

following statement: "WARNING—failure to register this PLB with NOAA could result in a monetary forfeiture order being issued to the owner."

(f) To enhance protection of life and property it is mandatory that each 406.025 MHz PLB be registered with NOAA and that information be kept up-to-date. In addition to the identification plate or label requirements contained in §§ 2.925 and 2.926 of this chapter, each 406.025 MHz PLB must be provided on the outside with a clearly discernable permanent plate or label containing the following statement: "The owner of this 406.025 MHz PLB must register the NOAA identification code contained on this label with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) whose address is: NOAA, NOAA/SARSAT Operations Division, E/SP3, Federal Building 4, Washington, DC 20233." Owners shall advise NOAA in writing upon change of PLB ownership, or any other change in registration information. NOAA will provide registrants with proof of registration and change of registration postcards.

(g) For 406.025 MHz PLBs with identification codes that can be changed after manufacture, the identification code shown on the plate or label must be easily replaceable using commonly available tools.

[FR Doc. 00-2139 Filed 2-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 30

Changes in Cost of Accounting Practices

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement, in conjunction with the National Contract Management Association, is sponsoring additional public meetings to discuss alternatives to the Cost Accounting Standards Board's Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM-II) regarding "Changes in Cost Accounting Practices," published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 45700 on August 20, 1999. The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement would like to hear the views of interested parties on the current version of their recommended alternative to the approach proposed by the Cost Accounting Standards Board in SNPRM-II. The current version is available on the Internet Home Page of the Office of Cost, Pricing, and Finance at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dp/cpf>.

The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement is particularly interested in obtaining comments concerning three areas of its recommended alternatives:

1. The definition of "similar functions" and "similar activities."

2. The proper treatment of pool combinations, pool split-outs, and functional transfers that occur between two viable operating segments or that involve different organizational levels within the company.

3. Whether an exemption is necessary, and if so, the criteria needed to implement such an exemption.

The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement will evaluate the input received and, if determined necessary, provide a revised or amended version of its alternative to the Chairman of the Cost Accounting Standards Board for the Board's consideration.

DATES: The next public meeting will be held on February 10, 2000, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Based on the nature and extent of input received, additional public meetings may be held in the days and weeks following February 10. The dates and times of those meetings will be made available on <http://www.acq.mil/dp/cpf>, as soon as they are scheduled.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Contract Management Association, 1912 Woodford Drive, Vienna, VA 22182. Directions may be found on the Internet at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dp/cpf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Capitano, Office of Cost, Pricing, and Finance, by telephone at (703) 695-7249, by FAX at (703) 693-9616, or by e-mail at capitadj@acq.osd.mil; or Ms. Claudia Low, National Contract Management Association, by telephone at (703) 734-5440.

Michele P. Peterson,
Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, Notice of Reopening of Comment Period on the Proposed Endangered Status of the Cowhead Lake tui chub

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule, notice of reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), provides notice of the reopening of the comment period for the proposed endangered status for the Cowhead Lake tui chub (*Gila bicolor vaccaceps*). The comment period has been reopened by request from signatories of a conservation agreement for the Cowhead Lake tui chub, including private landowners, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

DATES: Comments from all interested parties must be received by February 16, 2000. All comments received by the closing date will be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: Written comments, materials, data, and reports concerning this proposal should be sent to the Field Supervisor, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, W 2605, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Hibbard at the address above (telephone 916/414-6600, facsimile 916/414-6710).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Background

The Cowhead Lake tui chub is a fish in the minnow family and can be primarily distinguished from other tui chubs by the number of bony projections in the gills. It is now found only in pump canals in the lakebed of Cowhead Lake and in Cowhead Slough in extreme northeastern Modoc County, California. Prior to hydrological modification of the Cowhead Lake watershed, including drainage of the lake for agricultural purposes, Cowhead Lake is thought to have contained the majority of the Cowhead Lake tui chub population, especially in wet years. The entire population now appears to occur only the 5.4 kilometers (3.4 miles) of Cowhead Slough and pump canals in the bed of Cowhead Lake. Habitat protection is required to conserve this subspecies, which is threatened throughout its range by a variety of impacts including loss of habitat from agricultural activities, risk of disease and contamination, loss of genetic variability, and naturally occurring random events.

On March 30, 1998, the Service published in the **Federal Register** a proposed rule to list the Cowhead Lake tui chub as endangered (63 FR 15152). The original comment period closed on May 29, 1998 but the comment period was reopened at the request of private citizens and organizations (63 FR 33033–33034). The second comment period closed on August 3, 1998 after which the Service, BLM, CDFG, and private landowners in the Cowhead Lake watershed signed a Conservation Agreement (C.A.) for the Cowhead Lake tui chub on October 22, 1999. The actions and goals committed to in the C.A. help to ensure the long-term survival of the subspecies by balancing current practices in the watershed with the long-term needs of the subspecies.

The Conservation Strategy of the C.A. includes two phases. Phase I, expected to be in effect for two years from signing, involves studies of the distribution, abundance, life history and habitat preferences of Cowhead Lake tui chubs and hydrology of the Cowhead Lake watershed. Phase II will build on what has been learned in Phase I to implement specific actions to improve the quality and availability of habitat for the subspecies. Phase II is estimated to be in effect for 10 years and includes monitoring to determine the effectiveness of conservation actions. The Conservation Strategy has an adaptive management approach; conservation actions will be modified when monitoring results indicate that such modification is necessary to conserve the Cowhead Lake tui chub.

The signatories of the C.A. have requested that the Service reopen the public comment period so the Service may also consider the conservation measures of the C.A. when making a final determination on the listing proposal of the Cowhead Lake tui chub. Written comments may be submitted until February 16, 2000 to the Service office in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Catherine Hibbard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

The authority of this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Elizabeth H. Stevens,

Manager, California/Nevada Operations Office.

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BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 011900C]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Deep-sea Red Crab Fishery; Scoping Process

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notice of scoping process; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) announces its intention to prepare a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for deep-sea red crab (*Chaceon quinque-dens*) and to prepare an EIS, if necessary, to analyze the impacts of any proposed management measures. The FMP would be developed pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Council also formally announces a public process to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the environmental impact analyses. The purpose of this notification is to alert the interested public of the commencement of the scoping process and to provide for public participation in compliance with environmental documentation requirements.

DATES: The Council will discuss and take scoping comments at public meetings in February 2000. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times. Written scoping comments must be received at the appropriate address or fax number (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before 5:00 p.m., local time, February 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The Council will discuss and take scoping comments at public meetings in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations. Written comments and requests for copies of the scoping document and other information should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, Telephone (978) 465–0492. Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 465–3116. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The deep-sea red crab (*Chaceon quinque-dens*) is a deep-water benthic species that supports a small commercial fishery on the Atlantic coast in southern New England and on the southern slope of Georges Bank. Although not regulated, the commercial fishery appears to be limited to approximately six vessels, with some possible seasonal participation by offshore lobster vessels. There is no FMP for red crab.

Information is scarce for this resource, but recent annual landings appear to be close to estimates of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) (5.5 mil lb (2.5 mil kg)). Current capacity in this fishery is sufficient to harvest or exceed MSY; there is concern about excess harvesting capacity entering this fishery. The Council is considering development of a controlled access system in the red crab fishery to address the principle of matching capacity to sustainable harvest level. The limitation of entry into the fishery may be based on levels of participation or other criteria, such as domestic harvest capacity. The Council will consider other management measures (e.g., minimum size, quotas, trap limits and/or requirements, fishing seasons, etc.) as appropriate.

Scoping Process

All persons affected by or otherwise interested in red crab fishery management are invited to participate in determining the scope and significance of issues to be analyzed by submitting written comments (see **ADDRESSES**) or attending one of the scoping meetings. Scope consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered. Alternatives include preparing an FMP that contains management measures such as the ones previously mentioned in this notice; preparing an FMP that does not contain management measures, but that has a framework procedure for the development of such measures in the future; not preparing an FMP at this time; or other reasonable courses of action. Impacts may be direct, indirect, individual, or cumulative. The scoping process also will identify and eliminate from detailed study issues that are not significant. If, after the scoping process is completed, the Council proceeds with the development of an FMP, the Council will prepare an EIS or Environmental Assessment, as appropriate, depending on the nature of the FMP to be developed. The Council will hold