public review, we are extending the comment period to January 15, 1999.

Dated: December 30, 1998.

Thomas O. Melius,
Acting Director.
[FR Doc. 99–144 Filed 1–5–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 111998B]

RIN 0648–AM13

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery, Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery, and Atlantic Salmon Fishery; Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendments

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

ACTION: Amendment to a notice of availability (NOA) of an omnibus amendment to FMPs; request for comments.

SUMMARY: On December 1 and again on December 7, 1998, NMFS published NOAs of an omnibus amendment that included Amendment 11 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP, Amendment 9 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP, and Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Salmon FMP. The NOAs described the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) measures contained in the omnibus amendment and initiated the Atlantic salmon overfishing definition and a framework provision for aquaculture contained in Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Salmon FMP. This notification informs the public of the regulations that may be implemented to allow for the framework adjustment process for Atlantic salmon. NMFS announces that this new management measure is currently under review by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and invites public comment.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the amendment should be sent to Jon C. Rittgers, Acting Regional Administrator, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Please mark the outside of the envelope: ''Comments on Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Salmon FMP.''

Copies of the Amendment, its regulatory impact review and

environmental assessment are available from Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906–1036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie L. VanPelt, Fishery Management Specialist, 978–281–9244.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 1, 1998, NMFS published a notification in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 66110) announcing that the New England Fishery Management Council submitted for review and approval by the Secretary an omnibus amendment containing EFH provisions that would implement the requirements of section 303(a)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. On December 7, 1998, NMFS published an amended notification in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 67450) announcing that in addition to the EFH measures, Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Salmon FMP would include a discussion of the Atlantic salmon overfishing definition and an aquaculture framework adjustment process for Atlantic salmon. The omnibus amendment describes and identifies EFH for specified fisheries, discusses measures to address the effects of fishing on EFH, and identifies other actions for the conservation and enhancement of EFH.

A proposed rule that would implement the regulations implementing a framework process to allow for Atlantic salmon aquaculture may be published in the **Federal Register** for public comment, following NMFS' evaluation of the proposed rule under the procedures of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Because the December 7, 1998, notification did not specifically indicate that there would be any new regulations proposed, this notice informs the public that this additional management measure is under Secretarial review for approval, disapproval, or partial approval, and invites public comment. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period for the NOA on February 1, 1999, to be considered in the approval/ disapproval decision on the FMP amendment. All comments received by February 1, 1999, whether specifically directed to the FMP amendment or the proposed rule, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the approval/ disapproval decision on the FMP amendment.

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

Dated: December 31, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99–220 Filed 1–5–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 981204297–8297–01; I.D. 110698B]

RIN 0648–AK21

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries; Amendment 5

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this proposed rule to implement Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish of the Western Pacific Region (FMP). Amendment 5 would establish a permanent limited access program for the Mau Zone Bottomfish fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). The intent of this action is to conserve and to support the long-term productivity of the bottomfish stocks by preventing the potential for excessive harvest capacity and to improve the low economic returns in the fishery.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received on or before February 22, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this proposed rule or Amendment 5 should be sent to Alvin Katekaru, Fishery Management Specialist, Pacific Islands Area Office (PIAO), NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 96822–2396. Copies of these documents are available from, Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813. Send comments on the modifications to approved collection-of-information requirements to PIAO, NMFS, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI, 96822 and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 (ATTN: NOAA Desk Officer).