Tuesday, December 8, 2015

The Council will receive a report on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's experience with management of forage-species. The Council will then review and approve the list of species for inclusion in the public hearing document and approve management alternatives for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and public hearing document for unmanaged forage fish. The Council will discuss and adopt alternatives related the Scup GRA (Gear Restricted Areas) Framework.

During the afternoon session, the Fisheries Forum will hold a Summer Flounder Goals and Objectives Workshop to review feedback, discuss priorities for the revised FMP (fishery management plan) goals and objectives, and identity draft goals and objectives for the Summer Flounder Amendment.

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

The Demersal Committee Meeting will meet as a Committee of the Whole with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board. They will discuss the Monitoring and Technical Committees recommendations on 2016 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass commercial management measures and recommend any changes to the commercial management measures. There will be a Board Action regarding an ASMFC Addendum for summer flounder. The Council will review recommendations from the Monitoring Committee and Advisory Panel then adopt recommendations for the 2016 Summer Flounder recreational management measures. The Council will discuss the timeline and give an update on the progress for the Summer Flounder Amendment. There will be a Board Action regarding an ASMFC Addendum for black sea bass. The Council will review recommendations from the Monitoring Committee and Advisory Panel then adopt recommendations for the 2016 Black Sea Bass and Scup recreational management measures.

Thursday, December 10, 2015

The Council will receive a presentation regarding the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Recreational Implementation Plan and receive a report from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) regarding the NEFSC Strategic Plan. The Council will review and approve their 2016 Implementation Plan. The day will conclude with brief reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service’s GARFO and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NOAA’s Office of General Counsel and Office of Law Enforcement, the U.S. Coast Guard, the ASMFC, the New England and South Atlantic Fishery Council’s liaisons and the Regional Planning Body Report. The Council will also receive the Council’s Executive Director’s Report, the Science Report, and Committee Reports for the Executive Committee, Collaborative Research Committee, and the River Herring/Shad Committee, and discuss any continuing and/or new business.

Although other non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subjects 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 that 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. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Saunders, (302) 526–5251, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: November 16, 2015.

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

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Final Notice of Fee Calculations for Special Use Permits


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with a requirement of Public Law 106–513 (16 U.S.C. 1441(b)), NOAA hereby gives public notice of the methods, formulas and rationale for the calculations it will use in order to assess fees associated with special use permits (SUPs).

DATES: This notice is effective November 19, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matt Nichols, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East West Highway (N/NMS2), Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone (301) 713–7262, email Matt.Nichols@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Federal Register document is also accessible via the Internet at [http://www.gpo.gov].
With this notice, NOAA establishes standard procedures for assessing fee components associated with the application for and issuance of an SUP. SUPs are generally a small portion of the total number of permits issued by ONMS. However, with the addition of new SUP categories in 2013 and the current and potential expansion of the National Marine Sanctuary System, ONMS may see a rise in the number of applications submitted annually as well as an increase in the complexity of the proposed projects.

II. Summary of Fee Calculations

When an SUP is applied for by an interested party, and ultimately issued by ONMS, the total fee assessed to the applicant will be the sum of the three categories of fees provided for in section 310(d)(2) of the NMSA: Administrative costs, implementation and monitoring costs, and fair market value.

A. Administrative Costs per 16 U.S.C. 1441(d)(2)(A)

NOAA will assess a non-refundable $50 application fee for each SUP application submitted. Administrative costs spent reviewing the permit for sufficiency and suitability will be calculated by multiplying a regional labor rate, derived from the pay rates of ONMS permitting staff and averaged across ONMS regions, by the time spent by staff reviewing each permit application. NOAA will update the rate every year to account for staff changes as well as inflation. Such administrative costs could also include, but are not necessarily limited to, any environmental analyses and consultations associated with evaluating the permit application and issuing the permit; and equipment used in permit review and issuance (e.g., vessels, dive equipment, vehicles, and general overhead). Equipment includes but is not limited to autonomous underwater vehicles, remotely operated underwater vehicles, and sampling equipment. If equipment is acquired specifically to monitor the permit, the actual cost of the acquisition will be included.

B. Implementation and Monitoring Costs per 16 U.S.C. 1441(d)(2)(B)

NOAA may also charge a fee for costs associated with the implementation and monitoring of a permitted activity. Such costs will include staff time (calculated similarly to the labor rate described above), equipment use (including vessels or aircraft to oversee permit implementation), the expenses of monitoring the impacts of a permitted activity, and compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit.

C. Fair Market Value per 16 U.S.C. 1441(d)(2)(C)

To date, ONMS has assessed fair market value (FMV) fees assessed for an SUP on a case-by-case basis. The SUP category for continued operation and maintenance of submarine cables is the only category that has an established protocol for determining FMV (Aug. 28, 2002; 67 FR 55201). Conducting in-depth economic valuation studies for each SUP application are normally overly burdensome for NOAA and the permit applicant relative to the scope and effects of proposed SUP projects. In establishing standard FMV fees for all SUP categories, NOAA has examined the fees assessed for past SUPs as well as comparable fees assessed by other federal, state, and local agencies for similar activities. NOAA now adopts the following standard FMV fee structure for the following seven SUP categories:

1. The placement and recovery of objects associated with public or private events on non-living substrate of the submerged lands of any national marine sanctuary.
2. The placement and recovery of objects associated with commercial filming.
3. The continued presence of objects located within the sanctuary for the commercial filming event, including pre- and post-production.
4. The disposal of cremated human remains ("cremains") within or into any national marine sanctuary.
5. Recreational diving near the USS Monitor.
6. Fireworks displays.
7. The operation of aircraft below the minimum altitude in restricted zones of national marine sanctuaries.

The number of people refers to the cast and/or crew on location within the sanctuary for the commercial filming event, including pre- and post-production.

3. The continued presence of commercial submarine cables on or within the submerged lands of any national marine sanctuary. NOAA assesses FMV for submarine cables in national marine sanctuaries based on the findings of its 2002 study entitled “Fair Market Value Analysis for a Fiber Optic Cable Permit in National Marine Sanctuaries” (67 FR 55201). For most SUPs, FMV for cables is assessed annually and adjusted according to the consumer price index. NOAA will continue using this methodology for assessing FMV fees for the continued presence of commercial submarine cables.

4. The disposal of cremated human remains ("cremains") within or into any national marine sanctuary. NOAA will waive all fees, including the FMV fee, for private individuals disposing of cremains. NOAA will assess a $50 per disposal FMV fee for commercial operators. This value is based on similar practices of state governments, such as the State of Washington, which assesses a $70 flat fee for a Cremated Human Remains Disposition Permit for disposal of cremains by airplane, boat, or other disposal methods for businesses.

5. Recreational diving near the USS Monitor. NOAA will waive the FMV fee for any SUP issued for recreational diving within Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, given that (1) individual recreational divers do not derive profits from their use of the sanctuary; and (2) permits for commercial recreational divers further the sanctuary’s objectives by educating the public about the sanctuary and the historical significance of the U.S.S. Monitor.

6. Fireworks displays. The FMV for fireworks will be a tiered structure based on the number of fireworks events conducted per calendar year. The fee schedule will be as follows: 1 event per calendar year—$100; 2–5 events per calendar year—$300; 6–10 events per calendar year—$500; 11–20 events per calendar year—$700.

7. The operation of aircraft below the minimum altitude in restricted zones of national marine sanctuaries. The FMV
will be $500 per site/per day. This is an existing value that has been applied historically at national marine sanctuaries for this activity.

III. Waiver or Reduction of Fees

NOAA may accept in-kind contributions in lieu of a fee, or waive or reduce any fee assessed for any activity that does not derive profit from the access to or use of sanctuary resources. NOAA may consider the benefits of the activity to support the goals and objectives of the sanctuary as an in-kind contribution in lieu of a fee.

IV. Response to Comments

Comment: One commenter supported NOAA’s intent to assess and collect fees associated with special use permits and proposed that NOAA should require a larger range of for-profit operators to pay fees for the use of sanctuary resources.

Response: While NOAA appreciates the public support for the use of this authority in protecting sanctuary resources, the suggestion to collect fees for activities which currently do not require a special use permit is not within the scope of this action.

V. Classification

A. National Environmental Policy Act

NOAA has concluded that this action will not have a significant effect, individually or cumulatively, on the human environment. This action is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement in accordance with Section 6.03:3(i) of NOAA Administrative Order 216–6. Specifically, this action is a notice of an administrative and legal nature. Furthermore, individual permit actions by NOAA will be subject to additional case-by-case analysis, as required under NEPA, which will be completed as new permit applications are submitted for specific projects and activities. NOAA also expects that many of these individual actions will also meet the criteria of one or more of the categorical exclusions described in NOAA Administrative Order 216–6 because SUPs cannot be issued for activities that are expected to result in any destruction of, injury to, or loss of any sanctuary resource. However, the SUP authority may at times be used to allow activities that may meet the Council on Environmental Quality’s definition of the term “significant” despite the lack of apparent environmental impacts. In addition, NOAA may, in certain circumstances, combine its SUP authority with other regulatory authorities to allow activities not described above that may result in environmental impacts and thus require the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. In these situations NOAA will ensure that the appropriate NEPA documentation is prepared prior to taking final action on a permit or making any irretrievable or irreversible commitment of agency resources.

B. Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq., unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Applications for the SUPs discussed in this notice involve a collection-of-information requirement subject to the requirements of the PRA. OMB has approved this collection-of-information requirement under OMB control number 0648–0141.

Dated: November 12, 2015.

John Armor,
Acting Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

[FR Doc. 2015–29524 Filed 11–18–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XE318
North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory committees will meet on December 7, 2015 through December 15, 2015.

DATES: The Council will begin its plenary session at 8 a.m. in the Denali Room on Wednesday, December 9, continuing through Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 3rd Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Witherell, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will begin at 8 a.m. in the King Salmon/Iliamna Room on Monday December 7 and continue through Wednesday December 9, 2015. The Council’s Advisory Panel (AP) will begin at 8 a.m. in the Dillingham/Katmai Room on Tuesday December 8, and continue through Saturday, December 12, 2015. The Recreational Quota Entity Committee (RQE) will meet on Monday, December 7, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (room to be determined). The Enforcement Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (room to be determined). The Charter Implementation Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (room to be determined). The Individual Fishing Quota Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (room to be determined).

Agenda

Monday, December 7, 2015 Through Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Council Plenary Session: The agenda for the Council’s plenary session will include the following issues. The Council may take appropriate action on any of the issues identified.

1. Executive Director’s Report


3. ADF&G Report

4. NOAA Enforcement Report

5. USCG Report

6. USFWS Report

7. Protected Species Report

8. Amendment 80 Coop Reports on 2016 Halibut PSC Management Plans

9. BSAI Groundfish Harvest Specifications—Final Action

10. GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Halibut DMRS—Final Action

11. GOA Chinook Salmon PSC Reapportionment—Final Action


13. Charter Halibut Measures for 2016—Final Action


15. Halibut Management Framework—Review