

requirements of S5.1 through S5.5.

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S5.1.3 * * *

(b) For mechanical keys and starting systems, if the key is in the starting system in a manner or position that allows the engine or motor to be started or to continue operating; or

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S5.4 *Requirements for vehicles using electronic codes to access the starting system without physical connection between the key and the vehicle.*

S5.4.1 *Propulsion system deactivation*

S5.4.1.1. For a vehicle equipped with a propulsion system stop control that is activated by the driver pressing on the control—

(a) The vehicle's propulsion system must not stop until the control has been depressed for more than 500 milliseconds.

(b) The propulsion system must shut off within 1 second after the control is first pressed.

(c) Restarting the propulsion system after it has been stopped, but the vehicle is still moving at more than 15 km/h (9.3 mph), is permitted only by means of actuating the control used by the driver to start the propulsion system.

S5.4.2 *Warnings to driver exiting a vehicle with the gear selection control not in "park," for vehicles equipped with a "park" position.*

S5.4.2.1. Motor vehicles whose transmissions have a "park" position and whose starting system is accessed by electronic key codes without any physical connection between the key and the vehicle shall meet the requirements of S5.4.2.2 and S5.4.2.3.

S5.4.2.2 When tested in accordance with S6.3.1, an audible alert of no less than 85dBA between 500–3000 Hz must sound when the driver actuates the stop control while the gear selection control is not in "park" and the vehicle is moving at less than 15 km/h (9.3 mph). This alert must continue until the gear selection control is placed in "park". The gear selection control must be movable to the "park" position without the restarting of the propulsion system.

S5.4.2.3. When tested in accordance with S6.3.2, an audible alert of no less than 85dBA between 500–3000 Hz, measured outside the vehicle, must sound when the door located closest to the driver's designated seating position is opened while the gear selection control is not in "park", the vehicle is moving at less than 15 km/h (9.3 mph), and the key code carrying device is not present in the vehicle. This alert must sound for 1 minute or until the gear

selection control is moved to "park," whichever occurs first. This alert is not required to sound if the transmission becomes locked in "park" as a direct result of key removal upon door opening, or upon removal of the key code carrying device from the vehicle.

S5.5 *Warning to driver exiting a vehicle while propulsion system is operating.* When tested in accordance with section S6.3.3, an audible alert of no less than 85dBA between 500–3000 Hz, measured outside the vehicle, must sound if, the propulsion system is actuated, or capable of actuating without reintroduction of the electronic key code into the starting system, the door located closest to the driver's designated seating position is opened, and the key code carrying device is not present in the vehicle. This alert must sound for no less than 1 second.

S5.6 *Owner's manual required language.* In the vehicle's owner's manual, the manufacturer must place instructions regarding the operation of the control(s) that starts and stops the propulsion system. This language must contain a warning that power assist to steering and braking will be lost in the event the propulsion system is shut down while the vehicle is in motion. There must be an explanation of how to handle the vehicle safely in the event power assist to steering and braking is lost.

S6. *Compliance test procedure.*

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S6.2 *Test procedure for vehicles with transmissions with a "park" position.*

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S6.3 *Test procedures for vehicles using electronic key codes with their starting systems.*

S6.3.1(a) Enter the vehicle with the key code carrying device.

(b) Actuate the propulsion system start control.

(c) Place the gear selection control in any position except "park"

(d) Activate the propulsion system stop control.

(e) Verify that an alert sounds.

(f) Measure the sound level of this alert at 740 mm above the driver's seat.

(g) Verify that the sound level is no less than 85dBA between 500–3000Hz.

(h) Move the gear selection control to the "park" position.

(i) Verify that the alert stops.

S6.3.2 (a) Enter the vehicle with the key code carrying device and sit in the driver's seat.

(b) Actuate the propulsion system start control.

(c) Place the gear selection control in any position except "park".

(d) Actuate the propulsion system stop control.

(e) Open the driver's door, exit the vehicle with the key code carrying device and close the driver's door.

(f) Verify that an alert can be heard exterior to the vehicle.

(g) Verify the sound level of the alert is no less than 85 dBA at 500–3000 Hz measured 1 meter perpendicular to the driver's door and 1580 mm above the ground.

(h) Without moving the gear selection control to the "park" position, verify that the alert continues to sound for 1 minute.

(i) Verify that the alert sounds until the gear selection control is moved to the "park" position.

S6.3.3 (a) Enter the vehicle with the key code carrying device and sit in the driver's seat.

(b) Actuate the propulsion system start control.

(c) Do not actuate the propulsion system stop control.

(d) Open the driver's door, exit the vehicle with the key code carrying device and close the driver's door.

(e) Verify that an alert can be heard exterior to the vehicle.

(f) Verify the sound level of the alert is no less than 85 dBA at 500–3000 Hz measured 1 meter perpendicular to the driver's door and 1580mm above the ground.

(g) Verify that the alert continues to sound for no less than 1 sec.

Issued on: December 1, 2011.

Christopher J. Bonanti,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

RIN 0648–BB34

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies; Amendment 17

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

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

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council has submitted Amendment 17 to the Northeast

Multispecies Fishery Management Plan for review by the Secretary of Commerce. NMFS is requesting comments from the public on Amendment 17, which was adopted by the Council, including an Environmental Assessment prepared by NMFS, to explicitly define and facilitate the effective operation of state-operated permit banks.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 10, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Amendment 17 are available on request from Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Newburyport, MA 01950. These documents are also available online at <http://www.nefmc.org>. You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2011–0186, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal www.regulations.gov. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the “submit a comment” icon, then enter 0648–BB34 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the “Submit a Comment” icon on the right of that line.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, “Comments on NE Multispecies Amendment 17.”

- Fax (978) 281–9135, *Attn:* William Whitmore.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Whitmore, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281–9182; *fax:* (978) 281–9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In 2009 and 2010, NOAA provided nearly \$6 million in funding through Federal grants to the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island for the express purpose of establishing several “permit banks” of Northeast (NE) multispecies fishing vessel permits. The permit banks were developed jointly by the states and NMFS to help promote the effective implementation of catch share programs in New England and to mitigate some of the potential adverse socio-economic impacts to fishing communities and small-scale fishing businesses. This administrative action would amend the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to explicitly define and facilitate the effective operation of state-operated permit banks.

The intent of the permit bank program is for states to use the funding to obtain fishing vessel permits and then to provide the fishing opportunities associated with those permits, in the form of an annual catch entitlement (ACE) and/or days-at-sea, to qualified fishermen. State-operated permit banks are not recognized under the current provisions of the NE Multispecies FMP, and the only entities allocated and authorized to transfer a sector’s ACE to approved sectors are other approved sectors. Currently, the only mechanism available for a state-operated permit bank to operate (*i.e.*, transfer ACE to fishermen in sectors) is for the permit bank to either join an existing sector as a member or to form a sector with other permit holders. Both of these mechanisms unnecessarily complicate the operation of the state-operated permit banks by imposing redundant administrative requirements.

Amendment 17 would define a state-operated permit bank as a permit depository established through an agreement between NOAA and one or more states, in which Federal grant funds are used by the state(s) to establish a bank of Federal fishing vessel permits so that the fishing access privileges associated with those permits may be allocated by the state(s) to qualifying commercial fishermen and sectors according to criteria to which NOAA and the state(s) have agreed. State-operated permit banks are subject to U.S. Department of Commerce regulations regarding program income, such that any revenue generated by the permit banks may only be used to defray

the program costs of operating the permit bank, or must be returned to the Federal Government to reduce the amount of the initial grant award.

Under this amendment, state-operated permit banks would be allocated ACE and specifically authorized to provide that ACE to approved groundfish sectors, and/or to provide days-at-sea (DAS) to vessels for the purpose of enhancing the fishing opportunities available to sector members. State-operated permit banks must comply with the terms and conditions of any applicable Federal grant agreement (*i.e.*, a Federal grant award provided to a state for the purpose of establishing, enhancing, or operating a permit bank), as well as meet the requirements specified in a memorandum of agreement (MOA) established with NMFS for administering the permit bank.

Amendment 17 defines state-operated permit banks as separate entities from the groundfish sectors, and establishes certain minimum criteria for these newly defined entities in order to qualify for the streamlined administrative procedures described in this amendment. This amendment is primarily administrative in nature and does not specifically establish or authorize the formation of any state-operated permit banks. Absent this amendment, such permit banks would remain free to form—subject to support and funding from NOAA—and operate to transfer ACE and/or DAS to sectors, according to the terms and conditions placed upon them by any NOAA grant award and/or MOA signed with NMFS, so long as they fully comply with the administrative and procedural requirements for groundfish sectors currently established in the NE Multispecies FMP.

Public comments are being solicited on Amendment 17, including its Environmental Assessment, through the end of the comment period stated in this notice of availability. A proposed rule that would implement Amendment 17 will be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period provided in this notice of availability of Amendment 17 to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendment. All comments received by February 10, 2012, whether specifically directed to Amendment 17 or the proposed rule for Amendment 17, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on Amendment 17. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the decision to approve or disapprove

Amendment 17. To be considered, comments must be received by close of business on the last day of the comment period.

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

Dated: December 7, 2011.

Steven Thur,

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

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