

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XB925]

**Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR); Public Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of SEDAR 68OA (Operational Assessment) Life History Topical Working Group Data Recommendations Webinar for Gulf of Mexico Scamp Grouper.

**SUMMARY:** The SEDAR 68OA assessment of Gulf of Mexico scamp grouper will consist of a series of assessment webinars. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The SEDAR 68OA recommendations webinar for the Life History Topical Working Group will be held May 16, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eastern. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from or completed prior to the time established by this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. Those interested in participating should contact Julie A. Neer at SEDAR (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) to request an invitation providing webinar access information. Please request webinar invitations at least 24 hours in advance of each webinar.

*SEDAR address:* 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julie A. Neer, SEDAR Coordinator; (843) 571–4366; email: [Julie.neer@safmc.net](mailto:Julie.neer@safmc.net)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions have implemented the Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process, a multi-step method for determining the status of fish stocks in the Southeast Region. SEDAR is a multi-step process including: (1) Data Workshop; (2) Assessment Process utilizing webinars; and (3) Review Workshop. The product of the Data

Workshop is a data report that compiles and evaluates potential datasets and recommends which datasets are appropriate for assessment analyses. The product of the Assessment Process is a stock assessment report that describes the fisheries, evaluates the status of the stock, estimates biological benchmarks, projects future population conditions, and recommends research and monitoring needs. The assessment is independently peer reviewed at the Review Workshop. The product of the Review Workshop is a Summary documenting panel opinions regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the stock assessment and input data. Participants for SEDAR Workshops are appointed by the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, HMS Management Division, and Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Participants include data collectors and database managers; stock assessment scientists, biologists, and researchers; constituency representatives including fishermen, environmentalists, and NGO's; International experts; and staff of Councils, Commissions, and state and federal agencies.

The items of discussion during the webinar are as follows:

Participants will discuss what life history data may be available for use in the Operational Assessment of Gulf of Mexico scamp grouper and make final recommendations.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

**Special Accommodations**

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 business days prior to each webinar.

**Note:** The times and sequence specified in this agenda are subject to change.

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

Dated: April 25, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022–09127 Filed 4–27–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648–XB991]

**New England 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 New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Herring Advisory Panel and Plan Development Team (PDT) on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton, One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880; telephone: (781) 245–9300.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Agenda**

The Herring Advisory Panel and PDT will meet to continue development of Framework 7 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan, an action to protect adult spawning of Atlantic herring on Georges Bank. They will also review and recommend annual herring research priorities. The Advisor and PDT will review draft Herring PDT memo to the Groundfish PDT related to sub-ACLs of Georges Bank haddock for the mid-water trawl herring fishery in upcoming groundfish specifications. They will update on Industry Funded Monitoring Program for the Atlantic herring fishery. Other business will be discussed if necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on this agenda may come

before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal 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.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. This meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 25, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022-09147 Filed 4-27-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XB993]

### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of hybrid meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Crab Plan Team will meet May 16, 2022, through May 19, 2022.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022 through Thursday, May 19, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Alaska Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be a hybrid meeting. Attend in-person in the Dillingham/Katmai Room at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501 or join online through the link at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2913>.

*Council address:* North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1007 W 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone: (907) 271-2809.

Instructions for attending the meeting via video conference are given under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sarah Rheinsmith, Council staff; phone: (907) 271-2809; email:

[sarah.rheinsmith@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.rheinsmith@noaa.gov). For technical support please contact our admin Council staff, email: [npfmc.admin@noaa.gov](mailto:npfmc.admin@noaa.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Agenda

*Monday, May 16, 2022 Through Thursday, May 19, 2022*

The agenda will include: (a) Survey updates for corner stations; (b) Aleutian Island Golden King Crab (AIGKC) final assessment and stock status; (c) Snow Crab spatial assessment model; (d) Climate Change and Snow Crab; (e) Bristol Bay Red King Crab (BBRKC) proposed model runs and Risk Tables; (f) Snow Crab IBM model update; (g) BBRKC resampling updates; (h) Snow Crab updates and continued explorations on what happened to the stock; (i) Snow Crab-proposed model runs and Rebuilding plan; (j) Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF) survey catchability/selectivity; (k) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Fishing Effects Update; (l) Tanner Crab, Pribilof Island Red King Crab (PIRKC) and Saint Matthews Blue King Crab (SMBKC) proposed model runs; (m) BBRKC Discussion Paper; (n) Modifying timing of Crab Assessments; (o) BSFRF update; and (p) additional topics. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2913> 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/2913>. If you are attending the meeting in-person please note that all attendees will be required to wear a mask.

### Public Comment

Public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/2913>.

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

Dated: April 25, 2022.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

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

[FR Doc. 2022-09148 Filed 4-27-22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2022-0002]

### Filing Patent Applications in DOCX Format

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) recently announced a delay in the effective date of the surcharge fee for certain patent applications that are not filed in DOCX format until January 1, 2023. During the period before the non-DOCX filing surcharge fee becomes effective, the USPTO is encouraging applicants to begin filing patent applications in DOCX format. To address concerns some applicants have raised and to allow applicants to get acclimated to the process of filing applications in DOCX format, the USPTO is providing applicants with the option, on a temporary basis, to submit an applicant-generated PDF version of the application along with the DOCX file(s) when filing an application in Patent Center.

### DATES:

*Applicable date:* April 28, 2022.

*Duration:* The option to submit an applicant-generated PDF of the application along with the DOCX file(s) when filing an application in Patent Center, as discussed in this notice, will be available through December 31, 2022.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark O. Polutta, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-7709; or Eugenia A. Jones, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-7727.

For technical questions about submitting documents in DOCX format, please contact the Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-877-217-9197 (toll-free), 571-272-4100 (local), or [ebc@uspto.gov](mailto:ebc@uspto.gov). The EBC is open from 6 a.m. to midnight ET, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USPTO published a final rule in the **Federal Register** that included a new non-DOCX filing surcharge fee, set forth