

applicant would transfer the collected red snapper to their shore-based aquaculture tanks.

If approved, the applicant expects to be able to collect the 200 adult red snapper in 1 to 2 total fishing trips. Each trip would be expected to last up to approximately 9 days consisting of about 4 days of active fishing and 5 days of vessel transit. The collected adult red snapper are expected to weigh between 5 to 15 pounds (lb) each (2.3 to 6.8 kilograms (kg)).

The applicant expects to fish for red snapper between May 2026 and March 2027, although collection in November 2026 is their preferred time. The area of collection would be in South Atlantic Federal waters off the coast of Cape Canaveral, Florida. The fishing collection effort would focus on hard-bottom areas within a proposed collection polygon defined by the following coordinates:

- 28°51.740' North lat., 80°25.061' West long.
- 28°34.088' North lat., 80°02.000' West long.
- 27°51.955' North lat., 80°11.565' West long.
- 27°41.552' North lat., 79°58.311' West long.

Water depths in the proposed sampling area range from approximately 50 to 200 feet (15.2 to 61.0 meters).

Upon arrival at the applicant's aquaculture facility in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, the red snapper would be transferred to shore-based aquaculture tanks where they would be maintained alive in a controlled, recirculating aquaculture system. These fish would be used exclusively for research on reproductive health and larval production and would not be sold or transferred to any third party. While the facility may eventually distribute or sell juvenile fish produced from these research efforts to other aquaculture facilities, the original fish collected under this EFP would remain at the aquaculture facility for the duration of their life.

The applicant has requested exemptions from several Federal regulations to conduct this project. The applicant has requested an exemption from regulations requiring a commercial vessel permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper (50 CFR 622.170(a)(1)). The exemption would allow the project's contracted research vessel to harvest and possess red snapper in excess of the recreational bag limits without having the snapper-grouper commercial permit. An exemption from the area and seasonal closure regulations has been requested to allow the collection of red snapper during

optimal weather conditions and at any time of the year and not just during the designated red snapper commercial season (50 CFR 622.183(b)(5)). An exemption from the commercial trip limits has been requested to allow for the collection during a trip in excess of the red snapper commercial trip limit of 75 lb (34 kg), gutted weight (50 CFR 622.191(a)(9)). Lastly, the applicant has requested an exemption from the red snapper annual catch limits and accountability measures to ensure they have the flexibility they need to collect fish at various times of the year and not just during the designated red snapper season (50 CFR 622.193(y)(1)). The applicant has not requested, and NMFS does not anticipate the need for, any exemptions from regulations implementing the Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan as all they intend to do in the Puerto Rico exclusive economic zone is transit in the project vessel from the collection area in the Federal waters off Florida to their land-based aquaculture facility in Puerto Rico.

NMFS finds the application warrants further consideration based on a preliminary review. Possible conditions the agency may impose on the EFP, if granted, include but are not limited to, special protections for Endangered Species Act-listed species and specific reporting requirements.

A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS' review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the appropriate fishery management agencies, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that the activities are consistent with all other applicable laws.

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

Dated: April 17, 2026.

Kelly Denit,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD-2026-OS-0892]

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces Proposed Rules Changes

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of proposed changes to the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

SUMMARY: This notice announces proposed redrafting of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Although these rules of practice and procedure fall within the Administrative Procedure Act's exemptions for notice and comment, the Department, as a matter of policy, has decided to make these changes available for public review and comment before they are implemented.

DATES: Comments on the proposed changes must be received by May 21, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Mail:* Department of Defense, Office of the Director of Administration and Management, Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency Directorate, Regulatory Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 05F16, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Malcolm H. Squires, Jr., Clerk of the Court, telephone (202) 761-1448.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces the following proposed removal of Rule 8(f) and change to 24(e)(4) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Dated: April 16, 2026.

Aaron T. Siegel,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

Rule 8

Rule 8—Parties—currently reads:

* * * * *

(e) When a mandatory review case is filed, the accused is the appellant. The other party is the appellee.

(f) If a petition for grant of review or a certificate for review is filed after an action has been docketed in the same case, the party on whose behalf relief is sought in the second action is the appellant or cross-appellant, depending on whether such party is the appellant or appellee in the first action. The other

party in the second action is the appellee or cross-appellee as determined in a similar manner.

(g) All parties filing a petition for extraordinary relief with the Court are petitioners. All parties to the proceeding below other than petitioners are respondents.

The proposed change to Rule 8 would read:

* * * * *

(e) When a mandatory review case is filed, the accused is the appellant. The other party is the appellee.

(f) All parties filing a petition for extraordinary relief with the Court are petitioners. All parties to the proceeding below other than petitioners are respondents.

Comment: Rule 8 has been amended to better reflect the Court's internal docketing procedure.

Rule 24

Rule 24—Form, Content, and Type-Volume Limitations—currently reads:

* * * * *

(e) Joint Appendix. In addition to electronically filing a joint appendix, the appellant or petitioner is responsible for filing eight paper copies of a joint appendix, which is a separate document filed contemporaneously with the brief.

* * * * *

(4) Agreement and Designation. The parties are encouraged to agree on the contents of the joint appendix. In the absence of agreement, the appellant or petitioner must serve on the appellee or respondent a designation of the issues to be raised on appeal and of the parts of the record to be included in the joint appendix. Service must be made within fourteen days of the order granting the petition, the Judge Advocate General filing a certificate for review, the notice of the docketing of a mandatory review case, or the filing of a petition for new trial, petition for extraordinary relief or a writ-appeal petition. The appellee or respondent may, within fourteen days after receiving the designation, serve on the appellant or petitioner a designation of the additional parts of the record to draw to the attention of the Court. The appellant or petitioner must include the parts designated by the appellee or respondent in the joint appendix. The parties must avoid designating unnecessary parts of the record because the entire record is available to the Court. In the event a cross-appeal is filed, the Clerk will establish deadlines for designations.

The proposed change to Rule 24 would read:

* * * * *

(e) Joint Appendix. In addition to electronically filing a joint appendix, the appellant or petitioner is responsible for filing eight paper copies of a joint appendix, which is a separate document filed contemporaneously with the brief.

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(4) Agreement and Designation. The parties are encouraged to agree on the contents of the joint appendix. In the absence of agreement, the appellant or petitioner must serve on the appellee or respondent a designation of the issues to be raised on appeal and of the parts of the record to be included in the joint appendix. Service must be made within seven days of the order granting the petition, the Judge Advocate General filing a certificate for review, the notice of the docketing of a mandatory review case, or the filing of a petition for new trial, petition for extraordinary relief or a writ-appeal petition. The appellee or respondent may, within seven days after receiving the designation, serve on the appellant or petitioner a designation of the additional parts of the record to draw to the attention of the Court. The appellant or petitioner must include the parts designated by the appellee or respondent in the joint appendix. The parties must avoid designating unnecessary parts of the record because the entire record is available to the Court. In the event a cross-appeal is filed, the Clerk will establish deadlines for designations.

Comment: Rule 24 has been amended to ensure that parties propose and respond to joint appendix requests within the twenty-one-day deadline for joint appendix filing.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory (STRL) Personnel Demonstration Project Program

AGENCY: Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of amendment; STRL Personnel Demonstration Project probationary and trial period waivers.

SUMMARY: This notice amends STRL Personnel Demonstration Project Federal Register Notices (FRNs) by changing the waiver citations for probationary periods.

DATES: Implementation of this authority will begin no earlier than April 21, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Department of the Air Force: Air Force Research Laboratory: Ms. Rosalyn Jones-Byrd, 937-656-9747, Rosalyn.Jones-Byrd@us.af.mil.

Joint Warfare Analysis Center: Ms. Amy Balmaz, 540-653-8598, Amy.T.Balmaz.civ@mail.mil.

Department of the Army: Transformation and Training Command: Ms. Marlowe Richmond, 512-726-4397, marlowe.richmond.civ@army.mil.

Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences: Dr. Scott Shadrack, 254-288-3800, Scottie.B.Shadrack.civ@army.mil.

Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center: Ms. Pota Kripotos, 973-724-9165, pota.kripotos.civ@army.mil.

Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory: Mr. Christopher Tahaney, 410-278-9069, Christopher.S.Tahaney.civ@army.mil.

Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center: Mr. Justin Page, 256-755-1698, justin.d.page4.civ@army.mil.

Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center: Ms. Patricia L. Knuckey, 520-672-4117, patricia.l.knuckey.civ@army.mil.

Combat Capabilities Development Command Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Center: Mr. Gregory Peck, 520-674-6820, Gregory.A.Peck16.civ@army.mil.

Combat Capabilities Development Command Ground Vehicle Systems Center: Mr. Adam Crafard, 571-644-4274, adam.b.crafard.civ@army.mil.

Combat Capabilities Development Command Soldier Center: Ms. Sarah Palmer, 508-206-2329, sarah.b.palmer.civ@army.mil.

Communications Electronics Life Cycle Management Command Software Engineering Center: Ms. Nerissa Williams, 520-671-1726, nerissa.l.williams.civ@army.mil.

Engineer Research and Development Center: Dr. Lucy Priddy, 601-634-2282, lucy.p.priddy@usace.army.mil.

Medical Research and Development Command: Ms. Linda Krout, 301-619-7276, Linda.J.Krout.civ@mail.mil.

Technical Center, Space and Missile Defense Command: Dr. Chad Marshall, 256-955-5697, Chad.J.Marshall.civ@army.mil.

Department of the Navy: Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division and Aircraft Division: Mr. Dustin Kirby, 858-978-1381, Dustin.k.kirby.civ@us.navy.mil.