



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD194]

Permanent Advisory Committee to Advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission; Meeting Announcement

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces a public meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) on October 2-3, 2023. Meeting topics are provided under the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice.

DATES: The meeting of the PAC will be held on October 2, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (HST) (or until business is concluded) and October 3, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. HST (or until business is concluded). Members of the public may submit written comments on meeting topics or materials; comments must be received by September 18, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI 96814 - in the Garden Lanai Meeting Room, and will also be broadcast via web conference. Documents to be considered by the PAC will be made available at the meeting. For details on how to join via web conference, call in, or to submit comments, please contact Emily Reynolds (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Documents to be considered by the PAC will be sent out via email in advance of the meeting. Please submit contact information to Emily

Reynolds (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 3 days in advance of the meeting to receive documents via email. This meeting may be audio recorded for the purposes of generating notes of the meeting. As public comments will be made publically available, participants and public commenters are urged not to provide personally identifiable information (PII) at this meeting. Participation in the meeting, in person, by web conference, or by telephone constitutes consent to the audio recording.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emily Reynolds, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818; telephone: 808-725-5039; facsimile: 808-725-5215; email: *emily.reynolds@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In accordance with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*), the PAC, has been formed to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC. The PAC is composed of: (i) not less than 15 nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the U.S. Commissioners to the WCPFC; (ii) the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee (or the chair's designee); and (iii) officials from the fisheries management authorities of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (or their designees). The PAC supports the work of the U.S. National Section to the WCPFC in an advisory capacity. The U.S. National Section is made up of the U.S. Commissioners and the Department of State. NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office provides administrative and technical support to the PAC in cooperation with the Department of State. More information on the WCPFC, established under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, can be found on the WCPFC website: <https://www.wcpfc.int>.

Meeting Topics

The PAC meeting topics may include the following: (1) outcomes of the 2022 annual session of the WCPFC and 2023 sessions of the WCPFC Scientific Committee, Northern Committee, and Technical and Compliance Committee; (2) issues to be considered in the WCPFC 2023 annual session; (3) potential U.S. proposals to the WCPFC 2023 annual session; (4) input and advice from the PAC on issues that may arise at the WCPFC 2023 annual session; (5) potential proposals from other WCPFC members; and (6) other issues.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Emily Reynolds at 808-725-5039 by September 18, 2023.

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

Dated: July 27, 2023.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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