

that the proposals contained in the *FNPRM*, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The Office of Public Affairs, Reference Operation Division, will send a copy of this certification, along with this *FNPRM*, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the SBA in accordance with the RFA, see 5 U.S.C. 605(b), and to Congress pursuant to the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, see 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). In addition, this certification, as well as this *FNPRM* (or summaries thereof), will be published in the **Federal Register**.

B. Filing Comments

40. Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before July 2, 1999, and reply comments on or before July 16, 1999. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24,121 (1998).

41. Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

42. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appear in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, S.W.; TW-A325; Washington, D.C. 20554.

43. Parties who choose to file by paper should also submit their comments on diskette. These diskettes

should be submitted to: Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, S.W., Room 5-A523, Washington, DC 20554. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette formatted in an IBM compatible format using WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows or compatible software. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly labelled with the commenter's name, proceeding, including the lead docket number in this case (CC Docket No. 96-45), type of pleading (comment or reply comment), date of submission, and the name of the electronic file on the diskette. The label should also include the following phrase "Disk Copy—Not an Original." Each diskette should contain only one party's pleadings, preferably in a single electronic file. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

III. Ordering Clauses

44. Accordingly, it is ordered that, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1-4, 201-205, 218-220, 214, 254, 303(r), 403, and 410 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151-154, 201-205, 218-220, 214, 254, 303(r), 403, and 410, the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is adopted. The collections of information contained within are contingent upon approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

45. It is further ordered that the Commission's Office of Public Affairs, Reference Operations Division, shall send a copy of the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 36

Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Telephone.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 648

[I.D. 052699A]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Applications for Experimental Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Notification of experimental fishery proposal; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, is considering approval of an experimental fishing proposal. EFPs would allow vessels to conduct operations otherwise restricted by regulations governing the Northeast Multispecies Fishery, and would exempt vessels from days-at-sea (DAS), mesh sizes, and other gear restrictions. The experimental fishery proposal is for a comparative mesh selectivity study in waters south of Rhode Island Sound, South of Nantucket Island, North of Cape Cod Bay, and South of Long Island from Montauk to Shinnecock. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provisions require publication of this document to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed experimental fishery.

DATES: Comments on this notification must be received by June 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Jon Rittgers, Acting Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark on the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed Experimental Fisheries."

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The initial experimental fishery proposal was submitted by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management in conjunction with the University of Rhode Island (URI) on March 15, 1999. It was later revised to include additional areas, species, and codend mesh sizes on May 12, 1999. Their proposal is for a comparative mesh selectivity experiment that would investigate mesh selectivity functions of three square codend mesh sizes—5.5

inch (14 cm), 6 inch (15.2 cm) and 6.5 inch (16.5 cm). The study will be conducted using two Rhode Island commercial fishing vessels, as well as representatives from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, two Massachusetts commercial fishermen, two New York commercial fishermen, and participation by the New York Department of Environmental Protection. Sea trials will be conducted to quantify the mesh selectivity differences and comparative catch rates of winter flounder (*Pleuronectes americanus*), summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*), yellowtail flounder (*Limanda ferrugina*), American plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*), grey sole (*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*), and windowpane flounder (*Lophopsetta*

maculata). The experiment will test both 6.5 inch (16.5 cm) codend and 5.5 inch (14 cm) codend square mesh (treatments) against 6 inch (15.2 cm) codend square mesh (control) nets, including the use of mesh liners (currently prohibited under the regulations), by switching the control and treatment between the participating vessels on alternating tows. This alternating sampling sequence between two different vessels is designed to show how vessel power and size differences may contribute to mesh selectivity differences.

URI scientific personnel will monitor all cruise operations. All undersized fish will be returned to the sea as soon as possible. All other catch not used for sampling purposes will be landed and

sold. The proposed operations will occur over a 20- to 24-day period to begin on or about July 15, 1999, through October 31, 1999.

EFPs would be issued to the participating vessels in the experiments in accordance with the conditions stated, and will exempt vessels from the mesh size, DAS, and other gear restrictions of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan during the specified time frame.

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

Dated: June 2, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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