

- (6) Small Sablefish release—identify sablefish DMR (discard mortality rate) for analysis
- (7) Research Priorities—Plan Teams reports

The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3030> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

In addition to providing ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, the SSC functions as the Council's primary peer review panel for scientific information, as described by the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 302(g)(1)(e), and the National Standard 2 guidelines (78 FR 43066). The peer-review process is also deemed to satisfy the requirements of the Information Quality Act, including the OMB Peer Review Bulletin guidelines.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 Through Friday, February 9, 2024

The Advisory Panel agenda will include the following issues:

- (1) NSRKC ABC/OFL—Set Specifications, Crab Plan Team Report
- (2) BBRKC Closure Areas—Initial Review
- (3) Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition Changes—review NMFS report
- (4) Cook Inlet Salmon—Status Determination Criteria, harvest specifications
- (5) GOA (Gulf of Alaska) Tanner Crab protections—review discussion paper
- (6) Programmatic Evaluation of management policies—Council direction and workshop planning
- (7) AFA Program Review—review workplan
- (8) Staff Tasking

Thursday, February 8, 2024 Through Monday, February 12, 2024

The Council agenda will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

- (1) B Reports (Executive Director including research presentation on effects of fishing on benthic habitat, NMFS Management including annual cost recovery updates and E-Logbooks Exempted Fishing Permit, NOAA GC, AFSC, ADF&G, USCG, USFWS, IPHC report, Advisory Panel, SSC report)
- (2) NSRKC ABC/OFL—Set Specifications, Crab Plan Team Report
- (3) BBRKC Closure Areas—Initial Review

- (4) Cook Inlet Salmon—Status Determination Criteria, harvest specifications
- (5) Pelagic Trawl Gear Definition Changes—review NMFS report
- (6) GOA Tanner Crab protections—review discussion paper
- (7) Programmatic Evaluation of management policies—Council direction and workshop planning
- (8) AFA Program Review—review workplan
- (9) Staff Tasking

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://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings>. For technical support, please contact our administrative staff, email: npfmc.admin@noaa.gov.

If you are attending the meeting in-person, please refer to the COVID avoidance protocols on our website, <https://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings/>.

Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically through the links at <https://www.npfmc.org/upcoming-council-meetings>. The Council strongly encourages written public comment for this meeting, to avoid any potential for technical difficulties to compromise oral testimony. The written comment period is open from January 12, 2024, to February 2, 2024, and closes at 12 p.m. Alaska Time on Friday, February 2, 2024.

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

Dated: January 16, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2024-01067 Filed 1-19-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR)

AGENCY: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Information Collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before March 22, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0428 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Gabrielle Aberle, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, gabrielle.aberle@noaa.gov or 323-372-0062.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting renewal of the currently approved information collection for the Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR).

The COAR is a State of Alaska report that is required to be completed and submitted by direct marketers, catcher processors, catcher exporters, buyer exporters, shore-based processors, and floating processor permit holders pursuant to Alaska Administrative Code (5 AAC 39.130) and Federal regulations at 50 CFR 679. Under 50 CFR 679.5(p), NMFS requires motherships and catcher processors that are issued a Federal fisheries permit to annually complete and submit the appropriate sections of the COAR.

The COAR is used to gather statewide fish and shellfish information describing buying (ex-vessel) and production (wholesale or retail) activities. The information collected in the COAR is used to determine the value of Alaska's fisheries resources and products. NMFS uses the COAR database in annual Federal publications on the value of U.S. commercial fisheries, in the annual NMFS Stock

Assessment and Fishery Evaluation reports for the groundfish fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska, and in periodic reports that describe the fisheries and that serve as reference documents to management agencies, the industry, and others.

The mothership and catcher processor data, when added to the COAR information collected from shoreside processors and stationary floating processors required under State of Alaska requirements, yield a complete data base of equivalent annual product value information for all respective processing sectors. The information also provides a consistent time series according to which groundfish resources may be managed more efficiently. Use of the information generated by the COAR is coordinated between NMFS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

The COAR must be submitted by April 1 to the ADF&G for the previous year's activity for all operations that are required to submit a COAR. NMFS requires the owner of a mothership or catcher processor to annually complete and submit the appropriate forms of the COAR, whether the processor operated that year or not. If no receipt or production took place for that year, the owner submits only the COAR certification page.

The COAR requires submission of information on seafood purchasing, production, and both ex-vessel and wholesale values of seafood products. The buying information is reported by species, harvest area, area of purchase, condition of fisheries resources at the time of purchase, type of gear used in the harvest, pounds purchased, and ex-vessel value. The ex-vessel value includes any post-season adjustments or bonuses paid after the fish was purchased. The production information is reported by species, area of processing, process type (*e.g.*, frozen, canned, smoked), product type (*e.g.*, fillets, surimi, sections), net weight of the processed product, and the first wholesale value.

II. Method of Collection

The COAR may be submitted electronically through eLandings, the Interagency Electronic Reporting System (elandings.alaska.gov). The COAR is also available in fillable PDF, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel formats on the ADF&G Commercial Fish Reporting web page at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.coar> and may be emailed or printed and mailed to the ADF&G.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0428.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 72.

Estimated Time per Response: Commercial Operator's Annual Report: 8 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 576 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$360 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP)

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a meeting of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP). The members will discuss issues outlined in the section on Matters to be considered.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). This time and the agenda topics described below are subject to change.

For the latest agenda please refer to the ORAP website: <https://www.noaa.gov/ocean-research-advisory-panel/orap-public-meetings>.

ADDRESSES: The February 26, 2024 meeting will be virtual. The link for the webinar registration will be posted, when available, on the ORAP website: <https://www.noaa.gov/ocean-research-advisory-panel/orap-public-meetings>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Viviane Silva, ORAP Designated Federal Officer (DFO), SSMC3, Room 11320, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone Number: 240–624–0656; Email: DFO.orap@noaa.gov; or visit the ORAP website at <https://www.noaa.gov/ocean-research-advisory-panel/orap-public-meetings>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP) advises the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC) and provides independent recommendations to the Federal Government on matters of ocean policy.

Congress directed the establishment of the ORAP in Section 1055(c) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub. L. 116–283), 10 U.S.C. 8933.

ORAP's responsibilities are (1) to advise the OPC on policies and procedures to implement the National Oceanographic Partnership Program; (2) to advise the OPC on matters relating to national oceanographic science, engineering, facilities, or resource requirements; (3) to advise the OPC on improving diversity, equity, and inclusion in the ocean sciences and related fields; (4) to advise the OPC on national ocean research priorities; and (5) any additional responsibilities that the OPC considers appropriate.