

STEP	ACTION
One	NMFS publishes a final notice in the Federal Register , together with the final draft of the invitation to bid and bidding document.
Two	NMFS mails each permit owner of a groundfish trawl permit (other than those issued to whiting catcher-processors) a notice that NMFS will subsequently mail him or her a bidding package.
Three	NMFS formally invites each qualified bidder to bid by mailing to him or her a bidding package that also informs him or her that a referendum will occur after NMFS has accepted bids.
Four	NMFS mails a notice to persons holding any fee-share fishery permit (other than those to whom NMFS sent the mailing in step three) that NMFS has invited bids. The notice will also state that NMFS will, without further notice, mail him or her a referendum ballot(s) and voting instructions after NMFS has accepted bids.
Five	Bidders submit bids.
Six	NMFS receives bids until the bid closing date.
Seven	NMFS scores and tallies the bids.
Eight	NMFS mails to each person eligible to vote in the referendum a ballot(s) and voting instructions.
Nine	The referendum occurs.
Ten	NMFS receives votes until the vote receipt deadline and afterwards tallies the votes.
Eleven (A)	If the referendum fails: (a) NMFS mails to each eligible voter a notice that the referendum is unsuccessful, and (b) NMFS mails to each bidder a notice that the reduction bids are without force and/or effect.
Eleven (B)	If the referendum is successful: (a) NMFS mails to each bidder a notice that the referendum is successful, the bid is either accepted or rejected, and reminds accepted bidders that he or she must perform the reduction contract duties and obligations, (b) NMFS mails to each person who voted a notice indicating that the referendum was successful, (c) NMFS publishes a reduction payment tender notification in the Federal Register , (d) NMFS tenders reduction payments to each accepted bidder by requesting the bidder's written payment instructions, (e) Accepted bidders relinquish their reduction permits and reduction vessel fishing privileges, and (f) Accepted bidders certify their compliance with their contractual obligations
Twelve	NMFS disburses reduction payments upon its receipt of payment instructions and certification of compliance.
Thirteen	NMFS undertakes a separate rulemaking about fee payment and collection.
Fourteen	NMFS establishes fee amounts.
Fifteen	(a) NMFS mails fish sellers and fish buyers a reduction loan fee payment and collection notice. (b) Fish sellers begin paying the fees, and fish buyers begin collecting and disbursing the fees to NMFS, and (c) NMFS receives collected-fee disbursements from fish buyers.

VII. Reduction Loan

The reduction loan's repayment maturity will be 30 years. Its principal amount will be the total of all reduction payments made under this program, less \$10 million. NMFS will determine the reduction loan's interest rate in accordance with the framework regulations at 50 CFR 600.1012.

VIII. Fee Payment and Collection

Section 212 provides that the United States may enter into agreements with California, Oregon, and Washington to collect the fees that repay the reduction loan. Unless and until NMFS arranges to do so, however, fish sellers will pay the fees and fish buyers will collect, deposit, disburse, record, and report on the fees in accordance with the applicable portions of the framework regulations and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

NMFS will establish any fee rates necessary for fish sellers to repay the reduction loan sub-amount applicable to the reduction fishery and to each of the six fee-share fisheries. NMFS will undertake a separate rulemaking to do this. The fee rates may not exceed five

percent of the delivery value of fee fish from each of these fisheries, but will be less if NMFS determines that smaller percentages are sufficient to amortize the respective reduction loan sub-amounts over the 30-year reduction loan's term.

IX. Invitation To Bid and Bidding Document

The addenda to this notification are sample pro forma invitation to bid and bidding document.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, determined that this action is consistent with Public Law 107-206, Public Law 108-7, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and other applicable laws.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, NMFS prepared an environmental assessment for this action. The assessment discusses the program's impact on the natural and human environment. NMFS will send the assessment to anyone who requests NMFS to do so (see **ADDRESSES**).

The Office of Management and Budget has determined that this notice is significant under Executive Order 12866. NMFS has prepared a Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) for this action (see **ADDRESSES**).

NMFS believes any Federalism implications arising from this notice are highly unlikely, however, consultations with the States of Washington, Oregon, and California are ongoing.

This notice contains collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved these information collections under OMB control number 0648-0376. NMFS estimates that the public reporting burden for these requirements will average 4 hours for submitting a bid, 4 hours for voting in a referendum, and 1 hour for advice (if any) about a conflict on a vessel ownership or permit claim. Persons affected by this action would also be subject to other collection-of-information requirements referred to in this action and also approved under 0648-0376. These requirements and their associated response times are 10 minutes for completing and filing a fish