

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 00-117, adopted June 26, 2000, and released June 29, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, 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.

Federal Communications Commission.

Barbara A. Kreisman,
Chief, Video Services Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 00-17046 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA-1419, MM Docket No. 00-119, RM-9879]

Digital Television Broadcast Service; Hazleton, PA

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by WOLF License Corporation, licensee of Station WOLF-TV, NTSC Channel 56, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, requesting the substitution of DTV Channel 45 for its assigned DTV Channel 9. DTV Channel 45 can be allotted to Hazleton, Pennsylvania, in compliance with the principle community coverage requirements of Section 73.625(a) at reference coordinates (41-11-00 N. and

75-52-10 W.). However, since the community of Hazleton is located within 400 kilometers of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence by the Canadian government must be obtained for this proposal. As requested, we propose to allot DTV Channel 45 to Hazleton with a power of 546 and a height above average terrain (HAAT) of 488 meters.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before August 21, 2000, and reply comments on or before September 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: David D. Oxenford, JoEllen Masters, Fisher, Wayland, Cooper, Leader & Zaragoza, 2001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20006 (Counsel for WOLF License Corporation).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 00-119, adopted June 26, 2000, and released June 29, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, 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.

Federal Communications Commission.

Barbara A. Kreisman,
Chief, Video Services Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 00-17047 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA-1485, MM Docket No. 00-121, RM-9674]

Digital Television Broadcast Service; Kingston, NY

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by WRNN-TV Associates Limited Partnership, licensee of station WRNN-TV, NTSC Channel 62, Kingston, New York, requesting the substitution of DTV Channel 48 for its assigned DTV Channel 21. DTV Channel 48 can be allotted to Kingston, New York, in compliance with the principle community coverage requirements of Section 73.625(a) at reference coordinates (41-29-19 N. and 73-56-52 W). As requested, we propose to allot DTV Channel 48 to Kingston with a power of 200 and a height above average terrain (HAAT) of 388 meters. However, since the community of Kingston is located within 400 kilometers of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence by the Canadian government must be obtained for this allotment.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before August 21, 2000, and reply comments on or before September 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Todd M. Stansbury, Wiley, Rein & Fielding, 776 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 (Counsel for WRNN-TV Associates Limited Partnership).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 00-121, adopted June 30, 2000, and released September 5, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription

Services, 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.

Federal Communications Commission.

Barbara A. Kreisman,

Chief, Video Services Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 00-17104 Filed 7-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[I.D. 062800A]

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 a proposal for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has made a preliminary determination to issue EFPs to conduct experimental fishing operations otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) submitted an application for the issuance of EFPs to conduct experimental fishing with a maximum of 30 commercial fishing vessels, which warrants further consideration. The EFPs would allow commercial vessels to fish for, retain, and land silver hake (whiting) with mesh smaller than currently allowed in a portion of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area. These experiments would continue investigations designed to

demonstrate the effectiveness of a bycatch reduction device (separator grate) assembled on small mesh silver hake (whiting) trawls with a raised footrope configuration. Although the number of trips would be capped at 40 1-day trips per vessel, it is anticipated that participation would be dictated by two interrelated factors: market value of whiting at the dock and the availability of the whiting at sea. Approximately 34 vessels were authorized to participate in last year's experiment from July 1–November 31, 1999, although enrollment periods fluctuated due to the factors identified above. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provisions require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed experimental fisheries.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed EFP Proposal." Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MEDMR submitted an application to continue the experimental whiting separator trawl fishery (Separator Trawl Fishery) in the Small Mesh Northern Shrimp Area, a portion of the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area. This will provide an additional opportunity to collect information on the effectiveness of the separator grate in combination with the raised footrope trawl configuration (with roller frames), in an effort to show that the separator trawl fishery results in a low bycatch fishery. Although this would be the sixth consecutive year of the experiment, data from previous years are sparse and inclusive, owing in part to three factors: low abundances of whiting in the experimental fishery area, declining market value of whiting, and patchy vessel participation. While monthly percent average bycatch of regulated multispecies was reported at less than 5 percent for sea sampling trips conducted during the 1999 experiment, there were only 11 sea sampling trips taken over the course of the entire season (July through November), with the majority (6 trips)

monitoring the at-sea bait transfer fishing activity. As a result, there were insufficient data from the 1999 experimental fishery to demonstrate that the 5 percent bycatch criteria for establishing exempted fishing status could be met for the entire fishery (food and bait fishery components).

A separate component of last year's experiment was to conduct a series of gear trials with a raised footrope trawl configuration that has proved successful in reducing bycatch of flatfish species in small mesh experimental whiting fisheries in Cape Cod Bay, Massachusetts. While there were only twenty tows total conducted during last year's supplemental gear trials, these demonstrated that the raised footrope trawl could be successfully transferred to nets with roller frames (typically a chain sweep is used), and yielded promising results in demersal finfish bycatch reduction. Furthermore, increased cod end mesh size and grate bar spacing combinations tested by participating vessels in the Separator Trawl Fishery showed a considerable decrease in bycatch of small fish, while the addition of the raised footrope trawl showed an additional decrease in bycatch of small flatfish, whiting and red hake. Therefore, in order to gather sufficient data on the separator grate's ability (with and without the raised footrope trawl) to reduce bycatch of regulated species consistent with the requirement of an exempted fishery, as well as to determine whether the fishery as a whole can reach its economic potential, a continuation of the experiment is necessary.

Participants in the Separator Trawl Fishery will be required to elect either a food fishery or bait fishery component designation. However, the MEDMR has stated that the primary focus of this year's fishery will be on the bait fishery, specifically to provide bait for the tuna fishery. As in years past, participants may designate only one fishery component at a time for a minimum enrollment of 7 days. In order to ensure that the conservation priorities for whiting are continually met, the MEDMR has proposed that program participants be limited to landing up to 2,500 lb (1,134 kg) of whiting per trip and be allowed a maximum of 40 1-day trips per vessel. As an additional control measure, the MEDMR has proposed that participation be capped at 30 vessels. Participants will be required to submit timely catch and bycatch information in the form of specialized logbooks provided by MEDMR and through the completion of the NMFS' vessel trip reports required of all commercial fishers. NMFS will continue to look at