

every 5 years to determine whether species should be removed from the list, changed in status from an endangered species to a threatened species, or changed in status from a threatened species to an endangered species (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(2)). Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA requires us to determine whether any species is an endangered or threatened species because of any of the following factors: (A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (C) disease or predation; (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (E) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence (16 U.S.C. 1533(a)(1)). Section 4(b)(1)(A) of the ESA requires us to make the determination based solely on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review and after taking into account efforts to protect the species (16 U.S.C. 1533(b)(1)(A)). Regulations (50 CFR 424.21) require us to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing species under active review.

In 2015, we published status reviews of the Argentine angelshark, spiny angelshark, striped smoothhound shark, and narrownose smoothhound shark. In 2017, we published a status review of the common and blackchin guitarfishes. These status reviews and additional information on the species are available on NMFS' website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/foreign-species>. After reviewing information available since the publication of these status reviews, we will make our determinations regarding the classification of these species and publish them on NMFS' website. Any recommended changes (*i.e.*, delistings and/or reclassifications) would require a separate rulemaking process.

#### Public Solicitation of Relevant Information

To ensure that the 5-year reviews are based on the best scientific and commercial data available, we are soliciting information from the public, governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental organizations, and other interested parties. We request information that has become available since the previous reviews were published in 2015 (Argentine and spiny angelsharks and striped and narrownose smoothhound sharks) and 2017 (common and blackchin guitarfishes). Categories of requested information include: (1) species biology including,

but not limited to, abundance, population trends, demographics, distribution, and diversity; (2) habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, suitability, and important features for conservation; (3) degree, nature, and trends of threats to the species and its habitats, especially those factors described in section 4(a)(1) of the ESA; (4) conservation efforts that have been implemented to benefit the species, including monitoring data demonstrating the effectiveness of such efforts; and (5) other information, data, or corrections including taxonomic or nomenclatural changes and improved analytical methods for evaluating extinction risk.

We request that all information be accompanied by supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications. Please submit all information and supporting documentation electronically (see **ADDRESSES** section).

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: April 14, 2025.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE817]

#### Reopening of Nominations for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Permanent Advisory Committee

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

**ACTION:** Notice of request for nominations; reopening of solicitation for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is reopening the solicitation announced on January 21, 2025, in the **Federal Register**, for nominations (which may include self-nominations) to the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) as established under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC) Implementation Act (Act). The PAC, composed of individuals from groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (Convention), provides

recommendations to the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (Commission) regarding the deliberations and decisions of the Commission.

**DATES:** NMFS is reopening the solicitation for nominations announced on January 21, 2025 (90 FR 7080). Nominations must be received by Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations, including a letter of interest and a resume or curriculum vitae, should be sent via email to Katrina Poremba at [pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov](mailto:pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line the nomination for a position as an Advisory Committee member. The following information should be included in the nomination documents: (1) full name, address, telephone, and email address of nominee; (2) nominee's organization(s) or professional affiliation(s) serving as the basis for the nomination, if any; and (3) a background statement, not to exceed one page in length, describing the nominee's qualifications, experience and interests, specifically as related to the fisheries covered by the Convention.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Katrina Poremba, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818; email: [pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov](mailto:pir.wcpfc@noaa.gov); phone: (808) 725-5096.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### The Convention and the Commission

The objective of the Convention is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS) and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UNCLOS Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The Convention establishes the Commission, the secretariat of which is based in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

The Convention applies to all highly migratory fish stocks (defined as all fish stocks of the species listed in Annex I of the UNCLOS occurring in the Convention Area, and such other species of fish as the Commission may determine), except saurians.

The United States actively supported the negotiations and the development of the Convention and signed the Convention when it was opened for signature in 2000. It participated as a

cooperating non-member of the Commission since it became operational in 2005. The United States became a Contracting Party to the Convention and a full member of the Commission when it ratified the Convention in January 2007. Under the Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*), the United States is to be represented on the Commission by five U.S. Commissioners, appointed by the President.

#### Permanent Advisory Committee

The Act provides in section 6902(d) that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the U.S.

Commissioners to the Commission, will appoint individuals as members of the advisory committee established under the Act, referred to here as the PAC.

The appointed members of the Permanent Advisory Committee are to include not less than 15 nor more than 20 individuals selected from the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the Convention, providing, to the extent practicable, an equitable balance among such groups. On behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, NMFS is now seeking nominations for these appointments.

In addition to the 15–20 appointed members, the Permanent Advisory Committee includes the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Advisory Committee (or designee), and officials of the fisheries management authorities of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or their designees).

Members of the Permanent Advisory Committee will be invited to attend all non-executive meetings of the U.S. Commissioners to the Commission and at such meetings will be given the opportunity to examine and be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission. Members of the Permanent Advisory Committee are also invited to participate in meetings of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, as members of the United States’ delegation.

Each appointed member of the Permanent Advisory Committee will serve for a term of 2 years and is eligible for reappointment. This request for nominations is for the term to begin on August 3, 2025, and is for a term of 2 consecutive years.

All members of the Advisory Committee are appointed in their individual professional capacity and undergo a background screening. Any individual appointed to the Committee who is unable to attend all or part of an

Advisory Committee meeting may not appoint another person to attend such meetings as their proxy. Nominees should be able to fulfill the time and travel commitments required to participate in the Committee’s meeting(s). The meetings are normally two to three days long and can be held virtually or in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Secretaries of Commerce and State will furnish the Permanent Advisory Committee with relevant information concerning fisheries and international fishery agreements.

NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, will provide to the Permanent Advisory Committee administrative and technical support services as are necessary for its effective functioning.

Appointed members of the Permanent Advisory Committee will serve without pay, but while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the advisory committee will be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703. They will not be considered Federal employees while performing service as members of the advisory committee except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28.

#### Procedure for Submitting Nominations

Nominations for the Permanent Advisory Committee should be submitted to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**). This request for nominations is for first-time nominees as well as previous and current Permanent Advisory Committee members. Self-nominations are acceptable. Nominations should include a letter of interest and a resume or curriculum vitae that covers the following information: (1) full name, address, telephone, and email address of nominee; (2) nominee’s organization(s) or professional affiliation(s) serving as the basis for the nomination, if any; and (3) a background statement, not to exceed one page in length, describing the nominee’s qualifications, experience and interests, specifically as related to the fisheries covered by the Convention. For those who have submitted a nomination in response to the initial solicitation, 90 FR 7080, those nominations will still count towards consideration for the next PAC term, August 2025 through August 2027. The solicitation period for nominations has been reopened as a result of either not receiving a sufficient number of

nominations and/or meeting an equitable balance among groups.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 6902.

Dated: April 14, 2025.

**Kelly Denit,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE834]

#### 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 (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute. 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 August 1, 2025.

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

- *Email:* [nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line “GMGI 2025 Lobster Genomics EFP”.

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “anonymous” as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).