

marine mammals into the wild and update these documents, as necessary.

In addition, the MMHSRP maintains a permit from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources Permits and Conservation, issued under the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The permit authorizes the MMHSRP to carry out stranding and entanglement response, rescue, rehabilitation, and release of threatened and endangered marine mammals and conduct health-related scientific research studies on marine mammals and marine mammal parts. The current permit issued to the MMHSRP will expire on June 30, 2020. For additional information about the MMHSRP, the national stranding network, and other related information, please visit our website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-in-distress/marine-mammal-health-and-stranding-response-program>.

NEPA, CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1500.4(i), 1502.4 and 1502.20) and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6A require all proposals for major actions to be reviewed with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment and encourage the use of programmatic NEPA documents and tiering to streamline decision making in a process that progresses from programmatic analyses to site-specific reviews. NMFS determined a programmatic approach is appropriate because multiple activities are conducted in support of the MMHSRP and activities occur nationally, over large geographical areas. Therefore, the analysis in the PEIS will support NMFS planning-level decisions associated with oversight and implementation of the MMHSRP and establish the framework and parameters for subsequent analyses based on the programmatic review. In addition, NMFS will rely on this PEIS for permitted activities as well as the basis for tiering in site-specific NEPA review.

Purpose and Scope of the Action

NMFS is proposing to continue coordinating and implementing the MMHSRP. Using a programmatic approach, NMFS will identify and prepare a qualitative analysis of environmental impacts covering a range of activities conducted in support of the MMHSRP program, including the issuance of revised Policies and Best Practices, revised protocols and procedures, and a new MMPA/ESA permit for this program. Resource areas to be addressed in this analysis include, but are not limited to, biological resources (notably marine mammals, threatened and endangered species, fish

and other wildlife species and their habitat), sediments and water quality, historic and cultural resources, socioeconomic and tourism, and public health and safety. This PEIS will supersede the initial PEIS published in 2009 and will assess the potential environmental effects of marine mammal health and stranding response under a range of alternatives characterized by different methods, mitigation measures, and level of response. For all potentially significant impacts, the proposed PEIS will identify avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures to reduce these impacts, where feasible, to a level below significance.

The scoping process will be used to identify public concerns along with national and local issues to be addressed in the PEIS. Federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies, Native American Indian Tribes and Nations, the public, and interested persons are encouraged to identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern that NMFS should consider. Public participation is invited by providing written comments to NMFS and/or attending the scoping meetings and webinars.

Special Accommodations

The in-person meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Stephen Manley (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 28, 2018.

Elaine T. Saiz,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-06611 Filed 3-30-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Visitor Centers Survey

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

ACTION: Notice.

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.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 1, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at pracomments@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Dr. Danielle Schwarzmann 240-533-0706 or danielle.schwarzmann@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for a new collection of information. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) is conducting research to measure the public's opinions about sanctuary visitor centers, exhibits, and kiosks. Exhibits and kiosks covered under the survey can be permanent or traveling/temporary. The survey will be administered annually both within an ONMS visitor center as well as at partner venues that host an exhibit or kiosk on a national marine sanctuary or marine national monument. The survey will cover visitor centers, exhibits, and kiosks system-wide across all the national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments managed or co-managed by NOAA's ONMS.

The visitor survey will be conducted to obtain an objective analysis of visitor experiences within a sanctuary visitor center or at a partner venue that includes an exhibit or kiosk with information on a national marine sanctuary or marine national monument. Information will be obtained on visitor satisfaction with the overall exhibits or kiosks, graphics, multi-media products, interactives, along with the overall feelings about the facilities and services offered at the centers/venues. The survey will acquire data on the effectiveness of sanctuary/monument messaging, awareness about and use of sanctuary/monument resources, as well as additional recreational and/or educational opportunities available to the public. Lastly, the survey will include questions about visitor demographics.

The information will aid NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries budget allocation and prioritization, strategic planning, and management

review process to better interpret the sanctuary/monument system and engage with constituents and the larger community on resource protection and conservation topics. Survey results will be used by sanctuary/monument site superintendents to improve visitor services where the survey is administered and will also aide sanctuary/monument headquarters communication and education staff to more effectively communicate key messages. In addition, the survey data will contribute to NOAA and DOC performance reports and year end summaries.

II. Method of Collection

The surveys will be conducted in person or through web applications at kiosks.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (new information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 166.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

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: March 28, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–06605 Filed 3–30–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–NK–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Weather Modification Activities Reports.

OMB Control Number: 0648–0025.

Form Number(s): NOAA Forms 17–4 and 17–4a.

Type of Request: Regular (reinstatement, without changes, of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 30.

Average Hours per Response: 1 hour per report (2 reports per respondent).

Burden Hours: 60.

Needs and Uses: This request is for reinstatement, without changes, of a current information collection.

Section 6(b) of Public Law 92–205 requires that persons who engage in weather modification activities (e.g., cloud seeding) provide reports prior to and after the activity. They are also required to maintain certain records. The requirements are detailed in 15 CFR part 908. NOAA uses the data for scientific research, historical statistics, international reports and other purposes.

Affected Public: Business or other non-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; state, local or tribal government; federal government; individuals or households.

Frequency: Annually and on occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395–5806.

Dated: March 28, 2018.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–06603 Filed 3–30–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–KD–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Title: Economic Value of Wildlife Viewing Passengers in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

OMB Control Number: 0648–xxxx.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular (request for a new information collection).

Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Average Hours per Response: Screening survey, 2 minutes; full survey, 30 minutes.

Burden Hours: 568.

Needs and Uses: Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is currently in the process of updating the 2010 Management Plan, and has identified a lack of baseline socioeconomic information on ocean recreation businesses. The information is not available to assess the possible economic benefits of marine wildlife protection to the local economy, or the potential impact on ocean recreation businesses. The type of data targeted for this collection; that is, user demographic profiles, importance/satisfaction of wildlife viewing trips and expenditures of trips that involve wildlife viewing has never been collected in this region. Thus, current information on the importance/satisfaction of marine wildlife viewing and the expenditures generated from these activities is needed. The primary focus for the survey will be to gather data on the non-consumptive, importance/satisfaction and expenditures of marine wildlife viewing passengers. Specifically, researchers will collect data to help determine the contribution of marine wildlife watching passengers to the economy in the Stellwagen Bank region. Expenditures will be used in IMPLAN to estimate the economic contributions of the activity (jobs, income, GDP and value-added).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Once or twice during a three-year period.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

This information collection request may be viewed at reginfo.gov. Follow