

**Time and Date**

The meeting will be November 14, 15, and 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time, and will be accessible by webinar and teleconference. Access information for the public will be posted at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/marine-fisheries-advisory-committee-meeting-materials-and-summaries> by October 30, 2023.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Katie Zanic, MAFAC Assistant, at (301) 427-8038, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: September 29, 2023.

**Heidi Lovett,**

*Acting Designated Federal Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023-22004 Filed 10-3-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XD443]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a joint public meeting of its Whiting Committee and Advisory Panel to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 10 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 739-3000.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Agenda**

The Whiting Committee and Advisory Panel will meet to review alternatives for fishing year 2024-2026 annual catch limit specifications. The committee is expected to recommend preferred alternatives for approval at the December 2023 Council meeting. They will discuss potential future management priorities. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: September 29, 2023.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2023-21991 Filed 10-3-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of new member solicitation for the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS) Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting applications for membership on the United States Integrated Ocean

Observing System Advisory Committee (the Committee), which is a Federal advisory committee. Members of the Committee will fulfill the requirements of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (the Act). The Committee provides advice to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on the planning, integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS). U.S. IOOS promotes research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies and modeling systems, addresses regional and national needs for ocean information, gathers data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables and ensures timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data for societal benefits. U.S. IOOS benefits national safety, the economy, and the environment through support for national defense, marine commerce and forecasting, navigation safety, weather, climate, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal areas, conservation of ocean and coastal resources and public safety.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted no later than January 2, 2024. Applications received after January 2, 2024 may not be considered during this membership application cycle, but may be considered for future membership cycles.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit an application for Committee membership, including cover letter, resume, and requested items below, to Laura Gewain via email [Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov](mailto:Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov). Please direct any questions regarding application submission to Laura Gewain via email or telephone: 240-533-9456.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Krisa Arzayus, 1315 East-West Highway, Station 2616, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Telephone: 240-533-9455; Email: [Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov](mailto:Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Act requires the establishment and administration of this Committee by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

NOAA will hereby accept applications for membership on the Committee to fill ten vacancies that will occur on September 14, 2024. These appointments shall serve for a three-year term, which will end September 13, 2027. An individual so appointed may subsequently be appointed for an additional three-year term. The Act

states: “Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the [Integrated Ocean Observing] System, or use of data products provided through the System.” NOAA encourages individuals with expertise in Great Lakes; philanthropy; NGO; scientific institutions (Academic); IOOS regional interests; state, local and tribal interests; renewable energy, including offshore wind; blue economy; social science; public-private partnerships; marine technologies industries; data management and architecture; ocean and coastal leadership; and other science-related fields to submit applications for Committee membership.

This notice responds to the ICOOS Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–11, section 12304), which requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to solicit nominations for Committee membership. The Committee will advise the NOAA Administrator or Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 12302 of the ICOOS Act of 2009 and other appropriate matters as the Under Secretary refers to the Committee for review and advice.

The United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee will provide advice on:

- (a) administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (the System);
- (b) expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of the System;
- (c) identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by the System, and the System’s effectiveness in disseminating information to end-user communities and to the general public; and
- (d) additional priorities, including—
  - (1) a national surface current mapping network designed to improve fine scale sea surface mapping using high frequency radar technology and other emerging technologies to address national priorities, including Coast Guard search and rescue operation planning and harmful algal bloom forecasting and detection that—
    - (i) is comprised of existing high frequency radar and other sea surface current mapping infrastructure operated by national programs and regional coastal observing systems;
    - (ii) incorporates new high frequency radar assets or other fine scale sea

surface mapping technology assets, and other assets needed to fill gaps in coverage on United States coastlines; and

(iii) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models; (2) fleet acquisition for unmanned maritime systems for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle;

(3) an integrative survey program for application of unmanned maritime systems to the real-time or near real-time collection and transmission of sea floor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;

(4) remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the System into hydrodynamic models;

(5) integrated, multi-State monitoring to assess sources, movement, and fate of sediments in coastal regions;

(6) a multi-region marine sound monitoring system to be—

(i) planned in consultation with the IOOC, NOAA, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

(ii) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with NOAA, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

(e) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.

The Committee’s voting members will be appointed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the System, or the use of data products provided through the System. Members are selected on a standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Members will be appointed for three-year terms, renewable once. One Committee member will be designated by the Under Secretary as chairperson. Full-time officers or employees of the United States may not be appointed as a voting member. Members will be appointed as special Government employees (SGEs) for purposes of section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code. Members serve at the discretion of the Under Secretary and are subject to government ethics standards. Members of the Committee will not be compensated for service on

the Committee, but they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

The Committee will meet at least once each year, and at other times at the call of the Under Secretary, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, or the Committee Chairperson. The Committee has approximately fifteen voting members. This solicitation is to obtain candidate applications for up to ten full voting member vacancies.

To apply for membership, applicants must submit the following five items, including a cover letter that responds to the five questions below. The entire package should be a maximum length of eight pages or fewer. NOAA is an equal opportunity employer.

(1) A cover letter that responds to the five questions listed below and serves as a statement of interest to serve on the panel. Please see “Short Response Questions” below.

(2) Highlight the nominee’s specific area(s) of expertise relevant to the purpose of the Panel from the list in the **Federal Register** Notice.

(3) A short biography of 300 to 400 words.

(4) A current resume.

(5) The nominee’s full name, title, institutional affiliation, mailing address, email, phone, fax and contact information.

Short Response Questions:

(1) List your area(s) of expertise, as listed above.

(2) List the geographic region(s) of the country with which you primarily associate your expertise. This does not need to be the region in which the nominee currently resides.

(3) Describe your leadership or professional experience that you believe will contribute to the effectiveness of this panel.

(4) Describe your familiarity and experience with U.S. IOOS data, products, and services.

(5) Generally describe the breadth and scope of your knowledge of stakeholders, users, or other groups who interact with NOAA or other U.S. IOOS agencies and whose views and input you believe you can share with the panel.

#### *Individuals Selected for Committee Membership*

Upon selection and agreement to serve on the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee, one becomes a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. An SGE is an officer or employee of an agency who

is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, for not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a full-time or intermittent basis. After the membership selection process is complete, applicants who are selected to serve on the Committee must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Committee member:

(a) Background Check (on-line Background Check process and fingerprinting conducted through NOAA Office of Human Capital Services); and

(b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report: As an SGE, one is required to file annually a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest. One may find the Confidential Financial Disclosure Report at the following website: [http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form\\_450.aspx](http://www.usoge.gov/forms/form_450.aspx).

#### Privacy Act Statement

Authority. The collection of information concerning nominations to the IOOS AC is authorized under the FACA, 5 U.S.C. app. and its implementing regulations, 41 CFR part 102–3, and in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (Privacy Act) 5 U.S.C. 552a.

Purpose. The collection of names, contact information, resumes, professional information, and qualifications is required in order for the Under Secretary to appoint members to the IOOS AC.

Routine Uses. NOAA will use the nomination information for the purpose set forth above. The Privacy Act of 1974 authorizes disclosure of the information collected to NOAA staff for work-related purposes and for other purposes only as set forth in the Privacy Act and for routine uses published in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/DEPT–11, Candidates for Membership, Members, and Former Members of Department of Commerce Advisory Committees, available at <https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/PrivacyAct/SORNs/dept-11.html>, and the System of Records Notice COMMERCE/DEPT–18, Employees Personnel Files Not Covered by Notices of Other Agencies, available at <https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/PrivacyAct/SORNs/DEPT-18.html>.

Disclosure. Furnishing the nomination information is voluntary; however, if the information is not provided, the individual would not be

considered for appointment as a member of the IOOS AC.

**Krisa M. Arzayus,**

*Deputy Director, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Office, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2023–22090 Filed 10–3–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–JE–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD392]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Issuance of an Incidental Take Statement Under the Endangered Species Act for Salmon Fisheries in Southeast Alaska Subject to the Pacific Salmon Treaty

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

**ACTION:** Notice; intent to prepare an environmental impact statement; request for written comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to analyze the impacts of alternatives related to NMFS's issuance of an incidental take statement (ITS) for species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) affected by salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska (SEAK) that are managed consistent with the provisions of the 2019 Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Agreement. Compliance with the ITS would exempt participants in these fisheries from the ESA's prohibition on take of threatened and endangered species. This notice is necessary to inform the public of NMFS's intent to prepare this EIS and to provide the public with an opportunity to provide input for NMFS's consideration.

**DATES:** NMFS requests comments concerning the scope of the analysis and identification of relevant information, studies, and analyses. All comments must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 20, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2023–0115, by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA–NMFS–2023–0115 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Gretchen Harrington, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Susan Meyer. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668.

*Instructions:* Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bridget Mansfield, (907) 586–7228, [Bridget.Mansfield@noaa.gov](mailto:Bridget.Mansfield@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Pacific Salmon Treaty and SEAK Salmon Fishery Management

The PST provides a framework for the management of salmon fisheries in the U.S. and Canada and regulates the salmon fisheries that occur in the ocean and inland waters of Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, the Yukon, and southeast Alaska, and the rivers that flow into these waters. The PST established fishing regimes that set upper limits on intercepting fisheries, defined as fisheries in one country that harvest salmon originating in another country, and sometimes include provisions that apply to the management of the Parties' non-intercepting fisheries as well. The overall purpose of the regimes is to accomplish the conservation, production, and harvest allocation objectives set forth in the PST. These objectives are designed to prevent overfishing, provide for each country to benefit from production originating in its water, avoid undue disruption of existing fisheries, and reduce interceptions to the extent practicable.

Each Party to the PST must implement the fisheries management framework domestically. Fisheries in both Federal and state waters off of SEAK are managed consistent with the 2019 PST Agreement. For Federal