

NOAA

Agency	RIN/ OMB Control Number	Title of Rule	Brief Description	Date	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits	Progress updates and anticipated accomplishments
NOAA	0648-XY55	2011 Sector Operations Plans and Contracts, and Allocation of Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Entitlements	Owners of sector vessels who currently intend to participate in one of the 19 sectors account for 834 of the 1,475 eligible Northeast multispecies permit holders, representing approximately 99 percent of the historical commercial Northeast multispecies catch. Amendment 16 to the multispecies fishery management plan implemented several “universal exemptions” for all sectors. In addition to these exemptions, this rule provides a total of 17 additional exemptions to the Northeast multispecies regulations, as requested in the 2011 operations plans.	4/25/11	In 2010, the regulations governing the Northeast multispecies (groundfish) fishery were substantially revised as part of Amendment 16 to continue efforts to conserve fish stocks. These revisions were based on new stock assessment data that revealed many stocks continue to be overfished and require substantial reductions in effort to rebuild. This action also included other revisions intended to reduce adverse economic impacts of recent reductions in fishing effort through the expansion of sector management and measures designed to improve the economic efficiency of vessel operations.	Published—76 FR 23076

					<p>Based on updated scientific information, this final Framework 45 rule revises the catch limits for several stocks. Many of the stock's catch limits are increasing (some already scheduled under Amendment 16 and others specifically raised in this final rule).</p> <p>Based on concerns about the costs of monitoring measures implemented under Amendment 16, Framework 45 delays the requirement for industry to pay for <i>dockside</i> monitoring until fishing year 2013. This saves industry approximately \$660,000 in fishing year 2012. Further this action exempts certain permit categories from dockside monitoring requirements due to the high cost of monitoring relative to the small scale of the affected permit categories.</p>	
NOAA	0648-BA51	Regulatory Amendment 10 for the Snapper-Grouper	This final rule removes the snapper-grouper area closure implemented through Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan.		The final rule to eliminate the area closure that was implemented in Amendment 17A is estimated to have a non-uniform change in the short-	Published—76 FR 23728

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		Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Red Snapper Management Measures	The intended effect of this final rule is to minimize the socio-economic impacts to snapper-grouper fishermen, without subjecting the red snapper resource to overfishing.		term profits of commercial vessels operating in the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery. The net effect of the action on commercial vessels as a whole is estimated to be an average increase in annual profits of approximately \$57,000. As a result of the action, annual profits are expected to increase by \$227,000 for charterboats and \$815,000 for headboats.	
NOAA	0648-BA91	Final Rule to Implement Framework Adjustment 1 to the Skate Fishery Management Plan	Framework Adjustment 1 was developed by the New England Fishery Management Council to adjust the possession limits for the skate wing fishery in order to slow the rate of skate wing landings, so that the available Total Allowable Landings (TAL) limit is taken by the fishery over a longer duration in the fishing year than occurred in fishing year 2010, thus ensuring steady market supply. The action also allowed vessels that process skate wings at sea to land	5/17/2011	In approving several measures proposed in Framework Adjustment 1, NMFS had to weigh the potential short-term economic impacts to individual fishermen of a reduced skate wing possession limit during May-August, when demand and price are generally lower (average of \$0.33/lb during 2009 and 2010), versus the longer-term benefits to the fishery as a whole of preserving more of the available TAL for the fall and winter months when demand and price are generally higher (average of \$0.64/lb during 2009 and 2010) and	Published—76 FR 28328

			<p>skate carcasses for sale into the bait market without counting carcass landings against the Total Allowable Landings (skate wings are already converted to live weight for monitoring).</p>	<p>allowing higher levels of landings during this time. Implementation of this final rule was expected to maximize fishing opportunities for skates throughout the Fishing Year and improve the profitability of the fishery.</p> <p>The change to the possession limit trigger point is also expected to increase the duration of the directed fishing season, similarly improving the economic performance and profitability of the fishery.</p> <p>Finally the change in the regulations to allow skate carcasses to be landed rather than discarded at sea could result in marginal increases in per trip fishing revenue for vessels that cut skate wings at sea and land the remaining carcasses for sale as lobster bait (estimates range from approximately \$360 per trip at the 2,600 lb possession limit to approximately \$570 per trip at the 4,100 possession limit).</p>	
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NOAA	0648-AY38	Regulatory Amendment to Revise the Charter Halibut Logbook Submission Requirements	<p>This action amends recordkeeping and reporting measures to (1) improve consistency between Federal regulations and State of Alaska logbook instructions for the submission of the data sheets, and (2) address recent changes by the State of Alaska to the charter logbook reporting format. This action is administrative in effect; it revises the recordkeeping and reporting burden on guided charter operators in International Pacific Halibut Convention Areas 2C and 3A, reduces potential confusion by the regulated public, and facilitates efficient reporting of halibut caught and retained in these areas.</p>	2/7/11	<p>Most of the proposed regulatory changes are minor clerical modifications, revising federal requirements as to where on the logbook form to report certain types of information. In these cases, federal requirements currently diverge from state instructions, and the modifications will eliminate that divergence. This will minimize the risk of confusion and reduce the burden of dual reporting of these data.</p> <p>Only one of the proposed changes will modify restrictions placed on regulated entities, and this relaxes federal requirements, while making them consistent with state requirements. This rule places federal regulations in accord with state regulations that allow logbooks to be submitted to any Alaska Department of Fish and Game office.</p> <p>This rule will impose <i>de minimus</i> costs on charter fishing operations, and may provide</p>	Published—76 FR 6567
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					some benefits by reducing the potential for confusion deriving from conflicting regulatory language. In turn creating consistency between state and federal regulations may increase efficiency and lower costs of collecting these data. The action will not increase administrative, fisheries management, nor enforcement costs.	
NOAA	0648-AY84	Removal of Certain Reporting Requirements under the American Fisheries Act	This rule amended the American Fisheries Act (AFA) implementing regulations that previously required cooperatives participating in the directed fishery for pollock in the Bering Sea to prepare and submit preliminary annual reports to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). The Council determined that the requirement for cooperatives to submit a preliminary annual report is no longer necessary, and this action eliminates that requirement.	3/9/11	Prior to this action, all AFA cooperatives were required to submit both preliminary and final annual written reports on directed pollock fishing activity to the Council. The preliminary report was due on December 1, one month after the pollock fishery's closure on November 1, while the final report was due on April 1 of the following year. The two reports resulted from the Council's recognition that one month following the fishery's closure may not be enough time for the AFA cooperative representatives to compile all of the required information for the annual report. In recent years, the	Published—76 FR 12884

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					Council has found that the preliminary AFA cooperative report is no longer necessary to develop recommendations on final groundfish specifications or on cooperative allocations and sideboard protection measures.	
NOAA	0648-AY42	Final Rule to Implement Amendment 86 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska	This action adds a Pacific cod endorsement on licenses issued under the License Limitation Program in specific management areas if those licenses have been used on vessels that met minimum recent landing requirements using nontrawl gear, commonly known as fixed gear.	3/22/11	<p>The adopted modifications minimize adverse economic impacts on the directly regulated small entities. The action provides greater economic stability for fixed-gear LLP license holders with recent participation in the Central Gulf of Alaska and Western Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod fisheries.</p> <p>The addition of new Pacific cod endorsed fixed-gear licenses and the removal of LLP requirements for most vessels using jig gear may provide additional harvest opportunities for some catcher vessels in Federal waters.</p>	Published—76 FR 15826
NOAA	0648-BA11	Amendment 37 to the Bering	This action amended the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization	6/20/11	All of the directly regulated entities are expected to benefit from this action. Amendment	Published—76 FR 35781

		Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program for Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska	Program by establishing a process for eligible contract signatories to request that NMFS exempt holders of West-designated individual fishing quota and individual processor quota in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery from the West regional delivery requirements.		37 provides an additional opportunity for landings of crab from the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery, in the event that parties are unable to reasonably access processing in the West region of the fishery. The magnitude of the gain in net benefits is likely to be fairly small, as the total gross revenues derived from production in the West region of the fishery is typically less than \$5 million. Despite this relatively small potential gain in net benefits, the efficiencies are considered important by participants in the fisheries.	
NOAA	0648-AX97	Regulatory Amendment to Implement Updates for eLandings	This rule made minor regulatory changes needed to improve and update the methods and procedures of eLandings and to improve the flexibility and efficiency of recordkeeping and reporting requirements for NMFS Alaska Region fishery programs.	7/11/211	Since implementation and use of eLandings, NMFS has identified minor regulatory changes needed to improve and update the methods and procedures of eLandings, and to improve the flexibility and efficiency of recordkeeping and reporting requirements for NMFS Alaska Region fishery programs. The changes in this rule	Published—76 FR 40628

					removed inconsistencies in the current regulations, provided benefits by clarifying eLandings requirements for industry participants and other interested parties, and increased the efficiency of the eLandings process. In addition, these changes will reduce costs for processors and Register Crab Receivers using eLandings. ¹	
NOAA	0648-BB07	Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Removal of Regulations	This final rule repealed the Fishery Management Plan for the Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico and removed its implementing regulations, as requested by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.	9/23/11	The stone crab fishery operates primarily in state waters off the coast of Florida, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is extending its management of the fishery into Federal waters. Repealing the Federal regulations eliminated duplication of management efforts, reduced costs for the Federal government, and aligned with the President's Executive Order 13563, to ensure Federal regulations are more effective and less burdensome in achieving regulatory objectives. The	Published—76 FR 59064

¹ The full list of regulatory changes is included in the Appendix at the end of this table.

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					intended effect of this action was to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of managing the stone crab fishery in the Gulf of Mexico.	
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BIS

Agency or Sub-agency	RIN/OMB Control Number	Title of Rule	Actual/Target Completion Date	Anticipated Savings in costs and/or information collection burdens and anticipated changes in benefits	Progress updates and anticipated accomplishments
BIS	0694-AF03	Export Control Reform Initiative: Strategic Trade Authorization License Exception	6/16/11 76 FR 35276	While reduction in burden hours for license applications (0694-0088) is somewhat offset by increased safeguards requirements for assurances against unauthorized reexports (0694-0137), giving exporters the option of an exception reduces uncertainty and turnaround time on the transaction; benefits include allowing the government to redirect resources from low-risk transactions to more complex national security and foreign policy concerns.	In early February, in order to determine the impact of the regulation on license applications and shipments, BIS's Office of Technology Evaluation (OTE) will prepare a benchmark analysis of the use of Strategic Trade Authorization (STA) transactions, comparing pre-STA license applications and shipments with post-STA data. Based on early analysis, OTE found that from June to October 2011, 21 exporters have conducted 88 shipments under STA worth \$1,353,405.
BIS	0694-AF17	Proposed Revision to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)	7/15/11 76 FR 41958	Increases in burden hours under 0694-0088 and 0694-0137 for less militarily significant items moved from State to Commerce control is expected to be more than offset by reductions in State collections for license applications and amendments (1405-0003,	Public comment period closed on September 13, 2011. Comments generally supported the concept and offered numerous specific suggestions currently under review.

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				1405-0023, and 1405-0092), agreements (1405-0093), and registration (1405-0002). State registration and licensing fees are not required for Commerce items. Benefits include reduced burden on exporters due to more flexible Commerce licensing regime; eased interoperability with close allies; enhanced defense industrial base; and greater clarity with respect to jurisdiction.	
BIS	0694-AF36	Proposed Revision to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Aircraft and Related Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)	11/7/11 76 FR 68675	Increases in burden hours under 0694-0088 and 0694-0137 for aircraft and related items moved from State to Commerce control are expected to be more than offset by reductions in State collections for license applications and amendments (1405-0003, 1405-0023, and 1405-0092), agreements (1405-0093), and registration (1405-0002). State registration and licensing fees are not required for Commerce items. Benefits include reduced burden on exporters due to more flexible Commerce	Public comment period closed on December 22, 2011. Comments generally supported the concept and offered numerous specific suggestions currently under review.

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				licensing regime; eased interoperability with close allies; enhanced defense industrial base; and greater clarity with respect to jurisdiction.	
BIS	0694-AF41	Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Gas Turbine Engines and Related Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)	12/6/11 76 FR 76072	Increases in burden hours under 0694-0088 and 0694-0137 for gas turbine engines and related items moved from State to Commerce control are expected to be more than offset by reductions in State collections for license applications and amendments (1405-0003, 1405-0023, and 1405-0092), agreements (1405-0093), and registration (1405-0002). State registration and licensing fees are not required for Commerce items. Benefits include reduced burden on exporters due to more flexible Commerce licensing regime; eased interoperability with close allies; enhanced defense industrial base; and greater clarity with respect to jurisdiction.	Public comment period will close on January 20, 2012.
BIS	0694-AF17	Revisions to the Export Administration	12/6/11 76 FR 76085	Increases in burden hours under 0694-0088 and 0694-0137 for	Public comment period will close on January 20, 2012.

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		Regulations (EAR): Control of Military Vehicles and Related Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List		military vehicles and related items moved from State to Commerce control are expected to be more than offset by reductions in State collections for license applications and amendments (1405-0003, 1405-0023, and 1405-0092), agreements (1405-0093), and registration (1405-0002). State registration and licensing fees are not required for Commerce items. Benefits include reduced burden on exporters due to more flexible Commerce licensing regime; eased interoperability with close allies; enhanced defense industrial base; and greater clarity with respect to jurisdiction.	
BIS	0694-AF42	Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Vessels of War and Related Articles the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)	12/23/11 76 FR 80282	Increases in burden hours under 0694-0088 and 0694-0137 for items, primarily parts and components for vessels, moved from State to Commerce control are expected to be more than offset by reductions in State collections for license applications and amendments (1405-0003, 1405-0023, and	Public comment period will close on February 6, 2012.

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				1405-0092), agreements (1405-0093), and registration (1405-0002). State registration and licensing fees are not required for Commerce items. Benefits include reduced burden on exporters due to more flexible Commerce licensing regime; eased interoperability with close allies; enhanced defense industrial base; and greater clarity with respect to jurisdiction.	
BIS	0694-AF39	Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Submersible Vessels, Oceanographic Equipment and Related Articles the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)	12/23/11 76 FR 80291	Due to limited export and reexport trade in these items, little to no effect on burden should occur. Greater clarity with respect to jurisdiction is a benefit of this rule.	Public comment period will close on February 6, 2012.

USPTO

Agency /Sub-Agency	RIN /OMB Control Number	Title of Initiative/ Rule/ICR	Brief Description	Actual or Target Completion Date	Anticipated savings in costs and/or information collection burdens, together with any anticipated changes in benefits	Progress updates and anticipated accomplishments
USPTO	TBD	Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM)	<p>This ANPRM would notify the public that the USPTO is considering revising its regulations to ease burdens and realize cost savings. 37 C.F.R. 1.52 concerns specifications for paper and CD-ROM submissions to the USPTO, and has not been revised in more than a decade. 37 C.F.R. 1.121 concerns making amendments in patent applications. 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98 concern information disclosure statements.</p> <p>The ANPRM would solicit ideas from the public concerning improvements that could be made to these regulations in order to ease</p>	Mid-2012	<p>Cost savings and benefits cannot be quantified at this time, but many of these rules impact all applicants who file patent applications with the USPTO, and even small improvements to the regulations could result in significant cost savings and benefits given the large number of annual applications. The USPTO plans to publish the ANPRM in order to engage the public as early as possible and seek specific ideas from the user community about improvements to these regulations that would provide them cost savings and other benefits.</p>	<p>This ANPRM will be drafted and published in the <i>Federal Register</i> by mid-2012.</p>

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			burdens and provide cost savings to patent applicants.			
USPTO	TBD	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)	Sec. 10 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) gives the USPTO authority to set or adjust all of its fees. The USPTO is working on this process now and anticipates publishing an NPRM setting forth the proposed fee adjustments and underlying analysis in 2012 and seeking public input on these proposals.	2012	Sec. 10 of the AIA provides that fees can be set or adjusted to recover aggregate estimated costs to the USPTO. In conducting the work to set and adjust fees under Sec. 10, the USPTO is considering many of the principles set forth in EO 13563, including public input and cost/benefit analysis.	It is anticipated that this NPRM will be published in 2012, and that fee setting under Sec. 10 of the AIA will be accomplished in 2013.

Appendix

Full list of regulatory changes implemented by 0648-AX97

- Standardizes data entry time limits for recording discard, disposition, product, and other required information in the daily fishing logbook, daily cumulative production logbook, or eLandings to correspond with actual fishing operations.
- Sets time limits for recording information in the paper catcher vessel daily fishing logbooks (DFLs) and mothership and catcher/processor DCPLs.
- Sets time limits to submit landing reports and production reports to NMFS through eLandings.
- Sets time limits to submit electronic logbook (ELB) information through eLandings.
- Revises information to be recorded or submitted “by noon of the following day” to read “by midnight of the following day.”
- Revises “noon” and “midnight” in Alaska local time (A.l.t.) to read 1200 hours, A.l.t., and 2400 hours, A.l.t., respectively.
- Changes the deadline for a vessel operator's signature entry in the DFLs, DCPLs, and ELBs from noon to midnight.
- Revises the deadline for printing a copy of the ELB logsheet from noon to midnight each day.
- Revises the submittal time limit for the delivery “landed scale weight” entry on SSP or SFP eLandings landing reports.
- Revises the time limit to record scale weights in the DCPL for catcher/processors participating in the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program.
- Revises deadlines for recording scale weights and CDQ group number in the catcher/processor trawl DCPL.

This supplement provides a narrative discussion of NOAA's progress in implementing commitments it made in the Department's EO 13563 retrospective regulatory review plan last year.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

- Under § 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, NOAA, conducts ongoing reviews of rules that were identified as having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.
 - NOAA is near completion of its review of all significant rules published in 2001 and 2002 and has begun work on review of significant rules published in 2003 and 2004. The list of rules eligible for review has been compiled and distributed for initial review to the relevant components of the agency.

Magnuson-Stevens Act

- In 2007, new requirements for annual catch limits and preventing overfishing went into effect in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. 16 U.S.C. § 1853(a)(15). As a result, NMFS and the Regional Fishery Management Councils have engaged in a comprehensive review of existing fishery management plans and amendments. Through this review, the Councils have undertaken substantial revisions to the existing fishery management plans, addressing inefficiencies in existing processes as well as new statutory requirements.
 - NOAA and the Councils have completed revision of 40 fishery management plans, implementing new annual catch limits for all of the effected fisheries. By the start of the 2012 fishing season, reviews will be complete on the remaining six fishery management plans.

Endangered Species Act

- NMFS and the Fish and Wildlife Service jointly administer regulations for implementing the ESA listing process, including designation of critical habitat, and the interagency consultation process. The agencies are considering changes to the joint ESA regulations that are expected to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the statute.
 - NMFS and FWS have developed draft regulations that would revise the process for designation of critical habitat and address the phrase "destruction or adverse modification" of critical habitat. At NOAA, those draft regulations are currently under review at the management level.

Regional Fishery Management Councils

- NMFS is currently working with the Regional Fishery Management Councils and the NOAA Office of the Chief Information Officer to explore how to improve web-based delivery of

information on fishery management regulations. As a jumping off point for this project, NOAA's Chief Information Officer has developed Content Management templates that are currently being tested.

- NOAA's Chief Information Officer has developed Content Management templates that are currently being tested. Training is underway in the Office of CIO so that headquarters can communicate about Content Management and a plan of action to the regional offices. Content Management trainings for staff in the regional offices as well as in Silver Spring have been completed as well. Implementation of Content Management began in late August. The completion of the Content Management process will make it easier for NOAA to keep all websites up to date by decentralizing the process. NOAA views this step as a "launching off point" to improve the web-based delivery of information on fishery management regulations.
- NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) intends to reinforce the existing culture of retrospective analysis through increased outreach to the Regional Fishery Management Councils that develop fishery management plans pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Councils' fishery management planning process entails significant public participation and opportunities for soliciting thoughts on needed modifications to or repeal of regulatory actions. NMFS has begun, and will continue, to coordinate with the councils, emphasizing the need for scrutiny of proposed and existing regulations consistent with Executive Order 13563, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other relevant laws, and the need to make fisheries management regulations simpler and easier to follow. NMFS intends to encourage such scrutiny of regulatory actions through its meetings with the Council Coordination Committee and during meetings of the councils and their subcommittees.
 - At both of the 2011 Council Coordination Committee meetings, NMFS has addressed the Committee regarding Executive Order 13563 and discussed both NOAA's plans with regard to the look back component of the Order as well as ways for the Councils to incorporate the Order into the development of fishery management plans and amendments. Additionally, NOAA general counsel addressed agency plans regarding EO 13563 at the fisheries Assistant Regional Administrators meeting this summer. This outreach will continue at future meetings of both the Council Coordination Committee and with the NMFS regional offices.
- NOAA will strengthen internal review expertise in various ways. For example, NMFS will provide instruction on regulatory reform/review as part of its annual, new Regional Fishery Management Council Member Training. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 1852(k).
 - The 2011 Council Member Training took place on Nov 29-Dec 1, 2011. The curriculum for that training included instruction on drafting regulations in order to reduce regulatory complexity and burdens and addressed the ongoing need for review of existing regulations. EO 13563, and regulatory complexity in general will be incorporated into the curriculum for all future trainings.

- In addition, NMFS has already begun, and will continue, to encourage and work with the regional fishery management councils' enforcement and compliance committees to look at the issues of regulatory complexity and burdens.
 - In addition to providing general guidance at the Council Coordination Committee Meetings as to regulatory complexity and burdens, NMFS has begun working with the New England Fishery Management Council in particular on these issues. NMFS identified a significant amount of overlap between the look back plan and those areas of improvement needed to respond to the New England Management Review on the New England situation (e.g., simplification of regulations). At its meeting on September 26, 2011, the Council and the agency reported on the following progress to date, including some areas with significant overlap with NOAA's overall regulatory reform effort:
 - Overhauling data collection and management system: NMFS has initiated a review and analysis of the regional data systems to better integrate them and improve efficiencies. NOAA's Satellite and Information Services staff, which has conducted similar work in the past, has begun this review
 - Developing new operating agreements: NMFS is working on new agreements with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils to clarify roles and responsibilities, strengthen collaboration, simplify the governance structure and process, and highlight opportunities for public input
 - Launching a "plain language" campaign: NMFS is striving to make all written documents more clear and concise.

Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office

- NOAA's Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) periodically reviews and updates, as appropriate, regulations at 15 CFR Part 960 (Licensing of Private Land Remote-Sensing Space Systems) implementing the licensing and compliance provisions contained in the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act, 15 U.S.C. § 60121 et seq., to ensure that they facilitate the growth and international competitiveness of the U.S. commercial remote sensing industry while preserving U.S. national security and international obligations.
 - Since April 2011, NOAA's Office of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) has been engaged in a line-by-line review of its regulations at 15 CFR Part 960 which implement the licensing requirements for private remote sensing space systems contained in the National and Commercial Space Programs Act (NCSIPA), 51 U.S.C. §§ 50101, *et seq.* The purpose of this review is to update the regulations to address advances in remotes sensing technology and changed business practices within the industry. The overall goal of the review is to identify changes that can be made to the to the regulations to ensure that they facilitate the growth and international competitiveness of the U.S. commercial remote sensing industry while preserving U.S. national security and international obligations. The changes are expected to further this goal by reducing regulatory uncertainty in NOAA's licensing

process and thereby allow the industry to respond more nimbly to potential business opportunities both here and abroad.

- As a result of this review, NOAA CRSRA staff has developed a draft proposed rule. CRSRA management completed review of that rule on November 30, 2011 and is now under review by the NESDIS Deputy Assistant Administrator. That review is expected to be completed by mid-January, at which point the proposed rule will be provided to the DOD, DOS, the Intelligence Community (IC) and the USGS for their informal review and comment. Such review is appropriate since the NCSPA assigns these agencies specific responsibilities in the licensing process. Based on comments received during this informal review, NOAA CRSRA will then prepare a final draft proposed rule for formal review and coordination within NOAA and the Department of Commerce. Once this inter-Department coordination is complete, the proposed rule will be forwarded to OMB for interagency review and clearance. Based on past experience, the informal pre-coordination of the proposed rule with agencies involved in the licensing process, should help to facilitate a timely review and clearance by OMB. NOAA CRSRA's goal is to publish the proposed rule in the *Federal Register* for public comment by the summer of 2012.

National Marine Sanctuaries

The following national marine sanctuaries are currently in ongoing management plan review, or are in the process of undergoing management plan review:

1. Flower Garden Banks
 2. Olympic Coast
 3. Monitor
 4. Fagatele Bay
 5. Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
- NOAA has completed review of the Fagatele Bay and Olympic Coast marine sanctuaries, resulting in the release of draft revised management plans for those National Marine Sanctuaries.