

parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the exempted fishing permit previously issued to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 30, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by the following method:

- Email: nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov.

Include in the subject line

“Modification to Center Study Fleet EFP.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Spencer Talmage, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978–281–9232.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 6, 2021, NMFS issued an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Center) in support of the 2021 Study Fleet Program. The Study Fleet Program was established in 2002 to more fully characterize commercial fishing operations and provide sampling opportunities to augment NMFS’s data collection programs. As part of the program, the Center contracts commercial fishing vessels to collect biological data and fish specimens for the Center to use in research relevant to stock assessments

and fish biology. The Center’s Study Fleet Program trains participating captains and crew to conduct at-sea sampling consistent with Center sampling protocols for survey and observer programs. During EFP trips, crew sort, weigh, measure, and collect biological data from fish prior to discarding.

The EFP currently exempts 20 commercial fishing vessels from minimum fish sizes and possession limits for species of interest, as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1—REGULATORY EXEMPTIONS ORIGINALLY ISSUED FOR THE 2021 STUDY FLEET EFP

Exempted regulations in 50 CFR part 648	<p><i>Minimum fish sizes:</i> § 648.83 Northeast multispecies minimum fish sizes for haddock, yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, and American plaice.</p> <p><i>Possession restrictions:</i> § 648.86(a) Haddock, § 648.86(d) Small-mesh multispecies, § 648.86(g) Yellowtail flounder, § 648.86(o) Possession limits implemented by the Regional Administrator.</p>

On November 4, 2021, the NESFC requested a modification to the EFP which would add an exemption to § 648.86(l), which prohibits the possession of ocean pout, windowpane flounder, and Atlantic wolffish. The modification would allow six of the participating vessels to retain and land Atlantic wolffish when directed by the Center. Ocean pout and windowpane flounder are not target species for this EFP, but their possession is prohibited by the same regulation which prohibits the possession of Atlantic wolffish. As a result, an exemption from the regulation which prohibits possession of Atlantic wolffish would also act as an exemption from the possession prohibition for ocean pout and windowpane flounder. To prevent vessels from harvesting ocean pout or windowpane flounder, the terms and conditions of the EFP would prohibit participating vessels from retaining and landing ocean pout and windowpane flounder.

Participating vessels would not be allowed to collect more than 10 fish total, or an amount over 70 lb (31.75 kg) total, whichever is reached first. In order to ensure that landed fish do not exceed the collection needs of the Study Fleet Program, the Center would issue a formal biological sampling request prior to landing. The captain or crew would deliver landed fish to Center staff or local NMFS Port Agents upon landing.

The Center requested this modification in order to support new research focusing on the osteology and ontogeny of wolffish species, which

requires biological samples of Atlantic wolffish. The study would contribute fundamental data on the morphology of fish in the wolffish family, which would provide a necessary baseline for phylogenetic analysis and future morphological research.

This modification would not alter any other aspect of the EFP, including the remaining exemptions, remaining conditions and requirements, and study period. They do not change the impact of the EFP from what was previously issued.

The applicant may request further 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: December 9, 2021.

Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–27102 Filed 12–14–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XB544]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; North Pacific Observer Program Standard Ex-Vessel Prices

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

ACTION: Notification of standard ex-vessel prices.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes standard ex-vessel prices for groundfish and halibut for the calculation of the observer fee under the North Pacific Observer Program (Observer Program). This notice is intended to provide information to vessel owners, processors, registered buyers, and other Observer Program participants about the standard ex-vessel prices that will be used to calculate the observer fee for landings of groundfish and halibut made in 2022. NMFS will send invoices to processors and registered buyers subject to the fee by January 15, 2023. Fees are due to NMFS on or before February 15, 2023.

DATES: The standard prices are valid on January 1, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions about the observer fee and standard ex-vessel prices, contact Abby Jahn at (907) 586–7445. For questions about the fee billing process,

contact Charmaine Weeks at (907) 586-7231. Additional information about the Observer Program is available on NMFS Alaska Region's website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/fisheries-observers/north-pacific-observer-program>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Regulations at 50 CFR part 679, subpart E, governing the Observer Program, require the deployment of NMFS-certified observers (observers) and electronic monitoring (EM) systems to collect information necessary for the conservation and management of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish and halibut fisheries. Fishery managers use information collected by observers and EM systems to monitor quotas, manage groundfish and prohibited species catch, and document and reduce fishery interactions with protected resources. Scientists use observer-collected information for stock assessments and marine ecosystem research.

The Observer Program includes two observer coverage categories: The partial coverage category and the full coverage category. All groundfish and halibut vessels and processors subject to observer coverage are included in one of these two categories. Defined at 50 CFR 679.51, the partial coverage category includes vessels and processors that are not required to have an observer at all times, and the full coverage category includes vessels and processors required to have all of their fishing and processing activity observed. Vessels and processors in the full coverage category arrange and pay for observer services from a permitted observer provider. Observer coverage and EM for the partial coverage category is funded through a system of fees based on the ex-vessel value of groundfish and halibut. Throughout this notice, the term "processor" refers to shoreside processors, stationary floating processors, and catcher/processors in the partial coverage category.

Landings Subject to Observer Coverage Fee

Pursuant to section 313 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is authorized to assess a fee on all landings accruing against a Federal total allowable catch (TAC) for groundfish or commercial halibut quota landings made by vessels that are subject to Federal regulations and not included in the full coverage category. A fee is assessed only on landings of groundfish from vessels designated on a Federal

Fisheries Permit or from vessels landing individual fishing quota (IFQ) or community development quota (CDQ) halibut or IFQ sablefish. Within the subset of vessels subject to the observer fee, only landings accruing against an IFQ allocation or a Federal TAC for groundfish are included in the fee assessment. A table with additional information about which landings are subject to the observer fee is at § 679.55(c) and on page 2 of an informational bulletin titled "Observer Fee Collection" that can be downloaded from the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/observer-fee-collection-north-pacific-groundfish-and-halibut-fisheries-observer>.

Fee Determination

A fee equal to 1.65 percent of the ex-vessel value is assessed on the landings of groundfish and halibut subject to the fee. Ex-vessel value is determined by multiplying the standard price for groundfish by the round weight equivalent for each species, gear, and port combination, and the standard price for halibut by the headed and gutted weight equivalent. Standard prices are determined by aggregating prices by species, gear, and area grouping to arrive at an average price per pound for each grouping. NMFS reviews each vessel landing report and determines whether the reported landing is subject to the observer fee and, if so, which groundfish species in the landing are subject to the observer fee. All IFQ or CDQ halibut in a landing subject to the observer fee will be included in the observer fee calculation. For any landed groundfish or halibut subject to the observer fee, NMFS will apply the appropriate standard ex-vessel prices for the species, gear type, and port, and calculate the observer fee associated with the landing.

Processors and registered buyers can access the landing-specific, observer fee information through NMFS Web Application (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/webapps/efish/login>) or eLandings (<https://elandings.alaska.gov/>). Observer fee information is either available immediately or within 24 hours after a landing report is submitted electronically. A time lag occurs for some landings because NMFS must process each landing report through the catch accounting system to determine which groundfish in a landing accrues against a Federal TAC and are subject to the observer fee.

Under the fee system, catcher vessel owners split the fee with the registered buyers or owners of shoreside or

stationary floating processors. While the owners of catcher vessels and processors in the partial coverage category are each responsible for paying their portion of the fee, the owners of shoreside or stationary floating processors and registered buyers are responsible for collecting the fees from catcher vessels, and remitting the full fee to NMFS. Owners of catcher/processors in the partial coverage category are responsible for remitting the full fee to NMFS.

NMFS sends invoices to processors and registered buyers by January 15 of each calendar year. The total fee amount is determined by the sum of the fees reported for each landing at that processor or registered buyer in the prior calendar year. Processors and registered buyers must pay the fees to NMFS using eFISH. Payments are due by February 15 of each year. Processors and registered buyers have access to this system through a User ID and password issued by NMFS. Instructions for electronic payment are provided on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/commercial-fishing/observer-fee-collection-and-payment-north-pacific-groundfish-and-halibut> and on the observer fee invoice to be mailed to each processor and registered buyer.

Standard Prices

This notice provides the standard ex-vessel prices for groundfish and halibut species subject to the observer fee in 2022. Data sources for ex-vessel prices are:

- For groundfish other than sablefish IFQ and sablefish accruing against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve, the State of Alaska's Commercial Fishery Entry Commission's (CFEC) gross revenue data, which are based on the Commercial Operator Annual Report (COAR) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) fish tickets; and
- For halibut IFQ, halibut CDQ, sablefish IFQ, and sablefish accruing against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve, the IFQ Buyer Report that is submitted to NMFS annually by each registered buyer that operates as a shoreside processor and receives and purchases IFQ landings of sablefish and halibut or CDQ landings of halibut under § 679.5(l)(7)(i).

The standard prices in this notice were calculated using the following procedures for protecting confidentiality of data submitted to or collected by NMFS. NMFS does not publish any price information that would permit the identification of an individual or business. For NMFS to publish a standard price for a particular species-

gear-port combination, the price data used to calculate the standard price must represent landings from at least four different vessels to at least three different processors in a port or port group. Price data that are confidential because fewer than four vessels or three processors contributed data to a particular species-gear-port combination have been aggregated.

Groundfish Standard Ex-Vessel Prices

Table 1 shows the groundfish species standard ex-vessel prices that will be used to calculate the fee for 2022. These prices are based on the CFEC gross revenue data, which are based on landings data from ADF&G fish tickets and information from the COAR. The COAR contains statewide buying and production information, and is considered the most complete routinely collected information to determine the ex-vessel value of groundfish harvested from waters off Alaska.

The standard ex-vessel prices for groundfish were calculated by adding ex-vessel value from the CFEC gross revenue files for 2018, 2019, and 2020 by species, port, and gear category, and adding the volume (round weight equivalent) from the CFEC gross revenue files for 2018, 2019, and 2020 by species, port, and gear category, and then dividing total ex-vessel value over the three-year period in each category by total volume over the three-year period in each category. This calculation results in an average ex-

vessel price per pound by species, port, and gear category for the three-year period. Three gear categories were used for the standard ex-vessel prices: (1) Non-trawl gear, including hook-and-line, pot, jig, troll, and others (Non-Trawl); (2) non-pelagic trawl gear (NPT); and (3) pelagic trawl gear (PTR).

CFEC ex-vessel value and volume data are available in the fall of the year following the year the fishing occurred. Thus, it is not possible to base ex-vessel fee liabilities on standard prices that are less than two years old. For the 2022 groundfish standard ex-vessel prices, the most recent ex-vessel value and volume data available are from 2020.

If a particular groundfish species is not listed in Table 1, the standard ex-vessel price for a species group (if it exists in the management area) will be used. If price data for a particular species remained confidential once aggregated to the outside of Alaska (ALL) level, data are aggregated by species group (Flathead Sole; GOA Deep-water Flatfish; GOA Shallow-water Flatfish; GOA Skate, Other; and Other Rockfish). Standard prices for the groundfish species groups are shown in Table 2.

If a port-level price does not meet the confidentiality requirements, the data are aggregated by port group. Port-group data for Southeast Alaska (SEAK) and the Eastern GOA excluding Southeast Alaska (EGOAxSE) also are presented separately when price data are available. Port-group data are aggregated by

regulatory area in the GOA (Eastern GOA, Central GOA, and Western GOA) and by subarea in the BSAI (BS subarea and AI subarea). If confidentiality requirements are still not met by aggregating prices across ports at these levels, the prices are aggregated at the level of BSAI or GOA, then statewide (AK) and ports outside of Alaska (OTAK), and finally all ports, including those outside of Alaska (ALL).

Standard prices are presented separately for non-pelagic trawl and pelagic trawl when non-confidential data are available. NMFS also calculated prices for a "Pelagic Trawl/Non-pelagic Trawl Combined" (PTR/NPT) category that can be used when combining trawl price data for landings of a species in a particular port or port group will not violate confidentiality requirements. Creating this standard price category allows NMFS to assess a fee on 2022 landings of some of the species with pelagic trawl gear based on a combined trawl gear price for the port or port group.

If no standard ex-vessel price is listed for a species or species group and gear category combination in Table 1, Table 2, or Table 3, no fee will be assessed on that landing. Volume and value data for that species will be added to the standard ex-vessel prices in future years, if the data become available and display of a standard ex-vessel price meets confidentiality requirements.

TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR GROUNDFISH SPECIES FOR 2022 OBSERVER COVERAGE FEE
[Based on volume and value from 2018, 2019, and 2020]

Species (species code) ¹	Port/area ^{3,4}	Non-trawl	NPT	PTR	PTR/NPT
Alaska Plaice Flounder (133)	Kodiak	---	\$0.13	---	\$0.13
	CGOA	---	0.13	---	0.13
	GOA	---	0.12	---	0.12
	AK	---	0.12	---	0.12
	ALL	---	0.12	---	0.12
Arrowtooth Flounder (121)	Kodiak	---	0.07	\$0.06	---
	CGOA	---	0.07	0.06	---
	GOA	---	0.07	0.08	---
	AK	---	0.07	0.08	---
	ALL	---	0.07	0.08	---
Atka Mackerel (193)	Kodiak	---	0.17	0.11	---
	CGOA	---	0.17	0.11	---
	GOA	---	0.17	0.11	---
	AK	---	0.17	0.09	---
	ALL	---	0.17	0.09	---
Black Rockfish (142)	AK	\$0.62	0.15	---	0.15
Bocaccio Rockfish (137)	Sitka	0.46	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.46	---	---	---
	EGOA	0.39	---	---	---
	GOA	0.39	---	---	---
	AK	0.39	---	---	---
	ALL	0.43	---	---	---
Butter Sole (126)	Kodiak	---	0.13	---	0.13
	CGOA	---	0.13	---	0.13
	GOA	---	0.13	---	0.13
	AK	---	0.13	---	0.13
	ALL	---	0.13	---	0.13
Canary Rockfish (146)	Craig	0.35	---	---	---
	Juneau	0.41	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.49	---	---	---

TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR GROUNDFISH SPECIES FOR 2022 OBSERVER COVERAGE FEE—Continued
[Based on volume and value from 2018, 2019, and 2020]

Species (species code) ¹	Port/area ^{3,4}	Non-trawl	NPT	PTR	PTR/NPT
China Rockfish (149)	SEAK	0.49	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.44	---	---	---
	Homer	0.38	---	---	---
	Seward	0.58	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.56	---	---	---
	GOA	0.49	---	---	---
	AK	0.49	---	---	---
	ALL	0.49	---	---	---
	Juneau	0.53	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.48	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.63	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.39	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.37	---	---	---
	Homer	0.46	---	---	---
	Seward	0.34	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.43	---	---	---
	GOA	0.47	---	---	---
	AK	0.47	---	---	---
	ALL	0.47	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.45	---	---	---
Copper Rockfish (138)	SEAK	0.47	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.56	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.55	---	---	---
	Homer	0.52	---	---	---
	Seward	0.59	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.54	---	---	---
	GOA	0.52	---	---	---
	AK	0.52	---	---	---
	ALL	0.52	---	---	---
	ALL	0.50	---	---	---
Darkblotched Rockfish (159)	Kodiak	---	0.07	---	0.07
	CGOA	---	0.07	---	0.07
Dover Sole (124)	GOA	---	0.08	---	0.08
	AK	---	0.08	---	0.08
Dusky Rockfish (172)	ALL	---	0.08	---	0.08
	Juneau	0.39	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.51	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.50	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.27	---	---	---
	Homer	0.53	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.46	0.17	0.15	---
	Seward	0.64	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.48	0.17	0.15	---
	GOA	0.48	0.17	0.15	---
English Sole (128)	AK	0.48	0.17	0.15	---
	ALL	0.48	0.17	0.15	---
	Kodiak	---	0.13	---	0.13
	CGOA	---	0.13	---	0.13
	GOA	---	0.13	---	0.13
Flathead Sole (122)	AK	---	0.13	---	0.13
	ALL	---	0.13	---	0.13
	Kodiak	---	0.14	0.14	---
	CGOA	---	0.14	0.14	---
	GOA	---	0.14	0.14	---
Northern Rockfish (136)	AK	---	0.14	0.14	---
	ALL	---	0.14	0.14	---
	Kodiak	---	0.16	0.15	---
	CGOA	---	0.16	0.15	---
	GOA	---	0.16	0.15	---
Octopus (870)	AK	0.93	0.16	0.15	---
	ALL	0.93	0.16	0.15	---
	Homer	0.80	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.53	0.55	---	0.55
	CGOA	0.56	0.55	---	0.55
Pacific Cod (110)	GOA	0.58	0.55	---	0.55
	Dutch Harbor	0.46	---	---	---
	BS	0.63	---	---	---
	BSAI	0.50	---	---	---
	AK	0.52	0.55	---	0.55
	ALL	0.52	0.55	---	0.55
	Craig	0.26	---	---	---
	Juneau	0.69	---	---	---
	Ketchikan	0.25	---	---	---
	Petersburg	0.53	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.52	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.65	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.60	---	---	---
	Whittier	0.52	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.55	---	---	---

TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR GROUND FISH SPECIES FOR 2022 OBSERVER COVERAGE FEE—Continued
[Based on volume and value from 2018, 2019, and 2020]

Species (species code) ¹	Port/area ^{3,4}	Non-trawl	NPT	PTR	PTR/NPT
Pacific Ocean Perch (141)	Homer	0.56	----	----	----
	Kodiak	0.51	0.43	0.41	----
	Seward	0.55	----	----	----
	CGOA	0.52	0.43	0.41	----
	WGOA	0.43	0.39	----	0.39
	GOA	----	0.41	0.36	----
	Dillingham	0.35	----	----	----
	Dutch Harbor	0.42	0.41	0.05	----
	BS	0.42	0.40	0.08	----
	BSAI	0.41	0.39	0.08	----
	Stationary Floating Processor	0.42	----	----	0.39
	AK	0.43	0.39	0.33	----
	ALL	0.43	0.39	0.33	----
	EGOA	1.17	----	----	----
	Kodiak	----	0.17	0.17	----
	Seward	0.12	----	----	----
	CGOA	0.12	0.17	0.17	----
	GOA	0.81	0.17	0.17	----
	BS	----	----	0.05	0.05
	BSAI	----	----	0.10	0.10
	AK	0.81	0.17	0.17	----
	ALL	0.79	0.17	0.17	----
Pollock (270)	Kodiak	0.04	0.14	0.13	----
	Seward	0.05	----	----	----
	CGOA	0.05	0.14	0.13	----
	WGOA	----	----	0.12	0.12
	GOA	0.04	0.14	0.13	----
	Dutch Harbor	----	----	0.16	0.16
	BS	----	----	0.15	0.15
	BSAI	----	0.10	0.15	----
	Stationary Floating Processor	----	----	----	0.11
	AK	0.04	0.14	0.13	----
	ALL	0.04	0.14	0.13	----
Quillback Rockfish (147)	Craig	0.58	----	----	----
	Juneau	0.42	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	0.64	----	----	----
	Petersburg	0.23	----	----	----
	Sitka	0.62	----	----	----
	SEAK	0.54	----	----	----
	Cordova	0.41	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	0.40	----	----	----
	Homer	0.41	----	----	----
	Kodiak	0.72	----	----	----
	Seward	0.52	----	----	----
	CGOA	0.50	----	----	----
	GOA	0.51	----	----	----
	AK	0.51	----	----	----
	ALL	0.51	----	----	----
	Juneau	0.31	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	0.35	----	----	----
	Petersburg	0.23	----	----	----
	Sitka	0.44	----	----	----
	SEAK	0.35	----	----	----
Redbanded Rockfish (153)	Cordova	0.27	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	0.28	----	----	----
	Homer	0.29	----	----	----
	Kodiak	0.20	0.14	----	0.14
	Seward	0.34	----	----	----
	CGOA	0.28	0.14	----	0.14
	GOA	0.33	0.15	----	0.15
	AK	0.33	0.15	----	0.15
	ALL	0.34	0.15	----	0.15
	SEAK	0.49	----	----	----
	EGOA	0.50	----	----	----
	CGOA	0.57	----	----	----
	GOA	0.50	----	----	----
	AK	0.50	----	----	----
	ALL	0.50	----	----	----
Rex Sole (125)	Kodiak	----	0.33	0.26	----
	CGOA	----	0.33	0.26	----
	GOA	----	0.34	0.45	----
	AK	----	0.34	0.42	----
	ALL	----	0.34	0.42	----
Rock Sole (123)	Kodiak	----	0.18	0.17	----
	CGOA	----	0.18	0.17	----
	GOA	----	0.18	0.17	----
	AK	----	0.18	0.17	----
	ALL	----	0.18	0.17	----
Rosethorn Rockfish (150)	SEAK	0.43	----	----	----

TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR GROUNDFISH SPECIES FOR 2022 OBSERVER COVERAGE FEE—Continued
[Based on volume and value from 2018, 2019, and 2020]

Species (species code) ¹	Port/area ^{3,4}	Non-trawl	NPT	PTR	PTR/NPT
Rougheye Rockfish (151)	EGOA	0.43	---	---	---
	Seward	0.35	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.35	---	---	---
	GOA	0.43	---	---	---
	AK	0.43	---	---	---
	ALL	0.43	---	---	---
	Juneau	0.33	---	---	---
	Ketchikan	0.34	---	---	---
	Petersburg	0.28	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.46	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.40	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.27	---	---	---
	Whittier	0.45	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.27	---	---	---
	Homer	0.37	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.28	0.25	0.19	---
	Seward	0.39	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.33	0.25	0.19	---
	GOA	0.35	0.25	0.19	---
	BSAI	0.26	---	---	---
	AK	0.35	0.25	0.19	---
	Bellingham	0.36	---	---	---
	OTAK	0.36	---	---	---
	ALL	0.35	0.25	0.19	---
Sablefish (blackcod) (710)	Kodiak	⁵ n/a	1.31	---	1.31
	CGOA	⁵ n/a	1.31	---	1.31
	GOA	⁵ n/a	1.27	---	1.26
	AK	⁵ n/a	1.27	0.51	---
	ALL	⁵ n/a	1.27	0.51	---
	Juneau	0.33	---	---	---
Shortraker Rockfish (152)	Ketchikan	0.34	---	---	---
	Petersburg	0.28	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.42	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.38	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.45	---	---	---
	Whittier	0.47	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.47	---	---	---
	Homer	0.37	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.21	0.18	0.20	---
	Seward	0.37	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.33	0.18	0.20	---
	GOA	0.37	0.28	0.20	---
	AK	0.37	0.28	0.20	---
	ALL	0.37	0.28	0.20	---
	Craig	0.34	---	---	---
	Juneau	0.41	---	---	---
	Petersburg	0.26	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.47	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.42	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.40	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.31	---	---	---
	Homer	0.34	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.23	0.13	---	0.13
	Seward	0.42	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.38	0.13	---	0.13
	GOA	0.40	0.13	---	0.13
	AK	0.40	0.13	---	0.13
	ALL	0.40	0.13	---	0.13
Skate, Big (702)	EGOA	0.40	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.45	0.45	0.45	---
	Seward	0.45	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.45	0.45	0.45	---
	GOA	0.44	0.45	0.43	---
	AK	0.44	0.45	0.43	---
Skate, Longnose (701)	ALL	0.44	0.45	0.43	---
	SEAK	0.40	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.18	---	---	---
	Homer	0.31	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.45	0.45	0.45	---
	Seward	0.43	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.43	0.45	0.45	---
	GOA	0.38	0.45	0.39	---
	AK	0.38	0.45	0.39	---
	ALL	0.38	0.45	0.39	---
	GOA	0.42	---	---	0.39
	AK	0.42	0.09	---	0.09
Skate, Other (700)	ALL	0.42	0.09	---	0.09
	Kodiak	---	0.07	---	0.08
	CGOA	---	0.07	---	0.08

TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR GROUND FISH SPECIES FOR 2022 OBSERVER COVERAGE FEE—Continued
[Based on volume and value from 2018, 2019, and 2020]

Species (species code) ¹	Port/area ^{3,4}	Non-trawl	NPT	PTR	PTR/NPT
Thornyhead Rockfish (Idiots) (143)	GOA	---	0.07	---	0.08
	AK	---	0.07	---	0.08
	ALL	---	0.07	---	0.08
	Juneau	0.94	---	---	---
	Ketchikan	1.07	---	---	---
	Petersburg	0.99	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.96	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.97	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.59	---	---	---
	Whittier	0.44	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.67	---	---	---
	Homer	0.66	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.68	0.43	---	0.43
	Seward	0.71	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.70	0.43	---	0.43
	GOA	0.82	0.45	---	0.44
	BS	0.72	---	---	---
Tiger Rockfish (148)	BSAI	0.70	---	---	---
	AK	0.81	0.45	---	0.44
	ALL	0.81	0.45	---	0.44
	Juneau	0.51	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.48	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.49	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.32	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.32	---	---	---
	Homer	0.41	---	---	---
	Seward	0.46	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.42	---	---	---
	GOA	0.43	---	---	---
	AK	0.43	---	---	---
Vermilion Rockfish (184)	ALL	0.43	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.61	---	---	---
	EGOA	0.61	---	---	---
	GOA	0.61	---	---	---
	AK	0.61	---	---	---
Widow Rockfish (156)	ALL	0.61	---	---	---
	GOA	0.71	---	---	---
	AK	0.71	---	---	---
Yelloweye Rockfish (145)	ALL	0.71	---	---	---
	Craig	1.86	---	---	---
	Juneau	0.94	---	---	---
	Ketchikan	1.70	---	---	---
	Petersburg	1.12	---	---	---
	Sitka	1.90	---	---	---
	SEAK	1.68	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.81	---	---	---
	Whittier	0.82	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.82	---	---	---
	Homer	0.72	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.34	0.25	---	0.25
	Seward	0.60	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.59	0.25	---	0.25
	WGOA	0.46	---	---	---
	GOA	---	0.25	---	0.25
	BSAI	0.21	---	---	---
	AK	1.42	0.25	---	0.25
	ALL	1.42	0.25	---	0.25
Yellowtail Rockfish (155)	Sitka	0.57	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.57	---	---	---
	EGOA	0.57	---	---	---
	Homer	0.50	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.66	---	---	---
	GOA	0.61	---	---	---
	AK	0.61	---	---	---
	ALL	0.61	---	---	---
	GOA	---	---	---	---
	BSAI	---	---	---	---

--- = no landings in last 3 years or the data is confidential.

¹ If species is not listed, use price for the species group in Table 2 if it exists in the management area. If no price is available for the species or species group in Table 1, Table 2, or Table 3, no fee will be assessed on that landing. That species will come into standard ex-vessel prices in future years.

² For species codes, see Table 2a to 50 CFR part 679.

³ Regulatory areas are defined at § 679.2. (AK = Alaska; ALL = all ports including those outside Alaska; BS = Bering Sea subarea; BSAI = Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands; CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska; EGOA = Eastern Gulf of Alaska; EGOAxSE = Eastern Gulf of Alaska except Southeast Alaska; GOA = Gulf of Alaska; SEAK = Southeast Alaska; WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska).

⁴ If a price is listed for the species, port, and gear type combination, that price will be applied to the round weight equivalent for groundfish landings. If no price is listed for the port and gear type combination, use port group and gear type combination, or see Table 2 or Table 3.

⁵ n/a = ex-vessel prices for sablefish landed with hook-and-line, pot, or jig gear are listed in Table 3 with the prices for IFQ and CDQ landings.

TABLE 2—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR GROUND FISH SPECIES GROUPS FOR 2022 OBSERVER COVERAGE FEE
[Based on volume and value from 2018, 2019, and 2020]

Species group ¹	Port/area ^{2,3}	Non-Trawl	NPT	PTR	PTR/NPT
	BSAI Skate and GOA Skate, Other ⁴ (USKT).	GOA	\$0.41	---	\$0.39
Flathead Sole ⁵ (FSOL)	AK	---	0.08	---	0.08
	Kodiak	---	0.14	\$0.14	---
	CGOA	---	0.14	0.14	---
	GOA	---	0.14	0.14	---
	AK	---	0.14	0.14	---
GOA Deep Water Flatfish ⁶ (DFL4)	Kodiak	---	0.07	---	0.07
	CGOA	---	0.07	---	0.07
	GOA	---	0.08	---	0.08
GOA Shallow Water Flatfish ⁷ (SFL1)	Kodiak	---	0.16	0.15	---
	CGOA	---	0.16	0.15	---
	GOA	---	0.16	0.15	---
Other Rockfish ^{8,9} (ROCK)	Craig	\$0.33	---	---	---
	Juneau	0.46	---	---	---
	Ketchikan	0.37	---	---	---
	Petersburg	0.39	---	---	---
	Sitka	0.46	---	---	---
	SEAK	0.43	---	---	---
	Cordova	0.70	---	---	---
	Whittier	0.69	---	---	---
	EGOAxSE	0.66	---	---	---
	Homer	0.68	---	---	---
	Kodiak	0.31	0.18	---	0.18
	Seward	0.56	---	---	---
	CGOA	0.55	0.18	---	0.18
	WGOA	0.57	---	---	---
	GOA	---	0.18	---	0.18
BSAI	BS	0.71	---	---	---
AK	0.68	---	---	---	---
	---	0.21	---	0.21	---

--- = no landings in last 3 years or the data is confidential.

¹ If groundfish species is not listed in Table 1, use price for the species group if it exists in the management area. If no price is available for the species or species group in Table 1, Table 2, or Table 3, no fee will be assessed on that landing. That species will come into standard ex-vessel prices in future years.

² Regulatory areas are defined at § 679.2. (AK = Alaska; ALL = all ports including those outside Alaska; BS = Bering Sea subarea; BSAI = Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands; CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska; EGOA = Eastern Gulf of Alaska; EGOAxSE = Eastern Gulf of Alaska except Southeast Alaska; GOA = Gulf of Alaska; SEAK = Southeast Alaska; WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska).

³ If a price is listed for the species, port, and gear type combination, that price will be applied to the round weight equivalent for groundfish landings. If no price is listed for the port and gear type combination, use port group and gear type combination.

⁴ "BSAI Skate and GOA Skate, Other" means all skates in the BSAI and all skates with the exception of *Raja binoculata* (Big) and *R. rhina* (Longnose) in the GOA.

⁵ "Flathead sole" includes *Hippoglossoides elassodon* (flathead sole) and *H. robustus* (Bering flounder).

⁶ "Deep-water flatfish" in the GOA means Dover sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, and deepsea sole.

⁷ "Shallow-water flatfish" in the GOA means flatfish not including "deep-water flatfish", flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder.

⁸ In the GOA:

"Other rockfish means *Sebastes aurora* (aurora), *S. melanostomus* (blackgill), *S. paucispinis* (bocaccio), *S. goodei* (chilipepper), *S. crameri* (darkblotch), *S. elongatus* (greenstriped), *S. variegatus* (harlequin), *S. wilsoni* (pygmy), *S. babcocki* (redbanded), *S. proriger* (redstripe), *S. zacentrus* (sharpchin), *S. jordani* (shortbelly), *S. brevispinis* (silvergray), *S. diploproa* (splitnose), *S. saxicola* (stripetail), *S. miniatus* (vermillion), *S. reedi* (yellowmouth), *S. entomelas* (widow), and *S. flavidus* (yellowtail). In the Eastern GOA only, "other rockfish" also includes northern rockfish (*S. polyspinosus*).

"Other rockfish" in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and in the West Yakutat District of the Eastern Regulatory Area means all rockfish species included in the "other rockfish" and demersal shelf rockfish categories. The "other rockfish" species group in the SEO District only includes other rockfish.

"Demersal shelf rockfish" means *Sebastes pinniger* (canary), *S. nebulosus* (china), *S. caurinus* (copper), *S. maliger* (quillback), *S. helvomaculatus* (rosethorn), *S. nigrocinctus* (tiger), and *S. ruberrimus* (yelloweye).

⁹ "Other rockfish" in the BSAI includes all *Sebastes* and *Sebastes* species except for Pacific ocean perch, dark rockfish, northern rockfish, shortraker rockfish, and blackspotted/rougheye rockfish.

Halibut and Sablefish IFQ and CDQ Standard Ex-Vessel Prices

Table 3 shows the observer fee standard ex-vessel prices for halibut and sablefish. These standard prices are

calculated as a single annual average price, by species and port or port group. Volume and ex-vessel value data collected on the 2021 IFQ Buyer Report for landings made from October 15, 2020, through September 30, 2021, were

used to calculate the standard ex-vessel prices for the 2022 observer fee for halibut IFQ, halibut CDQ, sablefish IFQ, and sablefish landings that accrue against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve.

TABLE 3—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR HALIBUT IFQ, HALIBUT CDQ, SABLEFISH IFQ, AND SABLEFISH ACCRUING AGAINST THE FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH CDQ RESERVE FOR THE 2022 OBSERVER FEE
[Based on 2021 IFQ Buyer Reports]

Species	Port/area ¹	Price ²
Halibut (200)	Craig	\$6.03
	Ketchikan	5.94
	Petersburg	6.15
	Sitka	5.81
	SEAK	5.97
	EGOAxSE	6.15
	Homer	6.65
	Kodiak	5.44
	Seward	6.76
	CGOA	6.36
	GOA	6.17
	BS	5.39
	BSAI	5.39
	AK	6.04
	ALL	6.05
Sablefish (710)	Craig	1.90
	Sitka	2.12
	SEAK	2.07
	EGOAxSE	1.79
	Homer	2.23
	Kodiak	1.66
	Seward	1.79
	CGOA	1.74
	GOA	1.85
	BS	1.60
	BSAI	1.60
	AK	1.82
	ALL	1.82

¹ Regulatory areas are defined at § 679.2. (AK = Alaska; ALL = all ports including those outside Alaska; BS = Bering Sea subarea; CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska; EGOAxSE = Eastern Gulf of Alaska except Southeast Alaska; SEAK = Southeast Alaska; WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska).

² If a price is listed for the species and port combination, that price will be applied to the round weight equivalent for sablefish landings and the headed and gutted weight equivalent for halibut landings. If no price is listed for the port, use port group.

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

Dated: December 9, 2021.

Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,

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

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Technical Information Service

Request for Nominations for Members To Serve on the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: NTIS invites nomination of individuals for appointment to the National Technical Information Service Advisory Board (Board or Committee). NTIS will consider nominations received in response to this notice for appointment to the Committee, in addition to nominations already received.

DATES: NTIS will accept nominations on a rolling basis. Members to fill the existing vacancies will be selected from nominations submitted by 5:00 p.m. on March 25th, 2022. Any nominations received after that date will be kept on file and may be used to fill vacancies on the Board should they occur.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations to Designated Federal Officer (DFO), NTIS at FACA@ntis.gov, Subject: NTIS Advisory Board Membership.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Shaw at eshaw@ntis.gov or Steven Holland at sholland@ntis.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Committee Information

The Secretary of Commerce, pursuant to Section 212(c) of the National Technical Information Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 3704b(c)), established the Advisory Board, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App.

Objectives and Duties

1. The NTIS Advisory Board shall review and make recommendations to improve NTIS programs, operations,

and general policies in support of NTIS's mission to advance Federal data priorities, promote economic growth, and enable operational excellence by providing innovative data services to Federal agencies through joint venture partnerships with the private sector.

2. The Board shall report to the Secretary of Commerce and to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology through the Director of NTIS.

3. The Board shall act in the public interest to:

a. Provide advice on the optimal data services business and operating model to best implement NTIS's joint venture authority.

b. Provide advice on the means, including infrastructure and process improvements, to make Federal data easier to find, access, use, analyze, and combine.

c. Assess progress in evolving NTIS programs toward a focus on Federal data priorities.

d. Assess the use of merit-based criteria and processes to plan, conduct, and oversee programs and projects, including the selection of joint venture partners.