

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

49 CFR Ch. XI

[BTS-96-1979]

Negotiated Rulemaking Committee To Revise the Motor Carrier Financial and Operating Data Collection Program; Rescheduling of Meeting and Extension of Comment Period on Proposed Establishment

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of rescheduled meeting; Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On January 23, 1997, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) published a notice in the Federal Register announcing that BTS would hold a public meeting on its proposal to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee to examine the relevant issues and attempt to reach a consensus in developing regulations governing the collection of financial and operating data from motor carriers of property. The meeting was to take place in Washington, D.C., on February 10, 1997. The notice also extended to February 28, 1997, the comment period on the proposal to establish the negotiated rulemaking committee, on the proposed membership of the Committee, and on the proposed issues for consideration by the Committee.

Due to scheduling conflicts with several people and entities that wish to participate, BTS has decided to reschedule the public meeting. The new meeting date is March 31, 1997, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time. In addition, BTS is further extending the comment period to April 30, 1997.

DATES: Rescheduled meeting. The meeting will be held Monday, March 31, 1997, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time.

Extended comment period. Interested parties may file comments and

nominations for committee membership on or before April 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Meeting. The meeting will take place at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C., in conference room 2230 of the Nassif Building. Since access to the DOT building is controlled, all persons who plan to attend the meeting must notify David Mednick on (202) 366-8871 prior to March 27. Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space available. Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Mr. Mednick at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Comment Period. When sending comments and/or nominations, send the original plus three copies. Mail to Docket Clerk, Docket No. BTS-96-1979, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL-401, Washington, D.C. 20590. Commenters desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. The Docket Clerk will date stamp the postcard and mail it back to the commenter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Mednick, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, K-2, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590; by phone at (202) 366-8871; by e-mail at david.mednick@bts.gov; or by Fax at (202) 366-3640.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 9, 1996, BTS published a notice in the Federal Register proposing to establish a negotiated rulemaking advisory committee (the Committee) under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Negotiated Rulemaking Act. 61 FR 64849. The Committee would consider the relevant issues and attempt to reach a consensus on regulations governing the collection of financial and operating data from motor carriers of property. This effort also is in response to the President's Regulatory Reinvention Initiative, which specifically directed agencies to increase use of regulatory negotiation in rulemaking proceedings. The Committee would be composed of people who represent the interests that would be substantially affected by the rule.

On January 23, 1997, BTS published a notice in the Federal Register announcing it would hold a public meeting on the proposal on February 10, 1997. 62 FR 3492. The purpose of the meeting was to better determine the utility of negotiating a rule on this matter. While negotiated rulemaking

would attempt to resolve issues surrounding the motor carrier data collection program, several initial matters deserve attention. First, do we need to amend the existing rule and, if so, is negotiated rulemaking the best process for updating the motor carrier data collection program? Second, if so, what are the core issues in dispute and differing legitimate needs of the interested parties? Third, which organizations or interests should be represented on the Committee? Because of scheduling conflicts, the original date of the public meeting is being changed. This notice reschedules that meeting and provides an extension for submitting comments on the proposal published December 19, 1996.

No Other Changes to the January 23, 1996, Notice

No other changes are made to the January 23, 1996, notice by this supplementary notice.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 4, 1997.

Robert A. Knisely,

Deputy Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

[FR Doc. 97-3168 Filed 2-5-97; 10:30 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 020397B]

RIN 0648-AJ23

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Amendment 9

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of an amendment to a fishery management plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 9 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan for Secretarial review. Amendment 9 would require a sablefish endorsement on limited entry permits for permit holders to participate in the regular limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery, north of 36°N. latitude (the U.S.-Vancouver, Columbia, Eureka, and Monterey management areas).

DATES: Comments on Amendment 9 must be received on or before April 8, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on Amendment 9 or supporting documents should be sent to Mr. William Stelle, Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or to Ms. Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

Copies of Amendment 9, the Environmental Assessment, the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR)/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), and Fishing Impact Statement are available from Larry Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson at 206-526-6140, Rodney McInnis at 310-980-4040, or the Pacific Fishery Management Council at 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that

each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any fishery management plan (FMP) or plan amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving an FMP or amendment, immediately publish a notice that the FMP or amendment is available for public review and comment. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the FMP or amendment.

Amendment 9 would require a sablefish endorsement on limited entry permits for permit holders to participate in the regular, limited entry, nontrawl sablefish fishery north of 36°N. latitude. The Council recommended that the qualifying criteria for a sablefish endorsement be at least 16,000 lb (7,257.5 kg) of sablefish catch in any one calendar year from 1984 through 1994 based on the catch history of the limited entry permit. Limited entry, fixed gear permit holders without sablefish endorsements will still be able to participate in the small, daily trip limit fishery.

NMFS invites comments on proposed Amendment 9 through the end of the comment period. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the proposed amendment. A proposed rule to implement Amendment 9 has been submitted for Secretarial review and approval. NMFS expects to publish the proposed rule and request public comment on the proposed regulations to implement Amendment 9 in the near future. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by April 8, 1997 to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on Amendment 9. All comments received by April 8, 1997 whether specifically directed to Amendment 9 or the proposed rule, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on Amendment 9.

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

Dated: February 4, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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