA and the Department of Commerce who are familiar with the duties and responsibilities of IPHC Commissioners; evaluations will consider the aggregate of an individual’s prior experience and knowledge of the Pacific halibut fishery, residency requirements, and any letters of recommendation provided. Nominees will be notified of their status (including rejection or approval) and any need for further information once the nomination process is complete.


John Henderschedt,
Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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