



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

12 July 2024

Ms. Adrienne Thomas,
NOAA PRA Officer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce

Re: OMB Control Number 0648– 0346

Dear Ms. Thomas:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the Commission) is pleased to offer staff comments on the notice required under the Paperwork Reduction Act (87 Fed. Reg. 63764) that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) intends to continue to collect information from commercial fishermen regarding their use of fishing gear or engagement in fisheries that are not on the “List of Gear by Fisheries”¹ (89 Fed. Reg. 50565).

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation and Management Act requires that “no person or vessel may employ fishing gear or engage in a fishery not included on [the List of Gear by Fisheries] without giving 90 days advance written notice to the appropriate Council, or the Secretary.” Because certain gear types and fisheries represent a serious threat to some marine mammals, the effective management and amelioration of these threats requires knowing which gears are being used by all fishermen. Therefore, it is essential that NOAA continue to collect information regarding fishermen using gears or engaging in fisheries not on the List of Gear by Fishery.

We strongly support the collection of this information. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and please contact me if you would like to discuss these comments.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter O. Thomas".

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D.,
Executive Director

¹ 50 CFR 600.725(v)