maintain population viability now and into the foreseeable future; (5) stock assessment projections and trends in catch data and updated fishery-independent time series indicate increasing abundance of the NWA DPS, with spawning stock biomass stabilizing through the foreseeable future; (6) while the main threat to the species is fishery-related mortality from bycatch in U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries and Mexican landings, U.S. bycatch and Mexican harvest under existing management measures has decreased and/or stabilized at low levels in recent years, with current levels deemed sustainable through the foreseeable future; (7) existing regulatory mechanisms throughout the DPS' range, including the U.S. retention prohibition as well as time and area closures in both U.S. and Mexican waters and strict management of the U.S. line fisheries, appear effective in addressing the most important threat to the species (*i.e.,* exploitation through bycatch mortality and harvest); and (8) while the NWA DPS has declined from historical numbers, there is no evidence that the species is currently suffering from depensatory processes (such as reduced likelihood of finding a mate or mate choice or diminished fertilization and recruitment success) or is at risk of extinction due to environmental variation or anthropogenic perturbations. Accordingly, the NWA DPS of dusky shark does not meet the definition of a threatened or endangered species, and our listing determination is that the NWA DPS of dusky shark does not warrant listing as threatened or endangered at this time.

Significant Portion of Its Range

Because we find that the species does not warrant listing as threatened or endangered throughout its range, we must evaluate whether there is substantial information indicating that a portion of the species' range is both significant and either threatened or endangered per the Significant Portion of its Range Policy (79 FR 37577; July 1, 2014). However, after a review of the best available information, we could not identify a portion of the NWA DPS range where its contribution to the viability of the species is so important that, without the members in that portion, the NWA DPS would be at risk of extinction, or likely to become so in the foreseeable future, throughout all of its range. The NWA DPS is highly mobile throughout its range. Loss of any portion of its range would not likely isolate the species to the point where the remaining portions would be at risk of extinction from demographic processes. Similarly, we did not find that loss of any portion would severely fragment and isolate the NWA DPS to the point where individuals would be precluded from moving to suitable habitats or have an increased vulnerability to threats. In fact, we found no information that would suggest that the remaining populations could not repopulate the lost portion. There are very few restrictions governing their movements, with individuals of the DPS commonly moving between the U.S. Atlantic, U.S. GOM and Mexican Gulf waters based on mark/recapture studies (Kohler and Tuner 2010; Carlson and Gulak, 2012; NMFS, unpublished data). Individuals of the species also tend to travel the extent of their range during their seasonal migrations (Compango, 1984; Musick and Colvocoresses, 1986; Kohler *et al.,* 1998; Kohler and Turner, 2010). Areas exhibiting source-sink dynamics, which could affect the survival of the species, were not evident in any part of the NWA DPS range.

There is no information that the loss of genetic diversity from one portion (such as the Atlantic Ocean) would result in the remaining population lacking enough genetic diversity to allow for adaptations to changing environmental conditions. Dusky sharks from all regions show remarkable similar allelic richness and gene diversity, and within the NWA there was no evidence of genetic differentiation between dusky sharks from waters off the U.S. east coast and the GOM (Benavides *et al.,* 2011; Gray *et al.,* 2012).

There is also no evidence of a portion that encompasses aspects that are important to specific life history events but another portion that does not, where loss of the former portion would severely impact the growth, reproduction, or survival of the entire species. EFH areas, which could provide important nursery, breeding, and feeding grounds, have been identified along the length of the U.S. east coast, with smaller localized areas in the central GOM, southern Texas, the Florida Panhandle, mid-west coast of Florida, and Florida Keys (NMFS, 2009). Given that the environmental characteristics that constitute this EFH, such as warm waters with reduced salinities, nearshore coastal waters, and waters associated with the continental shelf edge, can be found throughout the species' range, we do not consider them to be limiting factors for the species' survival. In other words, the viability of the species does not appear to depend on the productivity of the population or the environmental characteristics in any one portion.

Additionally, in our evaluation of the potential threats to the species, including the likelihood of fishery-related mortality, we did not find information to show that these threats are significantly concentrated or substantially greater in any specific portion of the species' range. The dusky shark is susceptible to being caught as bycatch in U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries throughout the entire extent of its range and is landed in Gulf waters by Mexican fishermen; however, we found no information to suggest that increased effort in a certain area is leading to a higher risk of extinction for that portion. Again, there are no barriers to the shark's movement and existing management measures appear adequate in protecting the NWA DPS from extinction throughout all portions of its range.

In conclusion, we find that there is no portion of the NWA DPS range that can be considered significant under the SPR Policy. Therefore, we find that the NWA DPS is not presently in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, nor is it likely to become so in the foreseeable future, and, as such, does not warrant listing at this time.

References

A complete list of all references cited herein is available upon request (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 9, 2014.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2014–29318 Filed 12–15–14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD611

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program Standard Ex-Vessel Prices

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

ACTION: Notification of standard ex-vessel prices.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes standard ex-vessel prices for groundfish and halibut for the calculation of the observer fee under the North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program (Observer Program). This notice is intended to provide information to vessel owners, processors, registered buyers, and other participants about the standard ex-vessel prices that will be used to calculate the observer fee liability for landings of groundfish and halibut made in 2015. NMFS will send invoices to processors and registered buyers subject to the fee by January 15, 2016. Fees are due to NMFS on or before February 15, 2016.

DATES: Effective January 1, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions about the observer fee and standard ex-vessel prices, contact Sally Bibb at 907–586–7389. For questions about the fee billing process, contact Troie Zuniga, Fee Coordinator, 907–586–7105. Additional information about the Observer Program is available on NMFS Alaska Region's Web site at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Observer Program deploys NMFS-certified observers (observers) who collect information necessary for the conservation and management of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish and halibut fisheries. Fishery managers use information collected by observers to monitor quotas, manage groundfish and prohibited species catch, and document and reduce fishery interactions with protected resources. Scientists use observer-collected information for stock assessments and marine ecosystem research.

The Observer Program is divided into two observer coverage categories—partial and full. All groundfish and halibut vessels and processors are included in one of these two categories. The partial observer coverage category includes vessels and processors that are not required to have an observer at all times; the full observer coverage category includes vessels and processors required to have all of their fishing and processing operations off Alaska observed. Vessels and processors in the full coverage category arrange and pay for observer services from a permitted observer provider. Observer coverage for the partial coverage category is funded through a system of fees based on the ex-vessel value of groundfish and halibut.

Landings Subject to Observer Coverage Fee

The objective of the observer fee assessment is to levy a fee on all landings accruing against a Federal total allowable catch (TAC) for groundfish or a commercial halibut quota made by vessels that are subject to Federal regulations and not included in the full coverage category. A fee is only assessed on landings of groundfish from vessels designated on a Federal Fisheries Permit or from vessels landing individual fishing quota (IFQ) or community development quota (CDQ) halibut or IFQ sablefish. Within the subset of vessels subject to the observer fee, only landings accruing against the Federal TAC are included in the fee assessment. A table with additional information about which landings are and are not subject to the observer fee is in NMFS regulations at § 679.55(c) and is on page 2 of an informational bulletin titled ''Observer Fee Collection'' on the NMFS Alaska Region Web page at *https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/observerfees.pdf.*

Fee Determination

A fee equal to 1.25 percent of the ex-vessel value is assessed on the landings of groundfish and halibut subject to the fee. Ex-vessel value is determined by multiplying the standard price for groundfish by the round weight equivalent for each species, gear, and port combination, and the standard price for halibut by the headed and gutted weight equivalent. NMFS will assess each landing report submitted via eLandings and each manual landing entered into the IFQ landing database and determine if the landing is subject to the observer fee and, if it is, which groundfish in the landing are subject to the observer fee. All IFQ or CDQ halibut in a landing subject to the observer fee will be assessed as part of the fee liability. For any groundfish or halibut subject to the observer fee, NMFS will apply the appropriate standard ex-vessel prices for the species, gear type, and port, and calculate the observer fee liability associated with the landing.

Processors and registered buyers access the landing-specific, observer fee liability information through NMFS Web Application (*https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/webapps/efish/login*) or eLandings (*https://elandings.alaska.gov/*). For IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish, this information is available as soon as the IFQ report is submitted. For groundfish and sablefish that accrue against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve, the observer fee liability information is generally available within 24 hours of receipt of the report. The time lag on the groundfish and sablefish CDQ fee information is necessary because NMFS must process the landings report through the catch accounting system computer programs to determine if all of the groundfish in the landings are subject to the observer fee. Information about which groundfish in a landing accrues against a Federal TAC is not immediately available from the processor's data entry into eLandings.

The intent of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and NMFS is for vessel owners to split the fee liability 50/50 with the processor or registered buyer. While vessels and processors are responsible for their portion of the fee, the owner of a shoreside processor or a stationary floating processor and the registered buyer are responsible for collecting the fee, including the vessel's portion of the fee, and remitting the full fee liability to NMFS.

NMFS will send invoices to processors and registered buyers for their total fee liability, which is determined by the sum of the fees reported for each landing for that processor or registered buyer for the prior calendar year, by January 15, 2016. Processors and registered buyers must pay the fees to NMFS using NMFS Web Application by February 15, 2016. Processors and registered buyers have access to this system through a User ID and password issued by NMFS. Instructions for electronic payment will be provided on the NMFS Alaska Region Web site at *https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov* and on the observer fee liability invoice to be mailed to each permit holder.

Standard Prices

This notice provides the standard ex-vessel prices for groundfish and halibut species subject to the observer fee in 2015. Data sources for ex-vessel prices are:

- For groundfish other than sablefish IFQ and sablefish accruing against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve, the State of Alaska's Commercial Fishery Entry Commission's (CFEC) gross revenue data, which are based on the Commercial Operator Annual Report (COAR) and Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish tickets; and
- For halibut IFQ, halibut CDQ, sablefish IFQ, and sablefish accruing against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve, the IFQ Buyer Report that is submitted annually to NMFS under § 679.5(l)(7)(i).

The standard prices in this notice were calculated using applicable guidance for protecting confidentiality of data submitted to or collected by NMFS. NMFS does not publish any price information that would permit the identification of an individual or business. At least four persons must make landings of a species with a particular gear type at a particular port in order for NMFS to publish that price data for that species-gear-port combination. Similarly, at least four processors in a particular port must purchase a species harvested with a particular gear type in order for NMFS to publish a price for that species-gear-port combination. Price data that is confidential because fewer than four persons contributed data to a particular species-gear-port combination has been aggregated to protect confidential data.

Groundfish Standard Ex-Vessel Prices

Table 1 shows the groundfish species standard ex-vessel prices for 2015. These prices are based on the CFEC gross revenue data, which are based on landings data from Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish tickets and information from the COAR. The COAR contains statewide buying and production information, and is considered the most accurate routinely collected information to determine the ex-vessel value of groundfish harvested from waters off Alaska.

The standard ex-vessel prices for groundfish were calculated by adding ex-vessel value from the CFEC gross revenue files for 2011, 2012, and 2013 by species, port, and gear category, and adding the volume (weight) the CFEC gross revenue files for 2011, 2012, and 2013 by species, port, and gear category, and then dividing total ex-vessel value over the 3-year period in each category by total volume over the 3-year period in each category. This calculation results in a weighted average ex-vessel price per pound by species, port, and gear category. Three gear categories were used for the standard ex-vessel prices: pelagic trawl gear, non-pelagic trawl gear, and other gear (hook-and-line, pot, and jig).

CFEC ex-vessel value data are available in the fall of the year following the year the fishing occurred. Thus, it is not possible to base ex-vessel fee liabilities on standard prices that are less than 2 years old.

If a particular species is not listed in Table 1, the standard ex-vessel price for a species group, if it exists in the management area, will be used. If price data for a particular species remained confidential once aggregated to the ALL level, data is aggregated by species group (Flathead Sole, GOA Deep-water Flatfish; GOA Shallow-water Flatfish; GOA Skate, Other; and Other Rockfish). Standard prices for the species groups are shown in Table 2.

If a port-level price does not meet the confidentiality requirements, the data are aggregated by port-group. Port-group data is first aggregated by regulatory area in the GOA (Eastern GOA, Central GOA, and Western GOA) and by subarea in the BSAI (BS subarea and AI subarea). Port-group data for Southeast Alaska (SEAK) and the Eastern GOA excluding Southeast Alaska (EGOAxSE) also are presented separately when price data are available. If confidentiality requirements are still not met by aggregating prices across ports at these levels, the prices are aggregated at the level of BSAI or GOA, then statewide (AK) and ports outside of Alaska (OTAK), and finally all ports, including those outside of Alaska (''ALL'').

Standard prices are presented separately for non-pelagic trawl and pelagic trawl when non-confidential data is available. NMFS also calculated prices for a ''Pelagic Trawl/Non-pelagic Trawl Combined'' category that can be used when combining trawl price data for landings of a species in a particular port or port group will not violate confidentiality requirements. Creating this standard price category allows NMFS to assess a fee on 2015 landings of some of the species with pelagic trawl gear based on a combined trawl gear price for the port or port group.

If no standard ex-vessel price is listed for the species or species group and gear category combination, no fee will be assessed on that landing. Volume and value data for that species will be added to the standard ex-vessel prices in future years, if that data becomes available and display of a standard ex-vessel price meets confidentiality requirements.

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Table 1. Standard Ex-vessel Prices for Groundfish Species for 2015 Observer Coverage Fee Liability (based on volume and value from 2011, 2012, and 2013).

Species[1,2]	Port/ Area[3,4]	HAL/ POT/JIG	NPT	PTR	PTR/NPT
Alaska Plaice Flounder (133)	Kodiak	----	$0.08	----	$0.08
	CGOA	----	$0.08	----	$0.08
	GOA	----	$0.08	----	$0.08
	AK	----	$0.08	----	$0.08
	ALL	----	$0.08	----	$0.08
Arrowtooth Flounder (121)	Kodiak	----	$0.06	$0.06	----
	CGOA	----	$0.06	$0.06	----
	GOA	$0.07	$0.06	$0.06	----
	AK	$0.07	$0.06	$0.06	----
	ALL	$0.07	$0.06	$0.06	----
Black Rockfish (142)	AK	$0.46	$0.28	----	$0.28
Bocaccio Rockfish (137)	Sitka	$0.54	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.42	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.42	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.42	----	----	----
	AK	$0.42	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.42	----	----	----
Butter Sole (126)	Kodiak	----	$0.15	$0.15	----
	CGOA	----	$0.15	$0.15	----
	GOA	----	$0.15	$0.15	----
	AK	----	$0.15	$0.15	----
	ALL	----	$0.15	$0.15	----
Canary Rockfish (146)	Sitka	$0.56	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.49	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.49	----	----	----
	Seward	$0.40	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.40	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.48	----	----	----
	AK	$0.48	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.48	----	----	----
China Rockfish (149)	SEAK	$0.55	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.27	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.45	----	----	----
	Seward	$0.72	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.64	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.37	----	----	----
	AK	$0.37	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.37	----	----	----

Copper Rockfish (138)	Sitka	$0.57	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.56	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.35	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.51	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.51	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.37	----	----	----
	AK	$0.37	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.37	----	----	----
Dover Sole (124)	Kodiak	----	$0.10	$0.10	----
	CGOA	----	$0.10	$0.10	----
	GOA	----	$0.10	$0.10	----
	AK	----	$0.10	$0.10	----
	ALL	----	$0.10	$0.10	----
Dusky Rockfish (172)	Sitka	$0.47	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.45	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.28	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.35	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.32	$0.19	$0.17	----
	Seward	$0.41	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.32	$0.19	$0.33	----
	GOA	$0.35	$0.19	$0.33	----
	AK	$0.35	$0.19	$0.33	----
	ALL	$0.35	$0.19	$0.33	----
English Sole (128)	Kodiak	----	$0.16	----	$0.16
	CGOA	----	$0.16	----	$0.16
	GOA	----	$0.16	----	$0.16
	AK	----	$0.16	----	$0.16
	ALL	----	$0.16	----	$0.16
Flathead Sole (122)	Kodiak	----	$0.15	$0.15	----
	CGOA	----	$0.15	$0.15	----
	GOA	----	$0.15	$0.08	----
	AK	----	$0.15	$0.07	----
	ALL	----	$0.15	$0.07	----
Northern Rockfish (136)	Kodiak	----	$0.19	$0.18	----
	CGOA	----	$0.19	$0.18	----
	GOA	----	$0.19	$0.18	----
	AK	----	$0.19	$0.18	----
	ALL	----	$0.19	$0.18	----
Octopus (870)	Homer	$0.77	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.51	$0.54	$0.50	----
	CGOA	$0.53	$0.54	$0.50	----

	GOA	$0.49	$0.54	$0.49	----
	DH/Unalaska	$0.25	----	----	----
	BS	$0.23	----	----	----
	BSAI	$0.24	----	----	----
	AK	$0.48	$0.54	$0.49	----
	ALL	$0.48	$0.54	$0.49	----
Pacific Cod (110)	Craig	$0.17	----	----	----
	Hoonah	$0.57	----	----	----
	Juneau	$0.62	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	$0.44	----	----	----
	Petersburg	$0.26	----	----	----
	Sitka	$0.54	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.58	----	----	----
	Cordova	$0.42	----	----	----
	Whittier	$0.31	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.39	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.37	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.34	$0.30	$0.28	----
	Seward	$0.35	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.34	$0.30	$0.28	----
	King Cove	$0.30	----	----	----
	WGOA	$0.29	----	----	----
	GOA	----	$0.30	$0.20	----
	Adak	$0.27	----	----	----
	AI	$0.27	----	----	----
	DH/Unalaska	$0.33	$0.30	----	$0.30
	BS	$0.33	$0.29	----	$0.29
	BSAI	----	$0.29	----	$0.29
	AK	$0.32	$0.29	$0.19	----
	ALL	$0.32	$0.29	$0.19	----
Pacific Ocean Perch (141)	Kodiak	----	$0.19	$0.18	----
	CGOA	----	$0.19	$0.19	----
	GOA	$0.15	$0.19	$0.20	----
	AK	$0.17	$0.19	$0.20	----
	ALL	$0.17	$0.19	$0.20	----
Pollock (270)	Homer	$0.35	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.14	$0.18	$0.18	----
	CGOA	$0.15	$0.18	$0.18	----
	GOA	$0.15	$0.18	$0.17	----
	DH/Unalaska	$0.08	$0.16	----	$0.16
	BS	$0.07	$0.16	----	$0.15

	BSAI	$0.07	$0.16	----	$0.15
	AK	$0.15	$0.17	$0.17	----
	ALL	$0.15	$0.17	$0.17	----
Quillback Rockfish (147)	Hoonah	$0.51	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	$0.45	----	----	----
	Sitka	$0.82	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.89	----	----	----
	Cordova	$0.29	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.28	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.33	----	----	----
	Seward	$0.37	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.37	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.62	----	----	----
	AK	$0.62	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.62	----	----	----
Redbanded Rockfish (153)	Ketchikan	$0.31	----	----	----
	Petersburg	$0.21	----	----	----
	Sitka	$0.50	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.35	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.30	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.31	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.21	$0.18	----	$0.18
	Seward	$0.38	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.31	$0.18	----	$0.18
	GOA	$0.34	$0.18	----	$0.18
	AK	$0.34	$0.18	----	$0.18
	ALL	$0.34	$0.18	----	$0.18
Redstripe Rockfish (158)	EGOA	$0.48	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.28	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.28	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.30	----	----	----
	AK	$0.30	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.30	----	----	----
Rex Sole (125)	Kodiak	----	$0.29	$0.29	----
	CGOA	----	$0.29	$0.29	----
	GOA	----	$0.29	$0.28	----
	AK	----	$0.29	$0.28	----
	ALL	----	$0.29	$0.28	----
Rock Sole (123)	Kodiak	----	$0.25	$0.25	----
	CGOA	----	$0.25	$0.25	----
	GOA	----	$0.25	$0.25	----

	AK	----	$0.25	$0.25	----
	ALL	----	$0.25	$0.25	----
Rosethorn Rockfish (150)	SEAK	$0.45	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.51	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.48	----	----	----
	AK	$0.48	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.48	----	----	----
Rougheye Rockfish (151)	Hoonah	$0.30	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	$0.31	----	----	----
	Petersburg	$0.25	----	----	----
	Sitka	$0.49	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.39	----	----	----
	Cordova	$0.26	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.27	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.32	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.35	$0.21	$0.21	----
	Seward	$0.37	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.35	$0.21	$0.21	----
	GOA	$0.35	$0.22	$0.21	----
	DH/Unalaska	$0.29	----	----	----
	BS	$0.29	----	----	----
	BSAI	$0.29	----	----	----
	AK	$0.34	$0.22	$0.21	----
	ALL	$0.35	$0.22	$0.21	----
Sablefish (blackcod) (710)	Kodiak	n/a[5]	$3.68	$3.43	----
	CGOA	n/a	$3.68	$4.03	----
	GOA	n/a	$3.68	$4.03	----
	AK	n/a	$3.68	$4.03	----
	ALL	n/a	$3.68	$4.03	----
Shortraker Rockfish (152)	Ketchikan	$0.31	----	----	----
	Petersburg	$0.25	----	----	----
	Sitka	$0.49	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.37	----	----	----
	Cordova	$0.34	----	----	----
	Whittier	$0.32	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.48	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.34	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.32	$0.22	$0.23	----
	Seward	$0.38	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.37	$0.22	$0.22	----
	GOA	$0.38	$0.26	$0.22	----

	DH/Unalaska	$0.13	----	----	----
	BS	$0.20	----	----	----
	BSAI	$0.21	----	----	----
	AK	$0.37	$0.26	$0.22	----
	ALL	$0.37	$0.26	$0.22	----
Silvergray Rockfish (157)	Craig	$0.31	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	$0.33	----	----	----
	Sitka	$0.49	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.40	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.40	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.37	----	----	----
	Seward	$0.38	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.38	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.40	----	----	----
	AK	$0.40	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.40	----	----	----
Skate, Alaska (703)	EGOA	$0.40	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.40	----	----	----
	AK	$0.40	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.40	----	----	----
Skate, Aleutian (704)	AK	$0.39	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.39	----	----	----
Skate, Big (702)	EGOAxSE	$0.41	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.41	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.40	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.43	$0.44	$0.44	----
	Seward	$0.38	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.42	$0.44	$0.44	----
	GOA	$0.42	$0.44	$0.44	----
	AK	$0.42	$0.44	$0.44	----
	ALL	$0.42	$0.44	$0.44	----
Skate, Longnose (701)	SEAK	$0.40	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.40	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.37	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.44	$0.45	$0.45	----
	Seward	$0.41	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.43	$0.45	$0.45	----
	GOA	$0.43	$0.45	$0.45	----
	AK	$0.43	$0.44	$0.45	----
	ALL	$0.43	$0.44	$0.45	----
Skate, Other (700)	Kodiak	$0.45	----	----	----

	CGOA	$0.47	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.42	----	----	----
	AK	$0.34	----	----	$0.05
	ALL	$0.34	----	----	$0.05
Squid (875)	Kodiak	----	----	$0.06	$0.06
	CGOA	----	----	$0.06	$0.06
	GOA	----	----	$0.06	$0.06
	AK	----	$0.04	$0.06	----
	ALL	----	$0.04	$0.06	----
Starry Flounder (129)	Kodiak	----	$0.07	----	$0.07
	CGOA	----	$0.07	----	$0.07
	GOA	----	$0.07	----	$0.07
	AK	----	$0.07	----	$0.07
	ALL	----	$0.07	----	$0.07
Thornyhead Rockfish (Idiots) (143)	Hoonah	$1.00	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	$1.21	----	----	----
	Petersburg	$0.99	----	----	----
	Sitka	$1.17	----	----	----
	SEAK	$1.11	----	----	----
	Cordova	$0.52	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.85	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.81	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.65	$0.48	----	$0.48
	Seward	$0.84	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.77	$0.48	----	$0.48
	WGOA	$0.73	----	----	----
	GOA	----	$0.49	----	$0.49
	Adak	$0.43	----	----	----
	AI	$0.56	----	----	----
	Dutch Harbor/ Unalaska	$0.74	----	----	----
	BS	$0.71	----	----	----
	AK	$0.86	$0.49	----	$0.49
	ALL	$0.86	$0.49	----	$0.49
Tiger Rockfish (148)	SEAK	$0.42	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.26	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.28	----	----	----
	Seward	$0.38	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.36	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.36	----	----	----
	AK	$0.36	----	----	----

	ALL	$0.36	----	----	----
Vermilion Rockfish (184)	ALL	$0.33	----	----	----
Widow Rockfish (156)	Sitka	$0.46	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.30	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.30	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.31	----	----	----
	AK	$0.31	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.31	----	----	----
Yelloweye Rockfish (145)	Craig	$1.45	----	----	----
	Hoonah	$0.53	----	----	----
	Ketchikan	$1.21	----	----	----
	Petersburg	$1.13	----	----	----
	Sitka	$1.67	----	----	----
	SEAK	$1.51	----	----	----
	Cordova	$0.97	----	----	----
	Whittier	$0.82	----	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.95	----	----	----
	Homer	$0.76	----	----	----
	Kodiak	$0.40	$0.24	----	$0.24
	Seward	$0.65	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.63	$0.24	----	$0.24
	WGOA	$0.47	----	----	----
	GOA	----	$0.24	----	$0.24
	DH/Unalaska	$0.21	----	----	----
	BS	$0.19	----	----	----
	BSAI	$0.19	----	----	----
	AK	$1.30	$0.24	----	$0.24
	ALL	$1.29	$0.24	----	$0.24
Yellowtail Rockfish (155)	Sitka	$0.52	----	----	----
	SEAK	$0.52	----	----	----
	EGOA	$0.51	----	----	----
	CGOA	$0.23	----	----	----
	GOA	$0.33	----	----	----
	AK	$0.33	----	----	----
	ALL	$0.33	----	----	----

---- = no landings in last 3 years or the data is confidential

[1] If species is not listed, use price for the species group in Table 2 if it exists in the management area. If no price is available for the species or species group, no fee will be assessed on that landing. That species will come into standard ex-vessel prices in future years.

[2] For species codes, see Table 2a to 50 CFR part 679.

[3] Regulatory areas are defined at § 679.2. (AI = Aleutian Islands subarea; AK = Alaska; ALL = all ports including those outside Alaska; BS = Bering Sea subarea; BSAI = Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands; CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska; EGOA = Eastern Gulf of Alaska; EGOAxSE = Eastern Gulf of Alaska except Southeast Alaska; GOA = Gulf of Alaska; SEAK = Southeast Alaska; WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska)

[4] If a price is listed for the species, port, and gear type combination, that price will be applied to the round weight equivalent for groundfish landings. If no price is listed for the port and gear type combination, use port group and gear type combination.

[5] n/a = ex-vessel prices for sablefish landed with hook-and-line, pot, or jig gear are listed in Table 3 with the prices for IFQ and CDQ landings.

Table 2. Standard Ex-vessel Prices for Groundfish Species Groups for 2015 Observer Coverage Fee Liability (based on volume and value from 2011, 2012, and 2013).

Species Group[1]	Port/ Area[2, 3]	HAL/ POT/JIG	NPT	PTR
Flathead Sole (FSOL)	CGOA	----	$0.15	$0.15
	GOA	----	$0.15	$0.08
	AK	----	$0.15	$0.08
GOA Deep-water Flatfish [4] (DFL4)	CGOA	----	$0.10	$0.10
	GOA	----	$0.10	$0.10
GOA Shallow-water Flatfish[5] (SFL1)	CGOA	----	$0.23	$0.24
	GOA	----	$0.23	$0.24
GOA Skate, Other (USKT)	SEAK	$0.38	----	----
	EGOA	$0.38	----	----
	CGOA	$0.47	----	----
	GOA	$0.41	----	----
Other Rockfish[6,7] (ROCK)	SEAK	$0.36	----	----
	EGOAxSE	$0.85	----	----
	CGOA	$0.57	$0.21	$0.23
	WGOA	$0.47	----	----
	GOA	----	$0.21	$0.24
	AI	$0.56	----	----
	BS	$0.69	----	----
	AK	----	$0.21	$0.24

---- = no landings in last 3 years or the data is confidential

[1] If species is not listed in Table 1, use price for the species group if it exists in the management area. If no price is available for the species or species group, no fee will be assessed on that landing. That species will come into standard ex-vessel prices in future years.

[2] Regulatory areas are defined at § 679.2. (AI = Aleutian Islands subarea; AK = Alaska; BS = Bering Sea subarea; CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska; EGOA = Eastern Gulf of Alaska; EGOAxSE = Eastern Gulf of Alaska except Southeast Alaska; GOA = Gulf of Alaska; SEAK = Southeast Alaska; WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska)

[3] If a price is listed for the species, port, and gear type combination, that price will be applied to the round weight equivalent for groundfish landings. If no price is listed for the port and gear type combination, use port group and gear type combination.

[4] "Deep-water flatfish" in the GOA means Dover sole, Greenland turbot, Kamchatka flounder, and deepsea sole.

[5] "Shallow-water flatfish" in the GOA means flatfish not including "deep-water flatfish," flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder.

[6] In the GOA:

"Other rockfish (slope rockfish)" means Sebastes aurora (aurora), S. melanostomus (blackgill), S. paucispinis (bocaccio), S. goodei (chilipepper), S. crameri (darkblotch), S. elongatus (greenstriped), S. variegatus (harlequin), S. wilsoni (pygmy), S. babcocki (redbanded), S. proriger (redstripe), S. zacentrus (sharpchin), S. jordani (shortbelly), S. brevispinis (silvergray), S. diploproa (splitnose), S. saxicola (stripetail), S. miniatus (vermilion), S. reedi (yellowmouth), S. entomelas (widow), and S. flavidus (yellowtail).

"Demersal shelf rockfish" means Sebastes pinniger (canary), S. nebulosus (china), S. caurinus (copper), S. maliger (quillback), S. helvomaculatus (rosethorn), S. nigrocinctus (tiger), and S. ruberrimus (yelloweye).

"Other rockfish" in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas means "other rockfish (slope rockfish)" and demersal shelf rockfish.

"Other rockfish" in the West Yakutat District of the EGOA means "other rockfish (slope rockfish)," northern rockfish, S. polyspinous, and demersal shelf rockfish.

"Other rockfish" in the SEO District of the GOA (and SEAK for Table 2) means "other rockfish (slope rockfish) and northern rockfish, S. polyspinous.

[7] "Other rockfish" in the BSAI includes all Sebastes and Sebastolobus species except for Pacific ocean perch, northern, shortraker, and rougheye rockfish.

Halibut and Sablefish IFQ and CDQ Standard Ex-vessel Prices

Table 3 shows the observer fee standard ex-vessel prices for halibut and sablefish. These standard prices are calculated as a single annual average price, by port or port group. Volume and ex-vessel value data collected on the 2014 IFQ Buyer Report for landings made from October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014, were used to calculate the standard ex-vessel prices for the 2015 observer fee liability for halibut IFQ, halibut CDQ, sablefish IFQ, and sablefish landings that accrue against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve.

Table 3. Standard Ex-vessel Prices for Halibut IFQ, Halibut CDQ, Sablefish IFQ, and Sablefish Accruing Against the Fixed Gear Sablefish CDQ Reserve for the 2015 Observer Fee Liability (based on 2014 IFQ Buyer Report).

Species	Port/Area[1]	Price[2]
Halibut (200)	Ketchikan	$6.35
	Petersburg	$6.53
	SEAK	$6.14
	Cordova	$6.53
	Yakutat	$6.28
	EGOAxSE	$6.14
	Homer	$6.45
	Kenai	$6.65
	Kodiak	$6.04
	Seward	$6.41
	CGOA	$6.14
	WGOA	$6.14
	AI	$6.14
	Dutch Harbor/ Unalaska	$5.50
	BS	$6.14
	AK	$6.14
	OTAK	$6.14
	ALL	$6.14
Sablefish (710)	SEAK	$3.50
	EGOAxSE	$3.50
	Homer	$3.35
	Kodiak	$3.42
	CGOA	$3.50
	WGOA	$3.50
	AI	$3.50
	Dutch Harbor/ Unalaska	$4.79
	BS	$3.50
	AK	$3.50
	OTAK	$3.50
	ALL	$3.50

[1] Regulatory areas are defined at § 679.2. (AI = Aleutian Islands subarea; AK = Alaska; ALL = all ports including those outside Alaska; BS = Bering Sea subarea; CGOA = Central Gulf of Alaska; EGOAxSE = Eastern Gulf of Alaska except Southeast Alaska; OTAK = Outside Alaska; SEAK = Southeast Alaska; WGOA = Western Gulf of Alaska)

[2] If a price is listed for the species and port combination, that price will be applied to the round weight equivalent for sablefish landings and the headed and gutted weight equivalent for halibut landings. If no price is listed for the port, use port group.

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

Dated: December 10, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2014–29348 Filed 12–15–14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XD646

Notice of Intent To Issue Guidelines

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

ACTION: Notice, request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) allows for persons to employ measures to deter marine mammals from damaging fishing gear and catch, damaging personal or public property, or endangering personal safety, as long as these measures do not result in death or serious injury of marine mammals. The MMPA also allows the Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), to develop national guidelines on safely deterring marine mammals under NOAA's jurisdiction (*e.g.,* whales, dolphins, seals, and sea lions). To inform development of these national guidelines, NMFS requests input on which deterrents the public would like NMFS to evaluate and consider for approval. Any subsequent national guidelines for safely deterring marine mammals would then be released for public notice and comment as required by the MMPA. Such national guidelines would likely be tailored to each species group (pinnipeds, large cetaceans, and small cetaceans) as differences in physiology and behavior would affect whether a deterrent is appropriate for one or more species group. National guidelines would also address relevant implementation considerations. Deterrents could be considered ''passive'' or ''active'' in nature. Deterrents may include physical barriers, acoustic deterrent and harassment devices, visual repellents, boat hazing, noisemakers, and physical contact. For each deterrent device or technique submitted to NMFS for consideration and evaluation, NMFS requests information on the specifications (*e.g.,* source and frequency levels, pulse rate, type of fencing, size of flags, etc.) for each deterrent or technique, which marine mammal species or species group (large cetaceans, small cetaceans, pinnipeds) would be deterred, how a deterrent would be employed (*e.g.,* attached to fishing gear, launched some distance from a marine mammal), any evidence that the deterrent will not result in mortality or serious injury, and any other implementation considerations. This information will help NMFS determine which devices or techniques are appropriate for the development of guidelines and specific measures for safely deterring both non-ESA listed and ESA listed marine mammals.

DATES: Written comments from interested parties on the non-lethal deterrents for NMFS' consideration must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Eastern daylight time on January 15, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2014–0146, by any of the following methods during the 30-day comment period:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal *www.regulations.gov.* To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the ''submit a comment'' icon, then enter NOAA–NMFS–2014–0146 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the ''Submit a Comment'' icon on the right of that line.
- Mail: Submit written comments to Kristy Long, Office of Protected Resources, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Building 4, Room 2122–4, Seattle, WA 98115.
- Fax: 301–713–0376; Attn: Kristy Long.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristy Long (ph. 206–526–4792, email *Kristy.Long@noaa.gov*).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The deterrence provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) provide an exception to otherwise prohibited acts, allowing the use of measures that may deter a marine mammal from, among other things, damaging private property or endangering personal safety, so long as those deterrents do not result in the death or serious injury of a marine mammal. NMFS has defined ''serious injury'' as any injury that will likely result in death (50 CFR 229.2) and has further interpreted that definition and developed a process to distinguish serious from non-serious injuries (*www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/serious_injury_policy.pdf*).

Specifically, MMPA section 101(a)(4)(A) allows for the owner of fishing gear or catch or private property, or an employee or agent of such owner, to deter marine mammals from damaging fishing gear and catch or private property, respectively. Additionally, it allows any person to deter a marine mammal from endangering personal safety and any government employee to deter a marine mammal from damaging public property, so long as such measures do not result in mortality or serious injury of a marine mammal.

MMPA section 101(a)(4)(B) directs the Secretary of Commerce, through NMFS, to publish guidelines for safely deterring marine mammals and recommend specific measures to non-lethally deter marine mammals listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Deterring marine mammals consistent with such guidelines or approved measures would not be a violation of the MMPA.

MMPA section 101(a)(4)(C) provides for the prohibition of certain forms of deterrence if NMFS determines, using the best scientific information available, and subsequent to public comment, that the deterrence measure has a significant adverse effect on marine mammals.

Types of Deterrents

Passive Deterrents

''Passive'' deterrence measures are those that prevent marine mammals from gaining access to fishing gear, property, or people. The proper use of