

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS—Continued

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
§ 697.19	Trap limit requirements	To allow for four additional traps per vessel (20 total).
§ 697.19(j)	Trap tag requirements	To allow for the use of four untagged traps per vessel (20 total).
§§ 697.20(a)(7), 697.20(a)(8), 697.20(b)(5), 697.20(b)(6), 697.20(d), and 697.20(g).	Possession restrictions	To allow for onboard biological sampling of undersized, oversized, v-notched, and egg-bearing lobsters.
§ 697.21(a)	Gear identification and marking requirements.	To allow for the use of four unmarked traps per vessel (20 total).

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Testing an EBP lobster trap on Georges Bank.
Project start	06/15/2024.
Project end	06/14/2025.
Project objectives	To continue testing an early-benthic-phase lobster trap, which targets lobsters between 15- and 60-mm carapace lengths, to determine its feasibility for broader use in lobster surveys.
Project location	Offshore Gulf of Maine & Georges Bank; Statistical Areas 513, 522, 525, 526, 537, 561, and 562.
Number of vessels	Up to 5.
Number of trips	500.
Trip duration (days)	Up to 8.
Total number of days	Up to 4,000.
Gear type(s)	Trap/pot (modified—see project narrative).
Number of tows or sets	Up to 4 per trip; up to 2,000 total.
Duration of tows or sets	~4 days.

**Project Narrative**

The participants would place four EBP traps on two of their existing trawls (two EBP traps per trawl) and haul them up to twice per trip (for a total of up to four hauls per trip) during the course of the vessel’s normal fishing activity. The EBP traps are 80-centimeter (cm) square traps based on a modified crawfish trap. They have four square openings, measuring less than 2 inches (5.08 cm), which lead to ramps that drop the lobsters into a baited kitchen. Inside the traps, there are additional ramps that lead the lobsters to four cylindrical parlors with vertical openings. The traps are attached to cement runners that provide weight and maintain proper orientation. The crews would rig the EBP traps within Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan-compliant commercial trawls, resulting in no additional end lines. Each vessel would fish four traps above their allocation, but would remain within the universal Area 3 trap cap. At each haul, crews would record, and immediately release, all bycatch and measure, sex, and release all lobsters from the EBP trap. They would also sample catch in two standard traps within the trawl as control data. They would land and sell the legal catch from the standard traps.

The goal of this project is to test the selectivity of the EBP trap (versus ventless traps that often catch eel and crab), and the scalability of its use. If

successful, EBP traps could be used in lobster surveys to provide information about larval-settlement patterns and juvenile nursery grounds.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: April 26, 2024.

**Everett Wayne Baxter,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Office of the Secretary**

**Defense Science Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meetings**

**AGENCY:** Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)), Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal advisory committee meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal Advisory Committee meetings of the Defense Science Board (DSB) will take place.

**DATES:** Closed to the public Wednesday, June 26, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed to the public Thursday, June 27, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed to the public Wednesday, July 24, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed to the public Thursday, July 25, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The address of the closed meetings is 4075 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Elizabeth J. Kowalski, Designated Federal Officer (DFO): (703) 571–0081 (Voice), (703) 697–1860 (Facsimile), [elizabeth.j.kowalski.civ@mail.mil](mailto:elizabeth.j.kowalski.civ@mail.mil), (Email). Mailing address is Defense Science Board, 3140 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3140. Website: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dsb/>. The most up-to-date changes to the meeting agenda can be found on the website.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** These meetings are being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” or “FACA”), 5 U.S.C. 552b (commonly known as the

“Government in the Sunshine Act”), and sections 102–3.140 and 102–3.150 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

**Purpose of the Meetings:** The mission of the DSB is to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the DoD’s scientific and technical enterprise. The objective of the meeting is to obtain, review, and evaluate classified information related to the DSB’s mission. DSB membership will discuss the 2024 DSB Summer Study on Advanced Capabilities for Potential Future Conflict and classified strategies for continued development of symmetric and asymmetric capabilities.

**Agenda:** The meeting will begin on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 8 a.m. Ms. Betsy Kowalski, DSB DFO, and Dr. Eric Evans, DSB Chair, will provide opening remarks and a classified overview of the objectives of the 2024 Summer Study on Advanced Capabilities for Potential Future Conflict. Next, the DSB will meet to discuss classified strategies that best enable DoD’s continued development of symmetric and asymmetric capabilities that will characterize future conflicts, including periodic breaks. The meeting will adjourn at 5 p.m. On Thursday, June 27, 2024, starting at 8 a.m., the DSB will continue to meet to discuss classified strategies that best enable DoD’s continued development of symmetric and asymmetric capabilities that will characterize future conflicts, including periodic breaks. The meeting will adjourn at 4 p.m. On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, the meeting will begin at 8 a.m. Ms. Betsy Kowalski, DSB DFO, and Dr. Eric Evans, DSB Chair, will provide opening remarks and a classified overview of the objectives of the 2024 Summer Study on Advanced Capabilities for Potential Future Conflict. Next, the DSB will meet to discuss classified strategies that best enable DoD’s continued development of symmetric and asymmetric capabilities that will characterize future conflicts, including periodic breaks. The meeting will adjourn at 5 p.m. On Thursday, July 25, 2024, starting at 8 a.m., the DSB will continue to meet to discuss classified strategies that best enable DoD’s continued development of symmetric and asymmetric capabilities that will characterize future conflicts, including periodic breaks. The meeting will adjourn at 4 p.m.

**Meeting Accessibility:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 1009(d) and 41 CFR 102–3.155, the DoD has determined that the DSB meetings will be closed to the public. Specifically, the USD(R&E), in consultation with the DoD Office of the General Counsel, has determined in writing that the meetings will be closed

to the public because they will consider matters covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1). The determination is based on the consideration that it is expected that discussions throughout will involve classified matters of national security concern. Such classified material is so intertwined with the unclassified material that it cannot reasonably be segregated into separate discussions without defeating the effectiveness and meaning of the overall meetings. To permit the meetings to be open to the public would preclude discussion of such matters and would greatly diminish the ultimate utility of the DSB’s findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and to the USD(R&E).

**Written Statements:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(3) and 41 CFR 102–3.105(j) and 102–3.140, interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the DSB at any time regarding its mission or in response to the stated agenda of a planned meeting. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the DSB DFO at the email address provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section at any point; however, if a written statement is not received at least three calendar days prior to a meeting, which is the subject of this notice, then it may not be provided to or considered by the DSB until a later date.

Dated: April 26, 2024.

**Aaron T. Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD–2023–OS–0089]

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** 30-Day information collection notice.

**SUMMARY:** The DoD has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 3, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed

information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://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.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Reginald Lucas, (571) 372–7574, [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number:** Generic Clearance for Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A–11, Section 280 Implementation); OMB Control Number 0704–0595.

**Type of Request:** Extension.

**Number of Respondents:** 300,000.

**Responses per Respondent:** 1.

**Annual Responses:** 300,000.

**Average Burden per Response:** 10 minutes.

**Annual Burden Hours:** 50,000.

**Needs and Uses:**

### A. Purpose

Whether seeking a loan, Social Security benefits, veteran’s benefits, or other services provided by the Federal Government, individuals and businesses expect Government customer services to be efficient and intuitive, just like services from leading private-sector organizations. Yet the 2016 American Consumer Satisfaction Index and the 2017 Forrester Federal Customer Experience Index show that, on average, Government services lag nine percentage points behind the private sector.

A modern, streamlined and responsive customer experience means: raising government-wide customer experience to the average of the private sector service industry; developing indicators for high-impact Federal programs to monitor progress towards excellent customer experience and mature digital services; and providing the structure (including increasing transparency) and resources to ensure customer experience is a focal point for agency leadership. To support this, OMB Circular A–11 section 280 established government-wide standards for mature customer experience organizations in government and measurement. To enable Federal programs to deliver the experience taxpayers deserve, they must undertake three general categories of activities: conduct ongoing customer research, gather and share customer feedback, and test services and digital products.

These data collection efforts may be either qualitative or quantitative in