

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 71 South Atlantic Gag Grouper Assessment Webinar III.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 71 assessment of the South Atlantic stock of gag grouper will consist of a data webinar and a series assessment webinars.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 71 Gag Grouper Assessment Webinar III has been scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Registration is available online at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3102956364955419152>.

**SEDAR address:** South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, N. Charleston, SC 29405; [www.sedarweb.org](http://www.sedarweb.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kathleen Howington, SEDAR Coordinator, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405; phone: (843) 571-4371; email: [Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net](mailto:Kathleen.Howington@safmc.net).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions, have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a three-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data Workshop is a data report which compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report which describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries

Science Center. Participants include: Data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); international experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion at the SEDAR 71 Gag Grouper Assessment Webinar III are as follows:

- Discuss data issues as needed
- Discuss modeling issues as needed

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 17, 2020.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-28297 Filed 12-22-20; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XA633]

**Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Longline Catcher Processor Subsector of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Non Pollock Groundfish Fishery**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of fee rate adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues this notice to inform the public that there will be an

increase of the fee rate required to repay the \$35,000,000 reduction loan financing the non-pollock groundfish fishing capacity reduction program. Effective January 1, 2021, NMFS is increasing the Loan A fee rate to \$0.024 per pound to ensure timely repayment of the loan. The fee rate for Loan B will remain unchanged at \$0.001 per pound. The increased Loan A fee rate is due to the 20 percent decrease in non-pollock groundfish Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2021.

**DATES:** The non-pollock groundfish program fee rate increase will begin with landings on January 1, 2021. The first due date for fee payments with the increased rate will be February 15, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Send questions about this notice to Elaine Saiz, Chief, Financial Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Elaine Saiz, (301) 427-8752.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Sections 312(b)–(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.*) generally authorizes fishing capacity reduction programs. In particular, section 312(d) authorizes industry fee systems for repaying reduction loans which finance reduction program costs. Subpart L of 50 CFR part 600 is the framework rule generally implementing section 312(b)–(e). Sections 1111 and 1112 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 App. U.S.C. 1279f and 1279g) generally authorize reduction loans.

Enacted on December 8, 2004, section 219, Title II, of FY 2005 Appropriations Act, Public Law 104-447 (Act) authorizes a fishing capacity reduction program implementing capacity reduction plans submitted to NMFS by catcher processor subsectors of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) non-pollock groundfish fishery (reduction fishery) as set forth in the Act.

The longline catcher processor subsector (Longline Subsector) is among the catcher processor subsectors eligible to submit to NMFS a capacity reduction plan under the terms of the Act. The longline subsector non-pollock groundfish reduction program's objective was to reduce the number of vessels and permits endorsed for longline subsector of the non-pollock groundfish fishery. All post-reduction fish landings from the reduction fishery are subject to the longline subsector non-pollock groundfish program's fee.

NMFS proposed the implementing notice on August 11, 2006 (71 FR 46364), and published the final notice on September 29, 2006 (71 FR 57696). NMFS allocated the \$35,000,000 reduction loan (A Loan) to the reduction fishery and this loan is repayable by fees from the fishery.

On September 24, 2007, NMFS published in the **Federal Register** (72 FR 54219), the final rule to implement the industry fee system for repaying the non-pollock groundfish program's reduction loan and established October 24, 2007, as the effective date when fee collection and loan repayment began. The regulations implementing the program are located at § 600.1012.

NMFS published a final rule to implement a second \$2,700,000 reduction loan (B Loan) for this fishery in the **Federal Register** on September 24, 2012 (77 FR 58775). The loan was disbursed December 18, 2012 with fee collection of \$0.001 per pound to begin January 1, 2013. This fee is in addition to the A Loan fee.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to adjust the fee rate for the reduction fishery in accordance with the framework rule's § 600.1013(b). 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 for the reduction fishery that the current fee rate of \$0.021 per pound is less than that needed to service the A Loan. Therefore, NMFS is increasing the Loan A fee rate to \$0.024 per pound which NMFS has determined is sufficient to ensure timely loan repayment. The fee rate for Loan B will remain \$0.001 per pound.

Subsector members may continue to use *Pay.gov* to disburse collected fee deposits at: <http://www.pay.gov/paygov/>.

Please visit the NMFS website for additional information at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-and-financial-services/longline-catcher-processor-subsector-bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-non-pollock>.

#### Notice

The new fee rate for the non-pollock groundfish fishery will begin on January 1, 2021.

From and after this date, all subsector members paying fees on the non-pollock groundfish fishery shall begin paying non-pollock groundfish fishery program fees at the revised rate.

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 September 24, 2007 (72 FR 54219).

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 108-447.

Dated: December 17, 2020.

**Brian T. Pawlak,**

*Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Director, Office of Management and Budget, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2020-28361 Filed 12-22-20; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No.: 200918-0249]

RIN 0648-BJ52

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Critical Habitat for the Threatened Indo-Pacific Corals, Public Hearings and Extension of Public Comment Period

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings, extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, NMFS, will hold two public hearings related to our proposed rule to designate critical habitat for seven threatened corals in U.S. waters in the Indo-Pacific (*Acropora globiceps*, *Acropora jacquelineae*, *Acropora retusa*, *Acropora speciosa*, *Euphyllia paradivisa*, *Isopora crateriformis*, and *Seriatopora aculeata*) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We are also extending the public comment period for this proposed rule by 30 days to February 25, 2021.

**DATES:** Public hearings on the proposed rule to designate critical habitat for the seven threatened Indo-Pacific corals will be held online on the following dates, during the early evening hours of the affected jurisdictions (Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa). Times are given in Chamorro Standard Time (GMT+10:00), Samoa Standard Time (GMT-11:00), and Hawaii Standard Time (GMT-10:00).

- The first hearing is scheduled for the early evening in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, from 4 to 7 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 (7 to 10 p.m. Samoa Standard Time on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, and

8 to 11 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time on Tuesday, January 19, 2021).

- The second hearing is scheduled for the early evening in American Samoa, from 4 to 7 p.m. Samoa Standard Time on Thursday, January 21, 2021 (1 to 4 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on Friday, January 22, 2021, and 5 to 8 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time on Thursday, January 21, 2021).

Since the hearings will be held online, any member of the public can join by internet or phone regardless of location. Instructions for joining the hearings are provided under **ADDRESSES** below.

The proposed rule to designate critical habitat for the seven ESA-listed corals was issued on November 27, 2020 (85 FR 76262), and provided for a public comment period to end on January 26, 2021. The comment period is now extended 30 days and will close on February 25, 2021. Comments must be received by February 25, 2021, as specified under **ADDRESSES**. Comments received after this date may not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Both public hearings will be conducted as Webex meetings. You may join the Webex meetings using a web browser, the Webex desktop app (app installation required), a mobile app on a phone (app installation required), or audio-only using just a phone call, as specified below.

- To join the first hearing, click on the link <https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecfe01efe62d246f452d3bf93c907008a> Password: "coral". If you do not have internet access, you may join by phone: US Toll +1-415-527-5035 Access code: 199 477 7805

- To join the second hearing, click on link <https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/onstage/g.php?MTID=e616fdb7791fad92917495cd0002b23bd> Password: "coral". If you do not have internet access, you may join by phone: US Toll +1-415-527-5035 Access code: 199 394 4864

More information about the public hearings is provided under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. You may submit comments verbally or in writing at the public hearings, or in writing by any of the following methods. Comments must be received by February 25, 2021:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0131](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0131) click the "Comment Now" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.