

risk of extinction due to threats from demographic variation, local environmental variation, and genetic diversity changes over a 100-year time frame" based on the status of the MPGs, DIPs, and supporting ecosystems (McElhany *et al.* 2000). A self-sustaining viable population has a negligible risk of extinction due to reasonably foreseeable changes in circumstances affecting its abundance, productivity, spatial structure, and diversity characteristics and achieves these characteristics without dependence upon artificial propagation. The proposed viability criteria for Puget Sound steelhead require that all three MPGs be viable because the three MPGs differ substantially in key biological and habitat characteristics that contribute in distinct ways to the overall viability, diversity and spatial structure of the DPS.

The proposed listing factor criteria are based on the five listing factors found in the ESA section 4(a)(1). Before NMFS can remove the DPS from protection under the ESA, the factors that led to ESA listing need to have been reduced or eliminated to the point where federal protection under the ESA is no longer needed, and there is reasonable certainty that the relevant regulatory mechanisms are adequate to protect Puget Sound steelhead viability. NMFS' listing factor criteria for Puget Sound steelhead address pressures from freshwater habitat degradation, hatcheries, and other factors that led to the species' listing and continue to affect their viability.

The Proposed Plan also describes specific information on the following: Current status of Puget Sound steelhead; pressures (limiting factors) and threats throughout the life cycle that have contributed to the species' decline; recovery strategies to address the threats based on the best available science; site-specific actions with timelines; and a proposed adaptive management framework for focusing needed research and evaluations, and revising our recovery strategies and actions. The Proposed Plan also summarizes time and costs required to implement recovery actions. NMFS is particularly interested in comments on the proposed strategies and actions for steelhead recovery, and in gaining additional information regarding scale, scope, and costs of these actions. We are also interested in comments on establishing appropriate forums to coordinate implementation of the recovery plan.

#### Public Comments Solicited

We are soliciting written comments on the Proposed Plan. All substantive

comments received by the date specified above will be considered and incorporated, as appropriate, prior to our decision whether to approve the plan. While we invite comments on all aspects of the Proposed Plan, we are particularly interested in comments on developing specific scenarios to address the placeholder recovery scenario, comments on the cost of recovery actions for which we have not yet determined implementation costs, and comments on establishing an appropriate implementation forum for the plan. We will issue a news release announcing the adoption and availability of the final plan. We will post on the NMFS West Coast Region website ([www.wcr.noaa.gov](http://www.wcr.noaa.gov)) a summary of, and responses to, the comments received, along with electronic copies of the final plan and its appendices.

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

Dated: January 30, 2019.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG746**

#### North 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Scallop Plan Team will meet on February 20, 2019 in Kodiak, AK.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alaska Standard Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Office, 351 Research Ct, Kodiak, AK 99615.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Armstrong, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Agenda

*Wednesday, February 20, 2019*

The Council's Scallop Plan Team will update the status of the Statewide Scallop Stocks and Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report, including catch specification recommendations for the 2019 fishing year. Additionally, there will be discussion of survey results and the scallop assessment program, survey plans for 2019, and a review and update of scallop research priorities. The agenda is subject to change and will be posted at <http://www.npfmc.org/>.

## Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted either electronically via the eCommenting portal at: [meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/449](http://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/449) or through the mail: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252. Oral public testimony will be accepted at the discretion of the chair.

## Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: January 31, 2019.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019-01051 Filed 2-4-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG673**

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program

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

**ACTION:** Notification of standard prices and fee percentage.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS publishes the standard ex-vessel prices and fee percentage for cost recovery under the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program. This action is intended to provide participants in a rockfish cooperative with the standard



prices and fee percentage for the 2018 fishing year, which was authorized from May 1 through November 15. The fee percentage is 2.86 percent. The fee payments are due from each rockfish cooperative on or before February 15, 2019.

**DATES:** Valid on: February 5, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carl Greene, 907–586–7105.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The rockfish fisheries are conducted in Federal waters near Kodiak, AK, by trawl and longline vessels. Regulations implementing the Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Rockfish Program (Rockfish Program) are set forth at 50 CFR part 679. Exclusive harvesting privileges are allocated as quota share under the Rockfish Program for rockfish primary and secondary species. Each year, NMFS issues rockfish primary and secondary species cooperative quota (CQ) to rockfish quota shareholders to authorize harvest of these species. The rockfish primary species are northern rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and dusky rockfish. In 2012, dusky rockfish replaced the pelagic shelf rockfish species group in the GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications (77 FR 15194, March 14, 2012). The rockfish secondary species include Pacific cod, rougheye rockfish, shortraker rockfish, sablefish, and thornyhead rockfish. Rockfish cooperatives began fishing under the Rockfish Program on May 1, 2012.

The Rockfish Program is a limited access privilege program established under the provisions of section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Sections 303A and 304(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act require NMFS to collect fees to recover the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement of any limited access privilege program. Therefore, NMFS is required to collect fees for the Rockfish Program under sections 303A and 304(d)(2) of the

Magnuson-Stevens Act. Section 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act also limits the cost recovery fee so that it may not exceed 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of the fish harvested under the Rockfish Program.

**Standard Prices**

NMFS calculates cost recovery fees based on standard ex-vessel value prices, rather than actual price data provided by each rockfish CQ holder. Use of standard ex-vessel prices is allowed under sections 303A and 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS generates a standard ex-vessel price for each rockfish primary and secondary species on a monthly basis to determine the average price paid per pound for all shoreside processors receiving rockfish primary and secondary species CQ.

Regulations at § 679.85(b)(2) require the Regional Administrator to publish rockfish standard ex-vessel values during the first quarter of each calendar year. The standard prices are described in U.S. dollars per pound for rockfish primary and secondary species CQ landings made during the previous year.

**Fee Percentage**

NMFS assesses a fee on the standard ex-vessel value of rockfish primary species and rockfish secondary species CQ harvested by rockfish cooperatives in the Central GOA and waters adjacent to the Central GOA when rockfish primary species caught by a cooperative are deducted from the Federal total allowable catch. The rockfish entry level longline fishery and trawl vessels that opt out of joining a cooperative are not subject to cost recovery fees because those participants do not receive rockfish CQ. Specific details on the Rockfish Program's cost recovery provision may be found in the implementing regulations set forth at § 679.85.

NMFS informs—by letter—each rockfish cooperative of the fee percentage applied to the previous year's landings and the total amount due. Fees are due on or before February 15 of each year. Failure to pay on time

will result in the permit holder's rockfish quota share becoming non-transferable, and the person will be ineligible to receive any additional rockfish quota share by transfer. In addition, cooperative members will not receive any rockfish CQ the following year until full payment of the fee is received by NMFS.

NMFS calculates and publishes in the **Federal Register** the fee percentage in the first quarter of each year according to the factors and methods described in Federal regulations at § 679.85(c)(2). NMFS determines the fee percentage that applies to landings made in the previous year by dividing the total Rockfish Program management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement costs (direct program costs) during the previous year by the total standard ex-vessel value of the rockfish primary species and rockfish secondary species for all rockfish CQ landings made during the previous year (fishery value). NMFS captures the direct program costs through an established accounting system that allows staff to track labor, travel, contracts, rent, and procurement. Fee collections in any given year may be less than, or greater than, the direct program costs and fishery value for that year, because, by regulation, the fee percentage is established in the first quarter of the calendar year based on the program costs and the fishery value of the previous calendar year.

Using the fee percentage formula described above, the estimated percentage of program costs to value for the 2018 calendar year is 2.86 percent of the standard ex-vessel value. The fee percentage for 2018 is an increase from the 2017 fee percentage of 2.04 percent (83 FR 2964, January 22, 2018). Program costs for 2018 increased over costs accrued in 2017. The value of the fishery also increased by 10% in 2018, relative to the 2017 fishery value. The majority of the 2018 costs come from direct personnel and overhead costs, which has been consistent across all years of the program.

TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY SPECIES FOR THE 2018 ROCKFISH PROGRAM SEASON IN KODIAK, ALASKA

Species	Period ending	Standard ex-vessel price per pound (\$)
Dusky rockfish *	May 31 .....	0.18
	June 30 .....	0.18
	July 31 .....	0.18
	August 31 .....	0.18
	September 30 .....	0.18
	October 31 .....	0.18



TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY SPECIES FOR THE 2018 ROCKFISH PROGRAM SEASON IN KODIAK, ALASKA—Continued

Species	Period ending	Standard ex-vessel price per pound (\$)
Northern rockfish .....	November 30 .....	0.18
	May 31 .....	0.16
	June 30 .....	0.16
	July 31 .....	0.16
	August 31 .....	0.16
	September 30 .....	0.16
	October 31 .....	0.16
Pacific cod .....	November 30 .....	0.16
	May 31 .....	0.42
	June 30 .....	0.42
	July 31 .....	0.42
	August 31 .....	0.42
	September 30 .....	0.40
	October 31 .....	0.45
Pacific ocean perch .....	November 30 .....	0.41
	May 31 .....	0.20
	June 30 .....	0.20
	July 31 .....	0.20
	August 31 .....	0.20
	September 30 .....	0.20
	October 31 .....	0.20
Rougheye rockfish .....	November 30 .....	0.20
	May 31 .....	0.26
	June 30 .....	0.20
	July 31 .....	0.21
	August 31 .....	0.21
	September 30 .....	0.29
	October 31 .....	0.21
Sablefish .....	November 30 .....	0.21
	May 31 .....	2.21
	June 30 .....	2.04
	July 31 .....	1.94
	August 31 .....	1.90
	September 30 .....	1.98
	October 31 .....	1.86
Shortraker rockfish .....	November 30 .....	1.71
	May 31 .....	0.20
	June 30 .....	0.20
	July 31 .....	0.20
	August 31 .....	0.20
	September 30 .....	0.20
	October 31 .....	0.20
Thornyhead rockfish .....	November 30 .....	0.20
	May 31 .....	0.45
	June 30 .....	0.33
	July 31 .....	0.36
	August 31 .....	0.22
	September 30 .....	0.46
	October 31 .....	0.31
	November 30 .....	0.29

\* The pelagic shelf rockfish species group has been changed to “dusky rockfish.”

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*; 1801 *et seq.*; 3631 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 108–447; Pub. L. 111–281.

Dated: January 30, 2019.

**Karen H. Abrams,**

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

[FR Doc. 2019–00995 Filed 2–4–19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XG744**

### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Tilefish Advisory Panel of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, beginning at 9 a.m. and conclude by 1 p.m. For agenda details, see

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**