

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/rices-whale#conservation-management. Any recommended change (*i.e.*, delisting or reclassification) would require a separate rulemaking process.

Background

Rice's whale was initially listed in 2019 under the ESA as an endangered subspecies of the Bryde's whale, *Balaenoptera edeni* (Gulf of America subspecies (referred to as the Gulf of Mexico subspecies in 84 FR 15446, April 15, 2019)). The listing was finalized after completing a status review (Rosel *et al.*, 2016) in response to a petition from the Natural Resources Defense Council, and after considering the best scientific and commercial data available, including the 2016 status review and comments received on the proposed listing rule (81 FR 88639, December 8, 2016). The subspecies was listed as endangered due to its small population size and restricted range (the Gulf of America), and exposure to numerous threats. In 2021, the Society for Marine Mammalogy reclassified these whales as a species and renamed them "Rice's whale" to reflect new evidence described in Rosel *et al.* (2021). On August 23, 2021, NMFS published a final rule that revised the ESA listing to "Rice's whale" to reflect the change in the scientifically accepted taxonomy and nomenclature (86 FR 47022, August 23, 2021). The ESA defines the term "species" to include any subspecies and any distinct population segment of any species. (16 U.S.C. 1532(16)). Therefore, the taxonomic reclassification from a subspecies to species had no effect on the whales' endangered status under the ESA.

Public Solicitation of New Information

To ensure that the status review is based on the best scientific and commercial data available, we are soliciting new information from the public, relevant governmental agencies, tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other interested parties concerning the status of Rice's whale.

Categories of requested information include: (1) species biology including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics; (2) habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and suitability; (3) conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species; (4) status and trends of threats; and (5) other new data regarding Rice's whales that have become available since December 2016.

If you wish to provide your information for this status review, please submit it as described in the **ADDRESSES** section above. We request that all information be accompanied by: (1) supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications; and (2) the submitter's name, address, and any association, institution, or business that the person represents. While we accept new information about any listed species at any time, information received after the date stated above may not be considered for the purposes of this review.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Dated: April 30, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch, III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-08663 Filed 5-4-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF747]

Pacific Island Fisheries; Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice; public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NMFS will convene a Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review (WPSAR) of the stock assessment update for American Samoa bottomfish management unit species (BMUS). The review will be conducted virtually.

DATES: The WSPAR meeting will be held May 18–19, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held by web conference via WebEx. Audio and visual portions for all web conferences can be accessed at <https://www.wpcouncil.org>. Web conference access information and instructions for providing public comments will be posted on the Council website at <https://www.wpcouncil.org>. For assistance with the web conference connection, contact the Council office at (808) 552-8220.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Malloy, (808) 725-5000, or sarah.malloy@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) developed a benchmark stock assessment for the American Samoa BMUS in 2023. PIFSC developed an update to this assessment, and the purpose of this WPSAR meeting is to convene an expert panel to conduct a peer review of the updated assessment. The 2026 assessment update uses the same modeling methodology as the 2023 benchmark assessment with updated data through 2025. The 2026 assessment update will provide new information to inform management pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, including updates on biomass and fishing mortality relative to thresholds used to determine stock status, and new projections to inform recommendations of catch limits. Public comment periods will be provided in the agenda. The order in which agenda items are addressed may change. The meetings will run as late as necessary to complete scheduled business.

Meeting Agenda for WPSAR Review

The meeting schedule and agenda are as follows:

Day 1

Monday, May 18, 2026 (11 a.m.–5 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time)/Monday, May 18, 2026 (10 a.m.–4 p.m. Samoa Standard Time)/Tuesday, May 19, 2026 (7 a.m.–1 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Objectives and Terms of Reference
3. Overview of Previous Benchmark Stock Assessment and Management Framework
4. Presentation on Updates and Data Additions to the Assessment
5. Questions to Presenters
6. Public Comment

Day 2

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 (11 a.m.–5 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time)/Tuesday, May 19, 2026 (10 a.m.–4 p.m. Samoa Standard Time)/Wednesday, May 20, 2026 (7 a.m.–1 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time)

1. Panel Presentation on the Review Results and Recommendations
2. Questions to Reviewers
3. Public Comment
4. Closing Comments and Adjourn

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids to Sarah Malloy, (808) 725-5000 (voice) or (808) 725-

5215 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: May 1, 2026.

Kelly Denit,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-08729 Filed 5-4-26; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Review of the Commitments of Traders Reporting Program

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC” or “Commission”) throughout its history has published a version of a Commitments of Traders Reports that shows aggregate trader positions in certain futures and options markets. The CFTC periodically reviews the Commitments of Traders Reports in an effort to ensure that it continues to provide the public with useful market information and evolves to meet changing market conditions. The Commission is issuing this request for comment to solicit public input regarding the Commitments of Traders Reports, including the frequency of publication and content of the reports.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 4, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, specifically referencing “Review of the Commitments of Traders Reporting Program,” by any of the following methods:

- *Regulations.gov:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and press the “Search” button, then proceed as follows:

1. Under Refine Documents Results—check the box to “Only show documents open for comment”;

2. Under Agency—select “See More” and check the box for “Commodity Futures Trading Commission,” then press the Apply button;

3. Identify this proposal in the list of CFTC documents open for comment, press the “Comment” button to open the submission form, and follow the instructions on the form.

Alternatively, if you are viewing this proposal on www.federalregister.gov, click the “Submit A Public Comment” button at the top of the page to open the comment form. Follow the instructions on the form to submit your comment to *Regulations.gov*.

- *Mail:* Send to—Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Address to—CFTC Comment Submission, Attn: Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

Please submit your comments using only one of these methods. To avoid possible delays with mail or in-person deliveries, submissions through *Regulations.gov* are encouraged.

All comments must be submitted in English or, if not, accompanied by an English translation. Do not include in your comment text or attachments any personal identifying information or business information that you do not want published online. Comments (regardless of submission method) will be published without review for, and without removal of, any personal identifying information or information your business may consider confidential.

If you wish to submit confidential information for the Commission’s consideration, please contact the CFTC personnel listed in this Notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** before making any submission. Please also carefully review the Commission’s procedures in 17 CFR 145.9 for requesting confidential treatment under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of information submitted to the Commission.

The CFTC reserves the right, but shall have no obligation, to review, pre-screen, filter, or redact all or any part of your comment submission. The CFTC also reserves the right, without further notification, to refuse to publish or to remove from public view all or any part of your submission to the extent it contains content inappropriate for publication in a comment file, such as—without limitation—obscene language, threats of violence, solicitations for commercial sales or illegal activity, or obvious spam. If a submission that is refused for or withdrawn from publication because of inappropriate content also contains comments on the merits of this proposal, such submission will be retained in the record for the matter and will be considered as required under the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws, and may be accessible under the FOIA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Guerin, Senior Special Counsel,

(202) 734-4194, tguerin@cftc.gov, Division of Data; Harold Hild, Policy Advisor, (202) 418-5376, hhild@cftc.gov, Division of Market Oversight; Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1151 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Commission is requesting public comment on the Commitments of Traders Reports (“COT Reports”). This request for comment provides background on the history, purpose, data, and evolution of the COT Reports program, outlines changes in market structure affecting the reports, and poses specific questions regarding potential future modifications. Public comment for the Commission’s review of its practices with respect to the COT Reports will provide the Commission with valuable information and perspective as it evaluates potential modifications to its COT Reports procedures.

A. COT Reports and Public Information

The Commission, and its predecessor entities, have long sought to provide the public with information related to the futures markets. Beginning with an intent to provide the public with comprehensive information regarding trading in grain futures, the Commission has enhanced its publication of market information over time to include more contract markets and more frequent publication. Although there is no statutory or regulatory mandated requirement for the Commission to publish the COT Reports, the Commission has received feedback indicating that the report generally provides valuable information to market participants.¹ This request for comment continues a series of efforts by the Commission to maintain an information system that reflects changing market conditions, and to provide the public with useful information regarding futures and options markets.

B. History and Evolution of the COT Reports, Marketplace

1. Background

In 2006, the Commission undertook a comprehensive review of its

¹ See generally Request for Comment, Comprehensive Review of the Commitments of Traders Reporting Program, 71 FR 35627 (June 2006) (“RFC”). The first modern form of the COT Reports was published in June of 1962 by the predecessor entity to the CFTC, the Commodity Exchange Authority.