

on one of NOAA Ocean Exploration's expeditions.

The first forms described above will include minor revisions, and the fifth form is a new addition. The Sailing Contact Information form will be revised to include updated informational attachments (e.g., links to updated COVID guidance, medical clearance, underwater cultural heritage protocols) and updated expedition names and dates for a given calendar year. The *Okeanos Explorer* Participation Assessment will be revised to replace some technical/scientific questions with questions that relate to communication, leadership, and workplace climate. The EX Collaboration Tools form will be revised to include updated informational attachments (e.g., underwater cultural heritage protocols) and updated expedition names and dates for a calendar year. The Citizen Scientist form will be updated for expedition names and dates for a calendar year.

**Affected Public:** Targeted towards the greater ocean exploration community; Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; Federal government.

**Frequency:** EX Collaboration Tools Feedback: annually; all other forms are on occasion.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Sailing Contact Information: Required to obtain or retain benefits; all other forms are voluntary.

**Legal Authority:** Public Law 111-11 [Section XII Ocean Exploration].

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0648-0748.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-KD-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD371]

#### Pacific Islands Pelagic Fisheries; American Samoa Longline Limited Entry Program

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

**ACTION:** Notice; availability of permits.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that 25 American Samoa pelagic longline limited entry permits in 2 permit size classes are available for 2023. NMFS is accepting applications for these available permits.

**DATES:** NMFS must receive complete permit applications including payment by February 5, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Download a blank application from the NOAA Fisheries website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/american-samoa-longline-limited-entry-permit>. Submit your application and pay the processing fee electronically per instructions at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/commercial-fishing/apply-pacific-islands-fishing-permit>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Walter Ikehara, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), Sustainable Fisheries, tel 808-725-5175 or email [PIRO-permits@noaa.gov](mailto:PIRO-permits@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Federal regulations at 50 CFR 665.816 allow NMFS to re-issue permits for the American Samoa pelagic longline limited entry program if the number of permits falls below the maximum allowed. At least 25 permits are available for issuance in the following permit size classes, as follows:

- 17 in Small (vessels up to 50 feet or 15.24 meters in overall length); and
- 8 in Large (vessels overall length 50 feet or 15.24 meters and longer).

Please note that the number of available permits may change before the application period closes. Applicants must specify the permit size class (one only) for which they are applying on the application form.

If there are more applications than available permits in a particular size class, the Regional Administrator shall issue permits to persons according to the following priority standard:

(i) Priority accrues to the person with the earliest documented participation in the pelagic longline fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around

American Samoa from smallest to largest vessel; and

(ii) In the event of a tie in the priority ranking between two or more applicants, the applicant whose second documented participation in the pelagic longline fishery in the EEZ around American Samoa is first in time will be ranked first in priority. If there is still a tie between two or more applicants, the Regional Administrator will select the successful applicant by an impartial lottery.

NMFS will only consider complete applications, which must include the completed and signed application form, copy of current United States Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation or state or territory vessel registration, evidence of documented participation in the fishery if needed for prioritization, and non-refundable payment of the application processing fee. Incomplete applications may be abandoned 30 days after receipt if deficiencies are not addressed.

Documented participation means participation proved by, but not necessarily limited to, a properly submitted NMFS or American Samoa logbook, an American Samoa creel survey record, a delivery or payment record from an American Samoa-based cannery, retailer or wholesaler, an American Samoa tax record, an individual wage record, ownership title, vessel registration, or other official documents showing:

(i) Ownership of a vessel that was used to fish in the EEZ around American Samoa; or

(ii) Evidence of work on a fishing trip during which longline gear was used to harvest western Pacific pelagic management unit species in the EEZ around American Samoa. If the applicant does not possess the necessary documentation of evidence of work on a fishing trip based on records available only from NMFS or the Government of American Samoa (e.g., creel survey record or logbook), the applicant may issue a request to PIRO to obtain such records from the appropriate agencies, if available. The applicant should provide sufficient information on the fishing trip to allow PIRO to retrieve the records.

If an applicant requests NMFS, in writing, to use NMFS longline logbook data as evidence of documented participation, the applicant must specify the qualifying vessel, official number, and month and year of the logbook records. NMFS will not conduct an unlimited search for records.

NMFS must receive applications by February 5, 2024 to be considered for a permit (see **ADDRESSES**). NMFS will not

accept applications received after that date.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 3, 2023.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023–22295 Filed 10–5–23; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Electronic Monitoring Systems for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on October 19, 2022, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

*Title:* Electronic Monitoring Systems for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species.

*OMB Control Number:* 0648–0372.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular.

*Number of Respondents:* 132.

*Average Hours per Response:* 4 hours for initial VMS installation; 5 minutes per VMS initial activation checklist; 2 minutes per hail-out/hail-in declaration; 6 hours for initial electronic monitoring installation; 1 hour for camera boom installation; 5 minutes for pelagic longline and greenstick bluefin tuna catch records; 1 minute for dockside review of bluefin tuna catch records; 1 hour for electronic monitoring data retrieval.

*Burden Hours:* 2,697.

*Needs and Uses:* Vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and other electronic monitoring systems collect important information on fishing effort, catch, and

the geographic location of fishing effort and catch for certain sectors of the Atlantic HMS fleet. Data collected through these systems are used in both domestic and international fisheries management, including for law enforcement, stock assessments, and quota management purposes. Atlantic HMS vessels required to use VMS are pelagic longline, bottom longline (directed shark permit holders in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), and gillnet (directed shark permit holders consistent with the requirements of the Atlantic large whale take reduction plan requirements at 50 CFR 229.39.(h)) vessels. In addition to VMS, pelagic longline vessels are also required to have electronic monitoring systems to monitor catch and account for bluefin tuna interactions, and, when appropriate, monitoring the harvest of shortfin mako sharks.

NMFS Office of Law Enforcement monitors fleet adherence to gear- and time-area restrictions with VMS position location data. Gear restricted areas and time-area closures are important. Atlantic HMS management tools that have been implemented to reduce bycatch of juvenile swordfish, sea turtles, and bluefin tuna, among other species. Electronic monitoring data from the pelagic longline fleet are used by NMFS to accurately monitor bluefin tuna catch by the pelagic longline fleet, to ensure compliance with Individual Bluefin Quota (IBQ) limits and requirements, and to ensure that the Longline category bluefin tuna quota is not over-harvested. Additionally, electronic monitoring is used to verify disposition of retained shortfin mako sharks, when retention is allowed, consistent with binding international agreements. VMS reporting of bluefin tuna catch is used to monitor IBQ allocations in real-time.

Atlantic HMS fisheries are managed under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Atlantic Tunas Conservation Act (ATCA). Under the MSA, management measures must be consistent with the National Standards, and fisheries must be managed to maintain optimum yield, rebuild overfished fisheries, and prevent overfishing. Under ATCA, the Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate regulations, as necessary and appropriate, to implement measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations (vessel owners).

*Frequency:* VMS reports at the start and end of each trip; VMS set reports at the end of each day of fishing; EM data retrieval after every other trip, unless the hard drive is full after the first trip.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.

*Legal Authority:* Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for management of the Nation's marine fisheries. NMFS must also promulgate regulations, as necessary and appropriate, to carry out obligations the United States (U.S.) undertakes internationally regarding tuna management through the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA, 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*).

This information collection request may be viewed at [reginfo.gov](http://reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

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**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Survey on Marine Mammal Deterrents

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing