

products is covered by the scope of this investigation.

Subject merchandise includes merchandise matching the above description that has been finished, packaged, or otherwise processed in a third country, including by refining, grinding, commingling, adding or removing additives (such as other metals), or performing any other finishing, packaging, or processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the subject country.

The covered merchandise is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheading 7110.21.0000. Unwrought palladium meeting the scope description may also enter under HTSUS subheading 7110.29.0000. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and for customs purposes, the written description of the subject merchandise is dispositive.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF612]

#### Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the availability of the draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) for Fisheries Research Conducted and Funded by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Publication of this notice begins the official public comment period for this SPEA. The purpose of this draft SPEA is to evaluate potential changes in the direct and indirect effects of research previously analyzed in the 2015 Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and the 2020 SWFSC SPEA, and new or modified research activities along the U.S. west coast and in the Scotia Sea area off Antarctica. Where necessary, updates to certain information on species, stock status, or other components of the affected environment that may result in different conclusions from the 2015 PEA and 2020 SPEA are presented in this analysis.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than June 1, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic comments on the draft SPEA may be submitted to Elise Kohli, Environmental Compliance Specialist, at [nmfs.swfsc.spea@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.swfsc.spea@noaa.gov). Comments sent via email, including all attachments, must not exceed a 10-megabyte file size. Physical comments may be submitted to Aras Zygas, Chief of Staff, at 8901 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92307. NMFS may not consider comments sent to addresses other than the ones provided here.

A copy of the draft SPEA may be obtained by writing to the address specified above, telephoning the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**), or visiting the internet at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov>. Documents cited in this notice may also be viewed, by appointment, during regular business hours at the aforementioned address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elise Kohli, [elise.kohli@noaa.gov](mailto:elise.kohli@noaa.gov), (858) 334-2863.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SWFSC is the research arm of NMFS in the Southwest Region. The purpose of SWFSC fisheries research is to produce scientific information necessary for the management and conservation of living marine resources along the U.S. west coast in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE), throughout the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, and in the Scotia Sea area off Antarctica. SWFSC's research is needed to promote both the long-term sustainability of marine resources and the recovery of certain species, while generating social and economic opportunities and benefits from their use. Primary research activities include: trawl and seine surveys to support assessments of coastal pelagic species and groundfish in the CCE; fish cages to support groundfish biological studies; ecosystem surveys using active acoustic systems and other oceanographic equipment in the CCE; and surveys using unmanned systems in the Antarctic Research Area and CCE.

NMFS has prepared the draft SPEA (EAXX-006-48-1WC-1737064752) under NEPA to evaluate alternatives for conducting and funding fisheries and ecosystem research activities as the primary Federal action. In the draft SPEA, NMFS also evaluates the proposed promulgation of regulations and authorization of marine mammal take incidental to the fisheries research under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Additionally, the draft SPEA evaluates activities that could

result in the incidental take of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within the proposed research action area.

The following two alternatives are currently evaluated in the draft SPEA

- *No-Action Alternative*—Conduct Federal Fisheries and Ecosystem Research with Scope and Protocols without changes; and
- *Preferred Alternative*—Conduct Federal Fisheries and Ecosystem Research (including New or Modified Research) with Mitigation for MMPA and ESA Compliance.

The alternatives include a program of fisheries and ecosystem research projects conducted or funded by the SWFSC as the primary Federal action. Because this primary action is connected to a secondary Federal action (also called a connected action under NEPA), to consider authorizing incidental take of marine mammals under the MMPA, NMFS must identify as part of this evaluation “(t)he means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species or stock and its habitat” (section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA [16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*]). NMFS must therefore identify and evaluate a reasonable range of mitigation measures to minimize impacts to protected species that occur in SWFSC research areas. These mitigation measures are considered as part of the identified alternatives in order to evaluate their effectiveness to minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. The action alternatives include mitigation measures intended to minimize potentially adverse interaction with other protected species that occur within the action area. Protected species include all marine mammals, which are covered under the MMPA, all species listed under the ESA, and bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Potential direct and indirect effects on the environment are evaluated under each alternative in the draft SPEA. The environmental effects on the following resources are considered: physical environment, special resource areas, fish, marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, invertebrates, and the social and economic environment.

NMFS requests comments on the draft SPEA for fisheries research conducted and funded by the NMFS SWFSC. Please include, with your comments, any supporting data or literature citations that may be informative in substantiating your comment.

*Authority:* 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

Dated: April 28, 2026.

**Kristen Koch,**

*Director, Southwest Fisheries Science Center,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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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; Wage Mariner Hiring Portal

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites 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. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before June 30, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0790 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Luther Young III, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, 1315 East West Hwy, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone number (202) 710-3285, email address: [luther.young@noaa.gov](mailto:luther.young@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This is a request for extension of an existing information collection.

The Wage Mariner Hiring Portal (WMHP) is an internet-based system (website) that is designed to allow an applicant to apply for a "wage mariner"

position within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fleet of maritime vessels. The WMHP system collects basic user information, wage mariner licensing, certifications, and relevant current and or past work history. The Department of Commerce (DOC), through NOAA, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) has special hiring authority under Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 5, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Part 3, § 3.2 and under the DOC Department Administrative Order (DAO) 202-302 Section 2, Subsection .02a. specific to the hiring of federal wage mariner employees. The regulations allow OMAO to hire wage mariners into excepted service positions within the NOAA fleet of ocean-going vessels in order to maintain adequate operations, maintenance, and safe staffing of the maritime ships.

No physical forms are used in this collection, it is all online. Applicants fill out basic personal, licensure, and work history information into a profile resume. Once their basic profile is complete, applicants can submit this resume to available wage mariner positions as shown on the WMHP website. The application information received is used to determine if the applicant meets the basic job qualification. The applicant's information is then passed on to the hiring official or it is placed in a pool of prospective candidates for future openings. Application information includes: first and last name, contact number and email address, wage mariner licenses and certifications, relevant work history.

##### II. Method of Collection

Information will be collected electronically (internet) through an online web-based interactive system.

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0790.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

Extension of existing information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 60 minutes: 5 minutes to fill our applicant's first and last name and contact mobile and or home number and email address; 5 minutes to fill out wage mariner license specific information; 40 minutes to enter wage mariner certifications and relevant past work history; and 10 minutes to fill out relevant educational history.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 6,000 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

*Legal Authority:* Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 5, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Part 3, § 3.2.

#### IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for 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; Highly Migratory Species Tournament Registration and Reporting

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information