

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Michael McMahon, Bureau of the Census, FOB 3, Room 3387, Washington, DC 20233-8400, (301) 457-3819.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau conducts the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) which is a household-based survey designed as a continuous series of national panels, each lasting four years. Respondents are interviewed once every four months, in monthly rotations. Approximately 37,000 households are in the current panel.

The SIPP represents a source of information for a wide variety of topics and allows information for separate topics to be integrated to form a single, unified data base so that the interaction between tax, transfer, and other government and private policies can be examined. Government domestic policy formulators depend heavily upon SIPP information concerning the distribution of income received directly as money or indirectly as in-kind benefits, and the effect of tax and transfer programs on this distribution. They also need improved and expanded data on the income and general economic and financial situation of the U.S. population. The SIPP has provided these kinds of data on a continuing basis since 1983, permitting levels of economic well-being and changes in these levels to be measured over time.

The survey is molded around a central "core" of labor force and income questions that will remain fixed throughout the life of a panel. The core is supplemented with questions designed to answer specific needs, such as obtaining information about the terms of child support agreements and whether they are being fulfilled by the absent parent, examining the program participation status of persons with specific health and disability statuses, and obtaining detailed information needed to understand the current status of the employment-based health care system and changes that have occurred.

These supplemental questions are included with the core and are referred to as "topical modules."

The topical modules for the 1996 Panel Wave 8 collect information about: (1) Adult Well-being; and (2) Welfare Expenses. Wave 8 interviews will be conducted from August 1998 through November 1998.

II. Method of Collection

The SIPP is designed as a continuing series of national panels of interviewed households that are introduced every 4 years, with each panel having a duration of 4 years in the survey. All household members 15 years old or over are interviewed using regular proxy-respondent rules. They are interviewed a total of 12 times (12 waves) at 4-month intervals, making the SIPP a longitudinal survey. Interviewers personally visit all households at least once a year and conduct the other 2 interviews by phone if the respondent agrees. Sample persons (all household members present at the time of the first interview) who move within the country and reasonably close to a SIPP Primary Sampling Unit will be followed and interviewed at their new address.

Persons 15 years old or over who enter the household after Wave 1 will be interviewed; however, if these persons move, they are not followed unless they happen to move along with a Wave 1 sample person.

The survey is administered using Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) methodologies. Census Bureau field representatives collect the data from respondents using laptop computers, and the data are transmitted to Census Bureau headquarters via high-speed modems.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0813.

Form Number: SIPP/CAPI Automated Instrument.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 77,700 (We will obtain interviews from approximately 37,000 households, yielding about 77,700 person-interviews (2.1 persons 15 years old or over per household). The household interviews will be conducted at 4-month intervals.

Estimated Time Per Response: 30 minutes per person.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 117,800.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: The only costs to respondents is that of their time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Section 182.

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 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: December 8, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-32533 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 a.m.]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112897C]

Vessel Registration and Fisheries Information System

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Sustainable Fisheries Act, passed in October 1996, added various amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). As a result, Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to deliver an implementation plan for a national fishing vessel registration and fisheries information system (System) in a Report to Congress. This notice outlines the approach taken by NMFS and its Federal, regional, state, and industry partners on behalf of the Secretary to develop the implementation plan required in the Report to Congress.

DATES: Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft version of the Report to Congress will be published in the

Federal Register on or about March 2, 1998. A sixty (60) day public comment period will commence immediately thereafter. The final Report to Congress will be delivered in July 1998.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to: Section 401, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway F/ST1, Room 12245, Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301) 713-2328; fax (301) 713-4137. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for electronic access instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Holliday, (301) 713-2328.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Because it is one of the major legislative Acts that directs the activities of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies various programs and initiatives for the conservation and stewardship of the nation's marine fisheries. Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, amended in 1996, directs the Secretary to deliver a Report to Congress on the implementation of a national vessel registration and fisheries information system.

NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, coastal states, the three regional commissions (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission), and the eight regional Fishery Management Councils (New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Pacific, North Pacific, Western Pacific) play various roles in commercial fishing vessel registration and marine fisheries data collection. Consistent with the Assistant Administrator's previous directions, NMFS has been engaged in a highly collaborative process to develop joint data collection and planning activities with these organizations and the regional fisheries information networks (Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), Alaska Fisheries Information Network (AKFIN), Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PACFIN), Southeast Fisheries Information Network FIN(SE) and Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network (WESTPACFIN)).

Most, if not all, of these governmental bodies maintain or contribute information to various state, regional, and national information systems. Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act directs the Secretary, in cooperation with the various constituents and stakeholders, to streamline and integrate these vessel registration and fisheries information systems into a national system.

Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act sets a number of benchmarks for a national vessel registration and fisheries information system. It also defines several overarching principles that should guide the system's development and result in an integrated vessel registration and fisheries information system. Perhaps the most visible and easily measured requirement is the reduction of information reporting burdens on industry and the use of existing data collection and information management systems to the furthest extent possible.

To better organize the project planning activity, NMFS divided the task into two primary components: the Vessel Registration System (VRS) and the Fisheries Information System (FIS). Within these components, NMFS is addressing information management architecture, integration and harmonization of data collection programs, and the institutional arrangements and accountability. The project team is evaluating these components simultaneously both to determine the optimal system requirements and configuration based on data needs and to leverage current data collection and planning efforts.

Vessel Registration System: Vessel registration, licensing, and permitting systems among the coastal states, territories, tribal entities and the U.S. Coast Guard are currently under project team review. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requests a plan for a national system that contains the following information for each fishing vessel: (1) The name and official number or other identification, together with the address of the owner or operator or both; (2) gross tonnage, vessel capacity, type and quantity of fishing gear, mode of operation, and other such pertinent information with respect to vessel characteristics as the Secretary may require; and (3) identification of the fisheries in which the fishing vessel participates. Currently, no vessel registration system at any level fully satisfies these criteria.

The NMFS is aware of the Coast Guard's Vessel Identification System (VIS). Designed as a national boating information network, it will comprise the Coast Guard's vessel documentation system and, on a voluntary basis, the states/territories vessel information. NMFS has been in consultation with the VIS programmatic personnel to ascertain how and whether the VIS could be utilized to fulfill the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Originally scheduled to be tested in the fall of 1997, the VIS program will not begin pilot testing until January

1998. As a consequence of the delay, NMFS is not yet in the position to evaluate the operational capabilities of VIS and how and whether it can be utilized in the VRS.

Fisheries Information System: The project team is studying fisheries data collection programs and information management systems at the regional levels (Pacific, Gulf, Atlantic) as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. State and Federal data collection programs and information management systems have developed independently over time and reflect varying degrees of integration and management efficiency. Through participation in ACCSP, AKFIN, FIN(SE), PACFIN, and WESTPACFIN, NMFS has spent considerable time and money supporting these partners in joint statistics planning and integration efforts. These efforts have definite timeframes and outcomes planned, and NMFS has relied on these processes to support the Section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act activity to avoid duplication of effort and maximize partner participation. During the consultation process, NMFS determined that compliance with the schedule set by section 401 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act will conflict with (and may even be detrimental to) critical path planning stages currently in progress. The fishery information networks are still in the formative stages. For example, ACCSP planning for its coastwide information management system will not produce required inputs for FIS design until February 1998. NMFS is working closely with these groups to develop plans for integration and implementation into a fisheries information system.

Process: NMFS strategy has been to seek the highest level of detail possible in the draft report to produce specific and justifiable estimates of implementation resource requirements. It could be argued that the report NMFS is developing provides more detail than called for in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. However, the stakeholders (particularly the Commissions) have supported this level of analysis and have worked with us to develop this detail so that they fully understand the regional implications of a national umbrella program. Due to the complex nature of this task, NMFS received requests from the Commissions for additional consultation on integration. NMFS agrees that to cut off the consultative process at this time could jeopardize the collaborative process, and result in a report that is short on substance and lacking support from our constituents.

To integrate additional information, NMFS decided that a 6 month delay was appropriate to accomplish the task. The benefit of the delay will be a report that will contain well-described courses of action that will actually improve statistics for NMFS and our partners stewardship responsibilities. In particular, NMFS wants to reach a consensus among stakeholders on a VRS and FIS program which will allow determination of a realistic budget consistent with requirements set forth in section 401(a)(5) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act so that Congress can consider the recommendations during the fiscal year, FY 99, appropriations process. The proposed target date will coincide with Congressional timeframes and allow all constituents an opportunity to seek a common goal. Given the current stage of state and commission planning, delivering a report by the original due date would result in little or no consensus on level and documentation of an FY 99 funding request.

The goal for the next 6 months is to craft an acceptable implementation plan that includes unified VRS/FIS system guidelines, proposed rules and legislation, and budgets. NMFS intends to hold additional meetings in January and February with the Commissions and Councils to resolve integration/implementation requirements. Additionally, the pilot testing of the Coast Guard's VIS will allow NMFS the opportunity to develop the necessary integration requirements. This comprehensive plan will be available for public comment upon publication of the NOA of the draft Report to Congress in March 1998.

Stakeholders: Stakeholders (or constituents) in the implementation of the vessel registration and fisheries information system include the (1) three regional marine fisheries commissions, (2) the eight fishery management councils, (3) 24 coastal states, (4) U.S. territories, (5) U.S. Coast Guard, (6) tribal entities, (7) industry and trade groups, and (8) other interested parties. In addition to directly consulting with the project's stakeholders over the next 6 months, all parties will have the opportunity for input on the proposed implementation plan through the public comment period commencing in March 1998, when the draft report is available.

Comments on this notice may be submitted to the NMFS Division of Fisheries Statistics and Economics by sending electronic mail to: sec401@remora.ssp.nmfs.gov.

Authority: Pub. L. 104-297.

Dated: December 8, 1997.

Rolland A. Schmitten,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-32475 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Notice of Meeting

The Commission of Fine Arts' meeting scheduled for 18 December 1997 has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 January 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's offices in the Pension Building, Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, to discuss various projects affecting the appearance of Washington, D.C.

Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address or call 202-504-2200.

Dated In Washington, D.C., December 3, 1997.

Charles H. Atherton,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32536 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6330-01-M

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

"FEDERAL REGISTER" CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: [Insert FR citation].

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TIME AND DATE OF MEETING: 10:00 a.m., December 16, 1997.

CHANGES IN MEETING: The meeting concerning options for bunk beds has been deferred. The meeting will be rescheduled.

For a recorded message containing the latest agenda information, call (301) 504-0709.

CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Sadye E. Dunn, Office of the Secretary, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20207, (301) 504-0800.

Dated: December 9, 1997.

Sadye E. Dunn,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32665 Filed 12-10-97; 1:49 pm]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

AmeriCorps: National, Indian Tribes, and U.S. Territories Programs; Correction

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of availability; correction.

SUMMARY: On November 28, 1997, the Corporation published a notice of availability of funds and 1998 application guidelines for the AmeriCorps National and Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories program grants. This document corrects the dates of the technical assistance conferences.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In notice document 97-31265 beginning on page 63318 in the issue of Friday, November 28, 1997, make the following correction:

On page 63318 in the third column, the dates for the technical assistance conferences for potential applicants seeking AmeriCorps Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories program funds have been changed to: January 8-9, 1998 in Las Vegas and February 5-6, 1998, in Memphis.

For additional information, or to register, please call Pattie Howell, at (202) 606-5000, ext. 188. The Corporation's T.D.D. number is (202) 565-2799.

Dated: December 9, 1997.

Stewart A. Davis,

Acting General Counsel, Corporation for National and Community Service.

[FR Doc. 97-32517 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050-28-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.170]

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998

Purpose of Program: To award fellowships to eligible students of superior ability, selected on the basis of demonstrated achievement and exceptional promise, to undertake graduate study leading to a doctoral degree or the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree at accredited institutions of higher education in selected fields of the arts, humanities, or social sciences.

Eligible Applicants: Eligibility is limited to students who at the time of application have not yet completed their first year of graduate study or will be entering graduate school in academic year 1998-1999. Eligibility is limited to