

stations and implementing the designated entity provisions of section 309(j)(4) of the Act.

#### VI. Federal Rules That May Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict With the Proposed Rule

60. None.

#### Ordering Clauses

61. *Accordingly, It is Ordered, That Notice is Hereby Given of the proposed regulatory changes described above, and that Comment is Sought* on these proposals.

62. *It Is Further Ordered, That* pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.419, comments *Shall Be Filed* on or before January 26, 1998 and reply comments *Shall Be filed* on or before February 17, 1998. To file formally in this proceeding, commenters must file an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, and supporting documents filed in this proceeding. If commenters want each Commissioner to receive a personal copy of their comments, they must file an original plus nine copies. Comments and reply comments should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition, commenters should file copies of any such pleadings with the Mass Media Bureau, Video Services Division, Room 702, and Audio Services Division, Room 302, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554, and with the Office of General Counsel, Room 610, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

63. *It Is Further Ordered, That* written comments by the public on the proposed and/or modified information collections are due January 26, 1998. Written comments must be submitted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the proposed and/or modified information collections on or before February 10, 1998. In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collections contained herein should be submitted to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, Room 234, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to [jboley@fcc.gov](mailto:jboley@fcc.gov), and to Timothy Fain, OMB Desk Officer, 10236 NEOB, 725—17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC

20503 or via the Internet to [fain-t@al.eop.gov](mailto:fain-t@al.eop.gov).

64. *It is Further Ordered, That,* effective upon the close of business on the date of release of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission *Will Not Accept* applications for construction permits for new stations or for major changes to existing facilities in any commercial broadcast or secondary broadcast service. However, the Commission *Will Accept* applications timely filed in response to an outstanding cut-off list or an open filing window.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32520 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### 49 CFR Part 213

[Docket No. RST-90-1, Notice No. 7]

RIN 2130-AA75

#### Track Safety Standards; Miscellaneous Proposed Revisions

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking, request for additional comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice contains information about a document entitled, "Evaluation of Proposed High Speed Track Surface Geometry Specification" which addresses proposed track safety standards for high speed rail and was submitted to FRA by the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (VNTSC). The document was submitted after the close of the comment period for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to revise the Federal track safety standards, published July 3, 1997 at 62 FR 36138. Because the contents of the submission may affect the outcome of the final rule in this proceeding, this notice solicits comments on the document.

**DATES:** The deadline for submission of comments to the VNTSC document is December 22, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** To view the VNTSC document: The VNTSC document for which FRA is soliciting comments may be reviewed in Room 7051 of FRA headquarters at 1120 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Written comments: Written comments should identify the docket number and

the notice number and should be submitted in triplicate to: Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 10, Washington, D.C. 20590. Persons desiring to be notified that their written comments have been received by FRA should include with their comments a stamped, self-addressed postcard. The Docket Clerk will indicate on the postcard the date on which the comments were received and will return the card to the addressee. Written comments will be available for examination during regular business hours in Room 7051 of FRA headquarters at 1120 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David W. Jamieson, Office of Safety Enforcement, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 25, Washington, D.C. 20590 (telephone: 202-632-3341), or Nancy Lummen Lewis, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Mail Stop 10, Washington, D.C. 20590 (telephone: 202-632-3174).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice summarizes a working paper issued recently by the VNTSC entitled, "Evaluation of Proposed High Speed Track Surface Geometry Specification," dated December 1, 1997. The working paper has been placed in the docket for this proceeding. The working paper evaluates the response of different high speed locomotive designs to track profile geometry variations. It focuses on a comparative analysis of high speed locomotive designs with carbody-mounted traction motors and locomotive designs with truck-mounted traction motors. The minimum amplitudes of track profile variations required to cause excessive vertical accelerations in the operator's cab and to cause suspension bottoming are compared with the maximum amplitudes prescribed in the proposed high speed track safety standards published in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on July 3, 1997. The analysis shows that a locomotive designed with truck-mounted traction motors requires an approximately 33 percent smaller track profile variation amplitude to cause excessive vertical accelerations than a locomotive designed with carbody-mounted traction motors.

The analysis contained in the VNTSC working paper may affect the outcome of the final rule for this proceeding. Therefore, FRA invites comments relevant to the information included in the working paper.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 5, 1997.

**Edward R. English,**

*Director, Office of Safety Enforcement,  
Federal Railroad Administration.*

[FR Doc. 97-32510 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 229

[I.D. 042597B]

#### Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Gulf of Maine Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Regulations

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

**ACTION:** Reopening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On August 13, 1997, NMFS published proposed regulations to implement a plan to reduce the bycatch and mortality of harbor porpoises that occur incidental to sink gillnet fishing in the Gulf of Maine. The public comment period for the proposed regulations ended on October 14, 1997. NMFS is hereby reopening the public comment period for an additional 30 days. The comment period will reopen on December 16, 1997, and extend until January 14, 1998.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before January 14, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments on the proposed regulations to Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or by calling (301) 713-2322. Copies of the draft Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP) and Environmental Assessment are available upon request from Douglas Beach, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, or from Donna Wieting, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kevin Chu, NMFS, 508-495-2291 or Donna Wieting, NMFS, 301-713-2322.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 13, 1997 (62 FR 43302), NMFS published a proposed regulation to implement a plan to reduce the bycatch and mortality of harbor porpoises that

occur incidental to sink gillnet fishing in the Gulf of Maine. These regulations were based on a draft HPTRP submitted by the Gulf of Maine Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team (HPTRT) pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The notice indicated that comments must be received by October 14, 1997.

NMFS has decided to reconvene the HPTRT on December 16 and 17, 1997. NMFS has, therefore, decided to reopen the public comment period on the proposed regulations for an additional 30 days from the first date of the HPTRT meeting.

Dated: December 8, 1997.

**Patricia A. Montanio,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-32474 Filed 12-11-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971124274-7274-01; I.D. 110597A]

RIN 0648-AH67

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Forage Fish Species Category

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes regulations to implement Amendment 36 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area and Amendment 39 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMPs). This action would define a forage fish species category in both FMPs and implement associated management measures. The intended effect of this action is to prevent the development of a commercial directed fishery for forage fish, which are a critical food source for many marine mammal, seabird, and fish species. This action is necessary to conserve and manage the forage fish resource off Alaska and to further the goals and objectives of the FMPs.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed rule must be received at the following address by January 26, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be sent to the Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori J. Gravel, or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th. Street, Juneau, AK. Copies of the proposed FMP amendments and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR) prepared for Amendments 36 and 39 are available from NMFS at the above address, or by calling the Alaska Region, NMFS, at 907-586-7228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kent Lind, 907-586-7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The domestic groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI) and of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) are managed by NMFS under the FMPs. The FMPs were prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Regulations governing the groundfish fisheries of the BSAI and GOA appear at 50 CFR parts 600 and 679.

The Council has submitted Amendments 36 and 39 for Secretarial review and a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the FMP amendments was published on November 12, 1997 (62 FR 60682), with comments on the FMP amendments invited through January 12, 1997. Written comments may address the FMP amendments, the proposed rule, or both, but must be received by January 12, 1997, to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the FMP amendments.

#### Management Background and Need for Action

Forage fish are abundant fishes that are preyed upon by marine mammals, seabirds, and commercially important groundfish species. Forage fish perform a critical role in the complex ecosystem functions of the BSAI and the GOA by providing the transfer of energy from the primary or secondary producers to higher trophic levels.

Significant declines in marine mammals and seabirds in the BSAI and GOA have raised concerns that decreases in the forage fish biomass may contribute to the further decline of marine mammal, seabird, and commercially important fish populations. Forage fish are the principal diet of more than two thirds of Alaskan seabirds. In addition, many seabirds can subsist on a variety of invertebrates and fish during