

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 571

Imports, Incorporation by reference, Motor vehicle safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Tires.

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA proposes to amend 49 CFR Chapter V as set forth below.

PART 571—FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

1. The authority citation for Part 571 would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30166 and 30177; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

2. A new section 571.401 would be added to Part 571, to read as follows:

§ 571.401 Standard No. 401; Internal trunk release.

S1. Purpose and scope. This standard establishes the requirement for providing a release mechanism inside the trunk compartment of a motor vehicle, so that people trapped inside the trunk will be able to unlatch the trunk.

S2. Application. This standard applies to passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, buses, and trucks that have a trunk lid.

S3. Definitions. Trunk lid means a movable body panel that provides access from outside the vehicle to a space wholly partitioned from the occupant compartment by a permanently attached partition or a fixed or fold-down seat back.

S4. Requirements. Each motor vehicle that has a trunk lid shall have a release mechanism inside the trunk compartment that unlatches the trunk lid. This internal trunk release must include a feature, like lighting or phosphorescence, that allows it to be easily seen inside the closed trunk.

Issued on December 13, 1999.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 99-32752 Filed 12-14-99; 3:51 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 216**

[Docket No. 990922260-9260-01; I.D. 083199E]

RIN 0648-AM84

Designation of the Cook Inlet, Alaska, Stock of Beluga Whale as Depleted Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Response to Petitions

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On October 19, 1999, NMFS proposed to designate the Cook Inlet beluga whales as depleted under the MMPA. In response to requests from the public, NMFS is extending the comment period for 30 days.

DATES: Comments and information must be received by January 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to the Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Payne, NOAA/NMFS, Alaska Region, (907) 586-7235, or Brad Smith, NOAA/NMFS, Alaska Region, Anchorage Field Office, (907) 271-5006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 19, 1999, NMFS proposed to designate the Cook Inlet, Alaska, stock of beluga whales as depleted under the MMPA (64 FR 56298). Subsequently, NMFS received several requests from the public to extend the comment period for an additional 30 days to allow the public more time to review and comment on the proposed designation. NMFS agrees that an additional 30 days for public comments is warranted and extends the comment period through January 19, 2000.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-32777 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 622**

[I.D. 120699A]

RIN 0648-AK96

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 17

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of Amendment 17 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 17 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico for review, approval, and implementation by NMFS. Amendment 17 would extend the commercial reef fish vessel permit moratorium for 5 years to December 31, 2005. The current moratorium is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2000. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide a stable environment in the fishery for evaluation and development of a more comprehensive controlled access system for the entire commercial reef fish fishery.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern standard time, on February 15, 2000 at the appropriate address or fax number (See **ADDRESSES**).

ADDRESSES: Written comments must be mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to 727-570-5583. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

Requests for copies of Amendment 17, which includes an environmental assessment and a regulatory impact review, should be sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, Florida 33619-2266; phone: 813-228-2815; fax: 813-225-7015; e-mail: Gulf.Council@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael C. Barnette, NMFS, 727-570-5305, fax 727-570-5583, e-mail Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires each Regional Fishery Management Council to submit a FMP or amendment to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving an amendment, immediately publish a document in the **Federal Register** stating that the amendment is available for public review and comment.

Amendment 4 to the FMP, as approved and implemented by NMFS on May 8, 1992, initiated the moratorium on the issuance of new commercial reef fish vessel permits, which was intended to last for 3 years. It was subsequently extended twice, the second of which was in 1995 for a duration of 5 years terminating on December 31, 2000. The Council and NMFS deemed the moratorium necessary to moderate short-term future increases in fishing effort and to stabilize fishing mortality while the Council considered a more comprehensive effort limitation program for the reef fish fishery. During the moratorium, the Council developed an individual transferable quota system for red snapper. However, before it was implemented, Congress prohibited individual fishing quotas (IFQs) under sections 303(d) and 407 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The current Congressional prohibition of IFQs will lapse on October 1, 2000.

The Council intends to evaluate a broad range of controlled access systems, including IFQ, for the commercial reef fish fishery. Development and implementation of a comprehensive controlled access system is expected to extend past the period of the current moratorium. Without the benefit of a moratorium, open access in the reef fish fishery is bound to increase fishing effort and complicate allocation of fishing privileges, thereby creating an unstable fishery environment.

NMFS will consider comments received by February 15, 2000, whether specifically directed to the amendment or the proposed rule, in its decision to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the amendment. NMFS will not consider comments received after that date in this decision. NMFS will address all comments on the amendment or the proposed rule received during their respective comment periods in the final rule.

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

Dated: December 13, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 99-32780 Filed 12-16-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 120999A]

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Scoping Meetings

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

ACTION: Public scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene public scoping meetings on its draft Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (CREFMP), preliminary draft Environmental Impact Statement (PDEIS) for the CREFMP, and associated documents for the CREFMP.

The Council announces its intention to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the Federal management of crustaceans in the Western Pacific Region. The scope of the EIS analysis will include all activities related to the conduct of the fisheries and will examine the impacts of crustacean harvest on, among other things, protected species. The Council will hold public scoping meetings and accept written comments to provide for public input into the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts that the EIS should consider. The Council will continue scoping meetings for the EIS on bottomfish and seamount groundfish fisheries with meetings planned throughout Hawaii.

The Council also announces its intention to develop an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Pelagic Species Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (Pelagics FMP) which will consider a range of alternatives and impacts for management of incidental and directed catches of management unit species of sharks, including finning. The Council will hold a series of meetings to give the public an opportunity to comment.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until January 24, 2000. Public scoping meetings will be held from December 20, 1999, to January 13, 2000.

See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, times and locations.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the Council's draft CREFMP and PDEIS, intent to prepare EISs for crustacean fisheries, scoping for crustacean, bottomfish, and seamount groundfish fisheries and intent to develop an amendment to the pelagics FMP concerning shark catches should be sent to Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813. Copies of the draft CREFMP, PDEIS and documents for the crustacean EIS, bottomfish EIS and shark management are available from the Council office. Public scoping meetings will be held in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Hawaii. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific scoping meeting locations and for special accommodations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. A summary of the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP/PDEIS will be presented including the preferred alternatives identified by the Council for management action, as described below. Comments will be solicited from the public on these management alternatives.

At its 101st meeting, held from October 18-21, 1999, the Council took initial action to approve the following preferred alternatives for the FMP:

1. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): (a) For the unincorporated atolls: MPAs would be zoned for limited take, subject to a special permit (see permit requirements below), to a depth of 50 fm around each island/atoll, with exceptions granted for personal consumption by island residents and for fishing for species managed under existing FMPs.

(b) For the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI): the MPA would include all substrate from the shoreline to a depth of 50 fm and be zoned for no take from 0-10 fm and for limited take, by special permit only (see permit requirements below), from 10-50 fm, with exceptions granted for fishing for species managed under existing FMPs.

(c) For Guam's offshore southwest banks: This area would be designated a MPA, with the only initial restriction being a prohibition on anchoring on the banks by fishing vessels >50 ft. long.

2. Allowable Gear and Methods: Allowable gear would be limited to remotely operated vehicles (ROV)/