

Budget expense categories	(\$1,000)	
	6/25/98	12/1/98
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	191.5	189.7
Research and Development	30	0
Office Rent	23	23
Travel	21	18.5
Acreage Survey	21	0
Reserve (Contingencies)	9.14	50.93
Equipment Rental	9	9
Data Processing	8	3.85
Stationery and Printing	5.5	5
Office Supplies	5	5
Postage and Messenger	5	5

Due to unusually cool and wet weather conditions caused by the El Nino this season, the 1998-99 crop harvest is about four weeks late, of poor quality, and approximately 50 percent less than normal size. At its December 1, 1998, meeting, the Committee reduced the California Agricultural Statistical Service's dried prune crop estimate for 1998-99 from 170,000 tons (161,500 salable tons) to 103,000 tons (99,750 salable tons).

The Committee reviewed and unanimously recommended 1998-99 expenditures of \$327,180. The assessment rate of \$3.28 per ton of salable dried prunes was then determined by dividing the total recommended budget by the reduced estimate for salable dried prunes. The Committee is authorized to use excess assessment funds from the 1997-98 crop year (currently estimated at \$58,088) for up to five months beyond the end of the crop year to fund 1998-99 crop year expenses. At the end of the five months, the Committee refunds or credits excess funds to handlers (§ 993.81(c)). Anticipated assessment income and interest income during 1998-99 would be adequate to cover authorized expenses.

Recent price information indicates that the grower price for the 1998-99 season should average about \$800 per salable ton of dried prunes. Based on estimated shipments of 99,750 salable tons, assessment revenue during the 1998-99 crop year is expected to be less than 1 percent of the total expected grower revenue.

This action increases the assessment obligation imposed on handlers. While assessments impose some additional costs on handlers, the costs are minimal and uniform on all handlers. Some of the additional costs may be passed on to producers. However, these costs would be offset by the benefits derived by the operation of the marketing order. In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the California dried prune industry, and all

interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the December 1, 1998, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue.

This rule imposes no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on either small or large California dried prune handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

The Department has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

A proposed rule concerning this action was published in the **Federal Register** on December 18, 1998 (63 FR 70063). The proposal was made available through the Internet by the Office of the Federal Register. A 10-day comment period ending December 28, 1998, was provided for interested persons to respond to the proposal. No comments were received.

After consideration of all relevant material presented, including the information and recommendation submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, it also found and determined that good cause exists for not postponing the effective date of this rule until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register** because: (1) The Committee needs to collect assessments from handlers based on the higher rate as soon as possible to pay its expenses which are incurred on a continuous basis; (2) the 1998-99 crop year began on August 1, 1998, and the marketing order requires that the rate of assessment for each crop year apply to all assessable dried prunes handled during such year.

Further, handlers are aware of this rule which was recommended unanimously at a public meeting. Also, no comments were received in response to the proposed rule on the assessment rate increase.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 993

Marketing agreements, Plums, Prunes, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 993 is amended as follows:

PART 993—DRIED PRUNES PRODUCED IN CALIFORNIA

1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 993 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674.

2. Section 993.347 is revised to read as follows:

§ 993.347 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1998, an assessment rate of \$3.28 per ton is established for California dried prunes.

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Robert C. Keeney,

Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 99-1611 Filed 1-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 73

[Airspace Docket No. 98-ASW-47]

RIN 2120-AA66

Amendments to Restricted Areas 6302C, D and E; Fort Hood, TX

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action modifies the internal boundaries of Restricted Areas 6302 (R-6302) Fort Hood, TX. Specifically, this action reduces the dimension of R-6302E, and reconfigures the internal adjoining boundaries of R-6302C and R-6302D. In addition, this action removes the altitude restrictions associated with R-6302C and R-6302D, when R-6302E is activated. The FAA is taking this action in response to a request from the United States Army (USA) to modify the restricted areas to more accurately reflect the actual use of the airspace.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 0901 UTC, March 25, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Nelson, Airspace and Rules Division, ATA-400, Office of Air Traffic Airspace Management, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As a result of a recent review of restricted area activity, the USA requested that the FAA take action to modify the dimensions of R-6302E to accurately reflect the protected airspace required for the operations being conducted therein. As a result of the review, the USA determined that when R-6302E is activated it encompasses the airspace above R-6302C and R-6302D which have not been activated because they are not required for the activity conducted therein. The FAA is granting the request because the total modification of the boundaries of the restricted airspace will provide additional airspace for other users of the National Airspace System. While this action modifies the western boundary of R-6302E, and redefines the internal abutting boundaries of R-6302C and R-6302D, it does not affect the designated altitudes, or activities conducted within R-6302C, R-6302D, and R-6302E.

The Rule

This amendment to 14 CFR part 73 modifies the dimension of R-6302E and the internal boundaries of R-6302C, and R-6302D. The FAA is taking this action in response to a request to modify the restricted areas to more accurately reflect the actual use of the airspace. Because this airspace is restricted, the solicitation of comments would not offer any meaningful right or benefit to any segment of the public, therefore, notice and comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) are unnecessary.

The FAA has determined that this action only involves an established

body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. Therefore, this regulation: (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

This action reduces the lateral size of R-6302E, and internal boundaries of R-6302C and R-6302D. In accordance with FAA Order 1050.1D, "Policies and Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts," this action is not subject to environmental assessments and procedures and the National Environmental Policy Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 73

Airspace, Navigation (air).

Adoption of the Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 73 as follows:

PART 73—SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE

1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 389.

§ 73.25 [Amended]

§ 73.25 is amended as follows:

* * * * *

R-6302C Fort Hood, TX [Amended]

By removing the existing boundaries and substituting the following:

Boundaries: Beginning at lat. 31°09'01" N., long. 97°45'01" W.; to lat. 31°09'01" N., long. 97°55'01" W.; to lat. 31°16'01" N., long. 97°54'01" W.; to lat. 31°19'01" N., long. 97°51'01" W.; to lat. 31°18'25" N., long. 97°48'48" W.; to lat. 31°14'15" N., long. 97°50'33" W.; to lat. 31°10'01" N., long. 97°48'01" W.; to the point of the beginning.

R-6302D Fort Hood, TX [Amended]

By removing the existing boundaries and substituting the following:

Boundaries: Beginning at lat. 31°18'25" N., long. 97°48'48" W.; to lat. 31°19'01" N., long. 97°51'01" W.; to lat. 31°24'01" N., long. 97°48'01" W.; to lat. 31°23'01" N., long. 97°43'01" W.; to lat. 31°22'08" N., long.

97°41'56" W.; to lat. 31°22'09" N., long. 97°43'27" W.; to lat. 31°20'00" N., long. 97°45'23" W.; to lat. 31°18'23" N., long. 97°45'43" W.; to the point of the beginning.

R-6302E Fort Hood, TX [Amended]

By removing the existing boundaries and substituting the following:

Boundaries: Beginning at lat. 31°22'08" N., long. 97°41'56" W.; to lat. 31°21'01" N., long. 97°41'01" W.; to lat. 31°20'01" N., long. 97°41'01" W.; to lat. 31°14'01" N., long. 97°33'01" W.; to lat. 31°08'01" N., long. 97°39'01" W.; to lat. 31°10'01" N., long. 97°41'01" W.; to lat. 31°09'01" N., long. 97°43'01" W.; to lat. 31°09'01" N., long. 97°45'01" W.; to lat. 31°10'01" N., long. 97°48'01" W.; to lat. 31°14'15" N., long. 97°50'33" W.; to lat. 31°18'25" N., long. 97°48'48" W.; to lat. 31°18'23" N., long. 97°45'43" W.; to lat. 31°20'00" N., long. 97°45'23" W.; to lat. 31°22'09" N., long. 97°43'27" W.; to the point of the beginning.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, January 15, 1999.

Reginald C. Matthews,

Acting Program Director for Air Traffic Airspace Management.

[FR Doc. 99-1555 Filed 1-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

15 CFR Part 902

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 981006253-9021-03; I.D. 082698D]

RIN 0648-AK05

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 9; OMB Control Numbers

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to implement the approved measures in Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP). This final rule increases the minimum size for red porgy, black sea bass, gag, and black grouper for all participants in the fishery; increases the minimum size for vermilion snapper for a person subject to the bag limit; establishes bag limits for red porgy and black sea bass; during March and April, prohibits harvest and possession in