

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