TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY—Continued

Project title	Seasonal weekly aggregate limit program for the Northern Region Spiny Dogfish Fishery
Gear type(s)	Sink gillnet, bottom longline, bottom trawl.
Number and duration of tows or sets.	See Project Narrative.

Project Narrative

The purpose of this project is to: 1. Provide data to inform the setting of future trip limits in the spiny dogfish fishery through the specifications process, and 2. Encourage additional effort in the spiny dogfish fishery by providing more economically viable fishing trips and increasing utilization of the northern region quota, as managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission). The northern region, which is allocated 58 percent of the coastwide quota by the Commission, has routinely underutilized its quota for over a decade, often by more than 50 percent. In the most recent fishing year, the northern region landed approximately 28 percent of its quota. Under the recently reduced quota levels, continued quota underutilization will jeopardize the operation of the sole dogfish processor, located in New Bedford, MA. Northern region spiny dogfish landings occur primarily during July, August, and the beginning of September, when the resource is closest to shore. Effort and landings decline concurrently with the resource's seasonal shift to deeper and more southern waters. The applicants hope to encourage continued, and possibly increased, participation in the fishery via this EFP.

Under this EFP, participants would be exempt from the 7,500-lb (3,402-kg) trip possession limit and instead be authorized a 37,500-lb (17,010-kg) weekly possession and landing limit, which approximates the maximum weekly landings available to vessels in the northern region under the current trip limit. Vessels would be subject to all other management measures for the spiny dogfish fishery. No significant changes to standard fishing operations regarding number or duration of sets are expected. All spiny dogfish landings under the EFP (as well as landings not under the EFP) would count towards the commercial fishery quota and be monitored cooperatively by the states in the northern region. Weekly reported dealer data would be used for quota monitoring. To mitigate the potential for this EFP to impact vessels not participating in the program, the EFP would be suspended, and the possession limit would revert to the 7,500-lb (3,402-kg) daily limit, if 80 percent of the northern region quota was projected to be utilized. The applicants acknowledge the potential for the project to reduce ex-vessel spiny dogfish price. However, demand has exceeded supply in recent years, so this is not anticipated. The processor would be provided with a list of participating vessels and be able to advise them if supply is outpacing demand and causing negative impacts on ex-vessel price. If this occurs, trips under the EFP may be temporarily suspended.

A final report summarizing data collected under the EFP (*e.g.,* participation, fishing effort, ex-vessel price, landings per trip) will be submitted to the Commission's Spiny Dogfish Management Board to inform future deliberations on possession limit regulations.

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: July 23, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF861]

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 (Pacific Council) will convene three Peer Review Panel meetings to review methods for updating the Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC) spawner abundance at maximum sustainable yield (S_{MSY}) value. The Peer Review Panel meetings are open to the public.

DATES: The first Peer Review Panel meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. (Pacific Time), and will continue on Thursday, August 20, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or until business for each day has been completed.

The second Peer Review Panel meeting will be held on Friday, September 11, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Pacific Time) each day, or until business for the day has been completed.

The third Peer Review Panel meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Pacific Time) each day, or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The first Peer Review Panel meeting will be held in the Delta room at the Hilton Garden Inn Sacramento Airport Natomas, 20 Advantage Ct., Sacramento, CA 95834; telephone: (916) 579–7000. This meeting will have a web broadcast that provides the opportunity for remote public comment.

The second and third Peer Review Panel meetings will be held online via a web broadcast that provides the opportunity for remote public comment.

Specific meeting information, materials, visitor protocols (as applicable), and instructions for how to connect to the meeting remotely (including directions and system requirements) will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see *www.pcouncil.org*). In the event an outage occurs, or technical issues arise that impact the experience of remote attendees, we will attempt to resolve them but ultimately, we cannot guarantee that they will be resolved satisfactorily.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Forristall, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2419.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Peer Review Panel (Panel) meetings are to conduct a comprehensive review of the Sacramento River fall Chinook Workgroup's (SRWG's) work related to updating the SRFC S_{MSY} value, develop a recommendation for consideration by the Pacific Council and its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for an approach to update the S_{MSY} value, if applicable, and compare the scientific merits of the recommendation to the scientific basis of the status quo S_{MSY} value.

The Panel consists of one chair and independent experts with expertise in large river ecosystems and the influence of inland environmental conditions on salmon population dynamics, including river capacity constraints, hydrologic drivers, and freshwater survival processes relevant to major interior river systems; salmon escapement estimation and participation in federally led watershed- or stock-assessment programs; West Coast salmon fisheries science, including assessment methodologies, harvest models, and scientific review processes; and reference point estimation methods.

The Pacific Council Chair has appointed one member each of the Pacific Council's SSC, Salmon Technical Team, and Salmon Advisory Subpanel to participate in the review as advisors.

No management actions or best scientific information available determinations will be decided by the Panel. The Panel's role is the development of recommendations and reports for consideration by the Pacific Council and its SSC at the Pacific Council's November 2026 meeting in Garden Grove, California.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agendas may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. 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

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org;* 503–820–2424) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: July 23, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–15158 Filed 7–27–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF828]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Cost Recovery Program

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

ACTION: Notification of fee percentage.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes notification of a 0.67 percent fee for cost recovery under the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program (Program). This action is intended to provide holders of crab allocations notice of the 2026/2027 crab fishing year fee percentage so they can calculate the required cost recovery fee payment, which must be submitted to NMFS by July 31, 2027.

DATES: The Crab Rationalization Program Registered Crab Receiver permit holder is responsible for submitting the fee liability payment to NMFS by July 31, 2027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tristan Mandeville, (907) 586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS Alaska Region administers the Program in the North Pacific. Fishing under the Program began on August 15, 2005. Regulations implementing the Program can be found at 50 CFR part 680.

The Program is a limited access privilege program authorized by section 313(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Program includes a cost recovery provision to collect fees to recover the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of the Program. The Program is consistent with the cost recovery provisions included under section 304(d)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS developed the cost recovery regulations to conform to statutory requirements and to reimburse the agency for the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of the Program. The Program provides that a proportional share of fees charged will be forwarded to the State of Alaska for reimbursement of its share of management and data collection costs for the Program.

A crab allocation holder generally incurs a cost recovery fee liability for every pound of crab landed during the crab fishing year, from August 1 to July 31. The crab allocations subject to cost recovery include Individual Fishing Quota, Crew Individual Fishing Quota, Individual Processing Quota, Community Development Quota, and the Adak community allocation. The Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) permit holder must collect the fee liability from the crab allocation holder who is landing crab. Additionally, the RCR permit holder must collect their own fee liability for all crab delivered to the RCR. The RCR permit holder is responsible for submitting this payment to NMFS on or before July 31, in the year following the crab fishing year in which landings of crab were made.

The dollar amount of the fee due is determined by multiplying the fee percentage (not to exceed 3 percent) by the ex-vessel value of crab debited from the allocation. Program details may be found in the implementing regulations at § 680.44.

Fee Percentage

Each year, NMFS calculates and publishes in the **Federal Register** the fee percentage according to the factors and methodology described at § 680.44(c)(2). The formula for determining the fee percentage is the ''direct program costs'' divided by ''value of the fishery,'' where ''direct program costs'' are the direct program costs for the Program for the previous fiscal year, and ''value of the fishery'' is the ex-vessel value of the catch subject to the crab cost recovery fee liability for the current year. Fee collections for any given year may be less than or greater than the actual costs and fishery value for that year, as regulations establish the fee percentage in the first quarter of the crab fishing year based on the fishery value and costs in the prior year.

According to the fee percentage formula described above, the estimated percentage of costs to value for the 2025/2026 fishery is 0.67 percent. Therefore, the effective fee percentage for 2026/2027 crab fishing year is 0.67