

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

06/23/2006

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 05/22/2006.

TITLE: Tortugas Access Permits

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0418

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2009

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS (\$,000)
Previous	94	8	0
New	145	13	0
Difference	51	5	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		5	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

OMB Authorizing Official Title

John F. Morrall III Acting Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

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/NOS	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. <u>0648</u> - <u>0418</u>
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	6. Requested expiration date a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title <u>Tortugas Access Permits</u>	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords <u>'natural resources, environmental protection'</u>	
10. Abstract NOAA has regulations to implement a Tortugas Ecological Reserve and to regulate activities within the reserve. The rule prohibits fishing, taking of organisms, anchoring, or discharging pollutants by vessels, and by controlling access to the reserve through an access permit. A limited number of mooring buoys is provided to allow access without anchoring. The overall objective is to protect the deepwater coral reef community from being degraded by human activities. The permits have been shown to help enforce access and no-take restrictions. Persons with permits provide notification prior to entering the reserve and when leaving it.	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents <u>49</u> b. Total annual responses <u>145</u> 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically <u>0</u> % c. Total annual hours requested <u>13</u> d. Current OMB inventory <u>8</u> e. Difference <u>5</u> f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment <u>5</u>	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs <u>0</u> b. Total annual costs (O&M) <u>0</u> c. Total annualized cost requested <u>0</u> d. Current OMB inventory <u>0</u> e. Difference <u>0</u> f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: <u>David A. Bizot</u> Phone: <u>301-713-7268</u>

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, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

signed by Hugh Johnson

Date

4-27-06

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

signed by Sarah Brabson

Date

5-1-06

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
TORTUGA ACCESS PERMITS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0418**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), working in cooperation with the State of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, has established a 151 square nautical mile “no-take” ecological reserve to protect the critical coral reef ecosystem of the Tortugas, a remote area in the western part of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The reserve consists of two sections, Tortugas North and Tortugas South, and required an expansion of Sanctuary boundaries to protect important coral reef resources in the areas of Sherwood Forest and Riley’s Hump.

An ecological reserve in the Tortugas preserves the richness of species and health of fish stocks in the Tortugas and throughout the Florida Keys, helping to ensure the stability of commercial and recreational fisheries. The reserve will protect important spawning areas for snapper and grouper, as well as valuable deepwater habitat for other commercial species. Restrictions on vessel discharge and anchoring protect water quality and habitat complexity. The reserve’s geographical isolation helps scientists distinguish between natural and human-caused changes to the coral reef environment.

NOAA has issued regulations to implement the reserve and to regulate activities. The regulations prohibit fishing, the taking of organisms, anchoring, and discharging pollutants by vessels, and control access to the reserve through an access permit. A limited number of mooring buoys is provided to allow users to access the resources without anchoring. The purpose of the access permit is to (1) protect this unique deepwater coral reef, and (2) facilitate the enforcement of the no-take regulations in this remote area. The overall intended effect of this rule is to protect the deepwater coral reef community in this area from being degraded by human activities consistent with Executive Order 13089 on coral reef protection.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The information collected through this program will be used by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement to monitor the use of the reserve, to ensure mooring buoy capacity is not over-extended, and to provide advance notice to enforcement officers of the presence of users in the reserve. Information will be collected every time a permit is issued to a person.

Application: An applicant must call the Key West or Marathon Sanctuary office to request a permit. The required information is:

- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of owner, captain, and applicant.
- Vessel name and home port.
- USCG documentation number, state license, or boat registration number.
- Length of vessel and primary propulsion type (i.e., motor or sail).
- Number of divers.
- Requested effective date and duration of permit.

The permit is free and Sanctuary staff are available year-round to handle requests.

Permit duration: For the time the vessel is in the area, not to exceed two weeks.

Restrictions: Vessels longer than 100 feet cannot use the mooring buoys. Applicants should make advance reservations no more than one month in advance before access is desired.

Special Conditions: Doubling-up on mooring buoys is permissible: leave and return privileges (dive during day, stay at the park overnight) are allowed within the time period covered by the permit.

Call-in requirement: Permit holders must notify FKNMS staff at Dry Tortugas National Park by radio no less than 30 minutes and no more than six hours before entering the reserve; and upon leaving.

Sanctuary staff will enter the submitted information into a database and issue a permit number if all of the required information is provided.

The appeals process for a permit action is described in section 922.50 of the National Marine Sanctuary regulations.

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Although the information collected is not expected to be disseminated directly to the public, results may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications. Should NOAA Fisheries Service decide to disseminate the information, it will be subject to the quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The information will be collected via telephone and VHF radio. These “oral” forms of collection are necessary so that the agency staff person can develop a rapport with the permit applicant and be responsive to their questions about the resources and regulations. The Sanctuary is still considering collecting this information via its website, but has not yet decided that it would

appreciably streamline the process. For now, information about the collection is available on the FKNMS website at: <http://www.floridakeys.noaa.gov/tortugas/>.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

No other agency will be collecting information on users in this proposed reserve. The Department of Interior will be collecting information on users of the Dry Tortugas National Park; however, this is not part of the proposed reserve; therefore, it cannot be modified to meet the needs of NOAA.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The collection will not have a significant economic impact on small entities.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

If the collection is not conducted it would significantly compromise the ability of the agency to adequately enforce the regulations in this remote area and protect the coral reef resources.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The data collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice (copy attached) solicited public comment on this collection. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift to respondents will be given.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

There is no guarantee of confidentiality.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

No questions of a sensitive nature are required.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Requirement	# Respondents	Response per Respondent	Total Responses	Hrs./Response	Total Hours	\$/Hour (Labor Costs)	Total Labor Cost
Charter Operators							
Application	10	1	10	10 minutes	1 hour and 40 minutes	\$12	\$20
Radio call-in	10*	1	10	2 minutes	20 minutes	\$12	\$4
Radio call-out	10*	1	10	2 minutes	20 minutes	\$12	\$4
Private Operators							
Application	38	1	38	10 minutes	6 hours and 20 minutes	\$12	\$76
Radio call-in	38*	1	38	2 minutes	1 hour and 15 minutes	\$12	\$15
Radio call-out	38*	1	38	2 minutes	1 hour and 15 minutes	\$12	\$15
Other							
Appeal	1	1	1	1 hour and 30 minutes	1 hour and 30 minutes	\$12	\$18
TOTAL	49		145		12 hours and 40 minutes (13 hours)		\$152

*Same respondents as for application, so not included in total respondents.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

We estimate no real additional costs for charter operators and 70% of private operators, since their submissions are by local calls and radio messages. We do estimate that 30% of private operators will make long-distance calls for applications, with a 10 minute call at \$.28 a minute.

$$11 \text{ respondents} \times 10 \text{ minutes} \times \$0.28 = \$30.80.$$

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Federal costs are estimated at \$1,080 for salaries.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

There is an addition of 4 hours to the total burden due to an increase in the number of respondents, as visitation to the Tortugas Ecological Reserve has grown.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

An annual report on the status of Tortugas access permits will be provided to the Sanctuary superintendent for internal agency use only. A list of permittee names will be provided to the public upon request only.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

This collection does not involve an application form so the OMB approval number and expiration date shall be provided over the phone.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

This collection does not involve an application form so the OMB approval number and expiration date shall be provided over the phone if requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act

(Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)

Public Law 101-605 (H.R. 5909)

One Hundred First Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the twenty-third day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety

An Act

To establish the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act."

SEC. 2. FINDINGS. The Congress finds and declares the following:

- (1) The Florida Keys extend approximately 220 miles southwest from the southern tip of the Florida peninsula.
- (2) Adjacent to the Florida Keys land mass are located spectacular, unique, and nationally significant marine environments, including seagrass meadows, mangrove islands, and extensive living coral reefs.
- (3) These marine environments support rich biological communities possessing extensive conservation, recreational, commercial, ecological, historical, research, educational, and esthetic values which give this area special national significance.
- (4) These environments are the marine equivalent of tropical rain forests in that they support high levels of biological diversity, are fragile and easily susceptible to damage from human activities, and possess high value to human beings if properly conserved.
- (5) These marine environments are subject to damage and loss of their ecological integrity from a variety of sources of disturbance.
- (6) Vessel groundings along the reefs of the Florida Keys represent one of many serious threats to the continued vitality of the marine environments of the Florida Keys which must be addressed in order to protect their values.

(7) Action is necessary to provide comprehensive protection for these marine environments by establishing a Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, by restricting vessel traffic within such Sanctuary, and by requiring promulgation of a management plan and regulations to protect sanctuary resources.

(8) The agencies of the United States must cooperate fully to achieve the necessary protection of sanctuary resources.

(9) The Federal Government and the State of Florida should jointly develop and implement a comprehensive program to reduce pollution in the waters offshore the Florida Keys to protect and restore the water quality, coral reefs, and other living marine resources of the Florida Keys environment.

POLICY AND PURPOSE

SEC. 3.(a) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve living and other resources of the Florida Keys marine environment.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to protect the resources of the area described in section 5(b), to educate and interpret for the public regarding the Florida Keys marine environment, and to manage such human uses of the Sanctuary consistent with this Act. Nothing in this Act is intended to restrict activities that do not cause an adverse effect to the resources or property of the Sanctuary or that do not pose harm to **users of the Sanctuary.**

DEFINITION

SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term “adverse effect” means any factor, force, or action that would independently or cumulatively damage, diminish, degrade, impair, destroy, or otherwise harm—

(1) any sanctuary resource, as defined in section 302(8) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1432(8)); or

(2) any of those qualities, values, or purposes for which the Sanctuary is designated.

SANCTUARY DESIGNATION

SEC. 5.(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The area described in subsection (b) is designated as the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (in this Act referred to as the “Sanctuary”) under title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.). The Sanctuary shall be managed and regulations enforced under all applicable provisions of such title III as if the Sanctuary had been designated under such title.

(b) AREA INCLUDED.—(1) Subject to subsections (c) and (d), the area referred to in subsection (a) consists of all submerged lands and waters, including living marine and other resources within and on those lands and waters, from the mean high water mark to the boundary described under paragraph (2), with the exception of areas within the Fort Jefferson National Monument. The Sanctuary shall be generally identified and depicted on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charts FKNMS 1 and 2, which shall be maintained on file and kept available for public examination during regular business hours at the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and which shall be updated to reflect boundary modifications under this section.

(2) The boundary referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) begins at the northeasternmost point of Biscayne National Park located at approximately 25 degrees 39 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 5 minutes west longitude, then runs eastward to the 300-foot isobath located at approximately 25 degrees 39 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 4 minutes west longitude;

(B) then runs southward and connects in succession the points at the following coordinates:

(i) 25 degrees 34 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 4 minutes west longitude,

(ii) 25 degrees 28 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 5 minutes west longitude, and

(iii) 25 degrees 21 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 7 minutes west longitude;

(C) then runs southward to the northeastern corner of the existing Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary located at 25 degrees 16 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 8 minutes west longitude;

(D) then runs southwesterly approximating the 300-foot isobath and connects in succession the points at the following coordinates:

(i) 25 degrees 7 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 13 minutes west longitude,

(ii) 24 degrees 57 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 21 minutes west longitude,

(iii) 24 degrees 39 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 52 minutes west longitude,

(iv) 24 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 23 minutes west longitude,

(v) 24 degrees 25 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 50 minutes west longitude,

(vi) 24 degrees 22 minutes north latitude, 82 degrees 48 minutes west longitude,

(vii) 24 degrees 37 minutes north latitude, 83 degrees 6 minutes west longitude,

(viii) 24 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, 83 degrees 6 minutes west longitude,

(ix) 24 degrees 46 minutes north latitude, 82 degrees 54 minutes west longitude,

(x) 24 degrees 44 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 55 minutes west longitude,

(xi) 24 degrees 51 minutes north latitude, 81 degrees 26 minutes west longitude, and

(xii) 24 degrees 55 minutes north latitude, 80 degrees 56 minutes west longitude;

(E) then follows the boundary of Everglades National Park in a southerly then northeasterly direction through Florida Bay, Buttonwood Sound, Tarpon Basin, and Blackwater Sound;

(F) after Division Point, then departs from the boundary of Everglades National Park and follows the western shoreline of Manatee Bay, Barnes Sound, and Card Sound;

(G) then follows the southern boundary of Biscayne National Park and the northern boundary of Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary to the southeasternmost point of Biscayne National Park; and

(H) then follows the eastern boundary of the Biscayne National Park to the beginning point specified in subparagraph (A).

(c) AREAS WITHIN STATE OF FLORIDA.—The designation under subsection (a) shall not take effect for any area located within the waters of the State of Florida if, not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Governor of the State of Florida objects in writing to the Secretary of Commerce.

(d) **BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS.**—No later than the issuance of the draft environmental impact statement for the Sanctuary under section 304(a) (1) (C) (vii) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1434(a) (1) (C) (vii)), in consultation with the Governor of the State of Florida, if appropriate, the Secretary of Commerce may make minor modifications to the boundaries of the Sanctuary as necessary to properly protect sanctuary resources. The Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives a written notification of such modifications. Any boundary modification made under this subsection shall be reflected on the charts referred to in subsection (b) (1).

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

SEC. 6.(a) **VESSEL TRAFFIC.**—(1) Consistent with generally recognized principles of international law, a person may not operate a tank vessel (as that term is defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code) or a vessel greater than 50 meters in length in the Area to Be Avoided described in the Federal Register notice of May 9, 1990 (55 Fed. Reg. 19418-19419).

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1) shall not apply to necessary operations of public vessels. For the purposes of this paragraph, necessary operations of public vessels shall include operations essential for national defense, law enforcement, and responses to emergencies that threaten life, property, or the environment.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2), including the area in which vessel operations are prohibited under paragraph (1), may be modified by regulations issued jointly by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast guard is operating and the Secretary of Commerce.

(4) This subsection shall be effective on the earliest of the following:

- (A) the date that is six months after the date of enactment of this Act,
- (B) the date of publication of a notice to mariners consistent with this section, or
- (C) the date of publication of new nautical charts consistent with this section.

(b) **MINERAL AND HYDROCARBON LEASING, EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION.**—No leasing, exploration, development, or production of minerals or hydrocarbons shall be permitted within the Sanctuary.

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

SEC. 7.(a) PREPARATION OF PLAN.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and local government authorities and with the Advisory Council established under section 208, shall develop a comprehensive management plan and implementing regulations to achieve the policy and purpose of this Act. The Secretary of Commerce shall complete such comprehensive management plan and final regulations for the Sanctuary not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act. In developing the plan and regulations, the Secretary of Commerce shall follow the procedures specified in sections 303 and 304 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1433 and 1434), except those procedures requiring the delineation of Sanctuary boundaries and development of a resource assessment report. Such comprehensive management plan shall—

- (1) facilitate all public and private uses of the Sanctuary consistent with the primary objective of Sanctuary resource protection;
- (2) consider temporal and geographical zoning, to ensure protection of sanctuary resources;
- (3) incorporate regulations necessary to enforce the elements of the comprehensive water quality protection program developed under section 8 unless the Secretary of Commerce determines that such program does not meet the purpose for which the Sanctuary is designated or is otherwise inconsistent or incompatible with the comprehensive management plan developed under this section;
- (4) identify priority needs for research and amounts needed to—
 - (A) improve management of the Sanctuary, and in particular, the coral reef ecosystem within the Sanctuary; and
 - (B) identify clearly the cause and effect relationships between factors threatening the health of the coral reef ecosystem in the Sanctuary;
- (5) establish a long-term ecological monitoring program and database, including methods to disseminate information on the management of the coral reef ecosystem.
- (6) identify alternative sources of funding needed to fully implement the plan's provisions and supplement appropriations under section 9 of this Act and section 313 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1444).
- (7) ensure coordination and cooperation between Sanctuary managers and other Federal, State, and local authorities with jurisdiction within or adjacent to the Sanctuary;
- (8) promote education, among users of the Sanctuary, about coral reef conservation and navigational safety; and

(9) incorporate the existing Looe Key and Key Largo National Marine Sanctuaries into the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary except that Looe Key and Key Largo Sanctuaries shall continue to be operated until completion of the comprehensive management plan for the Florida Keys Sanctuary.

(b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide for participation by the general public in development of the comprehensive management plan.

(c) TERMINATION OF STUDIES.—On the date of enactment of this Act, all congressionally mandated studies of existing areas in the Florida Keys for designation as National Marine Sanctuaries shall be terminated.

FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY

SEC. 8.(a) WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM.—(1) Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor of the State of Florida, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall develop a comprehensive water quality protection program for the Sanctuary. If the Secretary of Commerce determines that such comprehensive water quality protection program does not meet the purpose for which the Sanctuary is designated or is otherwise inconsistent or incompatible with the comprehensive management plan prepared under section 7, such water quality program shall not be included in the comprehensive management plan. The purposes of such water quality program shall be to—

(A) recommend priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Sanctuary, including restoration and maintenance of a balanced, indigenous population of corals, shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in and on the water; and

(B) assign responsibilities for the implementation of the program among the Governor, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

(2) The program required by paragraph (1) shall, under applicable Federal and State laws, provide for measures to achieve the purposes described under paragraph (1), including—

(A) adoption or revision, under applicable Federal and State laws, by the State and the Administrator of applicable water quality standards for the Sanctuary, based on water quality criteria which may utilize biological monitoring or assessment methods, to assure protection and restoration of the water quality, coral reefs, and other living marine resources of the Sanctuary;

(B) adoption under applicable Federal and State laws of enforceable pollution control measures (including water quality-based effluent limitations and best management practices) and methods to eliminate or reduce pollution from point and nonpoint sources;

(C) establishment of a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to (i) determine the sources of pollution causing or contributing to existing or anticipated pollution problems in the Sanctuary, (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to reduce or eliminate those sources of pollution, and (iii) evaluate progress toward achieving and maintaining water quality standards and toward protecting and restoring the coral reefs and other living marine resources of the Sanctuary;

(D) provision of adequate opportunity for public participation in all aspects of developing and implementing the program; and

(E) identification of funding for implementation of the program, including appropriate Federal and State cost sharing arrangements.

(b) COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Governor of the State of Florida shall ensure compliance with the program required by this section, consistent with applicable Federal and State laws.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In the development and implementation of the program required by paragraph (1), appropriate State and local government officials shall be consulted.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor of the State of Florida shall implement the program required by this section, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce.

(2)(A) The Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall with the Governor of the State of Florida establish a Steering Committee to set guidance and policy for the development and implementation of such program. Membership shall include representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority; three individuals in local government in the Florida Keys; and three citizens knowledgeable about such program.

(B) The Steering Committee shall, on a biennial basis, issue a report to Congress that—

- (i) summarizes the progress of the program;
- (ii) summarizes any modifications to the program and its recommended actions and plans; and
- (iii) incorporates specific recommendations concerning the implementation of the program.

(C) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall cooperate with the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation to establish a Technical Advisory Committee to advise the Steering Committee and to assist in the design and prioritization of programs for scientific research and monitoring. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be composed of scientists from federal agencies, State agencies, academic institutions, private non-profit organizations, and knowledgeable citizens.

(3)(A) The Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall appoint a Florida Keys Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officer, who shall be located within the State of Florida, shall have the authority and staff to—

- (i) assist and support the implementation of the program required by this section, including administrative and technical support for the Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee;
- (ii) assist and support local, State, and Federal agencies in developing and implementing specific action plans designed to carry out such program;
- (iii) coordinate the actions of the Environmental Protection Agency with other Federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Park Service, and State and local authorities, in developing strategies to maintain, protect, and improve water quality in the Florida Keys;
- (iv) collect and make available to the public publications, and other forms of information that the Steering Committee determines to be appropriate, related to the water quality in the vicinity of the Florida Keys; and
- (v) provide for public review and comment on the program and implementing actions.

(4)(A) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1993, \$3,000,000 for

fiscal year 1994, and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1995, for the purpose of carrying out this section.

(B) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce \$300,000 for fiscal year 1993, \$400,000 for fiscal year 1994, and \$500,000 for fiscal year 1995, for the purpose of enabling the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this section.

(C) Amounts appropriated under this paragraph shall remain available until expended.

(D) No more than 15 percent of the amount authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (A) for any fiscal year may be expended in that fiscal year on administrative expense.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

SEC. 9.(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Governor of the State of Florida and the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, shall establish an Advisory Council to assist the Secretary in the development and implementation of the comprehensive management plan for the Sanctuary.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—Members of the Advisory Council may be appointed from among (1) Sanctuary managers, (2) members of other government agencies with overlapping management responsibilities for the Florida Keys marine environment, and (3) representatives of local industries, commercial users, conservation groups, the marine scientific and educational community, recreational user groups, or the general public.

(c) EXPENSES.—Members of the Advisory Council shall not be paid compensation for their service as members and shall not be reimbursed for actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as such members.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The Advisory Council shall elect a chairperson and may establish subcommittees, and adopt bylaws, rules, and such other administrative requirements and procedures as are necessary for the administration of its functions.

(e) STAFFING AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Commerce shall make available to the Advisory Council such staff, information, and administrative services and assistance as the Secretary of Commerce determines are reasonably required to enable the Advisory Council to carry out its functions.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 10.(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—Section 313(2) (C) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1444(2) (C)) is amended by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$4,000,000.”

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR EPA ADMINISTRATOR.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency \$750,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991 and 1992.

(c) REPORT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall, not later than March 1, 1991, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives a report on the future requirements for funding the Sanctuary through fiscal year 1999 under title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 14321 et seq.).

Approved November 16, 1990.

(2) *Great White Heron and Key West National Wildlife Refuge Management Areas.* Operating a personal watercraft, operating an airboat, or water skiing except within Township 66 South, Range 29 East, Sections 5, 11, 12 and 14; Township 66 South, Range 28 East, Section 2; Township 67 South, Range 26 East, Sections 16 and 20, all Tallahassee Meridian, are prohibited within the marine portions of the Great White Heron and Key West National Wildlife Refuge Management Areas described in Appendix II to this subpart.

(c) *Wildlife management areas.* (1) Marine portions of the Wildlife Management Areas listed in Appendix III to this subpart or portions thereof may be designated "idle speed only/no-wake," "no-motor" or "no-access buffer" zones or "closed". The Director, in cooperation with other Federal, State, or local resource management authorities, as appropriate, shall post signs conspicuously, using mounting posts, buoys, or other means according to location and purpose, at appropriate intervals and locations, clearly delineating an area as an "idle speed only/no wake", a "no-motor", or a "no-access buffer" zone or as "closed", and allowing instant, long-range recognition by boaters. Such signs shall display the official logo of the Sanctuary.

(2) The following activities are prohibited within the marine portions of the Wildlife Management Areas listed in Appendix III to this subpart:

(i) In those marine portions of any Wildlife Management Area designated an "idle speed only/no wake" zone in Appendix III to this subpart, operating a vessel at a speed greater than idle speed only/no wake.

(ii) In those marine portions of any Wildlife Management Area designated a "no-motor" zone in Appendix III to this subpart, using internal combustion motors or engines for any purposes. A vessel with an internal combustion motor or engine may access a "no-motor" zone only through the use of a push pole, paddle, sail, electric motor or similar means of propulsion.

(iii) In those marine portions of any Wildlife Management Area designated a "no-access buffer" zone in Appendix III to this subpart, entering the area by vessel.

(iv) In those marine portions of any Wildlife Management Area designated as closed in Appendix III of this subpart, entering or using the area.

(3) The Director shall coordinate with other Federal, State, or local resource management authorities, as appropriate, in the establishment and enforcement of access restrictions described in paragraph (c)(2) (i)-(iv) of this section in the marine portions of Wildlife Management Areas.

(4) The Director may modify the number and location of access restrictions described in paragraph (c)(2) (i)-(iv) of this section within the marine portions of a Wildlife Management Area if the Director finds that such action is reasonably necessary to minimize disturbances to Sanctuary wildlife, or to ensure protection and preservation of Sanctuary wildlife consistent with the purposes of the Sanctuary designation and other applicable law governing the protection and preservation of wildlife resources in the Sanctuary. The Director will effect such modification by:

(i) Publishing in the FEDERAL REGISTER, after notice and an opportunity for public comments in accordance, an amendment to the list of such areas set forth in Appendix III to this subpart, and a notice regarding the time and place where maps depicting the precise locations of such restrictions will be made available for public inspection, and

(ii) Posting official signs delineating such restrictions in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(d) *Ecological Reserves and Sanctuary Preservation Areas.* (1) The following activities are prohibited within the Ecological Reserves described in Appendix IV to this subpart, and within the Sanctuary Preservation Areas, described in Appendix V to this subpart:

(i) Discharging or depositing any material or other matter except cooling water or engine exhaust.

(ii) Possessing, moving, harvesting, removing, taking, damaging, disturbing, breaking, cutting, spearing, or otherwise injuring any coral, marine invertebrate, fish, bottom formation, algae, seagrass or other living or dead organism, including shells, or attempting any of these activities. However,

fish, invertebrates, and marine plants may be possessed aboard a vessel in an Ecological Reserve or Sanctuary Preservation Area, provided such resources can be shown not to have been harvested within, removed from, or taken within, the Ecological Reserve or Sanctuary Preservation Area, as applicable, by being stowed in a cabin, locker, or similar storage area prior to entering and during transit through such reserves or areas, provided further that in an Ecological Reserve or Sanctuary Preservation Area located in Florida State waters, such vessel is in continuous transit through the Ecological Reserve or Sanctuary Preservation Area.

(iii) Except for catch and release fishing by trolling in the Conch Reef, Alligator Reef, Sombrero Reef, and Sand Key SPAs, fishing by any means. However, gear capable of harvesting fish may be aboard a vessel in an Ecological Reserve or Sanctuary Preservation Area, provided such gear is not available for immediate use when entering and during transit through such Ecological Reserve or Sanctuary Preservation Area, and no presumption of fishing activity shall be drawn therefrom.

(iv) Touching living or dead coral, including but not limited to, standing on a living or dead coral formation.

(v) *Anchoring in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve.* In all other Ecological Reserves and Sanctuary Preservation Areas, placing any anchor in a way that allows the anchor or any portion of the anchor apparatus (including the anchor, chain or rope) to touch living or dead coral, or any attached living organism. When anchoring dive boats, the first diver down must inspect the anchor to ensure that it is not touching living or dead coral, and will not shift in such a way as to touch such coral or other attached organism. No further diving shall take place until the anchor is placed in accordance with these requirements.

(vi) Except in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve where mooring buoys must be used, anchoring instead of mooring when a mooring buoy is available or anchoring in other than a designated anchoring area when such areas have been designated and are available.

(vii) Except for passage without interruption through the area, for law enforcement purposes, or for purposes of monitoring pursuant to paragraph (d)(2) of this section, violating a temporary access restriction imposed by the Director pursuant to paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(viii) Except for passage without interruption through the area, for law enforcement purposes, or for purposes of monitoring pursuant to paragraph (d)(2) of this section: entering the Tortugas South area of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve; or entering the Tortugas North area of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve without a valid access permit issued pursuant to §922.167 or entering or leaving the Tortugas North area with a valid access permit issued pursuant to §922.167 without notifying FKNMS staff at the Dry Tortugas National Park office by telephone or radio no less than 30 minutes and no more than 6 hours, before entering and upon leaving the Tortugas Ecological Reserve.

(ix) Tying a vessel greater than 100 feet (30.48 meters) LOA, or tying more than one vessel (other than vessels carried on board a vessel) if the combined lengths would exceed 100 feet (30.48 meters) LOA, to a mooring buoy or to a vessel tied to a mooring buoy in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve.

(2) The Director may temporarily restrict access to any portion of any Sanctuary Preservation Area or Ecological Reserve if the Director, on the basis of the best available data, information and studies, determines that a concentration of use appears to be causing or contributing to significant degradation of the living resources of the area and that such action is reasonably necessary to allow for recovery of the living resources of such area. The Director will provide for continuous monitoring of the area during the pendency of the restriction. The Director will provide public notice of the restriction by publishing a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and by such other means as the Director may deem appropriate. The Director may only restrict access to an area for a period of

(j) The permit or a copy thereof shall be maintained in legible condition on board all vessels or aircraft used in the conduct of the permitted activity and be displayed for inspection upon the request of any authorized officer.

(k) Any permit issued pursuant to this section shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) All permitted activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not destroy, cause the loss of, or injure Sanctuary resources or qualities, except to the extent that such may be specifically authorized.

(2) The permittee agrees to hold the United States harmless against any claims arising out of the conduct of the permitted activities.

(3) All necessary Federal, State, and local permits from all agencies with jurisdiction over the proposed activities shall be secured before commencing field operations.

(l) In addition to the terms and conditions listed in paragraph (k) of this section, any permit authorizing the research/recovery of historical resources shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) A professional archaeologist shall be in charge of planning, field recovery operations, and research analysis.

(2) An agreement with a conservation laboratory shall be in place before field recovery operations are begun, and an approved nautical conservator shall be in charge of planning, conducting, and supervising the conservation of any artifacts and other materials recovered.

(3) A curation agreement with a museum or facility for curation, public access and periodic public display, and maintenance of the recovered historical resources shall be in place before commencing field operations (such agreement for the curation and display of recovered historical resources may provide for the release of public artifacts for deaccession/transfer if such deaccession/transfer is consistent with preservation, research, education, or other purposes of the designation and management of the Sanctuary. Deaccession/transfer of historical resources requires a Special-use permit issued pursuant to paragraph (d) and such deaccession/transfer shall be exe-

cuted in accordance with the requirements of the SCR Agreement).

(4) The site's archaeological information is fully documented, including measured drawings, site maps drawn to professional standards, and photographic records.

(m) In addition to the terms and conditions listed in paragraph (k) and (l) of this section, any permit issued pursuant to this section is subject to such other terms and conditions, including conditions governing access to, or use of, Sanctuary resources, as the Director deems reasonably necessary or appropriate and in furtherance of the purposes for which the Sanctuary is designated. Such terms and conditions may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Any data or information obtained under the permit shall be made available to the public.

(2) A NOAA official shall be allowed to observe any activity conducted under the permit.

(3) The permittee shall submit one or more reports on the status, progress, or results of any activity authorized by the permit.

(4) The permittee shall submit an annual report to the Director not later than December 31 of each year on activities conducted pursuant to the permit. The report shall describe all activities conducted under the permit and all revenues derived from such activities during the year and/or term of the permit.

(5) The permittee shall purchase and maintain general liability insurance or other acceptable security against potential claims for destruction, loss of, or injury to Sanctuary resources arising out of the permitted activities. The amount of insurance or security should be commensurate with an estimated value of the Sanctuary resources in the permitted area. A copy of the insurance policy or security instrument shall be submitted to the Director.

§ 922.167 Permits for access to the Tortugas Ecological Reserve.

(a) A person may enter the Tortugas North area of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve other than for passage without interruption through the reserve, for

law enforcement purposes, or for purposes of monitoring pursuant to paragraph (d)(2) of § 922.164, if authorized by a valid access permit issued pursuant to § 922.167.

(b)(1) Access permits must be requested at least 72 hours but no longer than one month before the date the permit is desired to be effective. Access permits do not require written applications or the payment of any fee. Permits may be requested via telephone or radio by contacting FKNMS at any of the following numbers:

Key West office: telephone: (305) 292-0311
Marathon office: telephone: (305) 743-2437

(2) The following information must be provided, as applicable:

- (i) Vessel name.
- (ii) Name, address, and telephone number of owner and operator.
- (iii) Name, address, and telephone number of applicant.
- (iv) USCG documentation, state license, or registration number.
- (v) Home port.
- (vi) Length of vessel and propulsion type (*i.e.*, motor or sail).
- (vii) Number of divers.
- (viii) Requested effective date and duration of permit (2 weeks, maximum).

(c) The Sanctuary Superintendent will issue a permit to the owner or to the owner's representative for the vessel when all applicable information has been provided. The Sanctuary Superintendent will provide a permit number to the applicant and confirm the effective date and duration period of the permit. Written confirmation of permit issuance will be provided upon request.

[66 FR 4370, Jan. 17, 2001]

§ 922.168 Certification of preexisting leases, licenses, permits, approvals, other authorizations, or rights to conduct a prohibited activity.

(a) A person may conduct an activity prohibited by §§ 922.163 or 922.164 if such activity is specifically authorized by a valid Federal, State, or local lease, permit, license, approval, or other authorization in existence on July 1, 1997, or by any valid right of subsistence use or access in existence on July 1, 1997, provided that:

(1) The holder of such authorization or right notifies the Director, in writing, within 90 days of July 1, 1997, of the existence of such authorization or right and requests certification of such authorization or right; for the area added to the Sanctuary by the boundary expansion for the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, the holder of such authorization or right notifies the Director, in writing, within 90 days of the effective date of the boundary expansion, of the existence of such authorization or right and requests certification of such authorization or right.

(2) The holder complies with the other provisions of this § 922.168; and

(3) The holder complies with any terms and conditions on the exercise of such authorization or right imposed as a condition of certification, by the Director, to achieve the purposes for which the Sanctuary was designated.

(b) The holder of an authorization or right described in paragraph (a) of this section authorizing an activity prohibited by Secs. 922.163 or 922.164 may conduct the activity without being in violation of applicable provisions of Secs. 922.163 or 922.164, pending final agency action on his or her certification request, provided the holder is in compliance with this § 922.168.

(c) Any holder of an authorization or right described in paragraph (a) of this section may request the Director to issue a finding as to whether the activity for which the authorization has been issued, or the right given, is prohibited by Secs. 922.163 or 922.164, thus requiring certification under this section.

(d) Requests for findings or certifications should be addressed to the Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management; ATTN: Sanctuary Superintendent, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, P.O. Box 500368, Marathon, FL 33050. A copy of the lease, permit, license, approval, or other authorization must accompany the request.

(e) The Director may request additional information from the certification requester as he or she deems reasonably necessary to condition appropriately the exercise of the certified authorization or right to achieve the purposes for which the Sanctuary was

extensive coordination between sales and production that is required on "order by order" sales and enables Nishiyama to produce MCS during the non-peak season. Nishiyama contends that the "LOT 2" sales are made to small calendar manufacturers that do not provide estimates to Nishiyama, rather, Nishiyama produces MCS for these customers on an "order by order" basis. Nishiyama maintains that there is a shorter production lead time for this type of customer. Nishiyama also maintains that it has to make significant additional efforts to coordinate sales and production due to the shorter delivery schedules, smaller orders, and level of customization. Nishiyama claims that the U.S. sales more closely correspond to "LOT 1" because the U.S. customers place orders with longer lead times and do not require significant time for coordination with the customer.

In our original questionnaire and our supplemental questionnaire, we asked Nishiyama to provide a complete list of all the selling activities performed and services offered in the U.S. market and the home market for each claimed LOT. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.412(c)(2), substantial differences in selling activities are a necessary condition for determining there is a difference in the stage of marketing. While Nishiyama claimed that there were some differences between these distribution channels, which it claimed constitute separate LOTs, we find that these differences are not differences in selling functions and do not create two LOTs. Information submitted by Nishiyama with respect to its claimed LOTs primarily focused on the differences in the lead times for the order, the size of the manufacturers making the orders, and the amount of coordination needed when dealing with large versus small manufacturers. Nishiyama did not submit any information on the specific selling activities and functions for each proposed LOT nor did it define the stages of marketing of each proposed LOT. Nishiyama has not demonstrated substantial differences in the selling activities in the U.S. market and home market. As such, Nishiyama has not adequately supported its claim that it has two LOTs in the home market and a different, separate LOT in the U.S. market, or that we should grant it an LOT adjustment.

Currency Conversions

We made currency conversions into U.S. dollars in accordance with section 773A of the Act based on exchange rates in effect on the dates of the U.S. sales, as obtained from the Federal Reserve

Bank (the Department's preferred source for exchange rates).

Verification

In accordance with section 782(i) of the Act, we will verify the questionnaire responses of Nishiyama before making our final determination.

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(d)(2) of the Act, we are directing CBP to suspend liquidation of all entries of MCS from Japan that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. We are also instructing CBP to require a cash deposit or the posting of a bond equal to the weighted-average dumping margins as indicated in the chart below. These instructions suspending liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

The weighted-average dumping margins are as follows:

Producer/Exporter	Weighted-Average Margin (Percentage)
Nishiyama Kinzoku Co., Ltd.	7.68%
All Others	7.68%

Disclosure

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b), the Department will disclose to interested parties, the calculations performed in this preliminary determination within five days of the date of the public announcement.

Public Comment

Interested parties are invited to comment on the preliminary determination. Interested parties may submit case briefs either 50 days after the date of publication of this notice or ten days after the issuance of the verification reports, whichever is later. See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(I). Rebuttal briefs, the content of which is limited to the issues raised in the case briefs, must be filed within five days after the deadline for the submission of case briefs. See 19 CFR 351.309(d). A list of authorities used, a table of contents, and an executive summary of issues should accompany any briefs submitted to the Department. Executive summaries should be limited to five pages total, including footnotes.

In accordance with section 774 of the Act, we will hold a public hearing, if requested, to afford interested parties an opportunity to comment on arguments raised in case or rebuttal briefs. If a request for a hearing is made, we will tentatively hold the hearing two days

after the deadline for submission of rebuttal briefs at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, at a time and in a room to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing 48 hours before the scheduled date.

Interested parties who wish to request a hearing, or to participate in a hearing if one is requested, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1870, within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain: (1) The party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and (3) a list of the issues to be discussed. At the hearing, oral presentations will be limited to issues raised in the briefs. See 19 CFR 351.310(c). Unless the Department receives a request for a postponement pursuant to section 735(a)(2) of the Act, the Department will make its final determination no later than 75 days after the date of this preliminary determination. See section 735(a)(1) of the Act.

International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, we have notified the ITC of the Department's preliminary affirmative determination. If the final determination in this proceeding is affirmative, the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination whether imports of MCS from Japan are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the U.S. industry. See section 735(b)(2) of the Act.

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: January 25, 2006.

David M. Spooner,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. E6-1348 Filed 1-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Tortugas Access Permits

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

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 April 3, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to David Bizot, 301-713-7268 or David.Bizot@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

In order to gain access to the Tortugas ecological reserve, persons must obtain a permit. The permit holders must notify NOAA by radio no less than 30 minutes and no more than 6 hours before entering the reserve, and when leaving it. Permit actions may be appealed.

The purpose of the access permit and notifications are to (1) protect this unique deepwater coral reef and (2) facilitate the enforcement of the no-take regulations in this remote area. The overall intended effect of this collection is to protect the deepwater coral reef community in this area from being degraded by human activities.

II. Method of Collection

Applications and notifications are made by phone. Appeals must be in writing.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0418.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Businesses and other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 49.

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes for an application; 2 minutes for a radio call; and 90 minutes for an appeal.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 12.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$127.

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: January 26, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-1299 Filed 1-31-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-NK-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 012506B]

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of open public meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC). This will be the first of two meetings held in fiscal year 2006 to review and advise NOAA on management policies for living marine resources. Agenda topics are provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. All sessions will be open to the public.

DATES: The meetings will be held February 14-15, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 16, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the International Game Fish Association, 300 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004.

Requests for special accommodations may be directed to MAFAC, Office of Constituent Services, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway #9508, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurel Bryant, MAFAC Executive Director; telephone: (301) 713-2379 x171.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, notice is hereby given of meetings of MAFAC. MAFAC was established by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) on February 17, 1971, to advise the Secretary on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. This committee advises and reviews the adequacy of living marine resource policies and programs to meet the needs of commercial and recreational fisheries, and environmental, state, consumer, academic, tribal, governmental and other national interests.

Matters to be Considered

February 14, 2006

The meeting will begin with remarks from Roy Crabtree, Southeast Regional Administrator for NMFS, and William T. Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. Next, the committee will receive an update on offshore aquaculture. There will also be a discussion of NMFS' role in seafood health and safety issues. The afternoon will include updates on international affairs and hurricane impacts and recovery in the Gulf of Mexico.

February 15, 2006

In the morning, the committee will be given an update on the status of litigation and briefed on Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act reauthorization. There will also be a discussion of overfishing. In the afternoon, the committee will discuss recreational fishing issues. Discussions on recreational fishing and seafood health may continue in two separate breakout groups.

February 16, 2006

The committee will reconvene to receive and discuss any breakout group reports. The rest of the morning will be devoted to administrative issues, such as the assignment of new members to subcommittees, determining the dates and locations of future meetings, and identifying follow-up assignments.