

provide the public with real-time data, the Department of Commerce must collect and provide timely aggregated summaries about these imports. The Aluminum Import License is the tool used to collect the necessary information. The Census Bureau currently collects import data and disseminates aggregate information about aluminum imports. However, the time required to collect, process, and disseminate this information through Census can take up to 45 days after importation of the product, giving interested parties and the public far less time to respond to injurious sales.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Frequency: On occasion

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: 13 U.S.C. 301(a) and 302.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0625–0279.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD560]

Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trawl Rationalization Program; 2024 Cost Recovery Fee Notice

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

ACTION: Notice. 2024 cost recovery fee percentages and average mothership cooperative program pricing.

SUMMARY: This action provides participants in the Pacific Coast

Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program with the 2024 cost recovery fee percentages and the average mothership (MS) price per pound to be used in the catcher/processor (C/P) Co-operative (Co-op) program to calculate the fee amount for the upcoming calendar year. For the 2024 calendar year, NMFS announces the following fee percentages by sector specific program: 3 percent for the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program; 0.1 percent for the C/P Co-op Program; and 1.8 percent for the MS Co-op Program. For 2024, the MS pricing to be used as a proxy by the C/P Co-op Program is \$0.11 per pound for Pacific whiting.

DATES: This action is effective January 1, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher Biegel, (206) 247–8252, christopher.biegel@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 304(d)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) authorizes and requires NMFS to collect fees to recover the costs directly related to the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement connected to and in support of a limited access privilege program (LAPP) (16 U.S.C. 1854(d)(2)), also called "cost recovery." Cost recovery fees recover the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement of the programs (MSA section 303A(e), 16 U.S.C. 1853a(e)). Section 304(d)(2)(B) of the MSA mandates that cost recovery fees not exceed 3 percent of the annual ex-vessel value of fish harvested by a program subject to a cost recovery fee, and that the fee be collected either at the time of landing, filing of a landing report, or sale of such fish during a fishing season or in the last quarter of the calendar year in which the fish is harvested.

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program is a LAPP, implemented in 2011, and consists of three sector-specific programs: the Shorebased IFQ Program, the MS Co-op Program, and the C/P Co-op Program. In accordance with the MSA, and based on a recommended structure and methodology developed in coordination with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), NMFS began collecting mandatory fees of up to three percent of the ex-vessel value of groundfish from each program (Shorebased IFQ Program, MS Co-op Program, and C/P Co-op Program) in 2014. NMFS collects the fees to recover the incremental costs of management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement of the Groundfish Trawl

Rationalization Program. Additional background can be found in the cost recovery proposed rule (78 FR 7371, February 1, 2013) and final rule (78 FR 75268, December 11, 2013). The details of cost recovery for the Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program are in regulation at 50 CFR 660.115 (Trawl fishery—cost recovery program), § 660.140 (Shorebased IFQ Program), § 660.150 (MS Co-op Program), and § 660.160 (C/P Co-op Program).

By December 31 of each year, NMFS announces the next year's fee percentages and the applicable MS pricing for the C/P Co-op Program. To calculate the fee percentages, NMFS used the formula specified in regulation at § 660.115(b)(1), where the fee percentage by sector equals the lower of 3 percent or direct program costs (DPC) for that sector divided by total ex-vessel value (V) for that sector multiplied by 100.

"DPC," as defined in the regulations at § 660.115(b)(1)(i), are the actual incremental costs for the previous fiscal year directly related to the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement of each program (Shorebased IFQ Program, MS Co-op Program, and C/P Co-op Program). Actual incremental costs means those net costs that would not have been incurred but for the implementation of the Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program, including both increased costs for new requirements of the program and reduced costs resulting from any program efficiencies or adjustments to costs from previous years.

"V," as specified at § 660.115(b)(1)(ii), is the total ex-vessel value, as defined at § 660.111, for each sector from the previous calendar year. To determine the ex-vessel value for the Shorebased IFQ Program, NMFS used the ex-vessel value for calendar year 2022 as reported in the Pacific Fisheries Information Network from Shorebased IFQ electronic fish tickets as this was the most recent complete set of data. To determine the ex-vessel value for the MS Co-op Program and the C/P Co-op Program, NMFS used the retained catch estimates (weight) for each sector as reported in the North Pacific Observer Program database multiplied by the average price of Pacific whiting as reported by participants in the MS Co-op program for 2022.

The fee calculations for the 2024 fee percentages are described below.

IFQ Program:

- 3.5 percent = $(\$1,927,301.37 / \$54,406,343.00) \times 100$.

C/P Co-op Program:

- 0.1 percent = $(\$29,364.40 / \$33,367,530.60) \times 100$.

MS Co-op Program:

- 1.8 percent = $(\$280,187.19 / \$15,425,857.68) \times 100$.

However, the calculated fee percentage cannot exceed the statutory limit of 3 percent. The IFQ Program fee calculation (3.5 percent) exceeds this limit, therefore, the 2024 fee percentage for the IFQ Program is 3 percent. The final 2024 fee percentages are 3.0 percent for the IFQ Program, 0.1 percent for the C/P Co-op Program, and 1.8 percent for the MS Co-op Program.

MS Average Pricing

MS pricing is the average price per pound that the C/P Co-op Program will use to determine the fee amount due for that sector. The C/P sector value is calculated by multiplying the retained catch estimates (weight) of Pacific whiting harvested by the vessel registered to a C/P-endorsed limited entry trawl permit by the MS pricing. NMFS has calculated the 2024 MS pricing to be used as a proxy by the CP Co-op Program as: \$0.11 per pound for Pacific whiting.

Cost recovery fees are submitted to NMFS by fish buyers via *Pay.gov* (<https://www.pay.gov>). Fees are only accepted in *Pay.gov* by credit/debit card or bank transfers. Cash or checks cannot be accepted. Fish buyers registered with *Pay.gov* can login in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Fish buyers not registered with *Pay.gov* can go to the cost recovery forms directly from the website below. The links to the *Pay.gov* forms for each program (IFQ, MS, or C/P) are listed below:

- IFQ: <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/58062865>;
- MS: <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/58378422>; and
- C/P: <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/58102817>.

As stated in the preamble to the cost recovery proposed and final rules, in the spring of each year, NMFS will release an annual report documenting the details and data used for the fee percentage calculations. Annual reports are available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/sustainable-fisheries/west-coast-groundfish-trawl-catch-share-program#cost-recovery>.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

Dated: December 6, 2023.

Everett Wayne Baxter,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2023-27188 Filed 12-11-23; 8:45 am]

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

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Scientific Research, Exempted Fishing, and Exempted Activity Submissions

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 the Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before February 12, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0471 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 Cliff Hutt, Fisheries Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301-427-8503; or cliff.hutt@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries are managed under the 2006 Consolidated HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its amendments, pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and consistent with the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA; 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). The implementing regulations for HMS fisheries are found at 50 CFR part 635.

Issuance of exempted fishing permits (EFPs), scientific research permits (SRPs), display permits, letters of acknowledgment (LOAs), and shark research fishery permits is necessary for the collection of HMS for public display and scientific research that requires exemption from regulations (*e.g.*, seasons, prohibited species, authorized gear, minimum sizes) that otherwise may prohibit such collection. Display permits are issued for the collection of HMS for the purpose of public display, and a limited number of shark research fishery permits are issued for the collection of fishery-dependent data for future stock assessments and cooperative research with commercial fishermen to meet the shark research objectives of the Agency.

Regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and 50 CFR 635.32 govern scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activities with respect to HMS. Since the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not include scientific research within the definition of "fishing," scientific research is exempt from this statute, and NMFS does not issue EFPs for bona fide research activities (*e.g.*, research conducted from a research vessel and not a commercial or recreational fishing vessel) involving species that are only regulated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (*e.g.*, most species of sharks) and not under ATCA. NMFS requests copies of scientific research plans for these activities and indicates concurrence by issuing a LOA to researchers to indicate that the proposed activity meets the definition of scientific research and is therefore exempt from regulation.

Scientific research is not exempt from regulation under ATCA. NMFS issues SRPs for collection of species managed under this statute (*i.e.*, tunas, swordfish, billfish, and some shark species), which authorize researchers to collect HMS from bona fide research vessels (*e.g.*, NMFS or university research vessel). NMFS will issue an EFP when research/ collection involving such species occurs