

program for that portion of the limited entry trawl fishery under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan whose permits, excluding those registered to whiting catcher-processors, are endorsed for trawl gear operation (reduction fishery).

The reduction program's objective was to reduce the number of vessels and permits endorsed for the operation of groundfish trawl gear. The program also involved corollary fishing capacity reduction in the California, Oregon, and Washington fisheries for Dungeness crab and pink shrimp and the sub-loans for these state fisheries have all been repaid.

NMFS proposed the implementing notice on May 28, 2003 (68 FR 31653) and published the final notice on July 18, 2003 (68 FR 42613). NMFS allocated \$28,428,719 reduction loan to the groundfish fishery. The allocation became a reduction loan repayable by fees from the groundfish fishery.

NMFS published in the **Federal Register** on July 13, 2005 (70 FR 40225), the final rule to implement the industry fee system for repaying the program's reduction loan. The regulations implementing the program are located at § 600.1012 of 50 CFR part 600, subpart M. On August 8, 2005, NMFS published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 45695) a notice of the fee effective date and established September 8, 2005, as the effective date when fee collection and loan repayment began.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to adjust, in accordance with the framework rule's § 600.1013(b), the fee rate for the groundfish fishery. Section 600.1013(b) directs NMFS to recalculate the fee rate that will be reasonably necessary to ensure reduction loan repayment within the specified 30-year term. NMFS has determined that the current fee rate of 5.0 percent for the groundfish fishery is projected to collect more than the annual amortization amount needed for 2018. Therefore, NMFS is decreasing the fee rate to 4.5 percent for all landings beginning January 1, 2018. As of November 24, 2017, the outstanding balance on the groundfish fishery sub-loan was \$22,628,122.29.

Fish buyers may continue to disburse collected fee deposits to NMFS by using www.pay.gov or mail payments to our lockbox. Our lockbox's address is: NOAA Fisheries Pacific Coast Groundfish Buyback, P.O. Box 979059, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000. Fish buyers must include the fee collection report with the fee payment. Fish buyers using www.pay.gov will find an electronic fee collection report form. Fish buyers not

using www.pay.gov may also access the NMFS website for a copy of the fee collection report at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mb/financial_services/docs/pacific_coast_groundfish_buyback_loan_fee_collection_report.pdf.

III. Notice

The new 4.5 percent fee rate for the groundfish fishery will begin for all landings starting January 1, 2018. From and after this date, all groundfish program fish sellers paying fees fishery shall begin paying groundfish program fees at the revised rate. From and after this date, all fees received by NMFS for the groundfish fishery shall be subject to the new fee rates regardless of the applicable fee month. The first due date for fee payments with the decreased rate will be February 14, 2018.

Fee collection and submission shall follow previously established methods in § 600.1013 of the framework rule and in the final fee rule published in the **Federal Register** on July 13, 2005 (70 FR 40225).

Dated: December 19, 2017.

Samuel D. Rauch, III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-27769 Filed 12-22-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF915

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will hold a two and a half day meeting of its Standing, Reef Fish, Coral, and Socioeconomics Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC).

DATES: The meeting will convene on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, January 10, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, January 11, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. EDT, if needed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Gulf Council's Conference Room. *Council address:* Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 2203 N Lois

Avenue, Suite 1100, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Atran, Senior Fishery Biologist, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; steven.atran@gulfcouncil.org; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Day 1—Tuesday, January 9, 2018; 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

- I. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda
 - II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 8, 2012 Coral SSC meeting summary
 - b. October 31, 2017 Standing and Reef Fish SSC webinar summary
 - III. Selection of SSC representative at January 29–February 1, 2018 Council meeting in New Orleans, LA
- Standing and Coral SSC Session*
- IV. Southeast Deep-sea Coral Initiative in the Gulf of Mexico
 - V. Review of the public hearing draft of Coral Amendment 9
 - VI. Review of Management Strategy Evaluation Developed for the Coral Reef Conservation Program Grant

Standing and Socioeconomic SSC Session

- VII. Grouper and Tilefish 5-year IFQ Review
 - a. Safety at sea
 - b. IFQ participants, dealers, and crew surveys

Standing and Reef Fish SSC Session

- VIII. Review of Draft Status Determination Criteria/Optimum Yield Options Paper

Day 2—Wednesday, January 10, 2018; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

- IX. SEDAR Activities
 - a. SEDAR 62 Gray Triggerfish standard assessment
 - i. Terms of reference
 - ii. Project schedule
 - iii. Assessment workshop appointments
- X. Spawning Aggregations in the Gulf of Mexico
 - a. RESTORE Act Science Program project on spawning aggregations in the Gulf of Mexico
 - b. Prediction and Verification of Snapper-Grouper Spawning Aggregation Sites on the Offshore Banks of the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico
- XI. Evaluating Robustness of Harvest Control Rules to Future Red Tide Events
- XII. Further Development of a Stock Assessment Prioritization Spreadsheet

XIII. Analysis Related to Draft Generic Amendment—Carry-over Provision and Framework Modifications

- a. Simulation of the Effect of Carrying Over Unused ACL

XIV. Analysis of Red Grouper Indices of Abundance

XV. Discussion of an ABC Control Rule for Data-Limited Stocks

XVI. Tentative 2018 SSC Meeting Dates

XVII. Other Business

— Meeting Adjourns—

You may register for the SSC Meeting: Standing, Reef Fish, Coral, and Socioeconomic on January 9–11, 2018 at: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1902765732356970499>.

The Agenda is subject to change, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on the Council's file server. To access the file server, the URL is <https://public.gulfcouncil.org:5001/webman/index.cgi>, or go to the Council's website and click on the FTP link in the lower left of the Council website (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>). The username and password are both "gulfguest". Click on the "Library Folder", then scroll down to "SSC meeting–2018–01".

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Scientific and Statistical Committee for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the Scientific and Statistical Committee will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Gulf Council Office (see **ADDRESSES**), at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: December 20, 2017.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2017-27719 Filed 12-22-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Admission To Practice

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

Title: Admission to Practice.

OMB Control Number: 0651–0012.

Form Numbers:

- PTO–158
- PTO–158A
- PTO–158R
- PTO–158T
- PTO–107A
- PTO–107R
- PTO–107S
- PTO/275
- PTO–1209

Type of Request: Revision of a currently existing collection.

Number of Respondents: 19,864 responses per year.

Average Hours per Response: The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 3 minutes (0.05 hours) to 7 hours to prepare the appropriate form or documents and submit to the USPTO, depending upon the instrument used.

Burden Hours: 21,187.83 hours annually.

Cost Burden: \$1,473,587.72.

Needs and Uses: The information in this collection is used by the OED Director to determine whether the applicant for registration is of good moral character and repute; has the necessary legal, scientific, and technical qualifications; and is otherwise competent to advise and assist applicants in the presentation and prosecution of patent applications.

The information supplied by an applicant seeking to apply for the examination for registration and/or to request that they be included on the Register of Patent Attorneys and Agents is used by the USPTO to review applicants for the examination and to determine whether an applicant may be added to, or an existing practitioner may remain on, the Register of Patent Attorneys and Agents.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits; not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

OMB Desk Officer: Nicholas A. Fraser, email: Nicholas_A._Fraser@omb.eop.gov.

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651–0012 copy request" in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division Director, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before January 25, 2018 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to Nicholas_A._Fraser@omb.eop.gov, or by fax to 202–395–5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

Marcie Lovett,

Records and Information Governance Division Director, OCTO, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2017-27685 Filed 12-22-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Army Science Board Plenary Meeting

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting and a voting session.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the Sunshine in the Government Act of 1976 and the Code of the Federal Regulations, the Department of the Army announces the following committee meeting:

Name of Committee: Army Science Board (ASB).

Date(s) of Meeting: January 9–11, 2018.

Time(s) of Meeting:
0800–1700, January 9, 2018.
0800–1700, January 10, 2018.
0800–1700, January 11, 2018.

Place of Meeting: Fort Benning, Georgia, Building 70, Room 1020.

Purpose of Meeting: The purpose of the meeting is for ASB members to collect data and hold discussions as it relates to individual study topics listed