

Council members, other meeting participants, and members of the public will have the option to participate in person at The Westin Arlington Gateway or virtually via Webex webinar. Webinar connection instructions and briefing materials will be available at: <https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/february-2024>.

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; telephone: (302) 526-5255. The Council's website, [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org), also has details on the meeting location, proposed agenda, webinar listen-in access, and briefing materials.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following items are on the agenda, although agenda items may be addressed out of order (changes will be noted on the Council's website when possible.)

#### Tuesday, February 6, 2024

##### *Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Species Separation Requirements Amendment*

Review and approve Public Hearing Document.

#### LUNCH

##### *Business Session*

Committee Reports (SSC); Executive Director's Report; Organization Reports; and Liaison Reports.

##### *Other Business and General Public Comment*

##### *Briefing Book Tutorial*

##### *Legal Review, Financial Disclosure and Recusal Training—John Almeida, NOAA Fisheries*

#### Wednesday, February 7, 2024

##### *Offshore Wind Updates*

Updates from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Updates from the state working group on a fisheries compensation fund administrator.

Updates from offshore wind project developers: Ørsted, Vineyard Wind, Kitty Hawk Wind, Community Offshore Wind.

##### *Black Sea Bass Assessment Overview—Larry Alade, Kiersten Curti, NEFSC*

Overview of recently completed Research Track stock assessment.

#### LUNCH

##### *Sturgeon Framework*

Review progress on joint Mid-Atlantic/New England Council action to reduce Atlantic Sturgeon interaction in the monkfish/dogfish gillnet fisheries.

Approve final packages of alternatives.

##### *Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) White Paper "Draft Proposed Plan for a Novel Industry Based Multispecies Bottom Trawl Survey on the Northeast U.S. Continental Shelf"*

—Dr. Kathryn Ford, NEFSC

Overview of the Industry-based survey white paper.

Consider next steps.

##### *Awards Presentation*

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Actions 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).

##### **Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526-5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: January 17, 2024.

##### **Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD670]

#### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of hybrid conference meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and its advisory committees.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet in February in Seattle, WA.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held February 5, 2024 through February 12, 2024. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Courtyard Ballroom on Monday, February 5, 2024, and continue through Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the North/West room on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, and continue through Friday, February 9, 2024. The Council will begin at 8 a.m. in the Courtyard Ballroom on Thursday, February 8, 2024, and continue through Monday, February 12, 2024. All times listed are Pacific Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be a hybrid conference.

*Meeting address:* The in-person component of the meeting will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, 515 Madison St., Seattle, WA 98104, or join the meeting online through the links at <https://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings>.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via web conference are given under Connection Information, below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Diana Evans, Council staff; email: [diana.evans@noaa.gov](mailto:diana.evans@noaa.gov); telephone: (907) 271-2809. For technical support, please contact our Council administrative staff, email: [npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov).

##### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Agenda**

##### *Monday, February 5, 2024 Through Wednesday, February 7, 2024*

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

- (1) NSRKC (Norton Sound Red King Crab) ABC (acceptable biological catch)/OFL (overfishing limit)—Set Specifications, Crab Plan Team Report
- (2) BBRKC (Bristol Bay Red King Crab) Closure Areas—Initial Review
- (3) Cook Inlet Salmon—Status Determination Criteria, harvest specifications
- (4) AFA (American Fisheries Act) Program Review—review workplan
- (5) Case Studies for the 8th National Regional Fishery Management Councils' Scientific Coordination Subcommittee (SCS8) workshop—discuss candidates

- (6) Small Sablefish release—identify sablefish DMR (discard mortality rate) for analysis
- (7) Research Priorities—Plan Teams reports

The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3030> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

In addition to providing ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, the SSC functions as the Council's primary peer review panel for scientific information, as described by the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 302(g)(1)(e), and the National Standard 2 guidelines (78 FR 43066). The peer-review process is also deemed to satisfy the requirements of the Information Quality Act, including the OMB Peer Review Bulletin guidelines.

*Tuesday, February 6, 2024 Through Friday, February 9, 2024*

The Advisory Panel agenda will include the following issues:

- (1) NSRKC ABC/OFL—Set Specifications, Crab Plan Team Report
- (2) BBRKC Closure Areas—Initial Review
- (3) Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition Changes—review NMFS report
- (4) Cook Inlet Salmon—Status Determination Criteria, harvest specifications
- (5) GOA (Gulf of Alaska) Tanner Crab protections—review discussion paper
- (6) Programmatic Evaluation of management policies—Council direction and workshop planning
- (7) AFA Program Review—review workplan
- (8) Staff Tasking

*Thursday, February 8, 2024 Through Monday, February 12, 2024*

The Council agenda will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

- (1) B Reports (Executive Director including research presentation on effects of fishing on benthic habitat, NMFS Management including annual cost recovery updates and E-Logbooks Exempted Fishing Permit, NOAA GC, AFSC, ADF&G, USCG, USFWS, IPHC report, Advisory Panel, SSC report)
- (2) NSRKC ABC/OFL—Set Specifications, Crab Plan Team Report
- (3) BBRKC Closure Areas—Initial Review

- (4) Cook Inlet Salmon—Status Determination Criteria, harvest specifications
- (5) Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition Changes—review NMFS report
- (6) GOA Tanner Crab protections—review discussion paper
- (7) Programmatic Evaluation of management policies—Council direction and workshop planning
- (8) AFA Program Review—review workplan
- (9) Staff Tasking

#### Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone; or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings>. For technical support, please contact our administrative staff, email: [npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov).

If you are attending the meeting in-person, please refer to the COVID avoidance protocols on our website, <https://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings/>.

#### Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically through the links at <https://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings>. The Council strongly encourages written public comment for this meeting, to avoid any potential for technical difficulties to compromise oral testimony. The written comment period is open from January 12, 2024, to February 2, 2024, and closes at 12 p.m. Alaska Time on Friday, February 2, 2024.

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

Dated: January 16, 2024.

#### Rey Israel Marquez,

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, 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; Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR)

**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 March 22, 2024.

**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 0648-0428 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, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, [gabrielle.aberle@noaa.gov](mailto:gabrielle.aberle@noaa.gov) or 323-372-0062.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting renewal of the currently approved information collection for the Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR).

The COAR is a State of Alaska report that is required to be completed and submitted by direct marketers, catcher processors, catcher exporters, buyer exporters, shore-based processors, and floating processor permit holders pursuant to Alaska Administrative Code (5 AAC 39.130) and Federal regulations at 50 CFR 679. Under 50 CFR 679.5(p), NMFS requires motherships and catcher processors that are issued a Federal fisheries permit to annually complete and submit the appropriate sections of the COAR.

The COAR is used to gather statewide fish and shellfish information describing buying (ex-vessel) and production (wholesale or retail) activities. The information collected in the COAR is used to determine the value of Alaska's fisheries resources and products. NMFS uses the COAR database in annual Federal publications on the value of U.S. commercial fisheries, in the annual NMFS Stock