

judgments of conviction, charging documents, plea agreements, and sentencing orders. Information will be provided within 30 days of sentencing, or as soon as practicable if the Unit encounters delays in receiving the necessary information from the court, as required by 42 CFR 1007.11(g)(3).

H. The Unit reports qualifying cases, as defined by 45 CFR 60.5, to the National Practitioner Data Bank, or successor data bases, within 30 days of sentencing or other reportable action.

#### *Performance Standard 9—Program Recommendations*

A Unit makes statutory or programmatic recommendations, when warranted and appropriate, to the State government. To determine whether a Unit meets this standard, OIG will consider the following performance indicators:

A. The Unit, when warranted and appropriate, makes statutory recommendations to the State legislature to improve the operation or effectiveness of the Unit, including amendments to the enforcement provisions of the State code.

B. The Unit, when warranted and appropriate, makes other regulatory or administrative recommendations regarding program integrity issues to the State Medicaid agency and to other agencies responsible for Medicaid operations or funding.

C. The Unit monitors and maintains records regarding actions taken by the State legislature and the State Medicaid agency or other agencies in response to Unit recommendations.

#### *Performance Standard 10—Agreement With Medicaid Agency*

A Unit periodically reviews its memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the State Medicaid agency to ensure that the MOU reflects current practice, policy, and legal requirements. To determine whether a Unit meets this standard, OIG will consider the following performance indicators:

A. The MOU complies with Federal regulations contained in 42 CFR 1007.9(d), “Relationship and agreement between Unit and Medicaid agency,” including: (1) an agreement for regularly scheduled meetings or communication with the Medicaid agency (and procedures for how the two agencies will coordinate their efforts), (2) procedures (as applicable) for managed care referrals as required by 42 CFR 438.608(a)(7), (3) a requirement that the Unit reviews the MOU at least every 5 years, and (4) an agreement that the Unit renegotiates the MOU as necessary to

ensure that it addresses current law and practice.

B. The MOU meets other current Federal legal requirements as contained in law or regulation, including 42 CFR 455.21, “Cooperation with State Medicaid fraud control units,” and 42 CFR 455.23, “Suspension of payments in cases of fraud.”

C. The MOU is consistent with current Federal and State policy, including any policies issued by OIG or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

D. Consistent with Performance Standard 4, the MOU establishes a process to encourage the receipt of an adequate volume and quality of referrals to the Unit from the State Medicaid agency and, as applicable, from managed care organizations.

E. The MOU incorporates by reference CMS’s “Performance Standard for Referrals of Suspected Fraud from a Single State Agency to a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.”

F. Consistent with 42 CFR 1007.11(c), the MOU specifies that overpayments will be referred to the State agency when the Unit is unable to recover such overpayments as a part of a fraud action.

#### *Performance Standard 11—Fiscal Control*

A Unit exercises proper fiscal control over Unit resources. To determine whether a Unit meets this standard, OIG will consider the following performance indicators:

A. The Unit promptly submits to OIG its preliminary budget estimates, proposed budget application, and Federal financial expenditure reports.

B. The Unit limits its requests for grant funding, including its requested staffing levels, to operational amounts and staffing levels that it reasonably expects to fulfill in the upcoming fiscal period.

C. The Unit makes reasonable efforts to employ the number of staff that is included in the Unit’s budget application request as approved by OIG.

D. The Unit maintains a property inventory that is updated regularly to reflect all equipment (as defined under 2 CFR 200.1) under the Unit’s control and includes all property that may contain personally identifiable information or sensitive information or may be a potential security concern, such as computing devices, weapons, and investigative tools (e.g., surveillance video or audio equipment).

E. The Unit maintains an effective time and attendance system and personnel activity records.

F. The Unit applies generally accepted accounting principles in its control of Unit funding.

G. The Unit employs a financial system in compliance with the standards for financial management systems contained in Federal grant administration requirements.

#### *Performance Standard 12—Training*

A Unit conducts training that aids the mission of the Unit. To determine whether a Unit meets this standard, OIG will consider the following performance indicators:

A. The Unit maintains a training plan for each professional discipline that includes an annual minimum number of training hours and that is at least as stringent as required for professional certification.

B. The Unit ensures that professional staff comply with their training plans and maintains records of completed training.

C. Professional certifications are maintained for all staff, including those that fulfill continuing education requirements.

D. The Unit participates in MFCU-related training, including training offered by OIG, other MFCUs, and other relevant organizations, as such training is available and as funding permits.

E. The Unit participates in cross-training with the fraud detection staff of the State Medicaid agency. As part of such training, Unit staff provide training on the elements of successful fraud referrals and receive training on the role and responsibilities of the State Medicaid agency. Unit training of Medicaid staff should be supplemented as appropriate with training for staff of managed care special investigations units.

**Christi A. Grimm,**  
*Inspector General.*

[FR Doc. 2024–20416 Filed 9–17–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

### **49 CFR Part 1002**

[Docket No. EP 542 (Sub-No. 32)]

### **Fees for Services Performed in Connection With Licensing and Related Services—2024 Update**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Board updates for 2024 the fees that the public must pay to file certain cases and pleadings with the Board. Pursuant to this update, 95 of the

Board's 136 fees will increase, and 41 fees will remain at their current levels.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective October 18, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Laura Mizner, (202) 245–0318, or Andrea Pope-Matheson, (202) 245–0363. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245–0245.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board's regulations at 49 CFR 1002.3(a) provide for an annual update of the Board's entire user-fee schedule. Fees are generally revised based on the cost study formula set forth at 49 CFR 1002.3(d), which looks to changes in salary costs, publication costs, and Board overhead cost factors. Applying that formula, 95 of the Board's 136 fees will be increased and 41 will remain at their current levels.

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To obtain a free copy of the full decision, visit the Board's website at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov) or call

(202) 245–0245. If you require an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please call (202) 245–0245.

**List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 1002**

Administrative practice and procedure, Common carriers, Freedom of information.

Decided: September 13, 2024.

By the Board, Board Members Fuchs, Hedlund, Primus, and Schultz.

**Jeffrey Herzig,**  
*Clearance Clerk.*

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Surface Transportation Board amends 49 CFR part 1002 as follows:

**PART 1002—FEES**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1002 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(A), (a)(6)(B), and 553; 31 U.S.C. 9701; and 49 U.S.C. 1321. Section 1002.1(f)(11) is also issued under 5 U.S.C. 5514 and 31 U.S.C. 3717.

■ 2. Section 1002.1 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) through (c) to read as follows:

**§ 1002.1 Fees for records search, review, copying, certification, and related services.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) Certificate of the Records Officer, \$25.00.

(b) Services involved in examination of tariffs or schedules for preparation of certified copies of tariffs or schedules or extracts therefrom at the rate of \$54.00 per hour.

(c) Services involved in checking records to be certified to determine authenticity, including clerical work, etc. incidental thereto, at a rate of \$37.00 per hour.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. Section 1002.2 is amended by revising paragraph (f) to read as follows:

**§ 1002.2 Filing fees.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) *Schedule of filing fees.*

Type of proceeding	Fee
<b>PART I: Non-Rail Applications or Proceedings to Enter Into a Particular Financial Transaction or Joint Arrangement</b>	
(1) An application for the pooling or division of traffic .....	\$6,500.
(2)(i) An application involving the purchase, lease, consolidation, merger, or acquisition of control of a motor carrier of passengers under 49 U.S.C. 14303.	\$2,900.
(ii) A petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 13541 (other than a rulemaking) filed by a non-rail carrier not otherwise covered.	\$4,500.
(iii) A petition to revoke an exemption filed under 49 U.S.C. 13541(d) .....	\$3,800.
(3) An application for approval of a non-rail rate association agreement. 49 U.S.C. 13703 .....	\$40,600.
(4) An application for approval of an amendment to a non-rail rate association agreement:	
(i) Significant amendment .....	\$6,700.
(ii) Minor amendment .....	\$150.
(5) An application for temporary authority to operate a motor carrier of passengers. 49 U.S.C. 14303(i) .....	\$700.
(6) A notice of exemption for transaction within a motor passenger corporate family that does not result in adverse changes in service levels, significant operational changes, or a change in the competitive balance with motor passenger carriers outside the corporate family.	\$2,300.
(7)–(10) [Reserved]	
<b>PART II: Rail Licensing Proceedings other than Abandonment or Discontinuance Proceedings</b>	
(11)(i) An application for a certificate authorizing the extension, acquisition, or operation of lines of railroad. 49 U.S.C. 10901.	\$10,600.
(ii) Notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 through 1150.35 .....	\$2,500.
(iii) Petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 .....	\$18,400.
(12)(i) An application involving the construction of a rail line .....	\$109,900.
(ii) A notice of exemption involving construction of a rail line under 49 CFR 1150.36 .....	\$2,500.
(iii) A petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 involving construction of a rail line .....	\$109,900.
(iv) A request for determination of a dispute involving a rail construction that crosses the line of another carrier under 49 U.S.C. 10902(d).	\$350.
(13) A Feeder Line Development Program application filed under 49 U.S.C. 10907(b)(1)(A)(i) or 10907(b)(1)(A)(ii) .....	\$2,600.
(14)(i) An application of a class II or class III carrier to acquire an extended or additional rail line under 49 U.S.C. 10902 ..	\$9,000.
(ii) Notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 through 1150.45 .....	\$2,500.
(iii) Petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 relating to an exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10902 ....	\$9,600.
(15) A notice of a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity under 49 CFR 1150.21 through 1150.24 .....	\$2,400.
(16) An application for a land-use-exemption permit for a facility existing as of October 16, 2008 under 49 U.S.C. 10909 ..	\$8,800.
(17) An application for a land-use-exemption permit for a facility not existing as of October 16, 2008 under 49 U.S.C. 10909.	\$31,100.
(18)–(20) [Reserved]	

Type of proceeding	Fee
<b>PART III: Rail Abandonment or Discontinuance of Transportation Services Proceedings</b>	
(21)(i) An application for authority to abandon all or a portion of a line of railroad or discontinue operation thereof filed by a railroad (except applications filed by Consolidated Rail Corporation pursuant to the Northeast Rail Service Act [Sub-title E of Title XI of Pub. L. 97–35], bankrupt railroads, or exempt abandonments).	\$32,600.
(ii) Notice of an exempt abandonment or discontinuance under 49 CFR 1152.50 .....	\$5,200.
(iii) A petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 .....	\$9,200.
(22) An application for authority to abandon all or a portion of a line of a railroad or operation thereof filed by Consolidated Rail Corporation pursuant to Northeast Rail Service Act.	\$700.
(23) Abandonments filed by bankrupt railroads .....	\$2,800.
(24) A request for waiver of filing requirements for abandonment application proceedings .....	\$2,600.
(25) An offer of financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. 10904 relating to the purchase of or subsidy for a rail line proposed for abandonment.	\$2,300.
(26) A request to set terms and conditions for the sale of or subsidy for a rail line proposed to be abandoned .....	\$33,400.
(27) (i) Request for a trail use condition in an abandonment proceeding under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) .....	\$350.
(ii) A request to extend the period to negotiate a trail use agreement .....	\$650.
(28)–(35) [Reserved]	
<b>PART IV: Rail Applications to Enter Into a Particular Financial Transaction or Joint Arrangement</b>	
(36) An application for use of terminal facilities or other applications under 49 U.S.C. 11102 .....	\$27,800.
(37) An application for the pooling or division of traffic. 49 U.S.C. 11322 .....	\$15,000.
(38) An application for two or more carriers to consolidate or merge their properties or franchises (or a part thereof) into one corporation for ownership, management, and operation of the properties previously in separate ownership. 49 U.S.C. 11324:	
(i) Major transaction .....	\$2,195,500.
(ii) Significant transaction .....	\$439,100.
(iii) Minor transaction .....	\$10,300.
(iv) Notice of an exempt transaction under 49 CFR 1180.2(d) .....	\$2,300.
(v) Responsive application .....	\$10,300.
(vi) Petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 .....	\$13,700.
(vii) A request for waiver or clarification of regulations filed in a major financial proceeding as defined at 49 CFR 1180.2(a).	\$8,100.
(39) An application of a non-carrier to acquire control of two or more carriers through ownership of stock or otherwise. 49 U.S.C. 11324:	
(i) Major transaction .....	\$2,195,500.
(ii) Significant transaction .....	\$439,100.
(iii) Minor transaction .....	\$10,300.
(iv) A notice of an exempt transaction under 49 CFR 1180.2(d) .....	\$1,800.
(v) Responsive application .....	\$10,300.
(vi) Petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 .....	\$13,700.
(vii) A request for waiver or clarification of regulations filed in a major financial proceeding as defined at 49 CFR 1180.2(a).	\$8,100.
(40) An application to acquire trackage rights over, joint ownership in, or joint use of any railroad lines owned and operated by any other carrier and terminals incidental thereto. 49 U.S.C. 11324:	
(i) Major transaction .....	\$2,195,500.
(ii) Significant transaction .....	\$439,100.
(iii) Minor transaction .....	\$10,300.
(iv) Notice of an exempt transaction under 49 CFR 1180.2(d) .....	\$1,600.
(v) Responsive application .....	\$10,300.
(vi) Petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 .....	\$13,700.
(vii) A request for waiver or clarification of regulations filed in a major financial proceeding as defined at 49 CFR 1180.2(a).	\$8,100.
(41) An application of a carrier or carriers to purchase, lease, or contract to operate the properties of another, or to acquire control of another by purchase of stock or otherwise. 49 U.S.C. 11324:	
(i) Major transaction .....	\$2,195,500.
(ii) Significant transaction .....	\$439,100.
(iii) Minor transaction .....	\$10,300.
(iv) Notice of an exempt transaction under 49 CFR 1180.2(d) .....	\$1,900.
(v) Responsive application .....	\$10,300.
(vi) Petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 .....	\$9,600.
(vii) A request for waiver or clarification of regulations filed in a major financial proceeding as defined at 49 CFR 1180.2(a).	\$8,100.
(42) Notice of a joint project involving relocation of a rail line under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(5) .....	\$3,300.
(43) An application for approval of a rail rate association agreement. 49 U.S.C. 10706 .....	\$102,800.
(44) An application for approval of an amendment to a rail rate association agreement. 49 U.S.C. 10706:	
(i) Significant amendment .....	\$18,900.
(ii) Minor amendment .....	\$150.
(45) An application for authority to hold a position as officer or director under 49 U.S.C. 11328 .....	\$1,100.
(46) A petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 (other than a rulemaking) filed by rail carrier not otherwise covered ..	\$11,700.
(47) National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) conveyance proceeding under 45 U.S.C. 562 .....	\$350.
(48) National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) compensation proceeding under section 402(a) of the Rail Passenger Service Act.	\$350.

Type of proceeding	Fee
(49)–(55) [Reserved]	
<b>PART V: Formal Proceedings</b>	
(56) A formal complaint alleging unlawful rates or practices of carriers:	
(i) A formal complaint filed under the coal rate guidelines (Stand-Alone Cost Methodology) alleging unlawful rates and/or practices of rail carriers under 49 U.S.C. 10704(c)(1).	\$350.
(ii) A formal complaint involving rail maximum rates filed under the Simplified-SAC methodology .....	\$350.
(iii) A formal complaint involving rail maximum rates filed under the Three Benchmark methodology .....	\$150.
(iv) A formal complaint involving rail maximum rates filed under the Final Offer Rate Review procedure .....	\$150.
(v) All other formal complaints (except competitive access complaints) .....	\$350.
(vi) Competitive access complaints .....	\$150.
(vii) A request for an order compelling a rail carrier to establish a common carrier rate .....	\$350.
(57) A complaint seeking or a petition requesting institution of an investigation seeking the prescription or division of joint rates or charges. 49 U.S.C. 10705.	\$13,000.
(58) A petition for declaratory order:	
(i) A petition for declaratory order involving a dispute over an existing rate or practice which is comparable to a complaint proceeding.	\$1,000.
(ii) All other petitions for declaratory order .....	\$1,400.
(59) An application for shipper antitrust immunity. 49 U.S.C. 10706(a)(5)(A) .....	\$10,200.
(60) Labor arbitration proceedings .....	\$350.
(61)(i) An appeal of a Surface Transportation Board decision on the merits or petition to revoke an exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502(d).	\$350.
(ii) An appeal of a Surface Transportation Board decision on procedural matters except discovery rulings .....	\$550.
(62) Motor carrier undercharge proceedings .....	\$350.
(63)(i) Expedited relief for service inadequacies: A request for expedited relief under 49 U.S.C. 11123 and 49 CFR part 1146 for service emergency.	\$350.
(ii) Expedited relief for service inadequacies: A request for temporary relief under 49 U.S.C. 10705 and 11102, and 49 CFR part 1147 for service inadequacy.	\$350.
(64) A request for waiver or clarification of regulations except one filed in an abandonment or discontinuance proceeding, or in a major financial proceeding as defined at 49 CFR 1180.2(a).	\$850.
(65)–(75) [Reserved]	
<b>PART VI: Informal Proceedings</b>	
(76) An application for authority to establish released value rates or ratings for motor carriers and freight forwarders of household goods under 49 U.S.C. 14706.	\$1,800.
(77) An application for special permission for short notice or the waiver of other tariff publishing requirements .....	\$150.
(78)(i) The filing of tariffs, including supplements, or contract summaries .....	\$1. per page. (\$36. min. charge.)
(ii) The filing of water carrier annual certifications .....	\$36.
(79) Special docket applications from rail and water carriers:	
(i) Applications involving \$25,000 or less .....	\$75.
(ii) Applications involving over \$25,000 .....	\$200.
(80) Informal complaint about rail rate applications .....	\$900.
(81) Tariff reconciliation petitions from motor common carriers:	
(i) Petitions involving \$25,000 or less .....	\$75.
(ii) Petitions involving over \$25,000 .....	\$200.
(82) Request for a determination of the applicability or reasonableness of motor carrier rates under 49 U.S.C. 13710(a)(2) and (3).	\$350.
(83) Filing of documents for recordation. 49 U.S.C. 11301 and 49 CFR 1177.3(c). .....	\$60. per document.
(84) Informal opinions about rate applications (all modes) .....	\$350.
(85) A railroad accounting interpretation .....	\$1,600.
(86)(i) A request for an informal opinion not otherwise covered .....	\$2,200.
(ii) A proposal to use on a voting trust agreement pursuant to 49 CFR part 1013 and 49 CFR 1180.4(b)(4)(iv) in connection with a major control proceeding as defined at 49 CFR 1180.2(a).	\$7,500.
(iii) A request for an informal opinion on a voting trust agreement pursuant to 49 CFR 1013.3(a) not otherwise covered.	\$750.
(87) Arbitration of certain disputes subject to the statutory jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board under 49 CFR part 1108:	
(i) Complaint .....	\$75.
(ii) Answer (per defendant), Unless Declining to Submit to Any Arbitration .....	\$75.
(iii) Third Party Complaint .....	\$75.
(iv) Third Party Answer (per defendant), Unless Declining to Submit to Any Arbitration .....	\$75.
(v) Appeals of Arbitration Decisions or Petitions to Modify or Vacate an Arbitration Award .....	\$150.
(88) Basic fee for STB adjudicatory services not otherwise covered .....	\$350.
(89)–(95) [Reserved]	
<b>PART VII: Services</b>	
(96) Messenger delivery of decision to a railroad carrier's Washington, DC agent .....	\$47. per delivery.
(97) Request for service or pleading list for proceedings .....	\$36. per list.
(98) Processing the paperwork related to a request for the Carload Waybill Sample to be used in an STB or State proceeding that:	

Type of proceeding	Fee
(i) Annual request does not require a <b>Federal Register</b> (FR) notice:	
(A) Set cost portion .....	\$200.
(B) Sliding cost portion .....	\$69. per party.
(ii) Annual request does require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion .....	\$500.
(B) Sliding cost portion .....	\$69. per party.
(iii) Quarterly request does not require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion .....	\$60.
(B) Sliding cost portion .....	\$17. per party.
(iv) Quarterly request does require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion .....	\$245.
(B) Sliding cost portion .....	\$17. per party.
(v) Monthly request does not require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion .....	\$20.
(B) Sliding cost portion .....	\$5. per party.
(vi) Monthly request does require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion .....	\$182.
(B) Sliding cost portion .....	\$5. per party.
(99)(i) Application fee for the STB's Practitioners' Exam .....	\$250.
(ii) Practitioners' Exam Information Package .....	\$25.
(100) Carload Waybill Sample data:	
(i) Requests for Public Use File for all years prior to the most current year Carload Waybill Sample data available, provided on CD-R.	\$250. per year.
(ii) Specialized programming for Waybill requests to the Board .....	\$148. per hour.

\* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2024-21270 Filed 9-17-24; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 622****[Docket No. 240910-0234]****RIN 0648-BM98****Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Lane Snapper Catch Limits**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues regulations to implement management measures described in an abbreviated framework action under the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP) as prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). This final rule modifies the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) lane snapper catch limits. The purpose of this final rule is to modify the Gulf lane snapper catch limits based on the best scientific information available. This final rule also revises reporting and compliance requirements for Gulf reef fish commercial permit holders using vessel monitoring systems (VMS).

**DATES:** This final rule is effective October 18, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of the abbreviated framework action, which includes a Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) analysis and a regulatory impact review, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/gulf-mexico-lane-snapper-catch-limits-abbreviated-framework>.

Written comments regarding the burden hour estimates or any other aspects of the collection of information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted at any time by email to Carolyn Sramek, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, [carolyn.sramek@noaa.gov](mailto:carolyn.sramek@noaa.gov) or to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dan Luers, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305, email: [daniel.luers@noaa.gov](mailto:daniel.luers@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS, with the advice of the Council, manages the Gulf reef fish fishery, which includes lane snapper, under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the Council, approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and is implemented by NMFS through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

**Background**

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires NMFS, with the advice from the regional fishery management councils, to prevent overfishing and achieve, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield

(OY) from federally managed fish stocks. These mandates are intended to ensure fishery resources are managed for the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to providing food production and recreational opportunities and protecting marine ecosystems.

On June 17, 2024, NMFS published a proposed rule for the abbreviated framework action and requested public comment (89 FR 51295). Comments received on the proposed rule are summarized and responded to in the Comments and Responses section of this final rule.

Unless otherwise noted, all weights in this final rule are in round weight.

Lane snapper occur in estuaries and shelf waters of the Gulf and are particularly abundant off south and southwest Florida. Lane snapper in the Gulf exclusive economic zone are managed as a single stock, with a combined annual catch limit (ACL) for the commercial and recreational sectors that is set equal to the acceptable biological catch (ABC). The fishing season is open year-round, January 1 through December 31 unless a closure is required to constrain landings to the ACL. Currently, the lane snapper overfishing limit (OFL) is 1,053,834 pounds (lb) (478,011 kilograms (kg)), and the ABC is 1,028,973 lb (466,734 kg). These catch limits are based on the results of an update to the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review 49 (SEDAR 49) that was completed in 2019 and used recreational landings estimates generated by the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Fishing