

Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service and should be submitted via email to [ITP.Tucker@noaa.gov](mailto:ITP.Tucker@noaa.gov).

Dated: September 14, 2023.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD378]

#### Advisory Committee Open Session on Management Strategy Evaluation for North Atlantic Swordfish

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

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), supported by NMFS, is holding a public meeting via webinar session to receive an update and provide input on the development of a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish. The meeting is open to all interested stakeholders.

**DATES:** A virtual meeting that is open to the public will be held by webinar session on October 5, 2023, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** Please register to attend the meeting at: <https://forms.gle/2wkHbTstzFDkHpYu9>. Registration will close on October 3, 2023, at 5 p.m. EDT. Instructions for accessing the webinar session will be emailed to registered participants.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bryan Keller, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, (301) 427-7725, [Bryan.Keller@noaa.gov](mailto:Bryan.Keller@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** MSE is a process that allows fishery managers and stakeholders (e.g., industry, scientists, and non-governmental organizations) to assess how well different strategies achieve specified management objectives for a fishery. ICCAT expects to finalize its North Atlantic swordfish MSE in 2023 and anticipates adopting a management procedure in November 2023 to set the total allowable catch (TAC) for 2024 and future years for the stock. NMFS, and

the U.S. Government more broadly, has been fully engaged in the MSE development process, an important part of which involves considering stakeholder input, including through periodic consultations with the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT. The United States is also participating in the development of the North Atlantic swordfish MSE through the active involvement of U.S. scientists in the work carried out by ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

The October 5 meeting is primarily informational in nature. It is intended to update U.S. stakeholders on the progress of the North Atlantic swordfish MSE process and increase awareness and understanding of that process. NMFS will provide information on the progress of the SCRS in developing initial candidate management procedures (CMPs) and testing them based on the input provided to-date by ICCAT's Panel 4 on management objectives and other relevant matters. CMPs illustrate tradeoffs associated with achieving identified management objectives related to stock status, stock safety, yield, and TAC stability over time. CMP testing assists ICCAT in refining management objectives and narrowing the number of viable CMPs for possible adoption by the Commission.

There will also be an opportunity for the Advisory Committee and other stakeholders to provide input on the North Atlantic swordfish MSE. Such input helps inform U.S. scientists who are participating in the MSE work of the SCRS as well as U.S. managers participating in North Atlantic swordfish MSE meetings at the Commission level later in 2023.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*)

Dated: September 14, 2023.

**Alexa Cole,**

*Director, Office of International Affairs,  
Trade, and Commerce, National Marine  
Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Alaska Region Crab Permits

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before November 20, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov](mailto:NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0514 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Gabrielle Aberle, 709 W 9th Street, Juneau, AK 9980, 907-586-7356, [gabrielle.aberle@noaa.gov](mailto:gabrielle.aberle@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting extension of a currently approved information collection for the Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program).

This information collection is necessary for NMFS to manage the CR Program. The CR Program was implemented on April 1, 2005 (70 FR 10174, March 2, 2005). The CR Program is a limited access privilege program that allocates the harvest of crab fisheries managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs