

Authority) who makes an election under the Technical Corrections to Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act (section 153 of Public Law 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321) to be considered a Federal employee for life insurance and other benefit purposes is subject to this part. If the employee is eligible to make an election under § 871.202, such election must be made within 31 days after the later of either the date employment with the Authority begins or the date the Authority receives his or her election to be considered a Federal employee. Employees of the Authority who are former Federal employees are subject to the provisions of § 871.205 and § 871.604.

PART 872—ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

10. The authority citation for part 872 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8716; § 870.201(b) also issued under sec. 153 of Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321.

11. In § 872.201, the existing paragraph is designated as paragraph (a) and a new paragraph (b) is added to read as follows:

§ 872.201 Eligibility.

* * * * *

(b) An employee of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (the Authority) who makes an election under the Technical Corrections to Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act (section 153 of Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321) to be considered a Federal employee for life insurance and other benefit purposes is subject to this part. If the employee is eligible to make an election under § 872.202, such election must be made within 41 days after the later of either the date employment with the Authority begins or the date the Authority receives his or her election to be considered a Federal employee. Employees of the Authority who are former Federal employees are subject to the provisions of § 872.205 and § 872.604.

PART 873—FAMILY OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

12. The authority citation for part 873 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8716; § 873.201(b) also issued under sec. 153 of Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321.

13. In § 873.201, the existing paragraph is designated as paragraph (a) and a new paragraph (b) is added to read as follows:

§ 873.201 Eligibility.

* * * * *

(b) An employee of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (the Authority) who makes an election under the Technical Corrections to Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act (section 153 of Public Law 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321) to be considered a Federal employee for life insurance and other benefit purposes is subject to this part. If the employee is eligible to make an election under § 873.202, such election must be made within 31 days after the later of either the date employment with the Authority begins or the date the Authority receives his or her election to be considered a Federal employee. Employees of the Authority who are former Federal employees are subject to the provisions of § 873.205 and § 873.604.

PART 890—THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

14. The authority citation for part 890 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 8913; § 890.102(f) also issued under sec. 153 of Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321; § 890.803 also issued under 50 U.S.C. 403p, 22 U.S.C. 4069c and 4069c-1; subpart L also issued under sec. 599C of Pub. L. 101-513, 104 Stat. 2064, as amended.

15. In § 890.102 a new paragraph (f) is added to read as follows:

§ 890.102 Coverage.

* * * * *

(f) An employee of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (the Authority) who makes an election under the Technical Corrections to Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act (section 153 of Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321) to be considered a Federal employee for health benefits and other benefit purposes is subject to this part. If the employee is eligible to make an election to enroll under § 890.301, such election must be made within 60 days after the later of either the date the employment with the Authority begins or the date the Authority receives his or her election to be considered a Federal employee. Employees of the Authority who are former Federal employees are subject to the provisions of § 890.303(a), except that a former Federal employee employed by the Authority before October 26, 1996, and within 3 days following the termination of the Federal employment may make an election to enroll under § 890.301(c). Annuitants who have continued their coverage

under this part as annuitants are not eligible to enroll under this paragraph. An election to enroll under this part is effective under the provisions of § 890.306(a) unless the employee requests the Authority to make the enrollment effective on the first day of the first pay period following the date the employee entered on duty in a pay status with the Authority.

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Part 104

[Notice 1996-20]

Electronic Filing of Reports by Political Committees

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Interim rules; transmittal of regulations to Congress.

SUMMARY: The Federal Election Commission is implementing a voluntary system of electronic filing for reports of campaign finance activity filed with the agency. The Commission has approved final rules setting out the requirements for this system. In order to ensure compliance with a statutory mandate, the Commission is putting these rules into effect on an interim basis, pending Congressional review at the start of the 105th Congress. Further information is provided in the supplementary information that follows. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** These interim rules are effective January 1, 1997. The Commission will submit these rules for legislative review in the 105th Congress, and will announce a final effective date after the rules have been before Congress for 30 legislative days pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 438(d). A document announcing that the interim rules have been prescribed as final rules will be published in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, or Paul Sanford, Staff Attorney, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463, (202) 219-3690 or (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In August, the Commission approved the final text of new regulations implementing a voluntary electronic filing system for reports of campaign finance activity filed with the agency, and published the text of the rules, along with an Explanation and Justification, in the Federal Register. 61 FR 42371 (Aug. 15,

1996). These rules implement provisions of Public Law 104-79, which amended the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, 2 U.S.C. 431 *et seq.* ["FECA"], to require, *inter alia*, that the Commission create a system to "permit reports required by this Act to be filed and preserved by means of computer disk or any other electronic format or method, as determined by the Commission." Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, Amendment, Public Law 104-79, section 1(a), 109 Stat. 791 (December 28, 1995).

The Commission submitted the electronic filing rules to Congress for legislative review on August 9, 1996. Since these rules are not major rules within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the FECA controls the legislative review process. See 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(4), Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, Public Law 104-121, section 251, 110 Stat. 857, 869 (1996). Section 438(d) of the FECA requires that any rules or regulations prescribed by the Commission to carry out the provisions of Title 2 of the United States Code be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate 30 legislative days before they are finally promulgated.

When Congress adjourned *sine die* on October 4, 1996, the rules had not been before Congress for 30 legislative days. Consequently, the Commission must resubmit the rules for review in the 105th Congress, which is scheduled to convene on January 7, 1997.

Ordinarily, this delay would not cause significant difficulty for the Commission. However, the statute creating the electronic filing system specifically requires the Commission make the electronic filing system available for "reports for periods beginning after December 31, 1996." Public Law 104-79, section 1(c). Thus, the Commission is required to have the system in place by January 1, 1997.

The Commission is announcing today that it will put the electronic filing rules published on August 15, 1996 into effect on an interim basis in order to meet this statutory deadline. See 61 FR 42371. The interim rules will go into effect on January 1, 1997. The Commission is also announcing that it will retransmit the rules and Explanation and Justification to Congress in early January. The rules will be retransmitted before the 105th Congress convenes on January 7, 1997 in order to begin the review period at the earliest opportunity. After they have been before Congress for 30 legislative days, the Commission will announce a date when the interim rules will go into effect as final rules. The Commission

expects this date to be in late March or early April.

Dated: November 8, 1996.

Lee Ann Elliott,

Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

15 CFR Part 902

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 960805216-6307-03; I.D. 071596E]

RIN 0648-AH06

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Amendment 9 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this rule to implement the approved provisions of Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries. This rule includes the initially disapproved quota measure, that has been revised and resubmitted by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). This rule implements management measures for the black sea bass fishery in order to reduce fishing mortality and allow the stock to rebuild.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 16, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Amendment 9, the resubmitted portion of Amendment 9, the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), the regulatory impact review, and other supporting documents are available upon request from David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904-6790.

Comments regarding burden-hour estimates for collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule should be sent to Dr. Andrew A. Rosenberg, Regional Administrator, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20502 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina L. Spallone, Fishery Policy Analyst, 508-281-9221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This final rule implements approved measures contained in Amendment 9 to the FMP, which was prepared by the Council in consultation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the New England and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. Amendment 9 revises the summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) and scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*) FMP to include management measures for the black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*) fishery pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The management unit for this fishery is black sea bass in U.S. waters of the western Atlantic Ocean from 35°15.3' N. lat., the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, NC, northward to the U.S.-Canada border. Background concerning the development of Amendment 9 was provided in the notice of proposed rulemaking (August 21, 1996, 61 FR 43217), and is not repeated here. The public comment period on the proposed rule for all management measures except the commercial quota provisions ended on October 7, 1996.

On July 19, 1996, NMFS, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), after a preliminary evaluation as authorized by section 304(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, disapproved the provision that would have implemented a state by state commercial quota for black sea bass in 1998. The measure was found to be incompatible with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law.

The Council was informed that final approval of Amendment 9 was contingent upon the timely resubmission of a commercial quota measure that remedied the deficiencies of the disapproved measure. If the revised/resubmitted commercial quota provision could not be approved prior to Day 95 of the review period for the remaining measures of Amendment 9, Amendment 9 was at risk of disapproval due to inconsistency with national standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Council, pursuant to section 304(b)(3)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, revised the measure and resubmitted a coastwide quarterly quota with trip limits that is fully described in the notice of proposed rulemaking published on September 6, 1996 (61 FR