

follows: Douglas M. Dasdorf, 16 S. Hamilton Avenue, Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-0523 (Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 98-28, adopted February 25, 1998, and released March 6, 1998. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 98-6515 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 98-27, RM-9188]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Munds Park, AZ

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document requests comments on a petition for rule making filed by Dancing Terrapin Broadcasting seeking the allotment of FM Channel 291A to Munds Park, Arizona, as that locality's first local aural transmission

service. Petitioner is requested to provide additional information to establish Munds Park's status as a community for allotment purposes. Coordinates used for this proposal are 34-56-44 and 111-38-22.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before April 27, 1998, and reply comments on or before May 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, as follows: Gary A. Witte, President, Dancing Terrapin Broadcasting, 77 Gunsight Hills Drive, Sedona, AZ 86351.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Joyner, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

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List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 98-6516 Filed 3-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[I.D. 030398B]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Applications for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Notification of two proposals for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notice to announce that the Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), is considering approval of two EFPs to conduct experimental fishing that would permit vessels to conduct operations otherwise restricted by regulations governing the Fisheries of the Northeastern United States. These EFPs to conduct experimental fishing would involve the possession and retention of northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*), including the possible capture and release of regulated multispecies and other bycatch, in the Small Mesh Northern Shrimp Exemption Area within the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provisions require publication of this notice to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark on the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed Shrimp Exempted Fishing Permits."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie VanPelt, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9244.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) has submitted two proposals to investigate the selectivity of different configuration and mesh size nets used to target northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) within the Small Mesh Northern Shrimp Exemption Area.

The first experiment (Exp. 1) proposes to test experimental codend nets against

control codend nets to determine the mesh size and configuration that are most selective, i.e., that enables more juvenile shrimp to escape. The second experiment (Exp. 2) would employ the more selective net, as determined from the first experiment, as the control net. Exp. 2 would incorporate chafing gear by attaching it to the bottom half of some of the experimental codends to test whether the assessed selectivity factor would be altered in any way.

On February 5, 1998, MEDMR submitted two applications for EFPs to conduct the proposed projects. Exp. 1 and Exp. 2 would run consecutively, so that the results from Exp. 1 can ultimately determine the design of Exp. 2. Exp. 1 would begin as soon as possible and would involve up-to-10 commercial fishing vessels. Exp. 2 would follow Exp. 1 and would involve one specified vessel. Both experiments would be conducted on the proposed gear trials using otter trawls with properly configured Finfish Excluder

Devices. All trawl bodies and extensions would be comprised of 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ in (44.5 mm) 54 thread braided nylon diamond mesh. The codend would be at least 100 meshes long.

Exp. 1 proposes to conduct trawl surveys using five different experimental codend mesh sizes of different thread sizes against a control codend of 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ in (31.8 mm) mesh size. Phase 1 of Exp. 2 proposes to test experimental codends of different configurations and mesh sizes with one being modified by the addition of chafing gear to test for variability in selectivity. For this series of tows, the control codend would be the industry standard of 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ in (44.5 mm) diamond mesh. The second phase of Exp. 2 would conduct trawl surveys using the size and configuration net that has been determined to be more selective from Exp. 1 as a control against four experimental codends. The four experimental trawls will be assembled with a Nordmore grate system of 1 in

(25.4 mm) spacing. Finfish would be retained only for the purpose of obtaining length frequencies, and in all cases finfish would be released.

EFPs would be issued to participating vessels to exempt them from the mesh size, minimum fish size, and days-at-sea restrictions of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. Participating vessels will also carry a certificate exempting them from the minimum mesh size requirement of 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ in (44.5 mm) as established by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for vessels enrolled in the Northern Shrimp Small Mesh Exemption Program.

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

Dated: March 9, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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