

the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/4125>.

**Council address:** North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Ste. 400, Anchorage, AK 99501–2252; telephone: (907) 271–2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via video conference are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anita Kroska, Council staff; phone: (907) 271–2805; email: [akroska@npfmc.org](mailto:akroska@npfmc.org). For technical support, please contact our admin Council staff, email: [support@npfmc.org](mailto:support@npfmc.org).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Agenda**

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

The agenda will include (a) 2025–26 fishery, survey, & socioeconomic updates; (b) status of assessment development; (c) stock status, Over Fishing Limit, and Acceptable Biological Catch determination; (d) future planning for Scallop Plan Team, and (e) other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/4125> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

#### **Connection Information**

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or by phone only. Connection information will be posted online at: <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/4125>.

#### **Public Comment**

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/4125>.

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

Dated: March 18, 2026.

#### **Rey Israel Marquez,**

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

[FR Doc. 2026–05626 Filed 3–20–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **Request for Comment on Satellite-Derived Bathymetry Addition to Standard Ocean Mapping Protocol**

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization (NOMECE) Council and the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG–OCM) request input from all interested parties on the draft addendums to the Standard Ocean Mapping Protocol (SOMP). The SOMP was developed in accordance with Objective 2.1 of the National Strategy for Ocean Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (NOMECE Strategy), which directed the IWG–OCM to establish a SOMP to encourage consistency in data acquisition, stewardship, and management across a subset of ocean sensing capabilities for seafloor mapping. The first version of the SOMP was released in April 2024 and includes sections on bathymetry, seabed backscatter, water column backscatter, side scan sonar imagery, sub-bottom profiling, and magnetometer data readings. The draft addendums to the Bathymetry and Data Management chapters are focused on Satellite-Derived Bathymetry (SDB).

**DATES:** All comments on this **Federal Register** Notice must be received by 5 p.m. ET on May 22, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the draft addendums must be submitted via email to [iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov](mailto:iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov). Please include “Public Comment on SOMP SDB Addendums” in the subject line of the email message. If applicable, clearly indicate the section and page number to which submitted comments pertain. The written comments NOAA receives are considered part of the public record, and the entirety of the comment, including the name of the commenter, email address, attachments, and other supporting materials, will be publicly accessible. Sensitive personally identifiable information, such as account numbers and Social Security numbers, should not be included with the comment. Comments that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will not be considered. All submissions must be in English. Email attachments will be accepted in plain text, Microsoft Word, or Adobe PDF formats only. Each individual or institution is requested to submit only one comment. Commenting on this FRN is voluntary. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for comment preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the comment.

Documents are available at the following locations:

- The draft SDB-addendum to the Bathymetry chapter of the April 2024 SOMP may be downloaded or viewed at: <https://iocm.noaa.gov/standards/DRAFT+-+SOMP+SDB+Addendum+Chapters+1+and+2+01.09.2026.pdf>

- The April 2024 SOMP may be downloaded or viewed at: <https://iocm.noaa.gov/standards/SOMPFinal2024.pdf>

- The 2020 NOMECE Strategy may be downloaded or viewed at: <https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/NOMECEStrategy.pdf>

- The 2024 NOMECE Strategy Implementation Plan may be downloaded or viewed at: [https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/2024%20NOMECE%20Implementation%20Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/2024%20NOMECE%20Implementation%20Plan_FINAL.pdf).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Turner, NOAA Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping, 240–429–0293, [iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov](mailto:iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **I. Request for Technical Feedback**

The NOMECE Council and IWG–OCM issued this FRN to solicit public input that will inform the IWG–OCM’s refinement of the SDB-addendums to the Bathymetry and Data Management chapters of the April 2024 SOMP. Specifically, the IWG–OCM is looking for feedback to address technical aspects relevant to the scope and content of the SDB addendums.

#### **II. Background**

The SOMP encourages use of national standards and best practices to guide all ocean mapping actions in order to ensure the widest access to, use of, and integration of data while minimizing duplication of effort and archiving of ocean and coastal mapping data in publicly accessible repositories and databases. Collecting, processing, and archiving data to established standards expands its utility for multiple uses. Ocean mapping data are required to meet many Federal government missions. To make the most of every survey mile collected, the IWG–OCM works with and encourages participation from partnering federal, state, local, academic, private industry, and non-profit organizations on mapping activities, data collection, and data sharing.

Pursuant to Objective 2.1 of the NOMECE Strategy, the April 2024 SOMP was drafted to encourage consistency in data acquisition, stewardship, and data management for seafloor mapping. The SOMP is organized into the following seven chapters:

(1) *Data Management*—The data management chapter covers methods for

effective data management, metadata, and archive techniques, which allow data to be accessed by and shared freely with the public.

(2) *Bathymetry*—The bathymetric data chapter focuses on procedures for collecting, processing, and delivering bathymetry acquired by multibeam, single beam, and phase-discriminating sonar, and light detection and ranging (lidar) systems and satellite-derived bathymetry. This chapter summarizes best practices for: positioning, system calibration and Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) techniques, coverage and resolution, uncertainty, tides and water levels, and general gridded data specifications.

(3) *Seabed and Lakebed Backscatter*—The backscatter data chapter focuses on establishing common backscatter acquisition and processing methods, acoustic signal corrections, and image processing steps leveraging existing guidelines and recommendations from the Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping (GeoHab) Backscatter Working Group (BSWG), as well as expert input from government, industry, academic institutions, and other relevant bodies.

(4) *Water Column Sonar*—The water column sonar chapter focuses on collecting, processing, and delivering raw and interpreted backscatter from single beam and multibeam echosounders (MBES). This chapter summarizes best practices for system configurations, operating frequencies and depth ranges, system calibration, QA/QC techniques, and analysis, and interpretation of backscatter.

(5) *Side Scan Sonar*—The Side Scan Sonar (SSS) chapter focuses on collecting, processing, and delivering SSS data. This chapter summarizes best practices for acquisition standards and system set-up, range scales, frequencies and ping rates, coverage requirements, positioning, system calibration, QA/QC techniques, and derivation of products.

(6) *Sub-bottom*—The sub-bottom profiling chapter focuses on common system types, practical survey design, conventional acquisition procedures, processing protocols, data formats, and publication of subsurface imaging data. The chapter describes the standard operating procedure for the use of single-channel acoustic systems that commonly operate in the 0.2 to 24 kilohertz (kHz) frequency range to remotely image the surface morphology and near-surface stratigraphy.

(7) *Magnetometer*—The magnetometer chapter focuses on general magnetic theory as it relates to anomaly detectability, factors that influence data quality, instrument configuration and

selection, platforms, coverage specifications, testing and calibration, and resolution/line spacing based on survey objectives.

*Authority:* 33 U.S.C. 883e; 33 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

**Christiaan van Westendorp,**

*RDML, NOAA, Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2026–05585 Filed 3–20–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–G1–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF516]

#### Permanent Advisory Committee To Advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission; Meeting Announcement

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces a public meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) on May 27, 2026. Meeting topics are provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

**DATES:** The meeting of the PAC will be held via web conference on May 27, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST) (or until business is concluded).

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be conducted via web conference. For details on how to call in to the web conference or to submit comments, please contact Katrina Poremba, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; telephone: 808–725–5096; email: [katrina.poremba@noaa.gov](mailto:katrina.poremba@noaa.gov). Documents to be considered by the PAC will be sent out via email in advance of the conference call. Please submit contact information to Katrina Poremba (telephone: 808–725–5096; email: [pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov](mailto:pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov)) by May 7, 2026 to receive documents via email. This meeting may be recorded for the purpose of generating notes of the meeting. As public comments will be made publicly available, participants and public commenters are urged not to provide personally identifiable

information (PII) at this meeting. Participation in the meeting by web conference, or by telephone, constitutes consent to the audio recording.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katrina Poremba, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818; telephone: 808–725–5096; email: [pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov](mailto:pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In accordance with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*), the PAC has been formed to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC. The PAC is composed of: (i) no less than 15 nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the U.S.

Commissioners to the WCPFC; (ii) the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee (or the chair's designee); and (iii) officials from the fisheries management authorities of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (or their designees). The PAC supports the work of the U.S. National Section to the WCPFC in an advisory capacity. The U.S. National Section is made up of the U.S. Commissioners, the Department of State, and the U.S. head of delegation. NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office provides administrative and technical support to the PAC in cooperation with the Department of State. More information on the WCPFC, established under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, can be found on the WCPFC website: <http://www.wcpfc.int>.

#### Meeting Topics

The purpose of the May 27, 2026 meeting is to discuss U.S. objectives leading up to the 23rd Regular Session of the WCPFC and its Subsidiary Body Meetings. There will also be an opportunity for the U.S. Participating Territories (American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI) to present their priority issues to the U.S. Commissioners.

#### Special Accommodations

The web conference is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Katrina Poremba at 808–725–5096 by May 1, 2026.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 6902 *et seq.*