

money penalty of \$13,000. NSMC also agreed to indemnify HUD for any losses incurred on two loans.

Cause: HUD's Quality Assurance Division made the following findings of violations of HUD/FHA requirements: NSMC approved loan applications originated and processed by personnel not employed by NSCM or Capitol State Mortgage Corporation, its loan correspondent; NSMC failed to accurately calculate the mortgagor's income and to justify the income used on one loan; NSMC failed to verify or adequately document the source of funds required for closing on two loans.

13. Platinum Capital Group, Inc., Manhattan Beach, CA

[Docket No. 00-1352-MR]

Action: Settlement Agreement signed December 28, 2001. Without admitting fault or liability, Platinum Capital Group, Inc., ("PCG") agreed to a civil money penalty of \$21,500. PCG also agreed to indemnify HUD for any losses incurred on two loans.

Cause: HUD's Quality Assurance Division made the following findings of violations of HUD/FHA requirements: PCG failed to maintain and implement a quality control plan in compliance with HUD requirements; PCG failed to engage in business practices that conform to generally accepted practices of prudent mortgagees; PCG employed loan officers that were not exclusive employees of PCG; PCG failed to ensure that gift letters contained all required information; and PCG failed to ensure compliance with HUD/FHA's ban on loans to private investors.

14. Traditional Bankers Mortgage Corporation, Ponce, PR

[Docket No. 00-1321-MR]

Action: Settlement Agreement signed December 28, 2001. Without admitting fault or liability, Traditional Bankers Mortgage Corporation, ("TBMC") agreed to a civil money penalty of \$40,000. TBMC also agreed to indemnify HUD for any losses incurred on nine loans.

Cause: HUD's Quality Assurance Division made the following findings of violations of HUD/FHA requirements: TBMC allowed lenders not approved by HUD/FHA to participate in the origination and processing of loans insured by the Department; TBMC allowed non-employees to participate in the origination of loans insured by HUD/FHA; TBMC failed to resolve conflicting information regarding a borrower's employment; TBMC failed to properly verify the borrower's source of funds for down payment and/or closing costs; TBMC failed to properly verify

the borrowers' effective income; TBMC failed to properly address conflicting and/or derogatory credit information; TBMC failed to resolve inconsistencies on the property appraisal reports; TBMC submitted an unacceptable loan for FHA insurance; TBMC failed to be clearly identified to the general public; and TBMC failed to establish, maintain, and implement a Quality Control Plan for the origination of HUD/FHA insured mortgages.

Dated: March 20, 2002.

John C. Weicher,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, Chairman, Mortgagee Review Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Marine Mammal Protection Act; Stock Assessment Reports

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of draft revised marine mammal stock assessment reports for Pacific walrus, polar bear, and sea otter in Alaska; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has developed draft revised marine mammal stock assessment reports for Pacific walrus, polar bear, and sea otter in Alaska which are available for public review and comment.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 26, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft revised stock assessment reports are available from the Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503, (800) 362-5148. They can also be viewed in Adobe Acrobat format at <http://www.r7.fws.gov/mmm/SAR>.

Comments on the draft revised stock assessment reports should be sent to: Supervisor, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503 by conventional mail, or mmm.sar@fws.gov by electronic mail.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 117 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407) requires the FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to prepare stock assessment reports for each marine mammal stock that occurs

in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States. Section 117 of the MMPA also requires the FWS and the NMFS to review and revise the stock assessment reports (a) at least annually for stocks which are specified as strategic stocks; (b) at least annually for stocks for which significant new information is available; and (c) at least once every three years for all other stocks. Stock assessment reports for Pacific walrus, polar bear, and sea otters in Alaska were last published in 1998.

Previous stock assessments covered a single stock of Pacific walrus, two stocks of polar bears (Bering/Chukchi seas and southern Beaufort sea), and a single stock of sea otters in Alaska. There are no changes in stock identification for Pacific walrus and polar bear, however three stocks of sea otters (southwest Alaska, southcentral Alaska, and southeast Alaska) have been identified.

A strategic stock is defined in the MMPA as a marine mammal stock (A) for which the level of direct human-caused mortality exceeds the potential biological removal level; (B) which, based on the best available scientific information, is declining and is likely to be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 within the foreseeable future; or (C) which is listed as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, or is designated as depleted under the MMPA.

With the exception of the southwest Alaska stock of sea otters, all stocks remain classified as non-strategic in these draft reports. Based on the best available scientific information, sea otter numbers across southwest Alaska are declining. In April 2000, an aerial survey of sea otters in the Aleutian Islands indicated the population had declined by 70% during the period from 1992-2000. In August 2000 FWS designated the northern sea otter in the Aleutian Islands as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. Additional surveys in 2000 and 2001 along the Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak archipelago also showed population declines in these areas. As a result, the southwest Alaska stock is classified as strategic in the draft report and is under review for possible listing under the Endangered Species Act.

A summary of the draft revised stock assessment reports is presented in Table 1. The table lists each marine mammal stock, estimated abundance (N_{EST}), minimum abundance estimate (N_{MIN}), maximum theoretical growth rate (R_{MAX}), recovery factor (F_R), Potential Biological Removal (PBR), annual

estimated average human-caused mortality, and the status of each stock.

In accordance with the MMPA, a list of the sources of information or public

reports upon which the assessment is based is included in this notice.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF DRAFT STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PACIFIC WALRUS POLAR BEAR, AND SEA OTTER IN ALASKA

Species	Stock	N _{EST}	N _{MIN}	R _{MAX}	F _R	PBR	Mortality causes (5 yr. average)			Stock/Status
							Subsistence	Fishery	Other	
Pacific Walrus.	Alaska .....	.....	.....	0.08	.....	.....	5,789	2	4	Non-strategic.
Polar Bear	Alaska .....	.....	.....	0.06	0.5	.....	45 (Alaska) – (Russia)	0	0 (Alaska) – (Russia)	Non-strategic.
Polar Bear	Alaska Southern. Beaufort Sea	2,272	1,971	0.06	1.0	88	34 (Alaska) 20 (Canada)	0	<1 (Alaska) 0 (Canada)	Non-strategic.
Sea Otter ..	Southeast Alaska.	8,807	8,709	0.20	1.0	871	301	0	0	Non-strategic.
Sea Otter ..	Southcentral Alaska.	21,749	19,508	0.20	1.0	1,951	297	0	0	Non-strategic.
Sea Otter ..	Southwest Alaska.	23,967	21,518	0.20	0.5	1,076	97	<1	0	Strategic.

Dash (–) indicates unknown value.

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Dated: January 29, 2002.

David B. Allen,

Regional Director.

[Marine Mammal Protection Act; Stock Assessment Reports]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of a currently approved information collection (OMB Control Number 1010–0079).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) concerns the paperwork requirements in the regulations under 30 CFR 250, subpart G, Abandonment of Wells.

DATES: Submit written comments by May 28, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; Attention: Rules Processing Team; Mail Stop 4024; 381 Elden Street; Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alexis London, Rules Processing Team, telephone (703) 787–1600. You may also contact Alexis London to obtain a copy at no cost of the regulations that require the subject collection of information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 30 CFR part 250, Subpart G, Abandonment of Wells.

OMB Control Number: 1010–0079.
Abstract: The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), gives the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) the responsibility to preserve, protect, and develop oil and gas resources in the OCS in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation's energy needs as rapidly as possible; balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; ensure the public a fair and equitable return on offshore resources in the OCS; and preserve and maintain free enterprise competition. The OCS Lands Act Amendment of 1978 amended section 3(6) to state that “operations in the outer Continental Shelf should be conducted * * * using technology, precautions, and techniques sufficient to prevent or minimize * * * physical obstruction to other users of the waters or subsoil and seabed, or other occurrences which may cause damage to the environment or to property, or endanger life or health.” To carry out these responsibilities, the Secretary has authorized MMS to issue orders and regulations governing offshore oil and gas lease operations.

This notice concerns the reporting and recordkeeping elements of 30 CFR part 250, subpart G, Abandonment of Wells, and related Notices to Lessees and Operators that clarify and provide additional guidance on some aspects of the regulations. Responses are mandatory. No questions of a “sensitive” nature are asked. MMS will protect proprietary information according to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR 2), 30 CFR 250.196 (Data and information to be made

available to the public) and 30 CFR part 252 (OCS Oil and Gas Information Program). For MMS to determine the necessity to allow a well to be temporarily abandoned, the lessee/operator must demonstrate that there is a reason to not permanently abandon the well, and the temporary abandonment will not constitute a significant threat to fishing, navigation, or other uses of the seabed. We use the information and documentation to verify that the lessee is diligently pursuing final disposition of the well, and the lessee has performed the temporary plugging of the wellbore.

It should be noted that MMS is in the process of issuing a final rulemaking that will establish a new 30 CFR 250, subpart Q, on decommissioning activities. When these regulations take effect, they will consolidate all of the OCS decommissioning activities, including well abandonment requirements, and 30 CFR 250, subpart G, will be removed from 30 CFR part 250. Should the new final subpart Q regulations take effect before expiration of the current OMB approval of the subpart G information collection requirements, we would take no further action to renew OMB approval of the subpart G information collection requirements.

Frequency: The frequency of reporting is on occasion or annual.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS oil and gas or sulphur lessees.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping “Hour” Burden: The currently approved “hour” burden for this information collection is a total of 650 hours. The following chart details the individual reporting components and respective hour burden estimates of this ICR. There are no recordkeeping requirements under 30 CFR 250, subpart G. In calculating the burdens, we assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. We consider these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

BURDEN BREAKDOWN

Citation 30 CFR 250 Subpart G	Reporting requirement	Burden per requirement
701; 702(i); 703(b)	Submit form MMS–124 to request approval of well abandonment operations—burden included with 1010–0045.	
703(c)	Submit annual report on plans for reentry to complete or permanently abandon the well	2 hours.
704(a)	Request approval of site clearance method	4 hours.
704(b)	Submit form MMS–124 to certify location cleared of obstructions—burden included with 1010–0045.	
700–704	General departure and alternative compliance requests not specifically covered elsewhere in subpart M regulations.	2 hours.