PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/NMFS

2. OMB control number
a. 0648 - 0276
b. [ ] None

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [ ] New Collection
b. [ ] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [✔] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify:____/____

7. Title Groundfish Tagging Program

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)

9. Keywords 'fisheries, fishing'

10. Abstract

The Groundfish Tagging Program provides scientists with information necessary for the effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the groundfish fishery off Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. Persons recovering tagged fish are requested to supply certain information about the recovery - date of catch, location, tag number, etc. Scientists used such information to analyze distribution of fish, their movemeents, and other important parameters, and use results in population assessment models and to develop allocation systems.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. x Individuals or households d. ___ Farms
b. P Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [✔] Voluntary
b. [ ] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents 1,200
b. Total annual responses 4,320
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 0 %
c. Total annual hours requested 346
d. Current OMB inventory 336
e. Difference 10
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change 10
2. Adjustment

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M) 0
c. Total annualized cost requested 0
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference 0
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change
2. Adjustment

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management
b. ___ Program evaluation f. P Research
c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance
d. ___ Audit

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [ ] Recordkeeping b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [ ] Reporting
1. [✔] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [ ] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [ ] Other (describe) ____

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[ ] Yes [✔] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Phillip Rigby
Phone: 907-789-6653

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

- (i) Why the information is being collected;
- (ii) Use of information;
- (iii) Burden estimate;
- (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
- (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
- (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)	
Signature signed by A. Rosenberg, Deputy A.A. for Fisheries	Date 02/28/2000
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature signed by Richard Roberts, NOAA Clearance Officer	Date 03/01/2000

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR RENEWAL
OF THE
GROUNDFISH TAGGING PROGRAM

OMB Number 0648-0276

Prepared by
National Marine Fisheries Service
Alaska Region

February 2000

BACKGROUND

Beginning with the passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) has undertaken a set of objectives for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources. Under this stewardship role of one of the Nation's natural resources, the Secretary was given certain regulatory authorities to ensure the most beneficial uses of these resources through regional councils. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has prepared groundfish Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for the following fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska: Groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) EEZ under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands EEZ under the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. These fishery management plans are implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 679. General regulations that also pertain to these fisheries appear in subpart H of 50 CFR part 600.

The NMFS Groundfish Tagging Program provides scientists with information necessary for effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the groundfish fishery resources off Alaska. The collection of information for the Groundfish Tagging Program has been in operation since the early 1970s. Prior to 1992, the OMB control number 0648-0009 included fish tagging reports from all Regions. This was later revised to include only the annual burden for the southwest Regions's tag report.

This statement supports renewal for an existing "collection of information" under OMB 0648-0276, assigned to the Groundfish Tagging Program on the northeast Pacific coast and Alaska. The groundfish tagging and tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment that NMFS conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1854 (e) and 1801 (a)(8). The program is part of NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities Appropriation (13x1450) which is available for necessary expenses of activities authorized by law.

1. Explain the need for information collection:

Groundfish tagging programs in the northeastern Pacific Ocean and Alaska waters provide essential research data on groundfish life histories and migration patterns that are necessary for implementing management regimes. To be most cost effective tagging of sablefish and other groundfish are usually tagged on board NOAA and NMFS chartered survey vessels as one of many data collection tasks performed during the surveys. Tagging groundfish for subsequent tracking and recovery is an important tool for managing fishery resources and has resulted in numerous scientific and management publications by NMFS personnel.

If the information were not collected, management effectiveness of the groundfish resource would be diminished. Tagging has provided estimates of a number of important biological parameters used in stock assessment models, models that are used to recommend harvest levels. Parameters include growth, fishing and natural mortality, and direction and rates of fish movement among management areas. The parameters are incorporated in population dynamics models such as stock reduction analysis, stock synthesis, and more advanced methods incorporating likelihood functions and non-linear optimization functions. The lack of adequate

information derived from tagging would result in groundfish stock assessments that are less accurate thereby decreasing the credibility of the fishery management process and increasing costs associated with under and over harvest of groundfish resources.

Tag return information is collected through the use of either of two 4" x 6-1/2" forms sent directly to the fishing vessels (or fisherman in charge) or are made available at the processing plants where fishermen unload their catches. One form is specific to sablefish, the other to all other groundfish species. Sablefish are the predominant species tagged. Three to five thousand are tagged annually as part of a long term and well advertised program. Approximately 30% of the tags are recovered by fishery agency staff and observers and 70% are recovered by sablefish fishermen and processing workers. Groundfish other than sablefish are tagged in fewer numbers; and they are usually tagged on a more opportunistic basis and for shorter duration projects. For the other species tag returns the general groundfish form is available for use by fishermen; but a large proportion of these other groundfish tag returns come from fishery agency staff and observers.

The tag recovery information collected from fishermen, observers, port samplers, various state and federal fishery agencies, and fish processors is received by the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington and its Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau, Alaska. In recent years, between 600 and 1,000 tag recoveries have been submitted per year. The number of individuals returning tags varies and and a number of persons may return multiple tags. In 1998 for example, 317 persons returned 761 tags. The usual number of people participating ranges between 300 and 400 annually.

The standard tag recovery form is attached to a business reply envelope. Individuals use this envelope to submit and record recovery information for each tag. Fishermen typically complete the paper work for fish captured with tags after the fishery is closed, although some information must be gathered at the time the fish are caught. Therefore, the relative cost can be calculated by combining the cost incurred during and after the fishery. Some of the information is recorded because of recordkeeping and reporting requirements, while other information may be gathered with the help of port samplers. Some information can be obtained only from the person processing the fish. Fishermen and processing line workers provide information regarding the

same tag on the form approximately 5% of the time. Fishermen and processors interact throughout the fishing season as catches are unloaded. Sometimes tags are found by workers in the processing plant. If the worker knows from which boat the fish came he or she can often obtain location and date of capture from the fisherman. Typical information collected is : (1) tag number, (2) date of capture, (3) location, (4) size of fish, (5) sex, and (6) depth of capture.

Submitting tag recovery information is voluntary and can be accomplished at any time. Most tag recovery information is submitted directly after a groundfish fishery closure because fishermen are anxious to receive the release information. Recovery information needs to be as accurate as possible, and fishermen are aware of this necessity. Some individuals return recovered tags quickly, while others will accumulate many tags and return them on an annual or seasonal schedule. Less frequent transmittal of data (less than annually) delays processing of the information. Such a delay can make the information less valuable to the fishermen and reduce the temporal significance of the data for prediction of stock abundance by management area.

Existing data sets are used to match recovery and release information for each tag submitted. A letter generated by a series of computer programs and the existing tag release data set provides fishermen with release information for each tag recovery submitted, while providing researchers with information necessary to manage the groundfish fisheries.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.

Scientists of NMFS, ADF&G, universities, and from Japan and Canada use the groundfish tag identification number, recovery position, biological data from the tagged fish, (sex, length, weight), and recovery nation, depth, and gear information to study growth rates, mortality, recruitment, migration patterns, and differences by area, sex, size, and depth.

Data collected from the groundfish tagging program are used in population dynamics models to effectively estimate population size and manage the groundfish resource. Information gathered provides data on the rates of migration between the west coast, British Columbia, and Alaska and among Alaska management areas.

Persons consulted on the information requirements of the groundfish tagging program during research cruises, at fishery meetings, and elsewhere over the years include:

1. Dr. Mike Sigler, NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, (907) 789-6037.
2. Dr. Jeff Fujioka, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA/NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, (907) 789-6026.
3. Dr. Jon Heifetz, NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801-8626, (907) 789-6052.
4. Frank Shaw, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA/NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115-0070,
   (206) 526-4120.
5. Takashi Sasaki, Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory, Japan, 0543-34-0715.
6. Dave Carlile, State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game, 907-465-4216.
7. Gordon A. McFarlane, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, 1-604-756-7052.
8. Bob Demory, State of Oregon, Department of Fish and Wildlife, 503-867-4741.
9. Al Millikan, State of Washington, Department of Fisheries, 206-545-6597.
10. Jim Hardwick, State of California, Department of Fish and Game, 408-649-2884.
11. Norman Parks, NMFS Alaska Fisheries and Science Center, 206-526-4107.

3. Automated, electronic, mechanical or other technological techniques.

The diverse population from which information is gathered and the necessity of obtaining the tag from each fish to verify the data collected make it impractical to seek improved information technology.

4. Identify duplication with other collections.

No other tagging information is available for groundfish in outside waters off California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Scientists from the U.S., Japan, Canada, and ADF&G are collaborating to form a joint database of groundfish tag releases and recoveries. Tags can be sent to any of the agencies, because tags will be forwarded to the appropriate agency upon receipt. Duplication of effort and superfluous data collection is avoided through this cooperation. Only the

recoverer of the tagged groundfish can supply the information necessary for analysis. There is no other source for this data.

5. Effect on small businesses or other small entities.

Individuals at processing plants, on fishing vessels, and state fishery agencies send tag recovery information as tagged fish are caught in state and federally managed groundfish fisheries. Both tag recovery forms require five minutes to complete and are designed to be a minimal burden.

6. Consequences to Federal program.

If the information were not collected, management effectiveness of the groundfish resource would be diminished. Tagging has provided estimates of a number of important biological parameters used in stock assessment models, models that are used to recommend harvest levels. Parameters include growth, fishing and natural mortality, and direction and rates of fish movement among management areas. The parameters are incorporated in population dynamics models such as stock reduction analysis, stock synthesis, and more advanced methods incorporating likelihood functions and non-linear optimization functions. The lack of adequate information derived from tagging would result in groundfish stock assessments that are less accurate thereby decreasing the credibility of the fishery management process and increasing costs associated with under and over harvest of groundfish resources.

7. Special circumstances.

NMFS Alaska Region has no special circumstances that require information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the OMB guidelines.

8. PRA Federal Register Notice.

A notice was printed in the Federal Register requesting comments on this data collection program, and no comments were received.

9. Payment or gift to respondents.

Individuals returning tags may choose a reward of either $5 cash or a baseball cap; and participants receive the release information (date, position, depth, size, growth, miles traveled, and days at large) for each tag recovered. In addition for sablefish, an annual drawing of the tag numbers is held; the owner of the winning tag number receives $1,000. The sablefish information is currently more valuable, which is why a reward is offered for these tags.

10. Assurance of confidentiality.

Because the information collected is from commercial fishery operations, the Privacy Act does not apply. However, the information collected is confidential under section 303(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) It is also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics. These procedures have been implemented under the NMFS Operations Manual entitled, "Data Security Handbook for the Northwest-Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service."

Under guidance of NOAA General Counsel, Alaska Region, changes to Alaska state regulations have been implemented to allow State access to fishery information collected from the groundfish industry under Federal regulations, consistent with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

11. Information of a sensitive nature.

This information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature.

12, 13, 14. Total burden hours and annual cost of the collection of information for respondents and Federal Government.

o Cost to Respondents. The cost associated with a respondent returning a tag is five minutes to complete the form. Since a business reply envelope is provided to the participant, no other cost is associated. There are two forms used with this tagging program. The first, the tagged sablefish form, has at most 1,000 responses per year. The second, the groundfish tagging

form, has approximately 200 responses per year. There are no costs to respondents other than their time.

Annual Time and Cost Burden to the Industry

Groundfish Tagging Program

Tagged sablefish form	
Estimated number of responses	1,000
Average recording time (5 min)	.08 hr
Average number of responses per fisherman	3.6
Cost per hour, in dollars	$15/hr
Time requirement for all responses (1,000 x 3.6 x .08)	288 hr
Total cost for tagging form ($15 x 288 hr)	$4,320
Tagged groundfish form	
Estimated number of responses	200
Average recording time (5 min)	.08 hr
Average number of responses per fisherman	3.6
Cost per hour, in dollars	$15/hr
Time requirement for all responses (200 x 3.6 x .08)	58 hr
Total cost for tagging form ($15 x 12 hr)	$870

o Cost to Federal Government. Since this is a renewal of an existing program the costs to the Federal government are not affected and remain about $22,200 a year in rewards and $2,000 a year in tags, paper supplies, and tagging equipment. The groundfish tagging program requires an average of two full time employees to maintain the database and return release information to the respondents. Minimal ship time costs are incurred because tagging is piggy-backed onto routine stock assessment survey operations.

Summary of Annual Time and Cost Burden

Groundfish Tagging Program

	Industry		Federal Government	
	Time (in hours)	Cost (in dollars)	Time (in hours)	Cost (in dollars)
Sablefish tagging form	288	$ 4,320	-	$ 22,000
Groundfish tagging form	12	$ 180	-	
TOTAL	300	$ 4,500	-	$ 22,000

15. Reasons for program changes or adjustments.

There are no substantive changes in this supporting statement. There has been an adjustment increase of 10 hours due to an additional number of respondents.

16. Published results.

Results of the tagging program have been published on a regular basis in such publications as the Fishery Bulletin, Fisheries Research, the International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Sablefish in 1993. Some of the information is available via the Internet.

17. Expiration date display.

The forms will be used for tens of years in this study. To reduce paper work, effort, and money expended over the life of the study it is reasonable to eliminate the expiration date on the forms so that frequent renewal efforts will be eliminated. Also, fishermen and processors may keep forms on hand for long periods before needing to use them, and it would be difficult to ascertain that the most recent forms are available to them. Fishermen would be unlikely to replace old forms with new ones just because the OMB date had changed. Consequently, it is requested that the expiration date be omitted from the form.

18. Certification statement.

This information collection does not request exceptions to the certification statement.

TAGGED GROUNDFISH FORM
OMB No. 0648-0276

Please provide the following information, detach, and enclose in envelope with the tag.

SPECIES_____

TAGGING AGENCY_____TAG PREFIX AND NUMBER_____

DATE Caught_____LATITUDE_____LONGITUDE_____
Month, Day, Year

LORAN or Area_____
Include Loran rate

FISH SEX ____FEMALE ____MALE

FISH FORK LENGTH ___round
___dressed_____
(indicate units)

FISH WEIGHT ___round
___dressed_____
(indicate units)

VESSEL NAME_____

GEAR_____

NAME AND PERMANENT ADDRESS
_____
_____
_____

Information regarding tagging and recovery of this fish will be sent to you with a reward. Please provide as much accurate information as you can. Thank you for returning this tag.

The groundfish tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1854 (e) and 1801 (a)(8). Tagging information provides essential biological and movement used in groundfish stock assessment. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address on the envelope. Information you provide is treated as confidential per Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, “Confidentiality of Statistics”. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

TAGGED SABLEFISH FORM
OMB No. 0648-0276

Please provide the following information, detach, and enclose in envelope with sablefish tag, and mail.

Year - Mon - Day

Tag prefix and number_____-_____ Date Caught ____-____-____

Latitude_____ Longitude_____ Depth_____

Area or Loran _____
(include loran rate)

Fish sex Male ☐ Female ☐

Fish fork Length_____ Inch ☐
_____ cm ☐

Fish weight_____ lb ☐
_____ kg ☐

Round ☐ Dressed ☐

Vessel name_____ Gear_____

Name and permanent address _____
_____
_____

Data regarding this tagged fish will be sent to you with a reward cap. Your name will be entered in the sablefish prize drawing. Thank you.

The voluntary groundfish tag recovery program is part of the fishery resource assessment that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts under the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority as codified in 16 U.S.C. 1854 (e) and 1801 (a)(8). Tag returns provide essential biological and movement information used in groundfish stock assessment. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the address on the envelope. Information you provide is treated as confidential per Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, “Confidentiality of Statistics”. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–6397 or (202) 482–1560, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 2, 1998, the Department initiated, and the Commission instituted, a sunset review (63 FR 58709 and 63 FR 58765, respectively) of the countervailing duty order on iron metal castings from India pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act. As a result of this review, the Department found that revocation of the countervailing duty order would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy and notified the Commission of the net countervailable subsidy likely to prevail were the order revoked (*see Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review: Iron Metal Castings From India,* 64 FR 30316 (June 7, 1999) and *Amended Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review: Iron Metal Castings From India,* 64 FR 37509 (July 12, 1999)).

On October 29, 1999, the Commission determined, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act, that revocation of the countervailing duty order on iron metal castings from India would not be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time (*see Iron Metal Castings From India; Heavy Iron Construction Castings From Brazil; and Iron Construction Castings From Brazil, Canada, and China,* 64 FR 58442 (October 29, 1999), and USITC Pub. 3247, Inv. Nos. 303–TA–13; 701–TA–249; and 731–TA–262, 263, and 265 (October 1999)).

Scope

The merchandise subject to this countervailing duty order is manhole covers and frames, clean-out covers and frames, and catch basin grates and frames from India. These articles are commonly called municipal or public works castings and are used for access or drainage for public utility, water, and sanitary systems. These articles must be of cast iron, not alloyed, and not malleable. This merchandise is currently classifiable under item numbers 7325.10.0010 and 7325.10.0050 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (''HTSUS''). The HTSUS item numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes. The written description remains dispositive.

Determination

As a result of this determination by the Commission that revocation of this countervailing duty order would not be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States, the Department, pursuant to section 751(d)(2) of the Act, is revoking the countervailing duty order on iron metal castings from India. Pursuant to section 751(c)(6)(A)(iv) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.222(i)(2)(ii), the effective date of revocation is January 1, 2000. The Department will instruct the U.S. Customs Service to discontinue suspension of liquidation and collection of cash deposits on entries of the subject merchandise entered or withdrawn from warehouse on or after January 1, 2000 (the effective date). The Department will complete any pending administrative reviews of this order and will conduct administrative reviews of subject merchandise entered prior to the effective date of revocation in response to appropriately filed requests for review.

Dated: November 5, 1999.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 99–29606 Filed 11–10–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110899E]

Groundfish Tagging Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

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 January 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The groundfish tagging program provides scientists with information necessary for effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the groundfish fishery off Alaska and the Northwest Pacific. The program area includes the Pacific Ocean off Alaska (the Gulf of Alaska, the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area, the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska), California, Oregon, and Washington. Population dynamics, non-linear optimization, likelihood function, and stock reduction analyses are used to estimate recruitment parameters and to assess stock sizes.

II. Method of Collection

This is a volunteer program requiring the actual tag from the fish to be returned, along with recovery information. Reporting forms with pre-addressed and postage-free envelopes are distributed to processors and catcher vessels. The tag information will be edited and entered into the computer data base. Each person returning a tag will receive information on the release site, growth, and depth and area changes, as well as a reward of a cap.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648–0276.
Form Number: N/A.
Type of Review: Regular submission.
Affected public: Individuals or households; State, Local, or Tribal governments.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,167.
Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 336.
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: November 4, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99–29615 Filed 11–10–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990910254–9254–01; ID 1108999B]

General Advisory Committee; Scientific Advisory Subcommittee; International Dolphin Conservation Program in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP)

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

ACTION: Notice of intent; request for nominations.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Tuna Conventions Act, as amended by the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act (IDCPA), NMFS is appointing a General Advisory Committee and a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee that will provide advice on achieving the objectives of the Tuna Conventions Act, the IDCPA, and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (Agreement). To assist it in developing the General Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee, NMFS is requesting nominations for members to these committees.

As directed in the Tuna Conventions Act, the General Advisory Committee will examine and provide comments and recommendations on all aspects of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna and will be invited to attend all meetings of the U.S. sections of these commissions.

The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee will advise the General Advisory Committee, the U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC, and the U.S. Commissioners to the International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna on all scientific matters regarding the long-term conservation and management of marine resources in the ETP and the entire ETP ecosystem. The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee will jointly serve as the National Scientific Advisory Committee, a committee which NMFS is required to appoint under the Agreement.

DATES: Nominations must be submitted on or before January 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be submitted to Katie S. Moore, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Hwy., Room 13756, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 or by fax to Katie Moore at 301–713–0376.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. Allison Routt, 562–980–4019; or Katie S. Moore, 301–713–2322, ext. 157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Tuna Conventions Act (16 U.S.C. 951 *et seq.*), as amended by the IDCPA (Pub. L. 105–42), requires that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC and the U.S. Commissioners to the International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna appoint a General Advisory Committee and a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee. In addition, the Agreement requires the Secretary to establish a National Scientific Advisory Committee. These committees will provide advice on achieving the objectives of the Tuna Conventions Act, the IDCPA, and the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (Agreement). NMFS is seeking nominations for both the General Advisory Committee and the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee. NMFS intends for members of the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to jointly serve as members of the National Scientific Advisory Committee.

General Advisory Committee

The General Advisory Committee will be composed of five to 15 qualified experts, operating in their individual capacities, from the public and private sectors, and from non-governmental organizations. It will have balanced representation from the various groups participating in the fisheries included under the conventions, and from non-governmental conservation organizations. The General Advisory Committee will be invited to send representatives to all non-executive meetings of the U.S. sections and will be given full opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigations, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the IATTC and the International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna. The General Advisory Committee may attend all meetings of the international commissions to which they are invited by such commissions.

As required by the Tuna Conventions Act, members of the General Advisory Committee will not receive compensation for their services as members of this committee.

Scientific Advisory Subcommittee

The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee will be composed of no less than five nor more than 15 qualified scientists with balanced representation from the public and private sector, including non-governmental organizations. The Scientific Advisory Subcommittee will, as requested by the General Advisory Committee, the U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC, or the U.S. Commissioners to the International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna, perform functions and provide assistance required by formal agreements entered into by the United States for the ETP fishery, including the International Dolphin Conservation Program (Program). These functions include: (1) reviewing data from the Program, including data received from the IATTC; (2) making recommendations on research needs, including ecosystems, fishing practices, and gear technology research, including the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear, and on the coordination and facilitation of such research; (3) making recommendations concerning scientific reviews and assessments required under the Program and engaging, as appropriate, in such reviews and assessments; and (4) consulting with other experts as needed and recommending measures to assure the regular and timely full exchange of data among the parties to the Program and each nation's National Scientific Advisory Committee (or its equivalent).

As required by the Tuna Conventions Act, members of the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee will not receive compensation for their services as members of this committee.

National Scientific Advisory Committee

NMFS intends for the Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to also function as the National Advisory Scientific Committee (NATSAC) under the Agreement. The functions of the