

Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: August 26, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-23409 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Business Information Service for the Newly Independent States (BISNIS) Finance Link

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 the 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 November 3, 1997.

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. Phone number (202) 482-3272.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to: Trevor Gunn, BISNIS, Room 7413, Department of Commerce, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; phone (202) 482-4655, fax (202) 482-2293.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The International Trade Administration's Business Information Service for the Newly Independent States (BISNIS) offers business information and counseling to U.S. companies seeking to export or invest in the countries of the former Soviet Union. One of the essential components

of BISNIS' services is assisting companies in locating suitable financing for exports. Often, official sources, such as the Export-Import Bank of the United States, cannot handle all requests for a variety of reasons. The proposed BISNIS Finance Link collection of information is an internet-based service to facilitate contact between exporters and financing agencies. Exporters fill out a form giving relevant details about their company and desired transaction. The form is then submitted via Internet's World Wide Web to BISNIS. If complete, BISNIS will, in turn, distribute the information collected to potential financing agencies. The intention is to provide a service that benefits both exporters and financing agencies.

II. Method of Collection

The request is sent via internet to Department of Commerce, BISNIS Information Service for the Newly Independent States, Trade Finance Specialist.

III. Data

OMB Number: N/A.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200.

Estimated Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 33 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$1155—no capital costs are required.

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: August 26, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 97-23410 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Fisheries Capital Construction Fund Agreement, Application, and Certificate of Construction/Reconstruction

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 November 3, 1997.

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 Charles L. Cooper, Financial Services Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 713-2396.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Respondents will be commercial fishing industry individuals, partnerships, or corporations which want to enter into Capital Construction Fund agreements with the Secretary of Commerce allowing deferral of Federal taxation on fishing vessel income deposited into the fund for use in the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of fishing vessels. Deferred taxes are recaptured by reducing an agreement vessel's basis for depreciation by the amount withdrawn from the fund for its acquisition, construction, or reconstruction. The

information collected from applicants on these forms is used to determine their eligibility to participate in the Capital Construction Fund Program pursuant to 50 CFR Part 259.

II. Method of Collection

The collection of information will be collected on Fishing Vessel CCF Application, the Interim Capital Construction Fund Agreement, and the Certificate of Construction/ Reconstruction.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0090.

Form Number: NOAA Form 88-14.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Businesses and other for profit organizations—commercial fishermen, partnerships, and corporations with Capital Construction Fund agreements.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 2.25 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,250.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: No capital, operations, or maintenance costs are expected.

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: August 26, 1997.

Linda Engelmeier,

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

[FR Doc. 97-23419 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 970801189-7189-01]

RIN 0648-ZA33

Announcement of Graduate Research Fellowships in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System for Fiscal Year 1998

AGENCY: Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD) of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management is soliciting applications for graduate fellowship funding within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. This notice sets forth funding priorities, selection criteria, and application procedures.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announces the availability of Graduate Research Fellowships. SRD anticipates that 19 Graduate Research Fellowships will be competitively awarded to qualified graduate students whose research occurs within the boundaries of at least one Reserve. Fellowships will start no earlier than June 1, 1998.

DATES: Applications must be postmarked no later than November 1, 1997. Notification regarding the awarding of fellowships will be issued on or about March 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Dr. Dwight D. Trueblood, Science Coordinator, NOAA/ Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM2, SSMC4, 11th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910, Attn: FY98 NERRS Research. Phone: 301-713-3145, ext. 174. Fax: 301-713-0404, internet: dtrueblood@ocean.nos.noaa.gov. Web page: http://wave.nos.noaa.gov/ocrm/nerr/nerrs_research.html. See Appendix I for National Estuarine Research Reserve addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For further information on specific research opportunities at National Estuarine Research Reserve sites, contact the site staff listed in Appendix I. For application information, contact the Science Coordinator of the

Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (see ADDRESSES above).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Authority and Background

Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (CZMA), 16 U.S.C. 1461, establishes the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). 16 U.S.C. 1461 (e)(1)(B) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to make grants to any coastal state or public or private person for purposes of supporting research and monitoring within a national estuarine reserve that are consistent with the research guidelines developed under subsection (c). This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) under "Coastal Zone Management Estuarine Research Reserves," Number 11.420.

II. Information on Established National Estuarine Research Reserves

The NERRS consists of estuarine areas of the United States and its territories which are designated and managed for research and educational purposes. Each National Estuarine Research Reserve (Reserve) within the NERRS is chosen to reflect regional differences and to include a variety of ecosystem types in accordance with the classification scheme of the national program as presented in 15 CFR part 921.

Each Reserve supports a wide range of beneficial uses of ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic values which are dependent upon the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem. The sites provide habitats for a wide range of ecologically and commercially important species of fish, shellfish, birds, and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Each Reserve has been designed to ensure its effectiveness as a conservation unit and as a site for long-term research and monitoring. As part of a national system, the Reserves collectively provide an excellent opportunity to address research questions and estuarine management issues of national significance. For a detailed description of the sites, contact the individual site staff or refer to the NERR internet web site provided in the ADDRESSES section.

III. Availability of Funds

Funds are expected to be available on a competitive basis to qualified graduate students for research within National Estuarine Research Reserves leading to a graduate degree. No more than two fellowships at any one site will be funded at any one time; based upon fellowships awarded in the 1997 funding cycle, we anticipate only 19