

Procedures of the Department of Transportation (44 FR 11034).

B. Regulation Identifier Number (RIN)

A regulation identifier number (RIN) is assigned to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda in April and October of each year. The RIN number contained in the heading of this document can be used to cross-reference this action with the Unified Agenda.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 22, 1999, under authority delegated in 49 CFR Part 106.

Alan I. Roberts,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 121799E]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Public Hearings; Advisory Panel Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings and Advisory Panel meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold 10 public hearings to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding proposed regulations to implement time/area closures for Atlantic pelagic longline fishermen who hold highly migratory species (HMS) permits. To accommodate people unable to attend a hearing or wishing to provide written comments, NMFS also solicits written comments on the proposed rule. In addition, NMFS will hold a joint meeting of the HMS and Billfish Advisory Panels (APs), to discuss future fishery management actions and advise NMFS.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting and hearing dates and times. Written comments on the proposed rule must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5:00 p.m., eastern standard time, on February 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for meeting and hearing

locations. For informational materials related to the AP meeting and copies of the draft Technical Memorandum and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (DSEIS/RIR/IRFA) contact Margo Schulze-Haugen or Jill Stevenson at 301-713-2347, or write to Rebecca Lent.

Written comments on the proposed rule should be sent to Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 301-713-1917. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margo Schulze-Haugen or Jill Stevenson at 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed regulations that are the subject of the hearings are necessary to address requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for the conservation and management of HMS.

A complete description of the measures, and the purpose and need for the proposed actions, is contained in the proposed rule, published December 15, 1999 (64 FR 69982), and is not repeated here. Copies of the proposed rule may be obtained by writing (see **ADDRESSES**) or by calling one of the listed contact persons (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

NMFS is currently considering AP member nominations for the 2000-2002 period. NMFS will send out selection letters to new AP members shortly and announce the new AP members to constituents via the fax network.

Hearing and Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

The public hearing schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, January 4, 2000—Kill Devil Hills, NC, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Ramada Inn, 1701 S. Virginia Dare Trail, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

Wednesday, January 5, 2000—Charleston, SC, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Department of Natural Resources, Marine Research Institute Auditorium, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412

Monday, January 10, 2000—Jacksonville, FL, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Omni Jacksonville Hotel, 245 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Tuesday, January 11, 2000—Fort Pierce, FL, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Radisson Resort North Hutchinson Island, 2600 North A1A, Fort Pierce, FL 34949

Wednesday, January 12, 2000—Pompano Beach, FL, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Pompano Beach Civic Center, 1801 NE. 6th Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Thursday, January 13, 2000—Panama City, FL, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

National Marine Fisheries Service, Panama City Laboratory, 3500 Delwood Beach Road, Panama City, FL 32408

Tuesday, January 18, 2000—Gloucester, MA, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

Wednesday, January 19, 2000—Fairhaven, MA, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Seaport Inn, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Tuesday, January 25, 2000—Port Aransas, TX, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

University of Texas at Austin, Marine Science Institute, 750 Channel View Drive, Port Aransas, TX 78337

Wednesday, January 26, 2000—Miami, FL, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel, 495 Brickell Avenue, Miami, FL 33131

Wednesday, February 2, 2000—Atlantic City, NJ, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Atlantic Community College, 1535 Bacharach Boulevard, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Wednesday, February 9, 2000—Silver Spring, MD, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

NOAA Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20190

The public hearing on February 9, 2000, will be held in conjunction with the AP meeting scheduled for that day. AP meetings are open to the public. The AP meeting schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, February 9, 2000—Silver Spring, MD, 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 10, 2000—Silver Spring, MD, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, February 11, 2000—Silver Spring, MD, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

NOAA Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The Advisory Panels will discuss the "1999 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation for Atlantic Highly Migratory

Species", limited entry in HMS fisheries, bycatch reduction measures (time/area closure proposed rule, turtle bycatch concerns), economic data collection, assessing social impacts on HMS fishing communities, division of the BFT Angling category, authorized gears, charter/headboat regulations, observers, vessel upgrading and permit transfer requirements. Issues for upcoming rulemakings include trade

restrictions and swordfish quotas, and future options for HMS fishery management.

Special Accommodations

The hearings and the AP meeting are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Margo Schulze-Haugen (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

CONTACT) at least 7 days prior to the hearing or meeting.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 21, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 99-33522 Filed 12-21-99; 4:17 pm]

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