

the programs would operate. The RMPs provide the framework through which the State of Washington and the Tribes can jointly manage early winter steelhead hatchery, monitoring, and evaluation activities while meeting requirements specified under the ESA. The proposed action covers continued operation of the five hatchery programs to produce steelhead for harvest, while minimizing any impacts on the genetic integrity of natural steelhead populations, and ecological and demographic impacts on natural ESA-listed Chinook salmon, chum salmon, and steelhead.

All steelhead produced through the five programs are derived from broodstock native to Puget Sound but not native to the watersheds where the fish would be planted. The early-winter steelhead stock released through the programs is not included as part of the listed Puget Sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS). Operational protocols applied through the five hatchery programs would minimize potential risks to associated listed natural-origin steelhead, Chinook salmon, and (for the Dungeness River program) summer chum salmon populations in each of the watersheds where the programs are located. Particular emphasis is placed on ensuring that returning adult hatchery early-winter steelhead do not interact to a substantial degree with natural-origin steelhead populations in natural spawning areas. Hatchery management measures are applied to reduce the risk of spatial and temporal overlap, straying, and interbreeding between early-winter steelhead and natural-origin steelhead. The five HGMPs share very low genetic effects on natural-origin steelhead—essentially no estimated hatchery fish contribution or gene flow—demonstrated by DNA sampling results and other analyses of genetic introgression.

As part of the proposed hatchery programs, monitoring and evaluation would be implemented to assess their effects on ESA-listed natural-origin steelhead, Chinook salmon, and summer chum salmon, and program performance in meeting harvest augmentation objectives. The hatchery plans emphasize monitoring and evaluation of genetic effects as a key objective to validate that effects are, and will remain, low and within levels identified as posing unsubstantial risks to listed natural-origin steelhead. Information gained through monitoring and evaluation will also be used to assess whether levels for other hatchery-related program impacts on listed fish (e.g., hatchery facilities, competition,

and predation) are unsubstantial. The RMPs include provisions for annual reports that will assess compliance with performance standards established in the plans. Review of the RMPs and reports by NMFS, Washington State, and the Tribes will occur annually to evaluate whether assumptions regarding hatchery plan effects and analyses remain valid, and whether the objectives of the plans are being accomplished. NMFS' evaluation is available on the NMFS West Coast Region Web site (see **ADDRESSES**).

Summary of Comments Received in Response to the Proposed Evaluation and Pending Determination

NMFS published two notices of its proposed evaluation and pending determinations for public review and comment on March 26, 2015 (80 FR 15984), and February 23, 2016 (81 FR 8941). The proposed evaluation and pending determination was available for public review and comment for 39 days. During the public comment period, NMFS received substantive comments specifically addressing the proposed evaluation and pending determination from two non-governmental organizations. None of the comments raised issues that required changes to the RMPs, or substantive modification of the NMFS proposed evaluation and pending determination document. In response to the comments, minor revisions were made in the NMFS document to clarify language included in the hatchery plan action description and effects evaluation sections. A detailed summary of the comments and NMFS' responses is also available on the NMFS West Coast Region Web site. Based on its evaluation and recommended determination and taking into account the public comments, NMFS issued its final determination on the early-winter steelhead hatchery RMPs.

Record of Decision—FEIS on Puget Sound Early-Winter Steelhead Programs

NMFS has decided to select Alternative 5 from the FEIS. Alternative 5 was the agency's preferred alternative in the FEIS. Under the selected alternative, NMFS would make a determination that the HGMPs submitted by the co-managers, including a revised HGMP for the Skykomish early-winter steelhead program, meet requirements of the ESA 4(d) rule. The early-winter steelhead hatchery programs proposed in the Dungeness, Nooksack, Stillaguamish, Skykomish, and Snoqualmie River watersheds would be implemented as described in the submitted HGMPs. The

ROD documents NMFS's decision, identifies all alternatives considered in reaching the decision, specifies the alternative considered to be environmentally preferable, and identifies and discusses relevant factors which were balanced by NMFS in making its decision.

Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as she deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to actions undertaken in compliance with an RMP developed jointly by the State of Washington and the Tribes and determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000).

We also apply this notice in accordance with the requirements of NEPA as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500 part 1506.6), and other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of NMFS for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: April 21, 2016.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Permit Application and Reports for Permits (fka Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument)

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 27, 2016.

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 Jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Tia Brown, (808) 397-2660 or Tia.Brown@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This request is for revision and extension of a currently approved information collection. There will be minor changes to the forms and instructions.

On June 15, 2006, President Bush established the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by issuing Presidential Proclamation 8031 (71 FR 36443, June 26, 2006) under the authority of the Antiquities Act (16 U.S.C. 431). The proclamation includes restrictions and prohibitions regarding activities in the monument consistent with the authority provided by the act. Specifically, the proclamation prohibits access to the monument except when passing through without interruption or as allowed under a permit issued by NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Vessels passing through the monument without interruption are required to notify NOAA and FWS upon entering into and leaving the monument. Individuals wishing to access the monument to conduct certain regulated activities must first apply for and be granted a permit issued by NOAA and FWS to certify compliance with vessel monitoring system requirements, monument regulations and best management practices. On August 29, 2006, NOAA and FWS published a final rule codifying the provisions of the proclamation (71 FR 51134).

II. Method of Collection

Respondents have a choice of either electronic or paper forms. Methods of submittal include email of electronic forms, and mail and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648-0548.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (revision and extension of a currently approved information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals, not for profit institutions; Federal, State, local, government, Native Hawaiian organizations; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 411.

Estimated Time per Response: Research, Conservation and Management and Education (“general” permits), 5 hours; Special Ocean Use permits, 10 hours; Native Hawaiian Practices permits, 8 hours; Recreation permits, 6 hours; modification requests and final reports, 10 hours; annual reports, 5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,794.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$61,783 in recordkeeping/reporting costs and vessel monitoring system installation and maintenance.

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: April 23, 2016.

Sarah Brabson,

NOAA PRA Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2016-09922 Filed 4-26-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Intellectual Property Education Outreach Council Survey

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed information collection 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 June 27, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651-00XX comment” in the subject line of the message.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Anthony Knight, Director, Office of Stakeholder Outreach, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-3687; or by email to Anthony.Knight@uspto.gov with “0651-00XX comment” in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under “Information Collection Review.”

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Intellectual Property Education Outreach Council is responsible for conducting training for parties external to the USPTO. The Council is conducting a new survey to gather public feedback regarding their satisfaction with USPTO lectures and other outreach efforts.

Collecting feedback will allow for the Agency to have a pulse on customer satisfaction and adjust where necessary to meet and exceed expectations. This feedback collection will provide for ongoing, collaborative, and actionable