

revised to allow options for training; require an annual training certification letter to MMS in lieu of individual certifications; and allow flexibility in posting placards.

The full development of these programs, and their subsequent requirements, has significantly increased the burden hours of the already approved information collection. Therefore, with this

submission, MMS is requesting a renewal of the approved collection and the noted revisions.

Frequency: On occasion, annually, and on the 1st and 15th of each month for the marine mammal observation reports.

Estimated Number and Description of Respondents: Approximately 130 Federal OCS lessees and operators.

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Hour" Burden: The

estimated annual "hour" burden for this information collection is a total of 22,305 hours. The following chart details the individual components and estimated hour burdens. In calculating the burdens, MMS assumed that respondents perform certain requirements in the normal course of their activities. MMS considers these to be usual and customary and took that into account in estimating the burden.

NTL no. and name	Reporting, posting, or recordkeeping requirement	Hour burden	Average no. annual responses	Annual burden hours
2003-G08 Implementation of Seismic Survey Mitigation Measures and Protected Species Observer.	Submit protected species observation reports/forms (including observer, survey, sighting, shut-down, borehole, and passive acoustic monitoring reports).	1 hour/report	200 sightings reports ...	200
	Actual visual observation on duty	8 hours/day × 3 observers/vessel = 24.	8 vessels × 110 (30% in seismic mode × 365 days) = 880.	21,120
	Submit to MMS observer training requirement materials and information.	1/2 hour	24 reports × 8 vessels = 192.	96
	Observer training	8 hours	8 vessels × 9 observers (in vessel pool) = 72.	576
	Training certification and recordkeeping	1/2 hour	100	50
2003-G10 Vessel Strike Avoidance and Injured/Dead Protected Species Reporting. 2003-G11 Marine Trash and Debris Awareness and Elimination.	Submit injured/dead protected species report ...	1/2 hour/report	20 reports	10
	Write to obtain training video (optional)	1/2 hour/record	100 requests	50
	Submit annual report to MMS on training process and certification.	1/2 hour/record	200 records	100
	Training recordkeeping	1/2 hour/record	200 records	100
	Post placards on vessels and structures. (Exempt from information collection burden because MMS is providing exact language for the trash and debris warning, similar to the "Surgeon General's Warning" exemption.)			0
Total Burden			1,967 reports	22,305 hours

Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping "Non-Hour Cost"

Burden: MMS has identified no "non-hour cost" burdens associated with the collection of information.

Public Disclosure Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

Comments: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) requires each agency " * * * to provide notice * * * and otherwise consult

with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information * * *

Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the agency to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including use of

automated collection techniques or other information technology.

To comply with the public consultation process, on May 14, 2003, MMS published a **Federal Register** notice (68 FR 25904) announcing that MMS would submit this ICR to OMB for approval. The notice provided the required 60-day comment period. In a letter dated July 10, 2003, the Offshore Operators Committee (OOC), an organization of some 115 companies that essentially conduct all of the OCS oil and gas exploration activities in the Gulf of Mexico, submitted comments on this collection. The following discusses the comments and MMS's responses.