

U.S.C. 1651 *et seq.*) extends the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (33 U.S.C. 901) to various classes of employees working outside the United States. When the agency head recommends a waiver to the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the Defense Base Act to any contract, subcontract, work location, or classification of employees. DFARS 228.305 provides the procedures within DoD for submitting such requests for waiver. DoD has removed this procedural text from the DFARS and relocated it to the new DFARS companion resource, PGI.

DoD published a proposed rule at 69 FR 8153 on February 23, 2004. DoD received no comments on the proposed rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the proposed rule as a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule deletes DFARS text addressing procedural matters, but makes no significant change to contracting policy.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 228

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

■ Therefore, 48 CFR part 228 is amended as follows:

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 228 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR chapter 1.

PART 228—BONDS AND INSURANCE

■ 2. Sections 228.304 and 228.305 are revised to read as follows:

228.304 Risk-pooling arrangements.

DoD has established the National Defense Projects Rating Plan, also known as the Special Casualty Insurance Rating Plan, as a risk-pooling

arrangement to minimize the cost to the Government of purchasing the liability insurance listed in FAR 28.307–2. Use the plan in accordance with the procedures at PGI 228.304 when it provides the necessary coverage more advantageously than commercially available coverage.

228.305 Overseas workers' compensation and war-hazard insurance.

(d) When submitting requests for waiver, follow the procedures at PGI 228.305(d).

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Parts 235 and 252

[DFARS Case 2003–D067]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Research and Development Contracting

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to update text pertaining to research and development contracting. This rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 10, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Schulze, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, OUSD (AT&L) DPAP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062. Telephone (703) 602–0326; facsimile (703) 602–0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2003–D067.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DFARS Transformation is a major DoD initiative to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process, while allowing the acquisition workforce the flexibility to innovate. The transformed DFARS will contain only requirements of law, DoD-wide policies, delegations of FAR authorities, deviations from FAR requirements, and policies/procedures that have a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of DoD or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. Additional information on the DFARS

Transformation initiative is available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dfars/transf.htm>.

This final rule is a result of the DFARS Transformation initiative. The DFARS changes include—

- Updating of a statutory reference at DFARS 235.006–70.
- Deletion of unnecessary text at DFARS 235.007 and 235.015.
- Deletion of text at DFARS 235.010 regarding DoD maintenance of scientific and technical reports. Text on this subject has been relocated to the new DFARS companion resource, Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI), available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/pgi>.
- Updating of administrative information at DFARS 235.017–1 and 252.235–7011.

DoD published a proposed rule at 69 FR 8158 on February 23, 2004. DoD received no comments on the proposed rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the proposed rule as a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule updates administrative information, and deletes DFARS text that is unnecessary or procedural, but makes no significant change to contracting policy.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Parts 235 and 252

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

■ Therefore, 48 CFR Parts 235 and 252 are amended as follows:

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Parts 235 and 252 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 235—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTING**235.006–70 [Amended]**

■ 2. Section 235.006–70 is amended in the introductory text by removing “10 U.S.C. 2525(d)” and adding in its place “10 U.S.C. 2521(d)”.

235.007 [Removed]

■ 3. Section 235.007 is removed.

■ 4. Section 235.010 is revised to read as follows:

235.010 Scientific and technical reports.

(b) For DoD, the Defense Technical Information Center is responsible for collecting all scientific and technical reports. For access to these reports, follow the procedures at PGI 235.010(b).

235.015 [Removed]

■ 5. Section 235.015 is removed.

235.017–1 [Amended]

■ 6. Section 235.017–1 is amended in paragraph (c)(4) by revising the first parenthetical to read “(C3I Laboratory operated by the Institute for Defense Analysis, Lincoln Laboratory operated by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Software Engineering Institute operated by Carnegie Mellon)”.

PART 252—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES

■ 7. Section 252.235–7011 is revised to read as follows:

252.235–7011 Final scientific or technical report.

As prescribed in 235.071(d), use the following clause: FINAL SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL REPORT (NOV 2004)

The Contractor shall—

(a) Submit two copies of the approved scientific or technical report delivered under this contract to the Defense Technical Information Center, Attn: DTIC-O, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060–6218;

(b) Include a completed Standard Form 298, Report Documentation Page, with each copy of the report; and

(c) For submission of reports in other than paper copy, contact the Defense Technical Information Center or follow the instructions at <http://www.dtic.mil>.

(End of clause)

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

[Docket No. 040205043–4168–02; I.D. 110404D]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Closure of the 2004 Shallow-Water Grouper Commercial Fishery

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

ACTION: Notice of closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS closes the commercial fishery for shallow-water grouper (black, gag, red, red hind, rock hind, scamp, yellowfin, and yellowmouth) in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico. This closure is in response to NMFS’s determination that the red grouper quota for the commercial fishery will be reached by November 15, 2004. Existing regulations require closure of the entire shallow-water grouper fishery when either the red grouper quota or shallow-water grouper quota is reached. This closure is necessary to protect the shallow-water grouper resource.

DATES: Closure is effective 12:01 a.m., local time, November 15, 2004, until 12:01 a.m., local time, on January 1, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Steele, telephone 727–570–5784, fax 727–570–5583, e-mail Phil.Steele@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The reef fish fishery of the Gulf of Mexico is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622. Those regulations set the commercial quota for red grouper in the Gulf of Mexico at 5.31 million lb (2,413,636 kg) for the current fishing year, January 1 through December 31, 2004. Those regulations also require closure of the entire shallow-water grouper commercial fishery when either the red grouper quota or the shallow-water grouper quota is reached.

Under 50 CFR 622.43(a), NMFS is required to close the commercial fishery

for a species or species group when the quota for that species or species group is reached, or is projected to be reached, by filing a notification to that effect in the **Federal Register**. Based on current statistics, NMFS has determined that the available commercial quota of 5.31 million lb (2,413,636 kg) for red grouper will be reached on or before November 15, 2004. Accordingly, NMFS is closing the commercial shallow-water grouper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ from 12:01 a.m., local time, on November 15, 2004, until 12:01 a.m., local time, on January 1, 2005. The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit having shallow-water grouper aboard must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such shallow-water grouper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, November 15, 2004.

During the closure: the bag and possession limits specified in 50 CFR 622.39(b) apply to the harvest or possession of red grouper and shallow-water grouper in or from the Gulf of Mexico EEZ, and the sale or purchase of shallow-water grouper taken from the EEZ is prohibited. The prohibition on the sale or purchase does not apply to the sale or purchase of red grouper or shallow-water grouper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, November 15, 2004, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds the need to immediately implement this action to close the fishery. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B), there is good cause to waive provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures are unnecessary because the rule itself has been subject to notice and comment, and all that remains is to notify the public of the closure. Allowing prior notice and opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because it requires time during which harvest would likely exceed the quota.

There is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date. There is a need to implement this measure in a timely fashion to prevent an overage of the commercial quota of Gulf red grouper, given the capacity of the fishing fleet to exceed the quota quickly. Any delay in implementing this action would be