

statistical basis for the formation of policy by various Government agencies. These data also apply to a variety of public and business needs. This annual survey is a continuation of similar wholesale trade surveys conducted each year since 1978. It provides on a comparable classification basis annual sales and purchases for 1997 and year-end inventories for 1996 and 1997. These data are not available publicly on a timely basis from nongovernmental or other governmental sources.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ronald Piencykoski or Dorothy Engleking on (301) 457-2713.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Census Bureau is authorized to take surveys necessary to furnish current data on the subjects covered by the major censuses authorized by Title 13, United States Code. This survey will provide continuing and timely national statistical data on wholesale trade for the period between economic censuses. The data collected in this survey will be within the general scope and nature of those inquiries covered in the economic census.

The Census Bureau will require a selected sample of firms operating merchant wholesale establishments in the United States (with sales size determining the probability of selection) to report in the 1997 Annual Trade Survey. We will furnish report forms to the firms covered by this survey and will require their submissions within thirty days after receipt. The sample will provide, with measurable reliability, statistics on the subjects specified above.

This survey was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, Public Law 96-511, as amended, and approved under OMB Control No. 0607-0195. We will provide copies of the form upon written request to the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-0001.

Based upon the foregoing, I have directed that an annual survey be conducted for the purpose of collecting these data.

Dated: December 28, 1997.

**Martha Farnsworth Riche,**

*Director, Bureau of the Census.*

[FR Doc. 98-216 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Mandatory Catch Reporting; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before March 9, 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 Christopher Rogers, F/SF1, Station 14709, 1315 East-west Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282 (301-713-2347).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Marine and Fisheries Service in cooperation with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries is implementing a pilot mandatory reporting program to conduct a census of the Recreational Winter Bluefin Tuna Harvest in North Carolina. Information on catch levels will be reported to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and will be used for stock assessment and in developing international catch sharing agreements. Anglers that currently report through an automated phone system will be exempted from this requirement during this pilot program. This collection was initially approved under emergency clearance procedures; this notice invites comments on plans to submit a regular clearance request to extend that approval for three years.

##### II. Method of Collection

Anglers will fill out catch cards and be given harvest tags that allow the angler to remove the fish from the vessel.

##### III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0339.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 700.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 117.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* None.

#### 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: December 31, 1997.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-221 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### NOAA Generic Customer Surveys

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before March 9, 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 Richard Roberts, OFA1x1, Station 8118, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301-713-3525, ext. 115).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

NOAA intends to conduct a number of voluntary surveys of users of selected NOAA products, services, or programs in order to determine customer satisfaction and to solicit suggestions for improving those NOAA products, services, and programs. The information obtained will be used in NOAA's program planning efforts.

**II. Method of Collection**

Individual NOAA offices will develop questionnaires based upon the generic forms to be approved by OMB. The generic questions will be edited by those offices to solicit information specific to the program involved. These adaptations will be submitted to OMB for informal review prior to their use to ensure that they conform with objectives and nature of the generic questions that have been approved. Distribution of the questionnaires may be by mailings to customers, as attachments to products sent to customers, and on the World Wide Web (usually associated with order forms).

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* None.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Individuals; businesses or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; and State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 13,739.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* Varies from 1-20 minutes (depending upon the questionnaire used).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 705 hours.

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

**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: December 31, 1997.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-223 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 122397C]

**Marine Mammals; Permit No. 974, File No. P368F**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of application for amendment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Dr. James T. Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, P.O. Box 450, Moss Landing, CA 95039, has requested an amendment to Permit No. 974.

**DATES:** Written or telefaxed comments must be received on or before February 5, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment request and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s): Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

William Hogarth, Regional Director, Southwest Region (SW), National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on this request should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and

Documentation Division, F/PR1, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular amendment request would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by email or other electronic media.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject amendment to permit no. 974, issued on September 7, 1995 (60 FR 46577), is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

Permit no. 974 authorizes the permit holder to conduct research on low frequency sound and its effect on the physiology and diving behavior of harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), provide local and regional movement data, hematological variability of the stock, and harbor seal feeding habits. The permit holder requests authorization to: determine body fat; handle 20 harbor seal pups up to eight times annually to track changes in health, physiological condition, and diving behavior; handle 20 adults and 20 juveniles annually to determine seasonal shifts in health, physiological condition, and diving behavior; and harass 200 additional harbor seals as a result of the above activities.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.