

recovered to restore injured natural resources.

Consistent with Federal accounting requirements, the DARP is required to account for and report the full costs of its programs and activities. Further, the DARP is authorized by law to recover reasonable costs of damage assessment and restoration activities under CERCLA, OPA, and the NMSA. Within the constraints of these legal provisions and their regulatory applications, the DARP has the discretion to develop indirect cost rates for its component organizations and formulate policies on the recovery of indirect cost rates subject to its requirements.

The DARP's Indirect Cost Effort

In December 1998, the DARP hired the public accounting firm Rubino & McGeehin, Chartered (R&M), to: evaluate the cost accounting system and allocation practices; recommend the appropriate indirect cost allocation methodology; and determine the indirect cost rates for the three organizations that comprise the DARP. A **Federal Register** notice on R&M's effort, their assessment of the DARP's cost accounting system and practice, and their determination respecting the most appropriate indirect cost methodology and rates for FYs 1993 through 1999 was published on December 7, 2000 (65 FR 76611). The notice and report by R&M can also be found on the DARP Web site at: <http://www.darp.noaa.gov>.

R&M continued its assessment of DARP's indirect cost rate system and structure for FYs 2000 and 2001. As in the prior years, R&M concluded that the cost accounting system and allocation practices of the DARP component organizations are consistent with Federal accounting requirements. R&M also determined that the most appropriate indirect allocation method continues to be the Direct Labor Cost Base for all three DARP component organizations. The Direct Labor Cost Base is computed by allocating total indirect cost over the sum of direct labor dollars plus the application of NOAA's leave surcharge and benefits rates to direct labor. The indirect costs rates that R&M computed for each of the three DARP component organizations were further assessed as being fair and equitable. A report on R&M's recent assessment of the DARP's cost accounting system and recommended cost rate structure can also be found on the DARP Web site at: <http://www.darp.noaa.gov>.

The DARP's Indirect Cost Rates and Policies

The DARP will apply the indirect cost rates for FY 2000 and 2001 as recommended by R&M for each of the DARP component organizations as provided in the following table:

DARP Component organization	Fiscal years (percent)	
	2000	2001
Damage Assessment Center (DAC)	198.54	217.27
Restoration Center (RC) ...	219.60	257.79
General Counsel for Natural Resources (GCNR)	270.10	239.24

These rates are based on the Direct Labor Cost Base allocation methodology.

The FY 2000 and 2001 revised rates identified in the above table will be applied to all damage assessment and restoration case costs for the respective fiscal year periods. The FY 2000 rate is effective as of May 16, 2002. The FY 2001 rate is effective as of September 30, 2002. DARP will use FY 2001 indirect cost rates for future fiscal years until year-specific rates can be developed.

For cases that have settled and for cost claims paid prior to the effective date of the fiscal year in question, the DARP will not re-open any resolved matters for the purpose of applying the revised rates in this policy for these fiscal years. For cases not settled and cost claims not paid prior to the effective date of the fiscal year in question, costs will be recalculated using the revised rates in this policy for these fiscal years. Where a responsible party has agreed to pay costs using previous year's indirect rates, but has not yet made the payment because the settlement documents are not finalized, the costs will not be recalculated.

The DARP indirect cost rate policies and procedures approved as of October 18, 2000 and published in the **Federal Register** on December 7, 2000 (65 FR 76611) remain in effect except as updated by this notice.

Dated: November 22, 2002.

Jamison S. Hawkins,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management.

[FR Doc. 02-30416 Filed 11-29-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112502E]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Ad Hoc VMS Committee will hold a meeting, which is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2002, and adjourn when business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the West Conference Room at the Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384, (503) 820-2280. Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200, Portland, OR 97220-1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike Burner, Pacific Fishery Management Council, (503) 820-2280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At its November 2002 meeting, the Council recommended the implementation of a pilot VMS program for West Coast groundfish fisheries. The primary purpose of the meeting is to review the Council recommendations and develop draft language for a proposed regulatory package.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may come before the Ad Hoc VMS Committee for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Ad Hoc VMS Committee action during this meeting. 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Ad Hoc VMS Committee's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Porter at (503) 820-2280 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 25, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-30456 Filed 11-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112502D]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting/public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet on December 16, 2002, at 2 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Council meeting will be held via telephone conference call at the Council offices, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone: (808)522-8220; fax: (808) 522-8226.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda during the Council meeting will include the items listed here:

1. Pelagic Fisheries

Consideration of new provisions for turtle conservation measures for pelagic vessels in the Western Pacific.

In 2002, the Western Pacific Council developed a regulatory framework adjustment to the Pelagic Fisheries Management Plan (PFMP) which was intended to minimize interactions with and harm to sea turtles. These measures stemmed from the non-discretionary Reasonable and Prudent Measures contained in a Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion published by the NMFS in 2001. Although primarily intended for the Hawaii longline fishery, these measures included provisions for all pelagic fisheries under the jurisdiction of the Council. The measures included requirements for small troll and handline vessels to carry bolt cutters and line clippers, to remove hooks and fishing line from any turtles caught while fishing. A new Biological Opinion for pelagic fisheries in the Western Pacific was completed on November 15, 2002. The new Opinion states that in the event of interaction

with a sea turtle, operators of vessels using handline and trolling fishing gears to target Pacific pelagic management unit species in waters of the U.S. Western Pacific Exclusive Economic Zone, must handle the sea turtle in a manner to minimize injury and promote post-hooking survival as previously published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 660.32 (c) and (d)). The Council will consider whether initial action is required to adjust the WPFMC regulatory requirements, in order to be consistent with the language in the new Biological Opinion. A public hearing will be held to give the public opportunity to comment before the Council takes action on this agenda item.

2. Other Business

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before the Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and to any issue arising after publication of this document that requires emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided that the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, 808-522-8220 (voice) or 808-522-8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 25, 2002.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 02-30455 Filed 11-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request—Procurement of Goods and Services

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In the **Federal Register** of September 16, 2002 (67 FR 58357), the Consumer Product Safety Commission published a notice in accordance with provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) to

announce the agency's intention to seek extension of approval of a collection of information associated with the procurement of goods and services. The Commission now announces that it has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of approval of that collection of information.

The Commission's procurement activities are governed by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253 *et seq.*). That law requires the Commission to procure goods and services under conditions most advantageous to the government, considering cost and other factors. Forms used by the Commission request persons who quote, propose, or bid on contracts with the agency to provide information about costs or prices of goods and services to be supplied; specifications of goods and descriptions of services to be delivered; competence of the offeror to provide the goods or services; and other information about the offeror, such as the size of the firm and whether it is minority owned.

The Commission uses the information provided by bidders to determine the reasonableness of prices and costs and the responsiveness of potential contractors to undertake the work involved so that all bids may be awarded in accordance with Federal Procurement laws.

Additional Information About the Request for Extension of Approval of a Collection of Information

Agency address: Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

Title of information collection: Information Collection Associated with Procurement of Goods and Services.

Type of request: Extension of approval without change.

General description of respondents: Persons and firms providing bids, proposals, and quotations to the Commission for goods and services.

Estimated number of respondents: 2,539.

Estimated average number of hours per respondent: 5.58 per year.

Estimated number of hours for all respondents: 14,174 per year.

Estimated cost of collection for all respondents: \$558,714 per year.

Comments: Comments on this request for extension of approval of information collection requirements should be submitted by January 2, 2003 to (1) the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for CPSC, Office of Management and