

closures for sufficient time to collect and record length measurements. If the targeted or incidental species are caught outside the closed seasons and closed areas, the commercial fishermen may retain them and sell them, consistent with applicable law. Additionally, as applicable for the targeted and incidental species described within the application and this notice, the applicant would be exempt from bag limit regulations at 50 CFR 622.437(b)(1).

NMFS finds this application warrants further consideration based on a preliminary review. Possible conditions the agency may impose on this permit, if it is granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition on conducting sampling activities within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, or special management zones, without additional authorization, and requiring compliance with best practices in the event of interactions with any protected species. NMFS may also require annual reports summarizing the amount of reef fish species harvested during the seasonal and area closures, as well as during the period of effectiveness of any issued EFP. Additionally, NMFS would require any sea turtles taken incidentally during the course of the activities to be handled with due care to prevent injury to live specimens, observed for activity, and returned to the water.

A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS' review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the affected state(s), the Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that it is consistent with all applicable laws.

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

Dated: June 10, 2020.

**Hélène M.N. Scalliet,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-12873 Filed 6-15-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XX054]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit application from the Ocean Associated Incorporated contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The Exempted Fishing Permit would allow one commercial fishing vessel to fish outside of fishery regulations in support of research conducted by the applicant.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed Exempted Fishing Permits.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before July 1, 2020.

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

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

Include in the subject line "Comments on OAI Ropeless Fishing EFP."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Laura Hansen, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9225.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Ocean Associates Incorporated (OAI) submitted a complete application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) on March 12, 2020, to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. The OAI is requesting an exemption from Federal lobster regulations that would authorize a federally-permitted commercial lobster vessel to participate in a ropeless lobster gear study. This EFP would exempt the participating vessel from the Federal gear marking requirements found at 50 CFR 697.21(b)(2). This would allow for the use of a single buoy marker on a trawl of more than three traps.

The purpose of this study is to test a prototype ropeless fishing system to potentially prevent entanglements of protected species, primarily North Atlantic right whales. This is a continuation of a study that started in 2018. The traps were deployed on a commercial fishing vessel in 2019 to get fishermen confident in deploying the gear. The trawl was deployed nine times with soak times ranging from 9-20 minutes in an average depth of 120 ft (36.5 m). The spool performed as designed and was retrieved easily with all deployments. This study is funded through the NMFS Bycatch Reduction

Engineering Program (NA18NMF4720279).

The EFP would authorize the participating vessel to deploy two experimental trawls consisting of five or more traps. Experimental trawls would have a rope spool, fitted with an acoustic release, deployed on one end of the trawl, with a buoy line attached to the other. Soak time would be between 2-5 days, but may be modified depending on what each fisherman decides is appropriate for fishing. Sampling would occur from May through November 2020 in Lobster Conservation Management Area 3. Initial deployments would be overseen by a Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute engineering team, but later would be observed by OAI personnel. There would be 42 deployments of experimental trawls.

If approved, the applicant may request 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: June 10, 2020.

**Hélène M.N. Scalliet,**

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

[FR Doc. 2020-12897 Filed 6-15-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XW016]

#### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trawl Rationalization Program; 2020 Cost Recovery

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

**ACTION:** Notice, 2020 cost recovery fee percentage correction.

**SUMMARY:** This action provides participants in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program (Trawl Program), Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program

with the updated 2020 fee percentage needed to calculate the required payments for the cost recovery fees due for the remainder of 2020. For the remainder of calendar year 2020, NMFS announces that the Shorebased IFQ Program fee percentage will be 2.88 percent.

**DATES:** Applicable June 16, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christopher Biegel, Cost Recovery Program Coordinator, (503) 231-6291, fax (503) 872-2737, email [Christopher.Biegel@NOAA.gov](mailto:Christopher.Biegel@NOAA.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires NMFS to collect fees to recover the costs directly related to the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement directly related to and in support of a limited access privilege program (LAPP) (16 U.S.C. 1854(d)(2)), also called “cost recovery.” The Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program is a LAPP, implemented in 2011, and consists of three sector-specific programs: The Shorebased IFQ Program, the Mothership (MS) Co-op Program, and the Catcher Processer (CP) Co-op Program. In accordance with the MSA, and based on a recommended structure and methodology developed in coordination with the Pacific Fishery Management Council, NMFS began collecting mandatory fees of up to 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of groundfish from each program

(Shorebased IFQ Program, MS Co-op Program, and CP Co-op Program) in 2014. NMFS collects the fees to recover the incremental costs of management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement of the Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program. Additional background can be found in the cost recovery proposed and final rules, 78 FR 7371 (February 1, 2013) and 78 FR 75268 (December 11, 2013), respectively. The details of cost recovery for the Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program are in regulation at 50 CFR 660.115 (Trawl fishery-cost recovery program), 660.140 (Shorebased IFQ Program), 660.150 (MS Co-op Program), and 660.160 (CP Co-op Program).

To calculate the fee percentages, NMFS uses the formula specified in regulation at § 660.115(b)(1), where the fee percentage by sector equals the lower of 3 percent or DPC for that sector divided by total ex-vessel value (V) for that sector multiplied by 100 (Fee percentage = the lower of 3 percent or (DPC/V) × 100).

‘DPC,’ as defined in the regulations at § 660.115(b)(1)(i), are the actual incremental costs for the previous fiscal year directly related to the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement of each program (Shorebased IFQ Program, MS Co-op Program, and CP Co-op Program). Actual incremental costs means those net costs that would not have been incurred but for the implementation of the Groundfish Trawl Rationalization

Program, including both increased costs for new requirements of the program and reduced costs resulting from any program efficiencies.

“V”, as specified at § 660.115(b)(1)(ii), is the total ex-vessel value, as defined at § 660.111, for each sector from the previous calendar year. The regulations define ex-vessel value slightly differently for each sector, thus NMFS uses slightly different methods to calculate “V” for each sector. For the Shorebased IFQ Program, NMFS used the ex-vessel value for calendar year 2018 as reported in Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN) from shorebased IFQ electronic fish tickets, as this was the most recent complete set of data.

NMFS announced the 2020 cost recovery fees in the **Federal Register** on December 11, 2019 (84 FR 67720). Subsequently, NMFS determined that the DPC for the Shorebased IFQ Program inadvertently included costs that were not recoverable as well as some staff costs that should have been included. The recalculation has resulted in an updated cost recovery fee that will be in effect for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year.

The adjustments were associated with the West Coast Region (WCR) staff time and contracting, Northwest Fisheries Science Center Scientific Data Management Program (SDM) contracting, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) grant. These adjustments are shown below (in Table 1).

TABLE 1

Sector	WCR contracting adjustment	WCR staff adjustment	SDM adjustment	PSMFC adjustment	Adjustment for 2021 calculation
IFQ .....	– \$6,300.00	\$3,200.00	– \$196,423.00	– \$31,751.89	– \$231,273.89

The redetermination resulted in an adjustment to the Shorebased IFQ Program 2020 cost recovery fee

percentage. This adjustment is shown below (in Table 2).

TABLE 2

IFQ total costs	Correction	Final IFQ totals	IFQ ex-vessel value	IFQ fee percentage
\$1,807,551.12 .....	– \$231,273.87	\$1,576,277.25	\$54,795,365.00	2.88

Because the adjustment has resulted in a lower fee for the Shorebased IFQ Program, NMFS will calculate the fees that should have been collected under the 2.88 percent fee and include the

excess as a credit in the 2021 fee calculation.

Cost recovery fees are submitted to NMFS by Fish buyers via *Pay.gov* (<https://www.pay.gov/paygov/>). The fee percentage will be updated upon

publication of this notice. Fees are only accepted in *Pay.gov* by credit/debit card or bank transfers. Cash or checks cannot be accepted. Fish buyers registered with *Pay.gov* can login in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Fish buyers not

registered with *Pay.gov* can go to the cost recovery forms directly from the website below. A link to the IFQ *Pay.gov* form is listed below: IFQ: <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/58062865>.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

Dated: June 10, 2020.

**Hélène M.N. Scalliet,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of new member solicitation for the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS) Advisory Committee.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting applications for membership on the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee (the Committee), which is a Federal advisory committee. Members of the Committee will fulfill the requirements of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (the Act). The Committee provides advice to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on the planning, integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS). U.S. IOOS promotes research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies and modeling systems, addresses regional and national needs for ocean information, gathers data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables and ensures timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data for societal benefits. U.S. IOOS benefits national safety, the economy, and the environment through support for national defense, marine commerce and forecasting, navigation safety, weather, climate, energy siting and production, economic development,

ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal areas, conservation of ocean and coastal resources and public safety.

The Act requires the establishment and administration of this Committee by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

NOAA will hereby accept applications for membership on the Committee to fill two vacancies that occurred in late 2019. These vacancy appointments shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy, which ends August 15, 2021. An individual so appointed may subsequently be appointed for an additional three-year term. The Act states: "Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the [Integrated Ocean Observing] System, or use of data products provided through the System." NOAA encourages individuals with expertise in oceanographic data, products, and services; coastal management; fisheries management; coastal and marine spatial planning; geodesy; water levels; and other science-related fields to submit applications for Committee membership. To apply for membership on the Committee, applicants should submit a resume highlighting their qualifications as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section. NOAA is an equal-opportunity employer.

**DATES:** Nominations should be submitted no later than July 30, 2020. Applications received after July 30, 2020 may not be considered during this membership application cycle, but may be considered for future membership cycles.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit an application for Committee membership, including cover letter, resume, and requested items below, to Laura Gewain via Email [Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov](mailto:Laura.Gewain@noaa.gov). Please direct any questions regarding application submission to Laura Gewain via Email or Telephone: 240-533-9456.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Krisa Arzayus, 1315 East-West Highway, Station 2616, Silver Spring, MD 20910; Telephone: 240-533-9455; Email: [Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov](mailto:Krisa.Arzayus@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice responds to the ICOOS Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-11, section 12304), which requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to solicit nominations for Committee membership. The Committee will advise the NOAA Administrator or Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on matters related to the responsibilities

and authorities set forth in section 12302 of the ICOOS Act of 2009 and other appropriate matters as the Under Secretary refers to the Committee for review and advice.

The United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee will provide advice on:

(a) Administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the System;

(b) Expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of the System;

(c) Identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by the System, and the System's effectiveness in dissemination information to end-user communities and to the general public; and

(d) Any other purpose identified by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere or the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.

The Committee's voting members will be appointed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the System, or the use of data products provided through the System. Members are selected on a standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Members will be appointed for three-year terms, renewable once. One Committee member will be designated by the Under Secretary as chairperson. Full-time officers or employees of the United States may not be appointed as a voting member. Members will be appointed as special Government employees (SGEs) for purposes of section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code. Members serve at the discretion of the Under Secretary and are subject to government ethics standards. Members of the Committee will not be compensated for service on the Committee, but they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

The Committee will meet at least once each year, and at other times at the call of the Under Secretary, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, or the Committee Chairperson. The Committee has approximately fifteen voting members. This solicitation is to obtain candidate applications for up to two full voting member vacancies.

To apply for membership, applicants must submit the following five items,