Required fields are shown with yellow backgrounds and asterisks.

Page 1 of * 36		SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 Form 19b-4			File No. * SR 2023 - * 72 Amendment No. (req. for Amendments *)	
Filing by MIAX	(PEARL, LLC					
Pursuant to Rul	le 19b-4 under the Securities Exchar	nge Act of 1934				
Initial * ✓	Amendment *	Withdrawal	Section 19(b)(2	2) * Section 19(b)(3	3)(A) * Section 19(b)(3)(B) *	
Pilot	Extension of Time Period for Commission Action *	Date Expires *		Rule 19b-4(f)(1) 19b-4(f)(2) 19b-4(f)(3) ✓	19b-4(f)(4) 19b-4(f)(5) 19b-4(f)(6)	
Notice of pro	oposed change pursuant to the Payn (e)(1) *	nent, Clearing, and Settlemen Section 806(e)(2) *	t Act of 2010	Security-Based Swap Securities Exchange Section 3C(b)(2) *	Submission pursuant to the Act of 1934	
Exhibit 2 Se	nt As Paper Document	Exhibit 3 Sent As Paper	Document			
	on rief description of the action (limit 25 hange Rule 404 to Adopt Monthly Se		nitial is checked *).			
Provide the	nformation name, telephone number, and e-ma respond to questions and comments		e staff of the self-regu	latory organization		
First Name '		Last Name * Zie	aler		1	
Title *	Senior Counsel]	
E-mail *						
	gziegler@miaxglobal.com] 7	
Telephone *	(609) 897-1483	Fax				
Signature Pursuant to has duly car	the requirements of the Securities E used this filing to be signed on its be	Exchange of 1934, MIAX PEA shalf by the undersigned there	ARL, LLC unto duly authorized.			
Date	12/22/2023		(Title	*)		
Ву	Gregory P. Ziegler	Ser	nior Counsel			
form. A digital	(Name *) g the signature block at right will initiate digitally signature is as legally binding as a physical sign is form cannot be changed.	signing the ature, and	Tregory Zieg	Date: 2023.12.22 Ĵ9:00:17 -05'00'		

	WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549		
For	r complete Form 19b-4 instructions please refer to the EFFS website.		
Form 19b-4 Information * Add Remove View SR-PEARL-2023-72 19b-4 20231213	The self-regulatory organization must provide all required information, presented in a clear and comprehensible manner, to enable the public to provide meaningful comment on the proposal and for the Commission to determine whether the proposal is consistent with the Act and applicable rules and regulations under the Act.		
Exhibit 1 - Notice of Proposed Rule Change * Add Remove View SR-PEARL-2023-72 Exhibit 1.docx	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities		
	Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines v result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR 240.0-3)		
Exhibit 1A - Notice of Proposed Rule Change, Security-Based Swap Submission, or Advanced Notice by Clearing Agencies * Add Remove View	The Notice section of this Form 19b-4 must comply with the guidelines for publication in the Federal Register as well as any requirements for electronic filing as published by the Commission (if applicable). The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) offers guidance on Federal Register publication requirements in the Federal Register Document Drafting Handbook, October 1998 Revision. For example, all references to the federal securities laws must include the corresponding cite to the United States Code in a footnote. All references to SEC rules must include the corresponding cite to the Code of Federal Regulations in a footnote. All references to Securities Exchange Act Releases must include the release number, release date, Federal Register cite, Federal Register date, and corresponding file number (e.g., SR-[SRO]-xx-xx). A material failure to comply with these guidelines will result in the proposed rule change being deemed not properly filed. See also Rule 0-3 under the Act (17 CFR		
Exhibit 2- Notices, Written Comments, Transcripts, Other Communications Add Remove View	240.0-3) Copies of notices, written comments, transcripts, other communications. If such documents cannot be filed electronically in accordance with Instruction F, they shall be filed in accordance with Instruction G.		
	Exhibit Sent As Paper Document		
Exhibit 3 - Form, Report, or Questionnaire Add Remove View	Copies of any form, report, or questionnaire that the self-regulatory organization proposes to use to help implement or operate the proposed rule change, or that is referred to by the proposed rule change.		
Exhibit 4 - Marked Copies Add Remove View	The full text shall be marked, in any convenient manner, to indicate additions to and deletions from the immediately preceding filing. The purpose of Exhibit 4 is to permit the staff to identify immediately the changes made from the text of the rule with which it has been working.		
Exhibit 5 - Proposed Rule Text Add Remove View SR-PEARL-2023-72 - Exhibit 5 20231	The self-regulatory organization may choose to attach as Exhibit 5 proposed changes to rule text in place of providing it in Item I and which may otherwise be more easily readable if provided separately from Form 19b-4. Exhibit 5 shall be considered part of the proposed rule change		
Partial Amendment Add Remove View	If the self-regulatory organization is amending only part of the text of a lengthy proposed rule change, it may, with the Commission's permission, file only those portions of the text of the proposed rule change in which changes a being made if the filing (i.e. partial amendment) is clearly understandable on its face. Such partial amendment sh be clearly identified and marked to show deletions and additions.		

1. <u>Text of the Proposed Rule Change</u>

(a) MIAX PEARL, LLC ("MIAX Pearl" or "Exchange"), pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² proposes to amend Exchange Rule 404, Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading.

Notice of the proposed rule change for publication in the <u>Federal Register</u> is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u>, and the text of the proposed rule change is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 5</u>.

(b) Inapplicable.

(c) Inapplicable.

2. <u>Procedures of the Self-Regulatory Organization</u>

The proposed rule change was approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the Exchange or his designee pursuant to authority delegated by the MIAX Pearl Board of Directors on February 2, 2023. Exchange staff will advise the Board of Directors of any action taken pursuant to delegated authority. No other action by the Exchange is necessary for the filing of the proposed rule change.

Questions and comments on the proposed rule changes may be directed to Gregory P. Ziegler, Senior Counsel, (609) 897-1483.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

3. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> <u>for, the Proposed Rule Change</u>

a. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 404 to accommodate the listing of options series that would expire at the close of business on the last business day of a calendar month ("Monthly Options Series").

Pursuant to new proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 to Exchange Rule 404, the Exchange may list Monthly Options Series for up to five currently listed option classes that are either index options or options on exchange-traded funds ("ETFs").³ In addition, the Exchange may also list Monthly Options Series on any options classes that are selected by other securities exchanges that employ a similar program under their respective rules.⁴ The Exchange may list 12 expirations for Monthly Options Series. Monthly Options Series need not be for consecutive months; however, the expiration date of a nonconsecutive expiration may not be beyond what would be considered the last expiration date if the maximum number of expirations were listed consecutively.⁵ Other expirations in the same class are not counted as part of the maximum

³ The Exchange proposes to amend Exchange Rule 404(a) to provide that proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 to Exchange Rule 404 will describe how the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price for Monthly Options Series and that proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 to Exchange Rule 404 will govern the procedures for opening Monthly Options Series, respectively. This is consistent with language in current Exchange Rules 404(a) for other Short Term Options Series and Quarterly Options Series.

⁴ Currently, Cboe Exchange, Inc. has a similar program. <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 98915 (Nov. 13, 2023) (SR-CBOE-2023-049) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change To Adopt Monthly Options Series).

⁵ The Exchange notes this provision considers consecutive monthly listings. In other words, as other expirations (such as Quarterly Options Series) are not counted as part of the maximum, those expirations would not be considered when considering when the last expiration date would be if the maximum number were listed consecutively. For example, if it is January 2024 and the Exchange lists Quarterly Options Series in class ABC with expirations in March, June, September, December, and the following March, the Exchange could also list Monthly Options Series in class ABC with expirations in January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November 2024 and January and February of 2025. This is because, if Quarterly Options Series, for example, were counted, the Exchange would otherwise never be able to list the maximum number of Monthly Options Series. This is consistent with the listing provisions for Quarterly Options Series, which permit calendar quarter expirations. The need to list series with the same

numbers of Monthly Options Series expirations for a class.⁶ Monthly Options Series will be P.M.-settled.⁷

The strike price of each Monthly Options Series will be fixed at a price per share, with at least two, but no more than five, strike prices above and at least two, but no more than five, strike prices below the value of the underlying index or price of the underlying security at about the time that a Monthly Options Series is opened for trading on the Exchange. The Exchange will list strike prices for Monthly Options Series that are reasonably related to the current price of the underlying security or current index value of the underlying index to which such series relates at about the time such series of options is first opened for trading on the Exchange. The term "reasonably related to the current price of the underlying index" means that the exercise price is within 30% of the current underlying security price or index value.⁸ Additional Monthly Options Series of the same class may be open for trading on the Exchange when the Exchange deems it necessary to maintain an orderly market, to meet Member⁹ demand, or when the market price of the underlying security moves substantially from the initial exercise price or prices. To the extent that any additional strike prices are listed by the Exchange, such additional strike prices will be within 30% above or below the closing

expiration in the current calendar year and the following calendar year (whether Monthly or Quarterly expiration) is to allow market participants to execute one-year strategies pursuant to which they may not roll their exposures in the longer-dated options (e.g., January 2025) prior to the expiration of the nearer-dated option (e.g., January 2024).

⁶ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(b) to Exchange Rule 404.</u>

⁷ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(c) to Exchange Rule 404.</u>

See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(d). The Exchange notes these proposed provisions are consistent with the initial series provision for the Quarterly Options Series program in Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404. While different than the initial strike listing provision for the Quarterly Options Series program in current Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404, the Exchange believes the proposed provision is appropriate, as it contemplates classes that may have strike intervals of \$5 or greater.

⁹ The term "Member" means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed "members" under the Exchange Act. <u>See</u> Exchange Rule 100.

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price of the underlying index or security on the preceding day. The Exchange may also open additional strike prices of Monthly Options Series that are more than 30% above or below the current price of the underlying security, provided that demonstrated Member interest exists for such series, as expressed by institutional, corporate, Members or their brokers. Market Makers trading for their own account will not be considered when determining Member interest under this provision. The opening of the new Monthly Options Series will not affect the series of options of the same class previously opened.¹⁰ The interval between strike prices on Monthly Options Series will be the same as the interval for strike prices for series in that same options class that expire in accordance with the normal monthly expiration cycle.¹¹

By definition, Monthly Options Series can never expire in the same week that a standard options series that expires on the third Friday of a month in the same class expires. The same, however, is not the case with respect to Short Term Options Series or Quarterly Options Series. Therefore, to avoid any confusion in the marketplace, the Exchange proposes to amend Interpretation and Policy .02 to Exchange Rule 404 to provide that the Exchange will not list a Short Term Options Series in a class on a date on which a Monthly Options Series or Quarterly Options Series expires.¹² Similarly, proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(b) to Exchange Rule 404 provides that no Monthly Options Series may expire on a date that coincides with an expiration date of a Quarterly Options Series in the same index or ETF class. In other words, the

¹⁰ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(e) to Exchange Rule 404.</u>

¹¹ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(f) to Exchange Rule 404; see also Interpretations and Policies</u> .01 and .04, .06, .08, .09, .10 to Exchange Rule 404 (permissible strike prices for ETF classes) and Interpretations and Policies .05, .07, .11 to Exchange Rule 404 (permissible strike prices for index options).

¹² The Exchange also proposes to make a non-substantive change to Interpretation and Policy .02 to Exchange Rule 404 to change current references to "monthly options series" to "standard expiration options series" (i.e., series that expire on the third Friday of a month), to eliminate potential confusion. The current references to "monthly options series" are intended to refer to those series that expire on the third Friday of a month, which are generally referred to in the industry as standard expirations.

Exchange will not list a Short Terms Options Series on an index or ETF if a Monthly Options Series on that index or ETF were to expire on the same date, nor will the Exchange list a Monthly Options Series on an index or ETF if a Quarterly Options Series on that ETF were to expire on the same date to prevent the listing of series with concurrent expirations.¹³

With respect to Monthly Options Series added pursuant to proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(a)–(f) to Exchange Rule 404, the Exchange will, on a monthly basis, review series that are outside a range of five strikes above and five strikes below the current price of the underlying index or security, and delist series with no open interest in both the put and the call series having a strike: (i) higher than the highest strike price with open interest in the put and/or call series for a given expiration month; and (ii) lower than the lowest strike price with open interest in the put and/or call series for a given expiration month. Notwithstanding this delisting policy, Member requests to add strikes and/or maintain strikes in Monthly Options Series in series eligible for delisting will be granted. In connection with this delisting policy, if the Exchange identifies series for delisting, the Exchange will notify other options exchanges with similar delisting policies regarding eligible series for delisting and will work with such other exchanges to develop a uniform list of series to be delisted, so as to ensure uniform series delisting of multiply listed Monthly Options Series.¹⁴

The Exchange believes that Monthly Options Series will provide investors with another flexible and valuable tool to manage risk exposure, minimize capital outlays, and be more

¹³ The Exchange notes this would not prevent the Exchange from listing a P.M.-settled Monthly Options Series on an index with the same expiration date as an A.M.-settled Short Term Options Series on the same index, both of which may expire on a Friday. The Exchange believes this concurrent listing would provide investors with yet another hedging mechanism and is reasonable given these series would not be identical (unlike if they were both P.M.-settled). This could not occur with respect to ETFs, as all Short Term Options Series on ETFs are P.M.-settled.

¹⁴ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(g) to Exchange Rule.</u> Pursuant to Exchange Rule 1807, exercise limits for impacted index and ETF classes would be equal to the applicable position limits.

responsive to the timing of events affecting the securities that underlie options contracts. The Exchange believes limiting Monthly Options Series to five classes will ensure the addition of these new series will have a negligible impact on the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA") and the Exchange's quoting capacity. The Exchange represents it has the necessary systems capacity to support new options series that will result from the introduction of Monthly Options Series.

The Exchange also represents its current surveillance programs will apply to Monthly Options Series and will properly monitor trading in the proposed Monthly Options Series. The Exchange currently lists Quarterly Options Series in certain ETF classes,¹⁵ which expire at the close of business at the end of four calendar months (i.e., the end of each calendar quarter), and has not experienced any market disruptions nor issues with capacity. The Exchange's surveillance programs currently in place to support and properly monitor trading in these Quarterly Options Series, as well as Short Term Options Series and standard expiration series, will apply to the proposed Monthly Options Series. The Exchange believes its surveillances continue to be designed to deter and detect violations of its Rules, including position and exercise limits and possible manipulative behavior, and these surveillances will apply to Monthly Options Series that the Exchange determines to list for trading. Ultimately, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change raises any unique regulatory concerns because existing safeguards—such as position and exercise limits (and the aggregation of options overlying the same index or ETF) and reporting requirements—would continue to apply.

¹⁵ The Exchange notes it currently lists quarterly expirations on certain ETF options pursuant to Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404.

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The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change is substantively identical to proposed rule changes recently filed by the Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe"),¹⁶ and the Exchange's affiliate, MIAX Options.¹⁷

b. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.¹⁸ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹⁹ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)²⁰ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between Members, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes the introduction of Monthly Options Series will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national

¹⁶ <u>See</u> supra note 4.

¹⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 98973 (November 16, 2023), 88 FR 81495 (November 22, 2023) (SR-MIAX-2023-44). The Exchange notes that MIAX Chapter XVIII is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the rulebook of MIAX Pearl. As such, the amendments to MIAX Chapter XVIII in the aforementioned proposal will also apply to MIAX Pearl Chapter XVIII.

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

²⁰ <u>Id</u>.

market system by expanding hedging tools available to market participants. The Exchange believes the proposed monthly expirations will allow market participants to transact in the index and ETF options listed pursuant to the proposed rule change based on their timings as needed and allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively. Further, the Exchange believes the availability of Monthly Options Series would protect investors and the public interest by providing investors with more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions in these options, thus allowing them to better manage their risk exposure.

The Exchange believes the Quarterly Options Series Program has been successful to date and the proposed Monthly Options Series program simply expands the ability of investors to hedge risk against market movements stemming from economic releases or market events that occur at month's end in the same way the Quarterly Options Series Program has expanded the landscape of hedging for quarter-end news. Monthly Options Series will also complement Short Term Options Series, which will allow investors to hedge risk against events that occur throughout a month. The Exchange believes the availability of additional expirations should create greater trading and hedging opportunities for investors, as well as provide investors with the ability to tailor their investment objectives more effectively.

The Exchange notes the proposed terms of Monthly Options Series, including the limitation to five index and ETF option classes, are substantively the same as the current terms of Quarterly Options Series.²¹ Quarterly Options Series expire on the last business day of a calendar quarter, which is the last business day of every third month. The proposed Monthly Options Series would fills the gaps between Quarterly Options Series expirations by permitting

²¹ <u>Compare proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 of Exchange Rule 404 to Interpretation and Policy .03 of Exchange Rule 404.</u>

series to expire on the last business day of every month, rather than every third month. The proposed Monthly Options Series may be listed in accordance with the same terms as Quarterly Options Series, including permissible strikes. As is the case with Quarterly Options Series, no Short Term Options Series may expire on the same day as a Monthly Options Series. Similarly, as proposed, no Monthly Options Series may expire on the same day as a Ouarterly Options Series. The Exchange believes preventing listing series with concurrent expirations in a class will eliminate potential investor confusion and thus protect investors and the public interest. Given that Quarterly Options Series the Exchange currently lists are essentially Monthly Options Series that can expire at the end of only certain calendar months, the Exchange believes it is reasonable to list Monthly Options Series in accordance with the same terms, as it will promote just and equitable principles of trade. The Exchange believes limiting Monthly Options Series to five classes will ensure the addition of these new series will have a negligible impact on the Exchange and OPRA's quoting capacity. The Exchange represents it has the necessary systems capacity to support new options series that will result from the introduction of Monthly Options Series.

The Exchange also represents its current surveillance programs will apply to Monthly Options Series and will properly monitor trading in the proposed Monthly Options Series. As mentioned above, the Exchange currently trades Quarterly Options Series in certain ETF classes, which expire at the close of business at the end of three calendar months (i.e., the end of each calendar quarter), and has not experienced any market disruptions nor issues with capacity. The Exchange's surveillance programs currently in place to support and properly monitor trading in these Quarterly Options Series, as well as Short Term Options Series, and standard expiration series, will apply to the proposed Monthly Options Series. The Exchange believes its surveillances continue to be designed to deter and detect violations of its Rules, including position and exercise limits and possible manipulative behavior, and these surveillances will apply to Monthly Options Series that the Exchange determines to list for trading. Ultimately, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change raises any unique regulatory concerns because existing safeguards—such as position and exercise limits (and the aggregation of options overlying the same ETF or index) and reporting requirements—would continue to apply.

4. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change to list Monthly Options Series will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as any Monthly Options Series the Exchange lists for trading will be available in the same manner for all market participants who wish to trade such options. The Exchange notes the proposed terms of the Monthly Options Series, including the limitation to five index and ETF option classes, are substantively the same as the current terms of Quarterly Options Series.²² Quarterly Options Series expire on the last business day of a calendar quarter, which is the last business day of every third month, making the concept of Monthly Options Series in a limited number of index and ETF options series expirations by permitting series to expire on the last business day of every month, rather than every third month. The proposed Monthly Options

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See Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404.

Series, including permissible strikes. Monthly Options Series will trade on the Exchange in the same manner as other options in the same class.

The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change to list Monthly Options Series will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as nothing prevents other options exchanges from proposing similar rules. As discussed above, the proposed rule change would permit listing of Monthly Options Series in five index or ETF options, as well as any other classes that other exchanges may list under similar programs. To the extent that the availability of Monthly Options Series makes the Exchange a more attractive marketplace to market participants at other exchanges, market participants are free to elect to become market participants on the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change may relieve any burden on, or otherwise promote, competition. Similar to Short Term Options Series and Quarterly Options Series, the Exchange believes the introduction of Monthly Options Series will not impose an undue burden on competition. The Exchange believes that it will, among other things, expand hedging tools available to market participants. The Exchange believes Monthly Options Series will allow market participants to purchase options based on their timing as needed and allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively.

Consequently, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change implicates competition at all. Additionally, and as stated above, a Cboe proposal to accommodate the listing of options series that would expire at the close of business on the last business day of a calendar month in the same manner has been recently approved.²³

5. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u> <u>Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

²³ <u>See supra note 4.</u>

No written comments were either solicited or received.

6. <u>Extension of Time Period for Commission Action</u>

Not applicable.

7. <u>Basis for Summary Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3) or for Accelerated</u> <u>Effectiveness Pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)</u>

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²⁴ and Rule 19b-4(f)(6)²⁵ thereunder, the Exchange has designated this proposal as one that effects a change that: (i) does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) does not impose any significant burden on competition; and (iii) by its terms, does not become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate if consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

The Exchange does not believe that its proposal significantly affects the protection of investors or the public interest but rather promotes the protection of investors and the public interest because it would provide investors another market to trade and list additional options series that are currently available on at least one other options exchange. Further, the proposal does not significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest because it would expand the hedging tools available to market participants and provide them an additional market to transact in the index and ETF options, which would allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively. Additionally, as stated above, the Exchange believes the availability of Monthly Options Series would protect investors and the public

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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interest by providing investors with more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions in these options, thus allowing them to better manage their risk exposure.

The proposed rule change is substantially similar to a proposal by Cboe that was recently approved by the Commission.²⁶ Therefore, the Exchange believes this proposal raises no new or novel issues that have not been previously considered by the Commission. Additionally, the Exchange believes this proposal does not impose any significant burden on competition but rather promotes competition among the options exchanges. The proposal would promote competition among options exchanges because it would provide an additional market and liquidity pool to investors to trade such options series. This may lead to an increase in quotes in the marketplace, which in turn, may additionally lead to tighter spreads, benefitting investors and improving liquidity.

For the reasons stated above, the Exchange has filed this rule filing as non-controversial under Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²⁷ and paragraph (f)(6) of Rule 19b-4 thereunder.²⁸

Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. Further, Rule 19b-4(f)(6)²⁹ permits the Commission to designate a shorter time if such action is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

The Exchange respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 30-day operative delay period after which a proposed rule change under Rule 19b-4(f)(6) becomes effective.

²⁹ <u>Id</u>.

²⁶ <u>See supra note 4.</u>

²⁷ 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

²⁸ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6).

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Waiving the 30-day operative delay would permit the Exchange to immediately implement the Monthly Options Series Program, which will promote competition within the marketplace and benefit investors. Waiver of the operative delay is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest because it would allow the Exchange to immediately offer an additional market to investors to trade Monthly Options Series and to compete effectively with at least one other exchange that currently lists and trades the same options series.³⁰ Waiver of the operative delay would, therefore, enhance competition among exchanges by allowing Monthly Options Series to be traded on multiple exchanges and therefore expand the available pools of liquidity for investors to access. Based on the foregoing, the Exchange believes that waiver of the 30-day pre-operative waiting period is consistent with the protection of investors and the public interest.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

8. <u>Proposed Rule Change Based on Rules of Another Self-Regulatory Organization</u> or of the Commission

The proposed rule change is substantively identical to a recent proposal by the Cboe Exchange,³¹ and by the Exchange's affiliate, MIAX Options.³²

9. <u>Security-Based Swap Submissions Filed Pursuant to Section 3C of the Act</u>

Not applicable.

 $[\]frac{30}{2}$ See supra note 4.

³¹ <u>See supra note 4.</u>

³² <u>See supra note 17.</u>

10. <u>Advance Notices Filed Pursuant to Section 806(e) of the Payment, Clearing and</u> <u>Settlement Supervision Act</u>

Not applicable.

11. <u>Exhibits</u>

- 1. Notice of proposed rule for publication in the Federal Register.
- 5. Text of proposed rule change.

EXHIBIT 1

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (Release No. 34- ; File No. SR-PEARL-2023-72)

December _____, 2023

Self-Regulatory Organizations: Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change by MIAX PEARL, LLC to Amend Exchange Rule 404, Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

("Act")¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on December 22, 2023, MIAX

PEARL, LLC ("MIAX Pearl" or "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange

Commission ("Commission") a proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below,

which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to

solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed</u> <u>Rule Change</u>

The Exchange is filing a proposal to amend Exchange Rule 404, Series of Option

Contracts Open for Trading.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at

https://www.miaxglobal.com/markets/us-options/pearl-options/rule-filings, at MIAX Pearl's

principal office, and at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

II. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the</u> <u>Proposed Rule Change</u>

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis</u> for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. <u>Purpose</u>

The Exchange proposes to amend Rule 404 to accommodate the listing of options series that would expire at the close of business on the last business day of a calendar month ("Monthly Options Series").

Pursuant to new proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 to Exchange Rule 404, the Exchange may list Monthly Options Series for up to five currently listed option classes that are either index options or options on exchange-traded funds ("ETFs").³ In addition, the Exchange may also list Monthly Options Series on any options classes that are selected by other securities exchanges that employ a similar program under their respective rules.⁴ The Exchange may list 12 expirations for Monthly Options Series. Monthly Options Series need not be for consecutive months; however, the expiration date of a nonconsecutive expiration may not be beyond what would be considered the last expiration date if the maximum number of expirations were listed consecutively.⁵ Other expirations in the same class are not counted as part of the maximum

³ The Exchange proposes to amend Exchange Rule 404(a) to provide that proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 to Exchange Rule 404 will describe how the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price for Monthly Options Series and that proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 to Exchange Rule 404 will govern the procedures for opening Monthly Options Series, respectively. This is consistent with language in current Exchange Rules 404(a) for other Short Term Options Series and Quarterly Options Series.

⁴ Currently, Cboe Exchange, Inc. has a similar program. <u>See</u> Securities Exchange Act Release No. 98915 (Nov. 13, 2023) (SR-CBOE-2023-049) (Order Approving a Proposed Rule Change To Adopt Monthly Options Series).

⁵ The Exchange notes this provision considers consecutive monthly listings. In other words, as other expirations (such as Quarterly Options Series) are not counted as part of the maximum, those expirations would not be considered when considering when the last expiration date would be if the maximum number were listed consecutively. For example, if it is January 2024 and the Exchange lists Quarterly Options Series in class ABC with expirations in March, June, September, December, and the following March, the

numbers of Monthly Options Series expirations for a class.⁶ Monthly Options Series will be P.M.-settled.⁷

The strike price of each Monthly Options Series will be fixed at a price per share, with at least two, but no more than five, strike prices above and at least two, but no more than five, strike prices below the value of the underlying index or price of the underlying security at about the time that a Monthly Options Series is opened for trading on the Exchange. The Exchange will list strike prices for Monthly Options Series that are reasonably related to the current price of the underlying security or current index value of the underlying index to which such series relates at about the time such series of options is first opened for trading on the Exchange. The term "reasonably related to the current price of the underlying index" means that the exercise price is within 30% of the current underlying security price or index value.⁸ Additional Monthly Options Series of the same class may be open for trading on the Exchange when the Exchange deems it necessary to maintain an orderly market, to meet Member⁹ demand, or when the market price of the underlying security moves substantially

Exchange could also list Monthly Options Series in class ABC with expirations in January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November 2024 and January and February of 2025. This is because, if Quarterly Options Series, for example, were counted, the Exchange would otherwise never be able to list the maximum number of Monthly Options Series. This is consistent with the listing provisions for Quarterly Options Series, which permit calendar quarter expirations. The need to list series with the same expiration in the current calendar year and the following calendar year (whether Monthly or Quarterly expiration) is to allow market participants to execute one-year strategies pursuant to which they may not roll their exposures in the longer-dated options (e.g., January 2025) prior to the expiration of the nearer-dated option (e.g., January 2024).

⁶ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(b) to Exchange Rule 404.</u>

⁷ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(c) to Exchange Rule 404.</u>

See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(d). The Exchange notes these proposed provisions are consistent with the initial series provision for the Quarterly Options Series program in Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404. While different than the initial strike listing provision for the Quarterly Options Series program in current Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404, the Exchange believes the proposed provision is appropriate, as it contemplates classes that may have strike intervals of \$5 or greater.

⁹ The term "Member" means an individual or organization approved to exercise the trading rights associated with a Trading Permit. Members are deemed "members" under the Exchange Act. <u>See</u> Exchange Rule 100.

from the initial exercise price or prices. To the extent that any additional strike prices are listed by the Exchange, such additional strike prices will be within 30% above or below the closing price of the underlying index or security on the preceding day. The Exchange may also open additional strike prices of Monthly Options Series that are more than 30% above or below the current price of the underlying security, provided that demonstrated Member interest exists for such series, as expressed by institutional, corporate, Members or their brokers. Market Makers trading for their own account will not be considered when determining Member interest under this provision. The opening of the new Monthly Options Series will not affect the series of options of the same class previously opened.¹⁰ The interval between strike prices on Monthly Options Series will be the same as the interval for strike prices for series in that same options class that expire in accordance with the normal monthly expiration cycle.¹¹

By definition, Monthly Options Series can never expire in the same week that a standard options series that expires on the third Friday of a month in the same class expires. The same, however, is not the case with respect to Short Term Options Series or Quarterly Options Series. Therefore, to avoid any confusion in the marketplace, the Exchange proposes to amend Interpretation and Policy .02 to Exchange Rule 404 to provide that the Exchange will not list a Short Term Options Series in a class on a date on which a Monthly Options Series or Quarterly Options Series expires.¹² Similarly, proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(b) to Exchange Rule 404 provides that no Monthly Options Series may expire on a date that coincides with an

¹⁰ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(e) to Exchange Rule 404.</u>

¹¹ <u>See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(f) to Exchange Rule 404; see also Interpretations and Policies</u> .01 and .04, .06, .08, .09, .10 to Exchange Rule 404 (permissible strike prices for ETF classes) and Interpretations and Policies .05, .07, .11 to Exchange Rule 404 (permissible strike prices for index options).

¹² The Exchange also proposes to make a non-substantive change to Interpretation and Policy .02 to Exchange Rule 404 to change current references to "monthly options series" to "standard expiration options series" (i.e., series that expire on the third Friday of a month), to eliminate potential confusion. The current references to "monthly options series" are intended to refer to those series that expire on the third Friday of a month, which are generally referred to in the industry as standard expirations.

expiration date of a Quarterly Options Series in the same index or ETF class. In other words, the Exchange will not list a Short Terms Options Series on an index or ETF if a Monthly Options Series on that index or ETF were to expire on the same date, nor will the Exchange list a Monthly Options Series on an index or ETF if a Quarterly Options Series on that ETF were to expire on the same date to prevent the listing of series with concurrent expirations.¹³

With respect to Monthly Options Series added pursuant to proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(a)–(f) to Exchange Rule 404, the Exchange will, on a monthly basis, review series that are outside a range of five strikes above and five strikes below the current price of the underlying index or security, and delist series with no open interest in both the put and the call series having a strike: (i) higher than the highest strike price with open interest in the put and/or call series for a given expiration month; and (ii) lower than the lowest strike price with open interest in the put and/or call series for a given expiration month. Notwithstanding this delisting policy, Member requests to add strikes and/or maintain strikes in Monthly Options Series in series eligible for delisting will be granted. In connection with this delisting policy, if the Exchange identifies series for delisting, the Exchange will notify other options exchanges with similar delisting policies regarding eligible series for delisting and will work with such other exchanges to develop a uniform list of series to be delisted, so as to ensure uniform series delisting of multiply listed Monthly Options Series.¹⁴

¹³ The Exchange notes this would not prevent the Exchange from listing a P.M.-settled Monthly Options Series on an index with the same expiration date as an A.M.-settled Short Term Options Series on the same index, both of which may expire on a Friday. The Exchange believes this concurrent listing would provide investors with yet another hedging mechanism and is reasonable given these series would not be identical (unlike if they were both P.M.-settled). This could not occur with respect to ETFs, as all Short Term Options Series on ETFs are P.M.-settled.

¹⁴ See proposed Interpretation and Policy .13(g) to Exchange Rule. Pursuant to Exchange Rule 1807, exercise limits for impacted index and ETF classes would be equal to the applicable position limits.

The Exchange believes that Monthly Options Series will provide investors with another flexible and valuable tool to manage risk exposure, minimize capital outlays, and be more responsive to the timing of events affecting the securities that underlie options contracts. The Exchange believes limiting Monthly Options Series to five classes will ensure the addition of these new series will have a negligible impact on the Options Price Reporting Authority ("OPRA") and the Exchange's quoting capacity. The Exchange represents it has the necessary systems capacity to support new options series that will result from the introduction of Monthly Options Series.

The Exchange also represents its current surveillance programs will apply to Monthly Options Series and will properly monitor trading in the proposed Monthly Options Series. The Exchange currently lists Quarterly Options Series in certain ETF classes,¹⁵ which expire at the close of business at the end of four calendar months (i.e., the end of each calendar quarter), and has not experienced any market disruptions nor issues with capacity. The Exchange's surveillance programs currently in place to support and properly monitor trading in these Quarterly Options Series, as well as Short Term Options Series and standard expiration series, will apply to the proposed Monthly Options Series. The Exchange believes its surveillances continue to be designed to deter and detect violations of its Rules, including position and exercise limits and possible manipulative behavior, and these surveillances will apply to Monthly Options Series that the Exchange determines to list for trading. Ultimately, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change raises any unique regulatory concerns because existing safeguards—such as position and exercise limits (and the aggregation of options overlying the same index or ETF) and reporting requirements—would continue to apply.

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The Exchange notes it currently lists quarterly expirations on certain ETF options pursuant to Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404.

The Exchange notes that the proposed rule change is substantively identical to proposed rule changes recently filed by the Cboe Exchange, Inc. ("Cboe"),¹⁶ and the Exchange's affiliate, MIAX Options.¹⁷

2. <u>Statutory Basis</u>

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.¹⁸ Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)¹⁹ requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)²⁰ requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between Members, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

In particular, the Exchange believes the introduction of Monthly Options Series will remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system by expanding hedging tools available to market participants. The Exchange

²⁰ <u>Id</u>.

¹⁶ <u>See</u> supra note 4.

¹⁷ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 98973 (November 16, 2023), 88 FR 81495 (November 22, 2023) (SR-MIAX-2023-44). The Exchange notes that MIAX Chapter XVIII is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the rulebook of MIAX Pearl. As such, the amendments to MIAX Chapter XVIII in the aforementioned proposal will also apply to MIAX Pearl Chapter XVIII.

¹⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

believes the proposed monthly expirations will allow market participants to transact in the index and ETF options listed pursuant to the proposed rule change based on their timings as needed and allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively. Further, the Exchange believes the availability of Monthly Options Series would protect investors and the public interest by providing investors with more flexibility to closely tailor their investment and hedging decisions in these options, thus allowing them to better manage their risk exposure.

The Exchange believes the Quarterly Options Series Program has been successful to date and the proposed Monthly Options Series program simply expands the ability of investors to hedge risk against market movements stemming from economic releases or market events that occur at month's end in the same way the Quarterly Options Series Program has expanded the landscape of hedging for quarter-end news. Monthly Options Series will also complement Short Term Options Series, which will allow investors to hedge risk against events that occur throughout a month. The Exchange believes the availability of additional expirations should create greater trading and hedging opportunities for investors, as well as provide investors with the ability to tailor their investment objectives more effectively.

The Exchange notes the proposed terms of Monthly Options Series, including the limitation to five index and ETF option classes, are substantively the same as the current terms of Quarterly Options Series.²¹ Quarterly Options Series expire on the last business day of a calendar quarter, which is the last business day of every third month. The proposed Monthly Options Series would fills the gaps between Quarterly Options Series expirations by permitting series to expire on the last business day of every month, rather than every third month. The proposed Monthly Options Series may be listed in accordance with the same terms as Quarterly

²¹ <u>Compare proposed Interpretation and Policy .13 of Exchange Rule 404 to Interpretation and Policy .03 of Exchange Rule 404.</u>

Options Series, including permissible strikes. As is the case with Quarterly Options Series, no Short Term Options Series may expire on the same day as a Monthly Options Series. Similarly, as proposed, no Monthly Options Series may expire on the same day as a Quarterly Options Series. The Exchange believes preventing listing series with concurrent expirations in a class will eliminate potential investor confusion and thus protect investors and the public interest. Given that Quarterly Options Series the Exchange currently lists are essentially Monthly Options Series that can expire at the end of only certain calendar months, the Exchange believes it is reasonable to list Monthly Options Series in accordance with the same terms, as it will promote just and equitable principles of trade. The Exchange believes limiting Monthly Options Series to five classes will ensure the addition of these new series will have a negligible impact on the Exchange and OPRA's quoting capacity. The Exchange represents it has the necessary systems capacity to support new options series that will result from the introduction of Monthly Options Series.

The Exchange also represents its current surveillance programs will apply to Monthly Options Series and will properly monitor trading in the proposed Monthly Options Series. As mentioned above, the Exchange currently trades Quarterly Options Series in certain ETF classes, which expire at the close of business at the end of three calendar months (i.e., the end of each calendar quarter), and has not experienced any market disruptions nor issues with capacity. The Exchange's surveillance programs currently in place to support and properly monitor trading in these Quarterly Options Series, as well as Short Term Options Series, and standard expiration series, will apply to the proposed Monthly Options Series. The Exchange believes its surveillances continue to be designed to deter and detect violations of its Rules, including position and exercise limits and possible manipulative behavior, and these surveillances will apply to Monthly Options Series that the Exchange determines to list for trading. Ultimately, the Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change raises any unique regulatory concerns because existing safeguards—such as position and exercise limits (and the aggregation of options overlying the same ETF or index) and reporting requirements—would continue to apply.

B. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition</u>

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change to list Monthly Options Series will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as any Monthly Options Series the Exchange lists for trading will be available in the same manner for all market participants who wish to trade such options. The Exchange notes the proposed terms of the Monthly Options Series, including the limitation to five index and ETF option classes, are substantively the same as the current terms of Quarterly Options Series.²² Quarterly Options Series expire on the last business day of a calendar quarter, which is the last business day of every third month, making the concept of Monthly Options Series in a limited number of index and ETF options not novel. The proposed Monthly Options Series will fill the gaps between Quarterly Options Series expirations by permitting series to expire on the last business day of every month, rather than every third month. The proposed Monthly Options Series may be listed in accordance with the same terms as Quarterly Options Series, including permissible strikes. Monthly Options Series will trade on the Exchange in the same manner as other options in the same class.

The Exchange does not believe the proposed rule change to list Monthly Options Series will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in

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See Interpretation and Policy .03 to Exchange Rule 404.

furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as nothing prevents other options exchanges from proposing similar rules. As discussed above, the proposed rule change would permit listing of Monthly Options Series in five index or ETF options, as well as any other classes that other exchanges may list under similar programs. To the extent that the availability of Monthly Options Series makes the Exchange a more attractive marketplace to market participants at other exchanges, market participants are free to elect to become market participants on the Exchange.

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change may relieve any burden on, or otherwise promote, competition. Similar to Short Term Options Series and Quarterly Options Series, the Exchange believes the introduction of Monthly Options Series will not impose an undue burden on competition. The Exchange believes that it will, among other things, expand hedging tools available to market participants. The Exchange believes Monthly Options Series will allow market participants to purchase options based on their timing as needed and allow them to tailor their investment and hedging needs more effectively.

Consequently, the Exchange does not believe that the proposed change implicates competition at all. Additionally, and as stated above, a Cboe proposal to accommodate the listing of options series that would expire at the close of business on the last business day of a calendar month in the same manner has been recently approved.²³

C. <u>Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule</u> <u>Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others</u>

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. <u>Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action</u> Because the foregoing proposed rule change does not: (i) Significantly affect the protection of investors or the public interest; (ii) impose any significant burden on competition;

²³ <u>See supra note 4.</u>

and (iii) become operative for 30 days after the date of the filing, or such shorter time as the Commission may designate, it has become effective pursuant to 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act²⁴ and Rule $19b-4(f)(6)^{25}$ thereunder.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments:

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (<u>https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml</u>); or
- Send an email to <u>rule-comments@sec.gov</u>. Please include file number

SR-PEARL-2023-72 on the subject line.

²⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

²⁵ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(6). In addition, Rule 19b-4(f)(6) requires a self-regulatory organization to give the Commission written notice of its intent to file the proposed rule change at least five business days prior to the date of filing of the proposed rule change, or such shorter time as designated by the Commission. The Exchange has satisfied this requirement.

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Paper Comments:

 Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549-1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR-PEARL-2023-72. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission's Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Copies of the filing also will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR-PEARL-2023-72 and should be

submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.²⁶

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary

²⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

EXHIBIT 5

New text is <u>underlined;</u> Deleted text is in [brackets]

MIAX Pearl Options Exchange Rules

* * * * *

Rule 404. Series of Option Contracts Open for Trading

(a) After a particular class of options has been approved for listing and trading on the Exchange, the Exchange from time to time may open for trading series of options in that class. Only option contracts in series of options currently open for trading may be purchased or written on the Exchange. Prior to the opening of trading in a given series, the Exchange will fix the type of option, expiration month, year and exercise price of that series. Exercise-price setting parameters adopted as part of the Options Listing Procedures Plan ("OLPP") are set forth in Rule 404A. For Short Term Option Series, the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price of that series, as provided in Interpretations and Policies .02. For Quarterly Options Series, the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price of that series, as provided in Interpretations and Policies series, the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price of that series, as provided in Interpretations and Policies series, the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price of that series, as provided in Interpretations and Policies .03. For Monthly Options Series, the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price .03. For Monthly Options Series, the Exchange will fix a specific expiration date and exercise price .03.

(b) - (g) No change.

Interpretations and Policies:

.01 No change.

.02 Short Term Option Series Program. After an option class has been approved for listing and trading on the Exchange, the Exchange may open for trading on any Thursday or Friday that is a business day ("Short Term Option Opening Date") series of options on that class that expire at the close of business on each of the next five Fridays that are business days and are not Fridays in which standard expiration options series, [m]Monthly [o]Options [s]Series, or Quarterly Options Series expire ("Friday Short Term Option Expiration Dates"). The Exchange may have no more than a total of five Short Term Option Friday Expiration Dates ("Short Term Option Weekly Expirations"). If the Exchange is not open for business on the respective Thursday or Friday, the Short Term Option Option Short Term Option Weekly Expirations will be the first business day immediately prior to that respective Thursday or Friday. Similarly, if the Exchange is not open for business day immediately prior to that Friday the Short Term Option Expiration Date for Short Term Option Weekly Expirations will be the first business day immediately prior to that Friday.

Short Term Option Daily Expirations

In addition to the above, the Exchange may open for trading series of options on the symbols provided in Table 1 below that expire at the close of business on each of the next two Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, respectively, that are business days beyond the current week and are not business days in which <u>standard expiration options series</u>, [m]Monthly [o]Options [s]Series or Quarterly Options Series expire ("Short Term Option Daily Expirations"). The Exchange may have no more than a total of two Short Term Option Daily Expirations beyond the current week for each of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday expirations at one time. Short Term Option Daily Expirations would be subject to this Policy .02.

* * * * *

With respect to Monday expirations for symbols defined in Table 1 above ("Monday Expirations"), the Exchange may open for trading on any Friday or Monday that is a business day series of options on the symbols provided in Table 1 above that expire at the close of business on each of the next two Mondays that are business days and are not business days in which <u>standard expiration options series</u>, [m]Monthly [o]Options [s]Series, or Quarterly Options Series expire ("Monday Short Term Option Expiration Date"), provided that Monday Expirations that are listed on a Friday must be listed at least one business week and one business day prior to the expiration.

With respect to Tuesday expirations for symbols defined in Table 1 above ("Tuesday Expirations"), the Exchange may open for trading on any Monday or Tuesday that is a business day series of options on the symbols provided in Table 1 above that expire at the close of business on each of the next two Tuesdays that are business days and are not business days in which <u>standard</u> <u>expiration options series</u>, [m]Monthly [o]Options [s]Series, or Quarterly Options Series expire ("Tuesday Short Term Option Expiration Date").

With respect to Wednesday expirations for symbols defined in Table 1 above ("Wednesday Expirations"), the Exchange may open for trading on any Tuesday or Wednesday that is a business day series of options on the symbols provided in Table 1 above that expire at the close of business on each of the next two Wednesdays that are business days and are not business days in which standard expiration options series, [m]Monthly [o]Options [s]Series, or Quarterly Options Series expire ("Wednesday Short Term Option Expiration Date").

With respect to Thursday expirations for symbols defined in Table 1 above ("Thursday Expirations"), the Exchange may open for trading on any Wednesday or Thursday that is a business day series of options on the symbols provided in Table 1 above that expire at the close of business on each of the next two Thursdays that are business days and are not business days in which standard expiration options series, [m]Monthly [o]Options [s]Series, or Quarterly Options Series expire ("Thursday Short Term Option Expiration Date").

Monday Short Term Option Expiration Dates, Tuesday Short Term Option Expiration Dates, Wednesday Short Term Option Expiration Dates, and Thursday Short Term Option Expiration Dates, together with Friday Short Term Option Expiration Dates, are collectively "Short Term Option Expiration Dates."

Regarding Short Term Option Series:

(a) No change.

(b) **Expiration**. No Short Term Option Series other than Short Term Option Daily Expirations, may expire in the same week in which <u>standard expiration[monthly]</u> option series on the same class expires. In the case of <u>Monthly Options Series and</u> Quarterly Options Series, no Short Term Option Series may expire on the same day as an expiration of <u>a Monthly Options Series or</u> Quarterly Options Series, respectively, in the same class.

(c) - (f) No change.

.03 **Quarterly Options Series Program.** The Exchange may list and trade options series that expire at the close of business on the last business day of a calendar quarter ("Quarterly Options Series"). The Exchange may list Quarterly Options Series for up to five (5) currently listed options classes that are options on exchange traded funds ("ETFs"). In addition, the Exchange may also list Quarterly Options Series on any options classes that are selected by other securities exchanges that employ a similar program under their respective rules.

(a) - (b) No change.

(c) Initial Series. . <u>The strike price of each Quarterly Options Series will be fixed at a price per</u> share, with at least two, but no more than five, strike prices above and at least two, but no more than five, strike prices below the value of the underlying index or price of the underlying at about the time that a Quarterly Options Series is opened for trading on the Exchange. The Exchange will list strike prices for Quarterly Options Series that are reasonably related to the current price of the underlying security or current index value of the underlying index to which such series relates at about the time such series of options is first opened for trading on the Exchange. The term "reasonably related to the current price of the underlying security or index value of the underlying security or index value of the underlying security or index value of the underlying security price or index value.] The strike price of each Quarterly Options Series will be fixed at a price per share, with at least two strike prices above and two strike prices below the approximate value of the underlying security at about the time that a Quarterly Options Series is opened for trading on the Exchange.

The Exchange shall list strike prices for a Quarterly Options Series that are within \$5 from the closing price of the underlying on the preceding day.]

(d) - (h) No change.

.04 – .12 No Change.

.13 Monthly Options Series Program. The Exchange may list and trade options series that expire at the close of business on the last business day of a calendar month ("Monthly Options Series").

(a) *Classes.* The Exchange may list Monthly Options Series for up to five currently listed options classes that are either index options or options on ETFs. In addition, the Exchange may also list Monthly Options Series on any options classes that are selected by other securities exchanges that employ a similar program under their respective rules.

(b) *Expiration*. The Exchange may list 12 expirations for Monthly Options Series. Monthly Options Series expirations need not be for consecutive months; however, the expiration date of a nonconsecutive expiration may not be beyond what would be considered the last expiration date if the maximum number of expirations were listed consecutively. No Monthly Options Series may expire on a date that coincides with an expiration date of a Quarterly Options Series in the same index or ETF class. Other expirations in the same class are not counted as part of the maximum numbers of a Monthly Options Series expirations for a class.

(c) Settlement. Monthly Options Series will be P.M.-settled.

(d) *Initial Series*. The strike price of each Monthly Options Series will be fixed at a price per share, with at least two, but no more than five, strike prices above and at least two, but no more than five, strike prices below the value of the underlying index or price of the underlying security at about the time that a Monthly Options Series is opened for trading on the Exchange. The Exchange will list strike prices for Monthly Options Series that are reasonably related to the current price of the underlying security or current index value of the underlying index to which such series relates at about the time such series of options is first opened for trading on the Exchange on the Exchange. The term "reasonably related to the current price of the underlying index" means that the exercise price is within 30% of the current underlying security price or index value.

(e) *Additional Series*. Additional Monthly Options Series of the same class may be open for trading on the Exchange when the Exchange deems it necessary to maintain an orderly market, to meet customer demand, or when the market price of the underlying security moves substantially

from the initial exercise price or prices. To the extent that any additional strike prices are listed by the Exchange, such additional strike prices will be within 30% above or below the closing price of the underlying index or security on the preceding day. The Exchange may also open additional strike prices of Monthly Options Series that are more than 30% above or below the current price of the underlying index or security, provided that demonstrated customer interest exists for such series, as expressed by institutional, corporate, or individual customers or their brokers. Market-Makers trading for their own account will not be considered when determining customer interest under this provision. The opening of the new Monthly Options Series will not affect the series of options in the same class previously opened.

(f) *Strike Interval*. The interval between strike prices on Monthly Options Series will be the same as the interval for strike prices for series in that same options class that expire in accordance with the normal monthly expiration cycle.

(g) Delisting Policy.

(1) With respect to Monthly Options Series added pursuant to subparagraphs (a) through (f) above, the Exchange will, on a monthly basis, review series that are outside a range of five strikes above and five strikes below the current price of the underlying index or security, and delist series with no open interest in both the put and the call series having a: strike higher than the highest strike price with open interest in the put and/or call series for a given expiration month; and strike lower than the lowest strike price with open interest in the put and/or call series for a given expiration month.

(i) Notwithstanding the above referenced delisting policy, customer requests to add strikes and/or maintain strikes in Monthly Options Series in series eligible for delisting shall be granted.

(ii) In connection with the above referenced delisting policy, if the Exchange identifies series for delisting, the Exchange will notify other options exchanges with similar delisting policies regarding eligible series for delisting and will work with such other exchanges to develop a uniform list of series to be delisted, so as to ensure uniform series delisting of multiply listed Monthly Options Series.

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