

ACTION: Notice of hybrid conference meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet April 1, 2024 through April 9, 2024.

DATES: The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Aleutian room on Monday, April 1, 2024, and continue through Wednesday, April 3, 2024. The Council's Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Denali room on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, and continue through Saturday, April 6, 2024. The closed Executive/Finance Committee will meet Wednesday April 3, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Council's offices. The Council will begin at 8 a.m. in the Aleutian room on Thursday, April 4, 2024, and continue through Tuesday, April 9, 2024. All times listed are Alaska Time.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be a hybrid conference. The in-person component of the meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501, 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., Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via webconference are given under Connection Information, below.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Monday, April 1, 2024, Through Wednesday, April 3, 2024

The SSC agenda will include the following issues:

(1) Scallops—Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report, Acceptable biological catch (ABC)/Over Fishing Limit (OFL), Plan Team report.

(2) Salmon bycatch—review (a) Chinook/chum genetics reports for Bering Sea (BS), Gulf of Alaska (GOA); and (c) Chum Salmon Bycatch initial review analysis.

(3) Amendment 80 Program Review—review report.

(4) Research Priorities—set 5-year priorities.

(5) Sablefish study for IRA funding—discuss for potential analysis.

The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3040> 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, April 2, 2024, Through Saturday, April 6, 2024

The Advisory Panel agenda will include the following issues:

(1) Scallops—SAFE report, ABC/OFL, Plan Team report.

(2) Salmon bycatch—review (a) Chinook/chum genetics reports BS and GOA, and (c) Chum Salmon Bycatch initial review analysis.

(3) Area 4 Vessel Caps—Initial Review.

(4) Amendment 80 Program Review—review report.

(5) Maximum retention amount adjustments—review discussion paper.

(6) Research Priorities set 5-year priorities.

(7) Staff Tasking.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

The Executive/Finance Committee will meet in closed session to discuss Council finances and internal administrative matters.

Thursday, April 4, 2024, Through Tuesday, April 9, 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, NMFS Management, NOAA General Counsel (GC), Alaska Fishery Science Center (AFSC), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), United States Coast Guard (USCG), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) report, Cooperative reports, Advisory Panel, SSC report).

(2) Scallops—SAFE report, ABC/OFL, Plan Team report.

(3) Salmon bycatch—review (a) Chinook/chum genetics reports BS and GOA; (b) pollock IPA reports, Sea Share, and (c) Chum Salmon Bycatch initial review analysis.

(4) Area 4 Vessel Caps—Initial Review.

(5) Amendment 80 Program Review—review report.

(6) Maximum retention amount adjustments—review discussion paper.

(7) Research Priorities set 5-year priorities.

(8) 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.

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 March 8, 2024, to March 29, 2024, and closes at 12 p.m., Alaska Time on Friday, March 29, 2024.

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

Dated: March 8, 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

Renewal of the Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space, Formerly the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA), the Department of Commerce has renewed and renamed the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) as the Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space (ACES), determining this action to be in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department by law. ACCRES was

renewed and renamed as ACES on March 4, 2024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was first established in May 2002 to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on matters relating to the U.S. commercial remote sensing industry and NOAA’s activities to carry out the responsibilities of the Department of Commerce set forth in the National and Commercial Space Programs Act of 2010 (the Act), title 51 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.* (formerly the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992, 15 U.S.C. 5621–5625).

ACES will have a fairly balanced membership consisting of no more than 25 members serving in a representative or Special Government Employee capacity. The members should represent a variety of space policy, engineering, technical, science, legal, and finance professionals with significant expertise in the commercial space industry. Each candidate member shall be recommended by the Director of NOAA’s Office of Space Commerce (OSC) and shall be appointed by the Under Secretary or the OSC Director, generally for a term of two years and serve at the discretion of the Under Secretary or OSC Director.

The Committee will function solely as an advisory body, and in compliance with provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Copies of the Committee’s revised Charter have been filed with the appropriate committees of the Congress and with the Library of Congress.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jason Y. Kim, Chief of Staff, NOAA Office of Space Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 68015,

Washington, DC 20230; telephone 202–482–6125; email space.commerce@noaa.gov.

Michael C. Morgan,
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Observation and Prediction.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XD786]

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The exempted fishing permit would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and

the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed exempted fishing permits (EFP).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 28, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by the following method:

- *Email:* nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line “MDMR 2024 On-demand EFP”

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing in <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/information-technology/foia-reading-room> 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 “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Ford, Fishery Management Specialist, Christine.Ford@noaa.gov, (978) 281–9185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict to test alternative gear retrieval systems that only use one traditional surface buoy. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
50 CFR 697.21(b)(2)	Gear marking requirements	For trial of trap/pot gear with no more than one surface marking on trawls of more than three traps.
50 CFR 648.84(b)	Gear marking requirements	For trial of gillnet gear with no more than one surface marking.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Testing various acoustic on-demand fishing technologies that help minimize the risk of large whale entanglements in trap/pot and gillnet fishing gear in the Gulf of Maine.
Project Start	Upon Issuance.
Project End	One year from the date of issuance.
Project objectives	Provide access, training, and support to fishers in the Gulf of Maine to test acoustic on-demand fishing and gear geolocation technology. Data collected will help provide feedback to manufacturers to adapt to the specific needs of Maine fishers involved in fixed gear fleets. This work is important to reduce the risk associated with vertical lines to the endangered North Atlantic right whale in the Gulf of Maine.
Project location	Trap/pot: Lobster Management Area 1 and all Maine Lobster Conservation Zones (A, B, C, D, E, F, G). Gillnet: Statistical Areas 513, 514, 515.
Number of vessels	50 (up to 45 trap/pot; up to 5 gillnet).