

action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Ph.D., Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: July 27, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-15380 Filed 7-29-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF886]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of web conference.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Legislative Committee will meet on August 10, 2026.

DATES: The Council's Legislative Committee will begin at 1 to 5 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2026, Alaska Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via web conference. Join online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3125>.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809. Instructions for attending the meeting via web conference are given under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diana Evans, Council staff; email: devans@npfmc.org; telephone: (907)

271-2809. For technical support please contact our Council administrative staff, email: support@npfmc.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Monday, August 10, 2026

Legislative Committee Agenda: The Legislative Committee agenda will include a review of recently introduced Federal legislation regarding fisheries management, and an evaluation of potential impacts of legislation on the Council's ability to perform the functions specified in its grant, fulfill its responsibilities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, or affect the Council's ability to conserve and manage marine resources and resource users. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3125> 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/3125>. For technical support please contact our administrative staff, email: support@npfmc.org or by telephone: (907) 271-2809.

Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically through the links at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3125>. The written comment period closes at 5 p.m. Alaska Time on Friday, August 7, 2026.

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

Dated: July 27, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-15319 Filed 7-29-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF663]

Identifying Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in U.S. Waters

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

ACTION: Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY: NOAA is issuing this request for information (RFI) to collect information to help identify the next geographic region(s) of focus for Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOA) identification. On May 7, 2020, the White House issued an Executive Order (E.O.) on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth, which requires the Secretary of Commerce to identify geographic areas containing locations suitable for commercial aquaculture. These geographic areas are referred to as AOAs. NOAA requests data, comments, views, information, analysis, or suggestions from the public to support the identification of AOAs in U.S. waters, including geographic areas of focus. NOAA requests that interested parties provide relevant information on the identification of areas within U.S. waters for future AOAs. The public input provided in response to this RFI will inform NOAA as it works with other Federal agencies, Regional Fishery Management Councils, and in coordination with state, jurisdictional and tribal governments to identify AOAs nationally. NOAA will combine input received through consultation and coordination with Federal and non-Federal stakeholders, comments on this notice, and spatial analyses by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), to help identify the next geographic area(s) to focus on for AOA identification. Please respond to the questions in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section, as appropriate.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on or before September 13, 2026. Three webinar-based listening sessions are scheduled. Comments on each topic area will be accepted at all meetings:

1. August 6, 2026, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pacific (PDT)
2. August 13, 2026, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Hawaii (HST)
3. August 31, 2026, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern (EDT) (English and Spanish)

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2026-2179, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit <https://www.regulations.gov> and type NOAA-NMFS-2026-2179 in the Search box. Click on the "Comment" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written information to Brian Fredieu, Office of Aquaculture, NOAA Fisheries, Attn: Aquaculture

Opportunity Area, 1315 East West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

- **Webinar:** Comments on each topic area will be accepted at all webinar meetings. Links and toll-free phone numbers for each webinar can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/aquaculture/aquaculture-opportunity-areas>.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for any costs that you may incur in responding to this RFI, or for the use of any information contained in the response. The documents and information submitted in response to this RFI become the property of the U.S. Government and will not be returned. If you are unable to provide electronic comments, please contact NOAA Fisheries at nmfs.aquaculture.info@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brian Fredieu, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Aquaculture: 301-427-8578, nmfs.aquaculture.info@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 7, 2020, the President signed an E.O. on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth (E.O. 13921). The E.O. calls for the expansion of sustainable U.S. seafood production. Building on this foundation, the President issued additional executive orders in 2025 to further strengthen domestic seafood production and aquaculture development, including E.O. 14276, Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, which reaffirms and expands the Federal commitment to growing the U.S. aquaculture industry and reducing the nation's seafood trade deficit. Together, these executive orders direct NOAA to continue the identification of AOAs across U.S. waters and streamline the processes that support sustainable commercial aquaculture. NOAA also has directives to promote sustainable aquaculture in

the U.S., including through the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 and the Department of Commerce (DOC) and NOAA Marine Aquaculture Policies. NOAA has a variety of proven science-based tools and strategies that can support these directives and help communities thoughtfully consider how and where to sustainably develop aquaculture that will complement wild-capture fisheries, working waterfronts, and our nation's seafood processing and distribution infrastructure.

Section 7 of E.O. 13921 directs the Secretary of Commerce to identify AOAs in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, other appropriate Federal officials, and appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, and in coordination with appropriate state, jurisdiction and tribal governments. This includes:

1. Within 1 year of the E.O., identify at least two geographic areas containing locations suitable for commercial aquaculture;

2. Within 2 years of identifying each area, complete a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for each area to assess the impact of siting aquaculture facilities there;

3. For each of the following 4 years, identify two additional geographic areas containing locations suitable for commercial aquaculture and complete a PEIS for each within 2 years.

Identifying AOAs is an opportunity to use the best available science to support sustainable aquaculture management, and support the "triple bottom line" of environmental, economic, and social sustainability. The areas identified as AOAs are defined geographic areas that NOAA has evaluated through both spatial analysis and a programmatic NEPA process that may be environmentally, economically, and socially suitable to support multiple commercial aquaculture operations.

Identifying AOAs is a planning process. The areas identified as AOAs may be suitable to support aquaculture farms of varying types. Locations for individual operations within an AOA would be considered and evaluated during the permitting process and associated environmental reviews and consultations. Aquaculture operations proposed within an AOA would be subject to the same Federal and state/jurisdiction permitting and authorization requirements as those located elsewhere and would need to

comply with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations.

NOAA has engaged in the science and public based AOA identification process since 2020. Following issuance of E.O. 13921, NOAA utilized a public comment period to solicit public feedback on identifying prospective regions of focus, selecting the Gulf of America and Southern California as the first regions (85 FR 67519, October 23, 2020). On September 19, 2025, NOAA identified 13 AOAs totaling more than 21,000 acres in U.S. Federal waters of the Gulf of America and off Southern California, after the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) published AOAs for these regions in November 2021. On February 19, 2026, the NCCOS published an Atlas for Alaska, identifying 77 options (50 to 2,000 acres) for potential AOA identification across 10 study areas in Gulf of Alaska state waters.

AOA Identification Process

NOAA is requesting public input on areas that should be considered nationally for future AOA identification and will use the information received from this RFI to help determine where to focus continued efforts.

To identify AOAs, NOAA will use a combination of spatial mapping approaches, scientific review, public input, and other relevant information. NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science will use public input and the best available data to account for key environmental, economic, social, and cultural considerations to identify areas that may support sustainable aquaculture development. NOAA will then combine those results with input from other Federal and state/jurisdictional agencies, Regional Fishery Management Councils, Marine Fisheries Commissions, jurisdictional tribal governments and organizations, and the general public to identify areas that will be considered in more depth through the NEPA process.

Importantly, AOA identification is a planning process and does not, by itself, result in areas permitted for aquaculture. The AOA process is not a required prerequisite to understanding the impacts of aquaculture in a region. The absence of an AOA does not equate with a lack of scientific understanding of aquaculture's impacts in the region. For example, some forms of aquaculture have been practiced in coastal waters for decades, generating a substantial body of peer-reviewed scientific literature, state-level environmental reviews, and site-specific NEPA analyses. Federal agencies including NOAA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the

Environmental Protection Agency have conducted and reviewed numerous environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for aquaculture projects in various regions. The AOA process is a planning process and the absence of an AOA in a given region does not preclude aquaculture development there, nor does it indicate that the environmental impacts of aquaculture in that region are unknown or unexamined. The AOA process is designed to proactively identify suitable areas and improve efficiencies for future permitting.

All aquaculture operations are required to comply with applicable Federal and state laws, regulations and authorizations. Further, aquaculture operations proposed within an AOA would have the same Federal and State permitting and authorization requirements as anywhere else. Site-specific environmental surveys may be required for the permitting process. Additional NEPA analysis beyond the PEIS may be necessary as a part of permitting and authorization processes for individual operations. NOAA will work with the Federal agencies responsible for permitting aquaculture (e.g., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency) throughout the AOA identification process to identify information NOAA can include in the PEIS to help inform future permitting needs.

Additional information on AOAs, including frequently asked questions, is available on NOAA's website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/aquaculture-opportunity-areas>.

Request for Information

NOAA requests data, comments, views, information, analysis, or suggestions from the public to support the identification of AOAs in U.S. waters, including siting parameters that can be used to select potential areas for further analysis. When providing input, please specify:

- The question number(s) you are responding to;
- The U.S. region(s) to which your comments apply; and
- Whether your comments apply to specific type(s) of aquaculture or gear/structure (e.g., finfish, shellfish, macroalgae/seaweed, or a combination of species).

Responses to this request are voluntary. Respondents need not reply to all questions.

Input Requested To Inform the Identification of Future AOAs, Nationally

Question 1

What regions of the country should next be considered for future AOAs?

- a. New England (Maine through Connecticut).
- b. Mid-Atlantic (New York through Virginia).
- c. South Atlantic (North Carolina through east coast Florida).
- d. U.S. Caribbean (Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands).
- e. Pacific Islands (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas).

Question 2

Are there specific locations within those regions identified in response to Question 1 that should be considered for future AOAs? Please be as specific as possible and include latitude and longitude or defining landmarks.

Question 3

NOAA is soliciting information on technical siting requirements for aquaculture operations to inform spatial analysis for future AOAs. For the region(s) identified in response to Question 1, please provide:

- a. Minimum and maximum depth needed to operate aquaculture farms.
- b. Minimum and maximum current conditions that could impact farm operation.
- c. Minimum and maximum wave climate that could impact farm operation.
- d. Proximity to shore, critical infrastructure and/or coastal communities.

Question 4

Are there specific locations within U.S. waters in your region that should be considered for AOAs? Are there specific locations that should be avoided? Please be as specific as possible and include latitude and longitude or defining landmarks. Please indicate why such areas should be considered or avoided, for example:

- a. Favorable biological parameters.
- b. Water quality (e.g., nutrients or other parameters that might make an area favorable or disfavored).
- c. Proximity to infrastructure (e.g., ports, processing plants, hatcheries, or nurseries that could supply seed or fingerlings for grow-out)
- d. Relationships to other planned or ongoing activities.
- e. Proximity to traditionally and culturally important locations or sacred sites.

f. Presence in or use of an area by protected species (e.g., large whales, sea turtles, dolphins, sea otters, sea lions, etc.).

Question 5

Within those regions identified in response to Question 1, what resource use conflicts should be considered as NOAA identifies future AOAs? Please describe specific considerations that might make an area unfavorable, including ongoing or planned activities or ocean uses.

Question 6

Are there size limitations NOAA should consider for AOAs (e.g., maximum or minimum size)? How many farms should fit within an AOA? Should the size of AOAs be aligned with regional or state/jurisdictional economic development goals for aquaculture?

Question 7

Are there aquaculture species or gear considerations that may result in optimized growth? This might include (but is not limited to): species or aquaculture gear depth thresholds, water current thresholds, temperature thresholds, salinity thresholds, etc. Are there any species or gear not currently being used that you would like to see considered in the future? Please be as specific as possible.

Question 8

Is there ongoing environmental, economic, or social science research that would assist in the identification and implementation of future AOAs? If so, please describe in as much detail as is available.

Question 9

Is there information that may not be readily available or accessible online that would be useful for AOA planning processes in your region? This includes spatial data or Geographic Information System (GIS) layers representing subsistence, environmental, and socioeconomic considerations, or a point of contact for these data, for the following categories:

- a. Biophysical/oceanographic (ice cover where applicable, temperature, ocean acidification indices, wave climate, currents, bathymetry).
- b. Natural resources (minerals, energy resources, fishes and other aquatic organisms, protected species and habitats, marine mammals, kelp beds, eelgrass beds, coral reefs, biodiversity).
- c. Social, historical, and cultural resources (cultural and subsistence

harvest, community subsistence activities, culturally important sites).
d. Government boundaries.
e. Industry (fishing, energy production, transportation, communication cables).
f. Military.
g. Navigation.
h. Recreational resources (fishing, hunting, *etc.*).

Question 10

Is there any additional information NOAA should consider?

Authority: E.O. 13921 *et seq.*

Dated: July 28, 2026.

Danielle Blacklock,

Director, Office of Aquaculture, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–15435 Filed 7–29–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to and deletions from the procurement list.

SUMMARY: This action adds product(s) and service(s) to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes product(s) and service(s) from the Procurement List previously furnished by such agencies.

DATES: *Date added to and deleted from the Procurement List:* August 29, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 250 E Street SW, Suite 3100, Washington, DC 20024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit comments contact: Michael R. Jurkowski, Telephone: (703) 489–1322, or email CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additions

On March 26, 2026 (91 FR 14684) and April 30, 2026 (91 FR 23247), the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (operating as the U.S. AbilityOne Commission) published an initial notice of proposed additions to the Procurement List. The Committee determined that the service(s) listed below are suitable for procurement by

the Federal Government and has added these service(s) to the Procurement List as a mandatory purchase for the contracting activities listed. In accordance with 41 CFR 51–5.3(b), the mandatory purchase requirement is limited to the contracting activities at the locations listed, and in accordance with 41 CFR 51–5.2, the Committee has authorized the nonprofit agencies listed as the authorized source(s) of supply.

On March 26, 2026 (91 FR 14684) and April 30, 2026 (91 FR 23247), the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice of proposed additions to the Procurement List. This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503 (a)(2) and 41 CFR 51–2.3.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the service(s) and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the service(s) listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 8501–8506 and 41 CFR 51–2.4.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities.
2. The action may result in authorizing small entities to furnish the service(s) to the Government.
3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 8501–8506) in connection with the service(s) added to the Procurement List.

End of Certification

Accordingly, the following service(s) are added to the Procurement List:

Service(s)

Service Type: Lawn care

Mandatory For: NOAA, Atlantic

Oceanographic & Meteorological

Laboratory, Miami, FL., 4301

Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL

Authorized Source of Supply: Goodwill Industries of South Florida, Inc., Miami, FL

Contracting Activity: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NOAA

Service Type: Base Operations Services

Mandatory For: US Air Force, Joint Base

Elmendorf-Richardson, JBER, AK, 10480

Sijan Avenue, JBER, AK

Authorized Source of Supply: Skookum

Educational Programs, Bremerton, WA
Contracting Activity: DEPT OF THE AIR FORCE, FA5000 673 CONS LGC

The Committee finds good cause to dispense with the 30-day delay in the effective date normally required by the Administrative Procedure Act. See 5 U.S.C. 553(d). This addition to the Committee's Procurement List is effectuated because of the expiration of the Department of the Air Force, Base Operations Maintenance Services (BOMS), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Anchorage, AK, contract. The Federal customer contacted and has worked diligently with the AbilityOne Program to fulfill this service need under the AbilityOne Program. To avoid performance disruption, and the possibility that the Department of the Air Force will refer its business elsewhere, this addition must be effective on August 9, 2026, ensuring timely execution for a August 9, 2026 start date. The Committee published an initial notice of proposed Procurement List addition in the **Federal Register** on March 26, 2026 (91 FR 14684) but did not receive any comments. This addition will not create a public hardship and has limited effect on the public at large. Rather, this addition will create new jobs for other affected parties—people with significant disabilities in the AbilityOne program who otherwise face challenges locating employment. Moreover, this addition enables the Federal customer to continue operations without interruption.

Michael R. Jurkowski,

Director, Business Operations.

[FR Doc. 2026–15348 Filed 7–29–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353–01–P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add service(s) to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and delete product(s) and service(s) previously furnished by such agencies.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before: August 29, 2026.