

interested in commenting on this document should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before January 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Josh Tapp, Environmental Protection Agency, Air Branch, 726 Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh Tapp at (913) 551-7606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the direct final rule which is located in the rules section of the Federal Register.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.

Dated: November 14, 1996.

Dennis Grams,

Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-30472 Filed 12-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 96-235; RM-8909]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Forest City, PA

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by Vixon Valley Broadcasting proposing the allotment of Channel 261A at Forest City, Pennsylvania, as the community's first local aural transmission service. Channel 261A can be allotted to Forest City in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 10.1 kilometers (6.2 miles) northeast to avoid short-spacings to the licensed sites of Station WODE-FM, Channel 260B, Easton, Pennsylvania, and Station WDST(FM), Channel 261A, Woodstock, New York, at petitioner's requested site. The coordinates for Channel 261A at Forest City are North Latitude 41-42-55 and West Longitude 75-23-06. Since Forest City is located within 320 kilometers (200 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence of the Canadian government has been requested.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before January 13, 1997, and reply comments on or before January 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the

petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows: Victor A. Michael, Jr., President, Vixon Valley Broadcasting, c/o Magic City Media, 1912 Capitol Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 (Petitioner).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon P. McDonald, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 96-235, adopted November 15, 1996, and released November 22, 1996. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street, N.W., Suite 140, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 96-30791 Filed 12-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 112196A]

New England Fishery Management Council; Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 1996, at 10 a.m., and on Thursday, December 12, 1996, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Peabody Marriott, 8A Centennial Drive, Peabody, MA 01960; telephone (508) 977-9700. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906; telephone (617) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher B. Kellogg, Acting Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, (617) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

December 11, 1996

After introductions, the December 11 session will begin with a discussion of issues related to groundfish management. The Council will review the report of the Multispecies Monitoring Committee (MSMC) on the status of the target total allowable catches (TACs) for stocks specified in the Fishery Management Plan for the Northeast Multispecies Fishery (Multispecies FMP). The MSMC is charged with recommending target TACs for the upcoming fishing year and, if necessary, recommending measures to achieve the catch targets. The Council will discuss effort reduction measures for gillnet vessels and alternatives to the current haddock trip limit. The Council intends to take final action on Framework Adjustment 18 to the Multispecies FMP. The Herring Committee will report at the end of the day on its recommendations for research priorities, joint venture allocation procedures, and discussions on the range of issues to be addressed in a Herring FMP scoping and public hearing document.

Background Information for Abbreviated Rulemaking—Northeast Multispecies

At the recommendation of its Groundfish Committee, the Council will consider taking action on adjustments to the Multispecies FMP under the framework for abbreviated rulemaking procedure contained in 50 CFR 648.90. Initial action may be taken on a framework adjustment to modify the Amendment 7 target TACs for the upcoming fishing year, based on the report of the Council's MSMC. Options

to accomplish this could include changes in the allocation of days-at-sea, possession limits, gear restrictions, closed areas, permitting restrictions, minimum fish sizes, and other management measures currently included in the Multispecies FMP. Initial action may be taken on other framework adjustments to the plan. These would: Establish an exempted fishery for gillnet vessels targeting monkfish with 10-inch (25.40-cm) or larger mesh, institute management measures to minimize fishing mortality on the 1992 year class of winter flounder, exempt mussel dredges from groundfish restrictions in Southern New England, modify the bycatch allowance of whiting in the northern shrimp fishery, and prohibit the possession of monkfish in the northern shrimp fishery. The Council will consider final action on Framework Adjustment 18, which would allow herring and mackerel fishing with pelagic mid-water trawls in areas of Georges Bank now closed to all gear capable of catching groundfish.

December 12, 1996

The December 12 session will begin with reports from the Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, Acting Executive Director, NMFS Regional Administrator, representatives from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaison. The Marine Mammal Committee Chairman will follow with a brief update on the activities of the Large Whale Take Reduction Team. The Scallop Committee will review its recent discussions on effort consolidation in the sea scallop fishery. It will also recommend final action on Framework Adjustment 9 to the Scallop FMP, a measure concerning general category scallop permit holders who fish in Maine waters.

In the afternoon, the Council is expected to approve the draft environmental impact statement for the monkfish amendment to the Multispecies FMP. The day will conclude with a report on the amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that will most affect Council operations. Any other outstanding business will be addressed at the end of the day.

Background Information for Abbreviated Rulemaking—Atlantic Sea Scallops

At the recommendation of its Scallop Committee, the Council will consider

final action on Framework Adjustment 9 to the Sea Scallop FMP under the framework for abbreviated rulemaking procedure contained in 50 CFR 648.55. The adjustment would extend the state waters exemption to include the 400-lb (181.44-kg) trip limit for general category scallop permit holders. Currently, scallopers holding this type of permit are prohibited from landing more than 400 lb (181.44 kg) of scallops per trip, even when fishing strictly within state waters.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Christopher B. Kellogg (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: November 27, 1996.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 96-30832 Filed 12-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961126334-6334-01; I.D. 111296A]

RIN 0648-xx74

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Proposed 1997 Harvest Specifications

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

ACTION: Proposed 1997 initial specifications for groundfish; apportionment of reserves; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes initial harvest specifications for groundfish and associated management measures in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) for the 1997 fishing year. This action is necessary to carry out management objectives contained in the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP).

DATES: Comments must be received by December 30, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be sent to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, Attn: Lori Gravel.

The preliminary Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report,

dated September 1996, is available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kaja Brix, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The domestic groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the GOA are managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska. The FMP was prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The FMP is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 679.

This action proposes for the 1997 fishing year: (1) Specifications of total allowable catch (TAC) for each groundfish target species category in the GOA, and reserves; (2) apportionments of reserves; (3) apportionments of the sablefish TAC to vessels using hook-and-line and trawl gear; (4) apportionments of pollock and Pacific cod TAC; (5) "other species" TAC; (6) halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits; and (7) fishery and seasonal allocations of the halibut PSC limits.

Comments on the proposed 1997 specifications and proposed apportionments of reserves are invited from the public through December 30, 1996. After again consulting with the Council, NMFS will publish final specifications for the 1997 fishing year in the Federal Register.

Regulations at § 679.20(c)(2) require that one-fourth of the preliminary or proposed specifications (not including the reserves and the first seasonal allowance of pollock), one-fourth of the inshore and offshore allocations of Pacific cod in each regulatory area, the proposed first seasonal allowance of pollock, and one-fourth of the halibut PSC amounts become effective at 0001 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 1, on an interim basis, and remain in effect until superseded by the final harvest specifications.

NMFS is publishing, in the Rules and Regulations section of this Federal Register issue, interim TAC specifications and apportionments thereof for the 1997 fishing year that will become available 0001 hours, A.l.t., January 1, 1997, and remain in effect until superseded by the final 1997 harvest specifications.