

Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 19.5 kilometers (12.1 miles) southwest to avoid a short-spacing conflict with the licensed site of Station KFKF(FM), Channel 231C, Kansas City, Kansas. The coordinates for Channel 232C3 at Humboldt are 37-39-50 and 95-33-31.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before December 16, 1996, and reply comments on or before December 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Michael Sutcliffe, 127 South Grant, Chanute, Kansas 66720 (Petitioner).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 96-217, adopted October 18, 1996, and released October 25, 1996. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's 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, ITS, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037.

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. 96-28442 Filed 11-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 96-216, RM-8895]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Portsmouth, OH

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Peter L. Cea seeking the allotment of Channel 298A to Portsmouth, OH, as the community's third local commercial FM transmission service. Channel 298A can be allotted to Portsmouth in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements without the imposition of a site restriction, at coordinates 38-44-00 North Latitude; 82-59-56 West Longitude.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before December 16, 1996, and reply comments on or before December 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Peter L. Cea, 707 Green Cook Road, Sunbury, OH 43074 (Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MM Docket No. 96-216, adopted October 18, 1996, and released October 25, 1996. 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, D.C. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, D.C. 20037.

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 Rulemaking 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. 96-28440 Filed 11-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 96-215, RM-8898]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Anamosa, IA.

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition by Susan I. Coloff proposing the allotment of Channel 239A to Anamosa, Iowa, as the community's first local FM service. Channel 239A can be allotted to Anamosa in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements without the imposition of a site restriction. The coordinates for Channel 239A are 42-06-30 and 91-17-06.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before December 16, 1996, and reply comments on or before December 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Susan I. Coloff, 506 North Clark, Forest City, Iowa 50436 (petitioner).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MM Docket No. 96-215, adopted October 18, 1996, and released October 25, 1996. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, NW, Suite 140, Washington, D.C. 20037.

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 Rulemaking 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. 96-28437 Filed 11-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 285, 630, 644, and 678

[Docket No. 960808219-6219-01; I.D. 051096E]

RIN 0648-A128

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Consolidation of Regulations

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to consolidate four CFR parts containing regulations for the conservation and management of Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) into one CFR part. Atlantic HMS include Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfishes, and sharks. The consolidation would reorganize the existing regulations in a more logical and cohesive order, eliminate duplicative and outdated provisions, and make editorial changes to achieve readability, clarity, and uniformity. A number of substantive changes are proposed to achieve consistency among common elements such as permits and reporting. The purpose of this proposed rule is to make the regulations more concise, better

organized and, therefore, easier for the public to use. This proposed action is part of the President's Regulatory Reinvention Initiative.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Chris Rogers, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 02910. Comments regarding burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirement contained in this proposed rule should be sent to Chris Rogers at the above address and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Rogers, 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In March 1995, President Clinton issued a directive to Federal agencies regarding their responsibilities under his Regulatory Reinvention Initiative. This initiative is part of the National Performance Review and calls for comprehensive regulatory reform. The President directed all agencies to undertake a review of all their regulations, with an emphasis on eliminating or modifying those that are obsolete, duplicative, or otherwise in need of reform. This proposed rule is intended to carry out the President's directive with respect to those regulations for the conservation and management of Atlantic HMS in the EEZ, and, as applicable, regulatory areas beyond the U.S. EEZ.

Consolidation of Regulations Into One CFR Part

Currently, regulations pertaining to management of Atlantic HMS are contained in four separate parts of title 50 of the CFR. NMFS is proposing to remove three of the parts (parts 285 (Atlantic Tuna Fisheries), 644 (Atlantic Billfishes), and 678 (Atlantic Sharks)), and to consolidate the regulations contained therein with the existing regulations in part 630 (Atlantic Swordfish). These consolidated regulations would provide the public with a single reference source for the regulations applying to Atlantic HMS, which is more concise, clearer, and easier to use than the existing regulations.

Reorganization and Removal of Obsolete or Duplicative Provisions

NMFS proposes to simplify and shorten the existing Atlantic HMS regulations. Because portions of the existing regulations contain identical or nearly identical provisions, this rule would restructure text and eliminate the duplicative provisions. Regulatory language would be revised to improve clarity and consistency. In addition, obsolete provisions would be removed.

No substantive changes, except for those specifically identified below, are intended:

1. Reporting requirements would be extended to apply to all tournaments involving any Atlantic HMS, if selected for reporting by the Regional Director. This change reflects the fact that catch by anglers participating in tournaments may comprise any regulated HMS.

2. The incidental catch permit category for Atlantic tunas would be eliminated and redefined as "longline" and "drift gillnet" to reflect the existing authorization of directed longline and gillnet fisheries for tunas other than bluefin tuna. Also, existing regulations regarding incidental catch of bluefin tuna are unclear, causing some fishermen to believe that target catch requirements can be met using one gear while bluefin tuna is caught with another or to believe incorrectly that certain types of gear are authorized for incidental take of bluefin tuna. As a consequence of this reorganization, and to address enforcement issues concerning unauthorized landing of bluefin tuna under the bycatch quota, the allowance for incidental catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna by vessels using fixed gear and traps would be removed. In 1996, only 1 metric ton (less than 10 fish) was allocated to this category; thus, eliminating the landing allowance for fixed gear and traps would not have a significant impact.

3. Due to compliance and enforcement problems resulting from misidentification of juvenile tunas, the applicability of Atlantic tunas regulations would be extended to include blackfin tuna.

4. To achieve consistency between regulations applicable to all HMS, the definition of rod and reel gear would be modified to include the use of electrically operated reels. Although electric reels are permitted under current billfish regulations, conflicts with the consolidated regulations would arise when fishing for, or incidentally taking, Atlantic tunas. Therefore, the broader definition would be made applicable to all HMS.