

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

[RTID 0648–XB801]

Pacific 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel will hold a joint public meeting.

DATES: The online meeting will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Standard Time or until business for the day as been completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see www.pcouncil.org). You may send an email to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) or contact him at (503) 820–2412 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2409.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss and potentially develop work products for the Pacific Council's March 2022 meeting. Topics will include marine planning, ecosystem matters, and future meeting planning. Other

matters on the Pacific Council's March agenda may be discussed as well. The meeting agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website in advance of the meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document 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

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov; (503) 820–2412) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: February 7, 2022.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

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

[RTID 0648–XB789]

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management 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 (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow commercial fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of research conducted by the applicant. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 25, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

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

Include in the subject line “CFRF Ventless Trap EFP.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Deighan, Fishery Management Specialist, Laura.Deighan@noaa.gov, (978) 281–9184.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict to continue to provide distribution, abundance, and biological data on juvenile lobsters and Jonah crabs from times and areas with low coverage from traditional surveys. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

Citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
50 CFR 697.21(c)	Gear specification requirements.	To allow for closed escape vents and smaller trap mesh and entrance heads.
§ 697.19	Trap limit requirements.	To allow for three additional traps per fishing vessel for a total of up to 66 additional traps.
§ 697.19(j)	Trap tag requirements.	To allow for the use of untagged traps (though each modified trap will have the participating fisherman's identification attached).
§ 697.20(a), (d), (g), and (h)(1) and (2).	Possession restrictions.	To allow for onboard biological sampling of undersized, v-notched, and egg-bearing lobsters and undersized and egg-bearing Jonah crabs and retention of up to 300 legal and sublegal Jonah crabs per month for a molting study.

This project is a continuation of ongoing effort to collect data on juvenile lobster and Jonah crab abundance and

distribution in areas and times of year with low or no coverage by traditional surveys. To date, this project has

collected data from over 175,000 lobsters and 105,000 Jonah crabs. The current EFP will expire April 5, 2022;