

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued government-wide guidance to enhance the practice of peer review of government science documents. OMB's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review ("Peer Review Bulletin" or PRB) (available at https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/memoranda_fy2005_m05-03/) establishes minimum peer review standards for influential scientific information that Federal agencies intend to disseminate.

The Peer Review Bulletin also directs Federal agencies to adopt or adapt the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) policy for evaluating conflicts of interest when selecting peer reviewers who are not Federal government employees (federal employees are subject to Federal ethics requirements). For peer review purposes, the term "conflicts of interest" means any financial or other interest which conflicts with the service of the individual because it could: (1) Significantly impair the individual's objectivity; or (2) create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization. NOAA has adapted the NAS policy and developed two confidential conflict disclosure forms which the agency will use to examine prospective reviewers' potential financial conflicts and other interests that could impair objectivity or create an unfair advantage. One form is for peer reviewers of studies related to government regulation and the other form is for all other influential scientific information subject to the Peer Review Bulletin. In addition, the latter form has been adapted by NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research for potential reviewers of scientific laboratories.

The forms include questions about employment as well as investment and property interests and research funding. Both forms also require the submission of curriculum vitae. NOAA is seeking to collect this information from potential peer reviewers who are not government employees when conducting a peer review pursuant to the PRB. The information collected in the conflict of interest disclosure is essential to NOAA's compliance with the OMB PRB, and helps to ensure that government studies are reviewed by independent, impartial peer reviewers.

II. Method of Collection

Forms may be downloaded from the internet and are fillable and signed electronically or manually. They may be submitted, along with the Curriculum Vitae, via email or regular mail.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0567.
Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 321.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes each: Conflict of Interest Disclosure for General Scientific and Technical Studies and Assistance; and Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Studies Related to Government Regulation.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 161 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XA146]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a web conference on May 15, 2020.

DATES: The web conference meeting will be held on Friday, May 15, 2020 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., Alaska Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held by web conference. Connect online at npfmc.adobeconnect.com/may2020/, or by phone as listed at www.npfmc.org.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diana Evans, Council staff; email: diana.evans@noaa.gov. For technical support please contact Maria Davis, Council staff, email: maria.davis@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

Friday, May 15, 2020

The agenda will be to review emergency rule requests that have been submitted for Council consideration, including but not limited to, a request to modify IFQ transfer provisions of the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program, and a request regarding halibut charter measures in 2C and 3A; and other business. The agenda is subject to change, and the latest version will be posted at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1463> prior to the meeting, along with meeting materials.

Connection Information

You can attend the meeting online using a computer, tablet, or smart phone, at npfmc.adobeconnect.com/may2020/; or by phone as listed at www.npfmc.org.

Public Comment

Public comment will be accepted, and written comments should be submitted electronically to <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1463>. Deadline for written public comments is May 14, 2020, at 5 p.m.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests should be directed to Shannon Gleason at (907) 903–3107 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date. (Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*)

Dated: April 27, 2020.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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