

This, demonstration shall include the following Phase 1 deliverables upon which Phase 2 award will be based: _____ [insert the specific Phase 1 deliverables]. Failure to fully and completely demonstrate the appropriate level of design maturity may render the proposal unacceptable with no further consideration for contract award.

(g) The following draft Phase 2 evaluation factors are provided for your information. Please note that these evaluation factors are not final, and NASA reserves the right to change them at any time up to and including the date upon which Phase 2 proposals are requested. Any such changes in evaluation factors will not necessitate issuance of a new, formal solicitation for Phase 2.

[Insert draft Phase 2 evaluation factors (and subfactors and elements, if available), including demonstration of successful completion of Phase 1 requirements.]

(h) Although NASA will request Phase 2 proposals from Phase 1 contractors, submission of the Phase 2 proposal is not a requirement of the Phase 1 contract. Accordingly, the costs of preparing these proposals shall not be a direct charge to the Phase 1 contract or any other Government contract.

(i) The anticipated schedule for conducting this phased procurement is provided for your information. These dates are projections only and are not intended to commit NASA to complete a particular action at a given time. [Insert dates below].

Phase 1 award—
Phase 2 synopsis—
Phase 2 proposal requested—
Phase 2 proposal receipt—
Phase 2 award—

(End of clause)

1852.234-70 and 1852.234-71 [Removed]

6. Sections 1852.234-70 and 1852.234-71 are removed.

[FR Doc. 98-28240 Filed 10-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 216, 227, and 600

[I.D. 091498A]

Atlantic Pelagic Fishery; Marine Mammals; Endangered and Threatened Fish and Wildlife; Public Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the dates and locations of four additional workshops for longline vessel operators scheduled during 1998. NMFS held one workshop on October 9, 1998, in New

Bedford, MA. Additional workshops will be held through February 1999, to meet requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The purpose of the workshops is to educate longliners on avoidance, handling, and release techniques for marine mammals and sea turtles and to provide information and receive feedback on different management options in the pelagic longline fishery.

DATES: The workshop dates are:

1. October 23, 1998, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Montauk, NY.
2. November 19, 1998, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nags Head Beach, NC.
3. December 11, 1998, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Charleston, SC.
4. December 17, 1998, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Barnegat Light, NJ.

Workshop dates for 1999 will be announced in the **Federal Register** once they are scheduled.

ADDRESSES: The workshop locations are:

1. Montauk—Firehouse, 12 Flamingo Avenue, Montauk, NY 11954.
2. Nags Head Beach—Comfort Inn South, 8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road, Nags Head Beach, NC 27959.
3. Charleston—NMFS Charleston Laboratories, 219 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412.
4. Barnegat Light—Firehouse, West 10th Street (corner of West 10th Street and Central Avenue), Barnegat Light, NJ 08006.

Workshop locations for 1999 will be announced in the **Federal Register** once they are scheduled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Lent, 301-713-2347, Cathy Eisele, 301-713-2322, or Therese Conant, 301-713-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

NMFS will conduct workshops with owners/operators in the pelagic longline fishery throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The purpose of the workshop is threefold: To supplement information gathered in a survey of fishery participants to evaluate alternatives for a comprehensive management system for pelagic longline fishery; to implement the recommendations of the NMFS Biological Opinion to hold workshops for vessel operators in order to reduce mortality of incidentally caught sea turtles; and to meet the requirements of the Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Team to hold workshops to educate pelagic longline vessel operators on marine mammal release and avoidance techniques.

Background

1. Section 304 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires NMFS to evaluate the feasibility of implementing changes to the management system for the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. These requirements include (1) forming a pelagic longline advisory panel (Longline AP) to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to future management of the fishery; (2) preparing a report evaluating the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive management system for the pelagic longline fishery, including consideration of limited access and individual fishing quota systems; and (3) conducting a survey and holding workshops with affected fishery participants to gather input on future management of the fishery.

NMFS formed the Longline AP in April 1997 and, with the assistance of the Longline AP, prepared a report to Congress outlining the feasibility of implementing several types of comprehensive management systems ("Study of the Feasibility of Implementing a Comprehensive Management System for the Pelagic Longline Fishery for Atlantic HMS," December 30, 1997). NMFS hereby gives notice of the first of a series of workshops that will be held with pelagic longline fishery participants to gather input on the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive management system for the fishery. The portion of the workshop dealing with endangered species and marine mammals will be conducted by NMFS personnel. The portion of the workshop evaluating alternatives for a comprehensive management system will be conducted by non-NMFS staff from the University of Hawaii and the University of Maryland.

The Longline AP identified the following seven areas of concern that should be considered in evaluating a future management system for the pelagic longline fishery: Overfished stocks; effects of international fisheries; effort control; bycatch reduction; the need to evaluate discrete gear harvests on a range of species; the need to improve communication among managers, the public, and the fishery; and reliance on historical data that may be inadequate. Management systems considered in the report to Congress are as follows: Open access; limited access to the shark and swordfish and bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas fisheries; and individual quota programs. One purpose of the workshops is to solicit input from fishery participants regarding the areas

of concern and management systems outlined in the report to Congress.

2. Section 118 of the MMPA requires NMFS to convene Take Reduction Teams (TRT) to develop plans for reducing the mortality and serious injury of marine mammals incidental to commercial fisheries. NMFS established the Atlantic Offshore Cetacean TRT in 1996, and the TRT developed a draft plan to reduce bycatch of the strategic marine mammal stocks taken in the U.S. Atlantic pelagic longline and driftnet fisheries. The TRT recommended that workshops be conducted to educate vessel owner/operators and crew members about strategies for reducing incidental harvest of marine mammals, guidelines for releasing entangled animals, and the MMPA and its implementing regulations. Another purpose of these workshops is to provide a forum for information exchange regarding successful strategies for reducing incidental takes of marine mammals. Although participation is not mandatory under the MMPA, it is likely that attendance at these workshops will be a requirement of NMFS' proposed Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan.

3. Section 7 of the ESA requires all Federal agencies to ensure that any action, funded, authorized, or carried out, is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species. If such action adversely affects a listed marine species under NMFS jurisdiction, a consultation must be conducted, and NMFS must provide a written biological opinion on the effects. A consultation was conducted on the Atlantic Pelagic Fishery, and NMFS concluded in the biological opinion (May 29, 1997; amended July 10, 1998) that the longline component of the Atlantic Pelagic Fishery was likely to adversely affect, but not jeopardize, the continued existence of listed sea turtles. The opinion requires NMFS to develop a schedule of workshops throughout the geographical range of the fishery to educate vessel operators on appropriate sea turtle resuscitation, and handling and release techniques. All vessel operators must attend a workshop before commencing fishing operation in September 2000. Thus, for purposes of the ESA, participation in at least one workshop is mandatory.

Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Rebecca Lent (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT).

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

Dated: October 15, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-28210 Filed 10-16-98; 1:13 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208298-8055-02; I.D.
101698A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock by Vessels Catching Pollock for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the amount of the 1998 pollock total allowable catch (TAC) apportioned to vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 19, 1998, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(iii), the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the BSAI (63 FR 12689, March 16, 1998) established the amount of the 1998 pollock TAC apportioned to

vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI as 667,388 metric tons (mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the amount of the 1998 pollock TAC apportioned to vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 662,388 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 5,000 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance will soon be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e) and (f).

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to prevent overharvesting the amount of the 1998 pollock TAC apportioned to vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The fleet has already taken the amount of the 1998 pollock TAC apportioned to vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI. Further delay would only result in overharvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action can not be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 16, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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