

administration of programs authorized by those titles.

* * * * *

State agency means the State agency administering or supervising the administration of the State plan under titles I, IV, X, XIV, XVI(AABD), XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act.

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9. In § 95.703 the definition of "Public Assistance Programs" is revised to read as follows:

§ 95.703 Definitions.

* * * * *

Public Assistance Programs means programs authorized by titles I, IV-A, IV-B, IV-C, IV-D, IV-E, X, XIV, XVI (AABD), XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act, and programs authorized by the Immigration and Nationality Act as amended by the Refugee Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-212).

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(Section 1102 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 00.000, State Children's Health Insurance Program)

Dated: August 3, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,
Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: February 23, 1999.

Donna E. Shalala,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-4933 Filed 3-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 285, 600, 630, 635, 644, and 678

[I.D. 071698B; 010799A]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS Fisheries); Fishery Management Plan, Plan Amendment and Consolidation of Regulations

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of the comment period; additional public hearing.

SUMMARY: On January 20, 1999, NMFS requested comments on a draft Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks (HMS FMP), and draft Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Billfish FMP, and the proposed rule that

would implement these FMPs. On February 25, NMFS announced the availability of an addendum to the HMS FMP and published a supplemental proposed rule to implement the addendum. Comments on all documents were requested by March 4, 1999. NMFS hereby extends the public comment period from March 4, 1999, to March 12, 1999, except for proposed import restrictions for swordfish. NMFS also announces an additional public hearing during the extended comment period.

DATES: Comments on the draft HMS FMP and its addendum, Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP, and their proposed implementing regulations must be received by March 12, 1999. An additional public hearing will be held in Spray Beach, NJ, on March 11, 1999, from 7 to 10 p.m.

ADDRESSES: To submit comments on, or to obtain copies of, the draft HMS FMP, the Addendum to the draft HMS FMP, draft Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP, the proposed rule, supplemental proposed rule and supporting documents, including the revised Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, or a summary of these items, contact Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282, phone (301) 713-2347, fax (301) 713-1917. Copies of the addendum and supplement are also available on the Sustainable Fisheries Act web site at www.nmfs.gov/sfa/hms/hmspg.html. Send comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this proposed rule to Rebecca Lent and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

The hearing location is the Spray Beach Inn, Oceanfront and 24th Street, Spray Beach, NJ 08004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Scida regarding tuna issues at (978) 281-9260; Jill Stevenson regarding swordfish issues at (301) 713-2347; Margo Schulze regarding shark issues at (301) 713-2347; Buck Sutter regarding billfish issues at (727) 570-5447; Karyl Brewster-Geisz regarding limited access at (301) 713-2347; and Chris Rogers regarding the regulatory consolidation at (301) 713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 9, 1998 (63 FR 54433), NMFS announced the availability of draft Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP, and on October 26, 1998, NMFS announced the availability of the draft HMS FMP

(63 FR 57093). Information regarding the management of HMS under the HMS and Billfish FMPs was provided in the preamble to the proposed rule to implement those FMPs (64 FR 3154, January 20, 1999) and is not repeated here. NMFS indicated that the preferred alternative for western Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) rebuilding would be identified following the November 1998 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), that the preferred alternative and associated analyses would be published as an addendum to the draft HMS FMP, and that proposed measures to implement the preferred rebuilding alternative would be published in a supplement to the proposed rule. The supplement to the proposed rule (February 25, 1999; 64 FR 9298) would implement the rebuilding and bycatch reduction measures of the FMP Addendum and would specify BFT General category effort controls for the 1999 fishing season and clarify mandatory data collection requirements.

In response to public requests that additional time is needed to review the above-referenced documents and prepare responses, NMFS hereby extends the comment period to March 12, 1999.

Specific provisions in the proposed rule regarding swordfish import restrictions had been previously proposed on October 13, 1998 (63 FR 54661). These provisions were restated in the proposed rule to implement the HMS FMP due to the consolidated format of the new 50 CFR part 635 regulations for HMS. Because the public comment period on swordfish import restrictions has been adequate, and NMFS must begin implementation of import monitoring, NMFS intends to finalize these regulations under 50 CFR part 630. The final import restriction regulations will subsequently be incorporated into 50 CFR part 635 when the final consolidated regulations are issued.

Special Accommodations

This hearing is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Rebecca Lent (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 7 days prior to the hearing.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 26, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-5281 Filed 3-1-99; 9:57 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 990219053-9053-01; I.D. 011999B]

RIN 0648-AK83

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Amendment 13

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) requests public comments on a proposed rule to implement Amendment 13 to the West Coast Salmon Plan (FMP) in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Amendment 13 would change the management of Oregon coastal natural (OCN) coho salmon (coho), *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, by disaggregating the OCN stock into four components, restricting total harvest exploitation rates to a maximum of 35 percent, and linking increases in harvest rates to increases in marine survival and proven reproductive success of the present brood year. The only regulatory change that would be required is a technical change to a provision regarding coho allocation south of Cape Falcon to make it consistent with the new OCN harvest levels. The intended effect of this proposed rule is to make the requisite technical change.

DATES: Written comments on the amendment must be received by March 29, 1999. Written comments on the proposed rule must be received by April 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to William W. Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700-Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, or William T. Hogarth, Administrator, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long

Beach, CA 90802-4213. Copies of the amendment, including the environmental assessment and the regulatory impact review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis, the Amendment 13 Issues Attachment, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)/NMFS risk assessment for the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative (OCSRI) are available from Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Metro Center, Suite 420, 2000 SW. First Avenue, Portland, OR 97201-5344.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson at 206-526-6140, Svein Fougner at 562-980-4040, or Lawrence D. Six at 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) developed the FMP, and the Secretary approved it under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, in 1978. Since then, the FMP has been amended 12 times, with implementing regulations codified at 50 CFR part 660, subpart H. From 1979 to 1983, the FMP was amended annually. In 1984, a framework amendment was implemented that provided the mechanism for making preseason and inseason adjustments in the regulations without annual amendments.

The Council prepared Amendment 13 to the FMP under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and submitted it on January 15, 1999, for Secretarial review. NMFS published a notice of availability for Amendment 13 in the **Federal Register** on January 27, 1999, announcing a public 60-day comment period.

This proposed amendment resulted from an intensive effort by the State of Oregon, led by the Governor, to develop the OCSRI. The OCSRI was intended to restore coastal coho populations and to prevent the need for listing the stock under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). While the OCN coho have since been listed as threatened, NMFS considers the OCSRI important for the recovery of the stock. The ODFW proposed Amendment 13 to the Council to implement the fisheries management provisions of the OCSRI throughout both state and Federal waters wherever OCN coho are harvested. The amendment would manage OCN coho on the basis of exploitation rates, not spawner escapement objectives. The determination of appropriate exploitation rates is based on the habitat production potential, incorporating the effects on the stocks of the condition of

both freshwater and marine environments. This determination relies heavily on habitat-based assessment and modeling of OCN coho production. One of the amendment's primary goals is to remove fishery-related impacts as a significant impediment to the recovery of depressed OCN coho and to allow rebuilding the component population subgroups to higher levels.

Although Amendment 13 would change the management goals for OCN coho, the major provisions of this amendment would not be codified because the salmon escapement goals are in the FMP rather than in the codified regulations. Therefore, the modification of the OCN escapement goals requires only a minor modification of the regulations that explain that the coho allocation provisions for south of Cape Falcon apply only when coho abundance allows a directed harvest of coho. The existing regulatory language is tied to the existing level of harvest allowed on OCN coho. The proposed rule would change the language to be more generic and accurate.

Implementation of Amendment 13 would require minor changes to the regulatory language in 50 CFR part 660.

Classification

Section 304(a)(1)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended, requires the Secretary to publish regulations proposed by a Council within 15 days of receipt of the amendment and regulations. At this time, the Secretary has not yet determined that the amendment these rules would implement is consistent with the national standards, other provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law. The Secretary, in making that determination, will take into account the data, views, and comments received during the comment period.

The Assistant General for Legislation and Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration that this proposed rule, if adopted, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as follows:

This proposed rule would make minor modifications to regulatory language to clarify that the existing regulatory allocations apply only when there are sufficient coho for directed harvest. This modification will not result in any changes to the current management of the fisheries and thus will have no economic impacts on any small entities.

The Council prepared a regulatory impact review (RIR) and an initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA) on