

Commissioners receive no compensation for their services.

Nomination Process

NMFS is soliciting nominations for non-Federal Commissioner positions listed below. As explained in the Background Section, the purpose of this action is to develop a pool of qualified candidates, who can be considered, as the need arises, for recommendations for U.S. Commissioner vacancies or for designation as Alternate Commissioners. Pursuant to the RFMO statutes described below, there may be "up to" a certain number of non-Federal U.S. Commissioners. There is no limit though on the number of nominees that may be submitted for consideration. Successful nominees will be considered for appointment by the appropriate authority and, pending such action by that authority, may receive an interim designation by the Department of State, as needed and appropriate. Separate from any nominations received per this notice, NMFS and/or its federal agency partners may also independently make Commissioner recommendations. Current Commissioners that are interested in being included in the pool of qualified candidates may, but are not required to, indicate as such through self-nomination or nomination by someone else.

- **IATTC:** Up to three U.S. Commissioners who are not an officer or employee of the Department of Commerce. Not more than two U.S. Commissioners may be appointed who reside in a State other than a State whose vessels maintain a substantial fishery in the area of the Convention. Nomination packages for these positions should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to highly migratory fish stocks in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, as well as current state of residence.

- **ICCAT:** Up to two U.S. Commissioners who are not salaried employees of any State or political subdivision thereof, or the Federal Government. Nomination packages for these positions should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to commercial and/or recreational fishing, in particular for tuna, tuna-like species and other highly migratory species, in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean Sea.

- **IPHC:** Up to two U.S. Commissioners who are not officials of NOAA. Nomination packages for these positions should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to Pacific halibut, as well as current state of residence.

- **NAFO:** One U.S. Commissioner who is not an official of the Government. Nomination packages for this position should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to the fishery resources to which the Convention applies, specifically as it relates to representing the commercial fishing industry.

- **NASCO:** Up to two U.S. Commissioners who are not officials of the U.S. Government. Nomination packages for these positions should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to the conservation and management of salmon of U.S. origin.

- **NPAFC:** Up to two U.S. Commissioners who are not officials of the U.S. Government. Nomination packages for these positions should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to the anadromous stocks and ecologically-related species of the North Pacific Ocean, as well as current state of residence. Note that to be considered for appointment, individuals must be a resident of the State of Alaska or the State of Washington.

- **SPRFMO:** One U.S. Commissioner who is knowledgeable or experienced concerning fishery resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and who is not an official of the U.S. Government or the selected Commissioner representative of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. Nomination packages for this position should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to the fishery resources in the South Pacific Ocean.

- **WCPFC:** Up to two U.S. Commissioners who are not officers or employees of the Department of Commerce or the selected Commissioner representative of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council or Pacific Fishery Management Council. Nomination packages for this position should provide details of the nominee's knowledge and experience relative to highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Nomination packages submitted to recommend that an individual (not an official of the U.S. Government) be considered for the pool of Commissioner/Alternate Commissioner candidates should note the relevant RFMO(s) for consideration and include a resume or curriculum vitae that documents that individual's qualifications and state of residence. Self-nominations are acceptable. Letters of recommendation/support are useful

but not required. Nomination packages will be evaluated by NOAA, in consultation with the Department of State and other federal agency partners as appropriate, on a case-by-case basis by officials who are familiar with the requirements, duties, and responsibilities of the respective positions.

Evaluations will consider the aggregate of an individual's prior experience and knowledge of the specific fisheries concerned, any applicable residency or other legal requirements, and any letters of recommendation provided.

Dated: May 18, 2022.

Alexa Cole,

Director, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC023]

Fishing Capacity Reduction Program for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery

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

ACTION: Notice of fee rate adjustment change.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notice to inform the public that there will be an increase of the fee rate required to repay the reduction loan financing the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishing Capacity reduction program. Effective June 1, 2022, NMFS is increasing the Loan B fee rate to 2.5 percent of landed value to ensure timely repayment of the loan. The fee rate for Loan A will remain unchanged at 1 percent of landed value. The increased fee rate is due to the decrease in projected value of the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon catch for 2022.

DATES: The Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishing Capacity loan program fee rate increase will begin with landings on June 1, 2022. The first due date for fee payments with the increased rate will be July 15, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Send questions about this notice to Michael A. Sturtevant, Program Manager, Financial Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Michael A. Sturtevant, (301) 427-8782.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery is a commercial fishery in Alaska State waters and adjacent Federal waters. It encompasses the commercial taking of salmon with purse seine gear and participation is limited to fishermen designated by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC).

The Fishing Capacity Reduction Program was established under the Consolidations Act of 2005 (Section 209 of Title II of Division B of Pub. L. 108-447). This Federal law was subsequently amended by Section 121 of Public Law 109-479 (the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006) codified at 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* The authority for the SRA to conduct this program under Alaska law is AS 16.40.250.

Based on these Federal and state measures, the NMFS established regulations in the **Federal Register**, (76 FR 61986; October 6, 2011), to administer and implement the program.

The purpose of the program and this plan is to permanently reduce the number of limited entry fishing permits issued by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) for the Fishery thereby promoting economic efficiency and improving the conservation and management of the Fishery.

Congress authorized a \$23.5 million dollar loan to finance a fishing capacity reduction program in the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery. NMFS published proposed program regulations on May 23, 2011 (76 FR 29707) and final program regulations on October 6, 2011 (76 FR 61986) to implement the reduction program.

In 2012, NMFS conducted a referendum to determine the remaining fishermen's willingness to repay a \$13.1 million fishing capacity reduction loan to remove 64 permits. After a majority of permit holders approved the loan, NMFS disbursed payments to the successful bidders and began collecting fees to repay the loan. Since only \$13.1 million was expended from the total loan amount, \$10.4 million in funds remained available.

In 2018, the SRA informed NMFS that they wished to access the remaining loan amounts to undertake a second buyback. To implement this next buyback, the SRA, on behalf of the reduction fishery, was required to draft and submit a reduction plan to NMFS. On June 21, 2018, the SRA submitted a reduction plan to access \$10.1 million

of the remaining \$10.4 million in funds to remove 36 permits. NMFS approved the proposed second fishing capacity reduction plan in November 2018.

NMFS published a notice of eligible voters on December 3, 2018 (83 FR 62302) informing the public of the permanent permit holders eligible to vote in the referendum and informing the eligible voters of the referendum voting period.

Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to announce the current fee rates for the reduction fishery in accordance with the framework rule at 50 CFR 600.1013(b). Section 600.1013(b) directs NMFS to recalculate the fee to a rate that will be reasonably necessary to ensure reduction loan repayment within the specified 40-year term.

For the 2022 fishing season, the fee rate for both Loan A and Loan B was one percent of the landed value and any subsequent bonus payment. Loan A is currently 13 years ahead of the scheduled amortization and will remain well ahead so we are leaving the rate at 1 percent of gross value of salmon sold. Loan B is 1.5 years behind the scheduled amortization and currently owes more than the original loan amount. Beginning June 1, 2022, the Loan B fee rate will be increased from 1 percent to 2.5 percent of gross value of salmon sold and is projected to be current at the end of the 2022 season.

Fish buyers may continue to use *Pay.gov* to disburse collected fee deposits at: <http://www.pay.gov/paygov/>. Please visit the NOAA Fisheries website for additional information at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/funding-and-financial-services/southeast-alaska-purse-seine-salmon-fishery-buyback-program>.

Notice

The new fee rate for the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery will begin on June 1, 2022.

From and after this date, all subsector members paying fees on the Southeast Alaska Purse Seine Salmon Fishery shall begin paying program fees at the revised rate.

Fee collection and submission shall follow previously established methods in § 600.1013 of the framework rule and in the final fee rule published in the **Federal Register** on October 6, 2011 (76 FR 61985).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1861 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 108-447.

Dated: May 9, 2022.

Brian T. Pawlak,

Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Director, Office of Management and Budget, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC053]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of hybrid meeting open to the public offering both in-person and virtual options for participation.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a four-day meeting to consider actions affecting the Gulf of Mexico fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

DATES: The meeting will convene Tuesday, June 21 through Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 8 a.m.–5:15 p.m., EDT, and Friday, June 24, 2022 at 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., EDT.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting address: The meeting will take place at the Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower Shops, located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33907.

Please note, in-person meeting attendees will be expected to follow any current COVID-19 safety protocols as determined by the Council, hotel and the City of Ft. Myers, if any. Such precautions may include masks, room capacity restrictions, and/or social distancing. If you prefer to “listen in”, you may access 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: Dr. Carrie Simmons, Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; telephone: (813) 348-1630.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Tuesday, June 21, 2022; 8 a.m.–5:15 p.m., EDT

The meeting will begin with the Habitat Protection and Restoration Committee reviewing and discussing the