

Public Engagement Workshop via webinar.

DATES: The webinar will convene Thursday, January 16, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., EST.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will take place via webinar. You may participate by accessing the log-on information by visiting our website at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 4107 W Spruce Street, Suite 200, Tampa, FL 33607; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emily Muehlstein, Public Information Officer, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630; Emily.Muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Thursday, January 16, 2025; 6 p.m.–9 a.m., EST

The meeting will begin with a brief presentation on the purpose of the Recreational Initiative, provide a brief overview of results of the second Working Group Meeting, and outline the meeting format and expected outcomes. Staff will ask a series of open-ended questions and allow for open public comment on the Recreational Initiative.

Visit the Gulf Council's website for meeting registration information: <https://gulfcouncil.org/recreational-initiative/>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Public feedback on the Recreational Initiative will also be gathered online through an online feedback tool located at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwnQ6AgzIBmgx0k18yzcPpDm0RDUV-zyybR05mxoJVRmBdQg/viewform>.

The meeting will be via webinar only. You may register for the webinar by visiting www.gulfcouncil.org and click on the meeting on the calendar.

The timing and order in which agenda items are addressed may change as required to effectively address the issue, and the latest version along with other meeting materials will be posted on the website as they become available.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aid or accommodations should be directed to Kathy Pereira, (813) 348-1630, at least 15 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 18, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-30626 Filed 12-23-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE534]

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 public meeting of its Scallop Committee via webinar 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 Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Webinar registration URL information: https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/j/9PZk_BAqawjkMxGEXiGZc44.

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 Scallop Committee will meet to Review 2025 Scallop Work Priorities, including a work plan for this calendar year. The discussion will focus on the development of a Long-Term Strategic Plan. Other business will be discussed, if 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: December 18, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-30625 Filed 12-23-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE518]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; North Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota Cost Recovery Program

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

ACTION: Notice of standard prices and fee percentage.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes the individual fishing quota (IFQ) standard prices and fee percentage for cost recovery for the IFQ Program for the halibut and sablefish fisheries of the North Pacific (IFQ Program). The fee percentage for 2024 is 3.0 percent. This action is intended to provide holders of halibut and sablefish IFQ permits with the 2024 standard prices and fee percentage to calculate the required payment for IFQ cost recovery fees due by January 31, 2025.

DATES: The standard prices and fee percentages are valid on December 26, 2024

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charmaine Weeks, Fee Coordinator, 907-586-7231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS Alaska Region administers the IFQ Program in the North Pacific. The IFQ Program is a limited access system authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). Fishing under the IFQ Program began in March 1995.

Regulations implementing the IFQ Program are set forth at 50 CFR part 679.

In 1996, the Magnuson-Stevens Act was amended to, among other purposes, require the Secretary of Commerce to collect a fee to recover the actual costs directly related to the management and enforcement of any individual quota program. This requirement was further amended in 2006 to include collection of the actual costs of data collection and to replace the reference to “individual quota program” with a more general reference to “limited access privilege program” at section 304(d)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Section 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act also specifies an upper limit on these fees, when the fees must be collected, and where the fees must be deposited.

On March 20, 2000, NMFS published regulations at § 679.45 to implement cost recovery for the IFQ Program (65 FR 14919, March 20, 2000). Under the regulations, an IFQ permit holder must pay a cost recovery fee for every pound of IFQ halibut and sablefish that is landed on their IFQ permit(s), including any halibut that is landed as guided angler fish. The IFQ permit holder is responsible for self-collecting the fee for all IFQ halibut and sablefish landings on their permit(s). The IFQ permit holder is also responsible for submitting IFQ fee payments(s) to NMFS on or before January 31 of the year following the year in which the IFQ landings were made. The total dollar amount of the fee is determined by multiplying the NMFS published fee percentage by the ex-vessel value of all IFQ landings made on the permit(s) during the IFQ fishing year. As required by § 679.45(d)(1) and (d)(3)(i), NMFS publishes this notice of the fee percentage for the IFQ halibut and sablefish fisheries in the **Federal Register** during or prior to the last quarter of each year.

Standard Prices

The fee is based on the sum of all payments from, for example, fish

processors, made to fishermen for the sale of the fish during the year. This includes any retro-payments (e.g., bonuses, delayed partial payments, post-season payments) made to the IFQ permit holder for previously landed IFQ halibut or sablefish.

For purposes of calculating IFQ cost recovery fees, NMFS distinguishes between two types of ex-vessel value: actual and standard. Actual ex-vessel value is the amount of all compensation, monetary or non-monetary, that an IFQ permit holder received as payment for his or her IFQ fish sold. Standard ex-vessel value is the default value used to calculate the fee. IFQ permit holders have the option of using actual ex-vessel value if they can satisfactorily document it; otherwise, the standard ex-vessel value is used.

Section 679.45(b)(3)(iii) requires the Regional Administrator to publish IFQ standard prices during the last quarter of each calendar year. These standard prices are used, along with estimates of IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish landings, to calculate standard ex-vessel values. The standard prices are described in U.S. dollars per IFQ equivalent pound for IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish landings made during the 2024 year. According to § 679.2, IFQ equivalent pound(s) means the weight amount, recorded in pounds, and calculated as round weight for sablefish and headed and gutted weight for halibut, for an IFQ landing. The weight of halibut in pounds landed as guided angler fish is converted to IFQ equivalent pound(s) as specified in 50 CFR 300.65(c)(5)(ii)(E). NMFS calculates the standard prices to closely reflect the variations in the actual ex-vessel values of IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish landings by month and port or port-group. The standard prices for IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish are listed in the tables that follow the next section. Data from ports are combined as necessary to protect confidentiality.

Fee Percentage

NMFS calculates the fee percentage each year according to the factors and methods described at § 679.45(d)(2). NMFS determines the fee percentage

that applies to landings made in the previous year by dividing the total costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of the IFQ Program (management costs) during the previous year by the total standard ex-vessel value of halibut and sablefish IFQ landings made during the previous year (fishery value). NMFS identifies the actual management costs associated with certain management, data collection, and enforcement functions through an established accounting system that allows staff to track labor, travel, contracts, rent, and procurement. NMFS calculates the fishery value as described under the section Standard Prices.

Using the fee percentage formula described above, NMFS determined that the percentage of management costs to fishery value for the 2024 calendar year is 5.2 percent of the standard ex-vessel value; however, the fee percentage must not exceed 3.0 percent pursuant to section 304(d)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Therefore, the 2024 fee percentage is set at 3.0 percent. An IFQ permit holder is to use the fee percentage of 3.0 percent to calculate their fee for IFQ equivalent pound(s) landed during the 2024 halibut and sablefish IFQ fishing season. An IFQ permit holder is responsible for submitting the 2024 IFQ fee payment to NMFS on or before January 31, 2025. Payment must be made in accordance with the payment methods set forth in § 679.45(a)(4)(iv). Payment can be made using credit card, debit card, or electronic check via the *pay.gov* program. NMFS does not accept credit card information by phone or in-person for fee payments.

Due to the regulatory cap the 2024 fee percentage of 3.0 percent is the same as the 2023 fee percentage of 3.0 percent (88 FR 89667, December 28, 2023). Net fishery management costs decreased by 12% when compared to 2023’s net fishery management costs. However, the total fishery value declined by 43%, resulting in a capped fee percentage.

TABLE 1—REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR THE 2024 IFQ SEASON ¹

Landing location	Period ending	Halibut standard ex-vessel price	Sablefish standard ex-vessel price
CORDOVA	March 31 .....	.....	.....
	April 30 .....	.....	.....
	May 31 .....	.....	.....
	June 30 .....	.....	.....
	July 31 .....	.....	.....
			5.55

TABLE 1—REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR THE 2024 IFQ SEASON 1—
Continued

Landing location	Period ending	Halibut standard ex-vessel price	Sablefish standard ex-vessel price	
HOMER	August 31	5.34	.....
	September 30 .....	.....	.....
	October 31 .....	.....	.....
	November 30 .....	.....	.....
	December 31 .....	.....	.....
	March 31	5.16	.....
	April 30	5.20	1.02	
	May 31	5.77	1.01	
	June 30	6.04	1.55	
	July 31	6.36	1.62	
	August 31	5.75	1.23	
	September 30	5.23	1.65	
KODIAK	October 31	5.23	1.65	
	November 30	5.23	1.65	
	December 31	5.23	1.65	
	March 31	5.02	.....
	April 30	4.71	0.98	
	May 31	4.84	0.97	
	June 30	5.60	1.13	
	July 31	5.46	1.20	
	August 31	5.33	1.40	
	September 30	5.06	1.34	
	October 31	5.06	1.34	
	November 30	5.06	1.34	
PETERSBURG	December 31	5.06	1.34	
	March 31 .....	.....	.....
	April 30 .....	.....	.....
	May 31	5.73	.....
	June 30 .....	.....	.....
	July 31 .....	.....	.....
	August 31	5.88	.....
	September 30 .....	.....	.....
	October 31 .....	.....	.....
	November 30 .....	.....	.....
	December 31 .....	.....	.....
	SEWARD	March 31
April 30 .....		.....	.....
May 31		3.38	.....
June 30 .....		.....	.....
July 31 .....		.....	.....
August 31 .....		.....	.....
September 30		4.42	1.22	
October 31		4.42	1.22	
November 30		4.42	1.22	
December 31		4.42	1.22	
SITKA		March 31
		April 30
	May 31 .....	.....	.....
	June 30 .....	.....	.....
	July 31	5.46	1.64	
	August 31	5.44	.....
	September 30	5.46	.....
	October 31	5.46	.....
	November 30	5.46	.....
	December 31	5.46	.....
	BERING SEA	March 31
		April 30
May 31 .....		.....	.....
June 30		3.83	.....
July 31		3.97	.....
August 31		3.98	.....
September 30		4.24	.....
October 31		4.24	.....

TABLE 1—REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR THE 2024 IFQ SEASON¹—Continued

Landing location	Period ending	Halibut standard ex-vessel price	Sablefish standard ex-vessel price
CENTRAL GULF OF ALASKA	November 30	4.24	.....
	December 31	4.24	.....
	March 31	5.18	1.09
	April 30	5.07	0.97
	May 31	5.15	1.00
	June 30	5.50	1.34
	July 31	4.82	1.36
	August 31	5.19	1.18
	September 30	4.85	1.30
	October 31	4.85	1.30
SOUTHEAST ALASKA	November 30	4.85	1.30
	December 31	4.85	1.30
	March 31	5.99	1.64
	April 30	5.48	1.62
	May 31	5.53	1.61
	June 30	5.85	1.95
	July 31	5.67	1.62
	August 31	5.56	1.76
	September 30	5.61	1.95
	October 31	5.61	1.95
ALL-ALASKA	November 30	5.61	1.95
	December 31	5.61	1.95
	March 31	5.71	1.50
	April 30	5.28	1.17
	May 31	5.33	1.24
	June 30	5.58	1.52
	July 31	4.87	1.48
	August 31	5.15	1.30
	September 30	5.03	1.45
	October 31	5.03	1.45
ALL	November 30	5.03	1.45
	December 31	5.03	1.45
	March 31	5.71	1.50
	April 30	5.28	1.17
	May 31	5.33	1.24
	June 30	5.58	1.52
	July 31	4.87	1.48
	August 31	5.15	1.30
	September 30	5.03	1.45
	October 31	5.03	1.45

¹ **Note:** In many instances, prices are not shown in order to comply with confidentiality guidelines when there are fewer than three registered buyers operating in a location during a month. Additionally, landings at different harbors in the same general location (e.g., “Juneau, Douglas, and Auke Bay”) have been combined to report landings to the main port (e.g., “Juneau”).

² *Landing Locations Within Port Group—Bering Sea:* Adak, Akutan, Akutan Bay, Atka, Bristol Bay, Chefornak, Dillingham, Captains Bay, Dutch Harbor, Egegik, Ikatan Bay, Hooper Bay, King Cove, King Salmon, Kipnuk, Mekoryuk, Naknek, Nome, Quinhagak, Savoonga, St. George, St. Lawrence, St. Paul, Togiak, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Beaver Inlet, Ugadaga Bay, Unalaska.

³ *Landing Locations Within Port Group—Central Gulf of Alaska:* Anchor Point, Anchorage, Alitak, Chignik, Cordova, Eagle River, False Pass, West Anchor Cove, Girdwood, Chinitna Bay, Halibut Cove, Homer, Kasilof, Kenai, Kenai River, Alitak, Kodiak, Port Bailey, Nikiski, Ninilchik, Old Harbor, Palmer, Sand Point, Seldovia, Resurrection Bay, Seward, Valdez, Whittier.

⁴ *Landing Locations Within Port Group—Southeast Alaska:* Angoon, Baranof Warm Springs, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Excursion Inlet, Gustavus, Haines, Hollis, Hoonah, Hyder, Auke Bay, Douglas, Tee Harbor, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Klawock, Metlakatla, Pelican, Petersburg, Portage Bay, Port Alexander, Port Graham, Port Protection, Point Baker, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Wrangell, Yakutat.

⁵ *Landing Locations Within Port Group—All:* For Alaska: All landing locations included in 1, 2, and 3. For California: Eureka, Fort Bragg, Other California. For Oregon: Astoria, Aurora, Lincoln City, Newport, Warrenton, Other Oregon. For Washington: Anacortes, Bellevue, Bellingham, Nagai Island, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Ilwaco, La Conner, Port Angeles, Port Orchard, Port Townsend, Ranier, Fox Island, Mercer Island, Seattle, Standwood, Other Washington. For Canada: Port Hardy, Port Edward, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Haines Junction, Other Canada.

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

Dated: December 20, 2024.

Kelly Denit,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-31018 Filed 12-20-24; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE550]

Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held in January, February, and March of 2025. Certain fishermen and shark dealers are required to attend a workshop to meet regulatory requirements and to maintain valid permits. Specifically, the Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop is mandatory for all federally permitted Atlantic shark dealers. The Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop is mandatory for vessel owners and operators who use bottom longline, pelagic longline, or gillnet gear, and who have also been issued shark or swordfish limited access permits. Additional free workshops will be conducted in 2025 and will be announced in a future notice. In addition, NMFS has implemented online recertification workshops for persons who have already taken an in-person training.

DATES: The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops will be held on January 16, 2025, February 13, 2025, and March 20, 2025. The Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held on January 7, 2025, February 4, 2025, and March 6, 2025.

ADDRESSES: The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops will be held in Kenner, LA, Fort Pierce, FL, and Wilmington, NC. The Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held in Marathon, FL, Portsmouth, NH, and Houston, TX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elsa Gutierrez by email at elsa.gutierrez@noaa.gov or by phone at 301-427-8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries (tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish) 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 (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*). HMS implementing regulations are at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.8 describes the requirements for the Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops. The workshop schedules, registration information, and a list of frequently asked questions regarding the Atlantic Shark Identification and Safe Handling, Release, and Identification workshops are available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-shark-identification-workshops> and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/safe-handling-release-and-identification-workshops>.

Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops

Since January 1, 2008, Atlantic shark dealers have been prohibited from receiving, purchasing, trading, or bartering for Atlantic sharks unless a valid Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate is on the premises of each business listed under the shark dealer permit that first receives Atlantic sharks (71 FR 58058, October 2, 2006). Dealers who attend and successfully complete a workshop are issued a certificate for each place of business that is permitted to receive sharks. These certificate(s) are valid for 3 years. Thus, certificates that were initially issued in 2022 will expire in 2025.

Currently, permitted dealers may send a proxy to an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop. However, if a dealer opts to send a proxy, the dealer must designate a proxy for each place of business covered by the dealer's permit that first receives Atlantic sharks. Only one certificate will be issued to each proxy. A proxy must be a person who is currently employed by a place of business covered by the dealer's permit; is a primary participant in the identification, weighing, and/or first receipt of fish as they are offloaded from a vessel; and who fills out dealer reports. Atlantic shark dealers are prohibited from renewing a Federal shark dealer permit unless a valid Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate for each business location that first receives Atlantic sharks has

been submitted with the permit renewal application. Additionally, a copy of a valid dealer or proxy Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate must be in any trucks or other conveyances that are extensions of a dealer's place of business.

Workshop Dates, Times, and Locations

1. January 16, 2025, 12 p.m.–4 p.m., Home2 Suites Kenner Airport, 1112 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Kenner, LA 70062. 2. February 13, 2025, 12 p.m.–4 p.m., Hampton Inn & Suites Fort Pierce, 1985 Reynolds Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34945. 3. March 20, 2025, 12 p.m.–4 p.m., Wingate by Wyndham Wilmington, 5126 Market Street Bus 17, Wilmington, NC 28405.

Registration

To register for a scheduled Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop, please contact Eric Sander at ericssharkguide@yahoo.com or at 386-852-8588. Pre-registration is highly recommended, but not required.

Registration Materials

To ensure that workshop certificates are linked to the correct permits, participants will need to bring the following specific items to the workshop:

- Atlantic shark dealer permit holders must bring proof that the attendee is an owner or agent of the business (such as articles of incorporation), a copy of the applicable permit, and proof of identification.
- Atlantic shark dealer proxies must bring documentation from the permitted dealer acknowledging that the proxy is attending the workshop on behalf of the permitted Atlantic shark dealer for a specific business location, a copy of the appropriate valid permit, and proof of identification.

Workshop Objectives

The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops are designed to reduce the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks reported in the dealer reporting form and increase the accuracy of species-specific dealer-reported information. Reducing the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks will improve quota monitoring and the data used in stock assessments. These workshops will train shark dealer permit holders or their proxies to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses.

Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops

Since January 1, 2007, shark limited access and swordfish limited access