

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY—Continued

Total number of days	1,300.
Gear type(s)	Bottom trawl.
Number of tows or sets	20–25 per trip.
Duration of tows or sets	30 minutes–2 hours.

Project Narrative

The subject application would study the feasibility of deploying an intelligent discard chute with integrated artificial intelligence (AI) technology for catch accounting onboard high-volume groundfish trawl vessels. The project would determine the optimal design and workflow to minimize costs and maximize precision and accuracy of electronic monitoring (EM) data for size, species, and weight of regulatory discards. This research could significantly reduce the cost of EM programs for large, high-volume groundfish vessels if the intelligent discard chute and AI prove to be an accurate and reliable source for catch accounting. This information could also be used to develop a future High-Volume Audit (HVA) EM program for high-volume vessels, which could incentivize EM adoption in the region.

The subject application would allow up to four high-volume trawl sector vessels enrolled in the Audit Model EM program additional exemptions from 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(i) and (a)(4)(i) to conduct fishing using codends with diamond mesh as small as 4.5 inches (11.4 cm) to increase the catch of redfish in the Sector Redfish Exemption Area and conduct fishing using codends with square mesh as small as 5.1 inches (13 cm) to increase the catch of haddock in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. The use of different mesh sizes and gears, leading to various catch compositions, will improve and expand the predictive capabilities of the AI program and the intelligent discard chute on high-volume vessels.

Additionally, vessels would be exempt from the non-habitat management area portion of the Closed Area II Closure Area, from April 16 through January 31, at 50 CFR 648.81(a)(5). This will allow vessel access to an additional fishing area, where catch compositions may differ. The opportunity to encounter varying catch composition will be used to further expand the AI program capabilities and predicative powers.

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: February 9, 2023.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–03171 Filed 2–14–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Draft Environmental Assessment for the Funding, Procurement, and Operation of NOAA Small Uncrewed Aircraft Systems

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA’s Uncrewed Systems Research Transition Office (UxSRTO) in OAR has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Funding, Procurement, and Operation of NOAA Small Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS). We are making the draft EA available for public review and comment.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before March 17, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The Draft EA is available online at <https://orta.research.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Draft-PEA-for-NOAA-Small-Unmanned-Aircraft-Systems.pdf>. Please submit public comments via email to UXS.OAR@NOAA.gov with the subject line “Public Comment on Draft EA for UAS.” Please be aware that comments submitted may be posted on a Federal website or otherwise released publicly. Clearly indicate the section, page number, and line number, if applicable, to which submitted comments pertain. All comments must be provided in English. No business proprietary

information, copyrighted information, or personally identifiable information should be submitted. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Cole, Director, NOAA Uncrewed Systems Research Transition Office (email: bryan.cole@noaa.gov or phone number: 831–601–2107).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The UxSRTO is often directly or indirectly involved in the funding, procurement, and operation of small UAS during the course of its normal office functions. The UxSRTO, and its predecessor, the NOAA UAS Program Office in OAR, were formally established to provide guidance and expertise in support of NOAA’s efforts in the testing and development of UAS and to help expand UAS research, development, and transitions to operations and commercialization. The draft EA evaluates the potential impacts on the environment from the types of small UAS platforms and operations commonly supported by the UxSRTO across NOAA, in any environment for which NOAA has a mission and potential need for UAS resources to help meet related mission objectives.

For purposes of the assessment, the use of the term “small UAS” follows suit with the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) definition of “small unmanned aircraft” (14 CFR 107.3), which weigh “less than 55 pounds on takeoff, including everything that is on board or otherwise attached to the aircraft.” The geographic scope of the action area includes the airspace ranging from just above the surface (for launch and recovery), extending upward to an operational altitude of approximately 400 ft. above ground level (AGL) for a majority of applications, but may also include operational altitudes up to as high as 100,000 ft. mean sea level (MSL) for a few others.

UxSRTO proposes that the support for small UAS operations at NOAA, as described in the proposed action, would have no significant impact on the environment. The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and Council on Environmental Quality implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), as well as NOAA's procedures for compliance with NEPA as specified in the Companion Manual to NOAA Administrative Order 216–6A.

David Holst,

Chief Financial Officer/Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2023–03222 Filed 2–14–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC746]

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 (Pacific Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team will hold one public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Standard Time or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820–2412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessi Doerpinghaus, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2415.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this online meeting is to discuss and develop work products and recommendations for the Pacific Council's March and April 2023 meetings. Topics will include reviewing the 2022–23 California Current Ecosystem report and fishery ecosystem plan initiatives. Other items on the

Pacific Council's March and April agendas may be discussed as well. The meeting agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website in advance of the meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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 intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov; (503) 820–2412) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 9, 2023.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2023–03144 Filed 2–14–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC690]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public online meeting.

SUMMARY: The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council's) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold an online meeting to review revisions to the habitat model for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine and methods for analyzing and using the 2022 CPS survey. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The SSC CPS Subcommittee's online meeting will be held Monday, March 20, 2023 and Tuesday, March 21, 2023, beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until 1 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, each day or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The SSC's CPS Subcommittee's meeting will be an online meeting. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements, will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820–2412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus, Staff Officer, Pacific Fishery Management Council; telephone: (503) 820–2415.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the SSC CPS Subcommittee's meeting is to (a) review proposed changes to the habitat model for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine, (b) review how the habitat model is used to assign catches of Pacific sardine to the northern subpopulation, (c) review how the habitat model is used to define the area covered by the CPS survey that pertains to the northern subpopulation, and (d) review methods for analyzing and using the 2022 CPS survey data given disruptions. Members of the Pacific Council's CPS advisory bodies are encouraged to attend.

No management actions will be decided by the SSC's CPS Subcommittee. The SSC CPS Subcommittee members' role will be development of recommendations and reports for consideration by the SSC and Pacific Council at the April meeting in Foster City, CA.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agendas may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal 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 intent of the SSC CPS Subcommittee 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 Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt