they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 13, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98–7336 Filed 3–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510–21–U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030498C]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Applications for EFPs; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of four applications for EFPs. If granted, these EFPs would authorize, over a period of 1 year, collections for public display of a limited number of sharks from the large coastal and prohibited species groups from Federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean.

DATES: Written comments on the applications must be received on or before April 6, 1998. Applications for EFPs must be received on or before April 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The applications and related documents and copies of the regulations under which exempted fishing permits are subject may also be requested from this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margo Schulze, 301–713–2347; fax: 301–713–1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These EFPs are requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 concerning scientific research activity, exempted fishing, and exempted educational activity.

South Carolina Aquarium, in Charleston, SC, intends to collect no more than 12 sharks from the large coastal and/or prohibited species management units for public display by using buoy gear, rod and reel, and longlines of approximately 35–40 hooks. Fishing will occur in the Atlantic Ocean from North Carolina south to the the middle Florida Keys. Issuance of an EFP is necessary, according to the applicant, because the commercial season for large coastal sharks is closed for long periods of time and because possession of sand tiger sharks is prohibited. The applicant also requested that the EFP authorize collection of sharks from the small coastal and pelagic management units; however, as the commercial seasons for small coastal sharks or pelagic sharks have not closed to date, these species may be possessed legally by obtaining a Federal commercial shark permit and an EFP is not required.

Ripley's Aquarium, in Myrtle Beach, SC, intends to collect 25 sand tiger sharks, 8 sandbar sharks, 8 blacktip sharks, 4 tiger sharks, 4 scalloped hammerhead sharks, and 4 great hammerhead sharks for public display by using hook and line and longlines consisting of no more than 30 hooks. Fishing will occur in the Atlantic Ocean off New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. Issuance of an EFP is necessary, according to the applicant, because the commercial season for large coastal sharks is closed for long periods of time and because possession of sand tiger sharks is prohibited. The applicant also requested that the EFP authorize collection of 25 bonnethead sharks; however, as the commercial season for small coastal sharks has not closed to date, this species may be possessed legally by obtaining a Federal commercial shark permit and an EFP is not required.

Florida Aquarium, in Tampa, FL, intends to collect three sand tiger sharks for public display by using authorized Florida recreational marine fishing gear. Fishing will occur in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea (Florida area). Issuance of an EFP is necessary, according to the applicant, because possession of sand tiger sharks is prohibited.

Aquarium of the Americas, in New Orleans, LA, intends to collect eight sand tiger sharks for public display and research by using hook and line, longlines consisting of approximately 90 hooks, and/or single hook Block set-lines. Fishing will occur in the Atlantic Ocean off Cocodrie, LA, from April through May and off Delaware Bay from June through August. Issuance of an EFP is necessary, according to the applicant, because possession of sand tiger sharks is prohibited.

The proposed collections for public display involve activities otherwise prohibited by regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for Sharks of the Atlantic Ocean. The applicants require authorization to fish for and to possess large coastal sharks outside the Federal commercial seasons and to fish for and to possess prohibited species.

Based on a preliminary review, NMFS finds that these applications warrant further consideration. A final decision on issuance of EFPs will depend on the submission of all required information and on NMFS' review of public comments received on the applications, conclusions of any environmental analyses conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and any consultations with any appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, states, or Federal agencies.

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

Dated: March 16, 1998 .

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98–7347 Filed 3–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Proposed Amendments to the Price Limit and Trading Halt Provisions in Domestic Stock Index Futures Contracts

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed amendments to the price limit and trading halt provisions in domestic stock index futures contracts listed on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago Board of Trade, Kansas City Board of Trade, and New York Futures Exchange.

SUMMARY: The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), Kansas City Board of Trade (KCBT), and New York Futures Exchange (NYFE) have submitted proposals to modify existing ''circuit breaker'' and related price limit provisions in those exchanges' domestic stock index futures contracts. The Director of the Division of Economic Analysis (Division) of the Commission, acting pursuant to the authority delegated by Commission Regulation 140.96, has determined that publication of the proposals for comment is in the public interest, will assist the Commission in considering the views of interested persons, and is consistent with the purposes of the Commodity Exchange Act.

DATE: Comments must be received on or before April 6, 1998.

ADDRESS: Interested persons should submit their views and comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418–5521 or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov. Reference should be made to the proposed amendments to the price limit and trading halt provisions of domestic stock index futures and futures option contracts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Please contact Michael Penick of the Division of Economic Analysis, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581, telephone 202–418–5279. Facsimile number: (202) 418–5527. Electronic mail: mpenick@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CME, CBOT, KCBT and NYFE proposed changes to the price limit and trading halt provisions, including circuit breaker trigger levels, for their domestic stock index futures contracts. The submissions were made to coordinate with the proposal from the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) to revise its circuit breaker rules. The NYSE proposal would establish three ''circuit breaker'' trading halt triggers that will be reset quarterly such that the levels are equivalent to 10%, 20%, and 30% of the average closing level of the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) for the calendar month preceding that quarter. These triggers would replace the current fixed 350-point and 550-point DJIA triggers. The NYSE also proposes to increase the duration of each circuit breaker trading halt.[1] The NYSE proposal is currently under review by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Notice of that proposal was given in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1998 (63 FR 9034).

The CME proposes that, for each of its domestic stock index contracts, there be circuit breaker trading halts coordinated with the NYSE trading halts. Consistent with the quarterly adjustment method proposed by the NYSE, beginning on the first day of each quarter, the CME will reset its circuit breaker price limits to 10% and 20% of the average daily closing price in the current primary futures contract during the preceding calendar month. The 10% limit will be rounded down to the nearest multiple of 10 Index points, and the 20% limit will be twice the 10% limit.[2] Following each of the two circuit breaker trading halts, trading on the CME would resume after the NYSE reopens and 50% of the stocks in the S&P 500 (measured by capitalization) have begun to trade. The price limit at the 20% circuit breaker level will remain in effect when trading resumes following a 20% circuit breaker trading halt.

The CME further proposes that, on the day after futures trading either ended limit-offered or was halted at the 20% circuit breaker limit, the 10% price decline limit on that next day would be treated as a ''speed bump'' (discussed below) rather than a circuit breaker price limit. This is because the S&P 500 futures price could be up to 10 percentage points above the cash index which, as noted, could have declined as much as 30 percent under proposed NYSE rules. Under this proposal, on such next day, the futures contracts would be halted if the NYSE halted, and reopened as described above, with the 20% limit in place after such reopening.

The CME also proposes to increase its intermediate price decline limits (speed bumps), generally to 2.5% and 5% of the underlying index, from the current fixed point levels.[3] Those speed bump levels will be calculated quarterly. Intermediate price decline limits are in effect for ten minutes after the primary futures contract is limit offered. If the futures is limit offered at the end of that 10 minute period, there would be a two minute trading halt, after which the next price limit would be in effect. The 2.5% price decline limit also will be the price limit for the overnight Globex session, both above and below the regular trading hours settlement price.

Finally, the CME proposes to eliminate rule 831 which provides that daily variation payments are based on the implied market price when the cash index is lower than the futures price due to price limits on the futures contract.

The KCBT proposes circuit breaker and price limit rules to its stock index contracts that generally are coordinated with the proposed NYSE rules and generally are similar to those of the CME. However, under that proposal, the KCBT would calculate, on a daily basis, speed bump price limits of 2.5% and 5.0% of the previous day's settlement price, and circuit breaker price limits of 10% and 20% of the previous day's settlement price. Trading would halt whenever either of the two lead futures contract months is locked limit down and trading halts on the NYSE. The CBOT proposes price limits and trading halts for its DJIA futures contract at the same trigger levels as proposed by the NYSE. Consistent with current CBOT rules, the CBOT's proposal does not include speed bump price limits prior to the first circuit breaker price limit. The NYFE proposes circuit breaker and price limit rules for its domestic stock index contracts at the same trigger levels as proposed by the NYSE. In addition, the NYFE proposes to delete its speed bump price limits prior to the first circuit breaker price limit.

Copies of the proposed amendments will be available for inspection at the Office of the Secretariat, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20581. Copies of the terms and conditions can be obtained through the Office of the Secretariat by mail at the above address or by phone at (202) 418–5097.

Other materials submitted by the CME, CBOT, KCBT, and NYFE in support of the proposals may be available upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Commission's regulations thereunder (17 C.F.R. Part 145 (1987)), except to the extent they are entitled to confidential treatment as set forth in 17 C.F.R. 145.5 and 145.9. Requests for copies of such materials should be made to the FOI, Privacy and Sunshine Act Compliance Staff of the Office of the Secretariat at the Commission's headquarters in accordance with 17 C.F.R. 145.7 and 145.8.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the proposed amendments, or with respect to other materials submitted by the CME, CBOT, KCBT, and NYFE should send such comments to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581 by the specified date.

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[1] Under current NYSE rules, the 350-point trading halt generally lasts one half hour and the 550-point trading halt generally lasts one hour or until the end of the trading day.

Under the NYSE proposal, the halt for a 10% decline generally will be one hour. However, if the 10% trigger value is reached at or after 2:00 p.m. but before 2:30 p.m., the halt would be one half hour, while if it occurs at or after 2:30 p.m. a 10% decline would not trigger a halt. The halt for a 20% decline generally will be two hours. However, if the 20% trigger value is reached at or after 1:00 p.m. but before 2:00 p.m., the halt would be one hour, while if it occurs at or after 2:00 p.m., trading would halt for the rest of the day. Finally, if the market declines by 30% at any time, trading will be halted for the remainder of the day.

[2] Using this calculation method, the CME's circuit breaker levels typically will be slightly more restrictive than the comparable circuit breaker trigger levels on the NYSE which are based on the DJIA.

[3] The current speed bumps for the actively traded S&P 500 futures contract are 15 and 30 points or about 1.5% and 3.0% of the S&P 500 index.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 12, 1998.

John Mielke,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 98–7244 Filed 3–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Concept Release Concerning the Regulation of Noncompetitive Transactions Executed on or Subject to the Rules of a Contract Market

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Extension of comment period on Concept Release.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission has issued a Concept Release concerning the regulation of noncompetitive transactions executed on or subject to the rules of a contract market. The Commission has solicited comments on a broad range of questions concerning the oversight of transactions involving (i) the exchange of futures contracts for, or in connection with, cash commodities, (ii) other noncompetitive transactions, and (iii) the use of execution facilities for noncompetitive transactions. The Concept Release was initially published for comment on January 26, 1998 (63 FR 3708) with comments on the release due by March 27, 1998. In response to a request from the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange, Inc., the Commission has determined to extend the comment period on this release for an additional 30 days. The extended deadline for comments on the Concept Release is April 27, 1998.

Any person interested in submitting written data, views, or arguments on the Concept Release should submit their views and comments by the specified date to Jean A. Webb, Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20581. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to facsimile number (202) 418–5521, or by electronic mail to secretary@cftc.gov.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 27, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rebecca Creed, Attorney, Division of Trading and Markets, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1150 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581. Telephone: (202) 418–5493.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on this 13th day of March, 1998, by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Edward W. Colbert,

Deputy Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98–7243 Filed 3–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announces the proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service—Finance Deputate, ATTN: Mr. Faafiti Malufau, 1931 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22240–5291.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call Mr. Faafiti Malufau, 703–607–5061.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: Application for Former Spouse Payments From Retired Pay (DD Form 2293).

Needs and Uses: Under 10 U.S.C. 1408, state courts may divide military retired pay as property or order alimony and child support payments from the retired pay. The former spouse may apply to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) for direct payment of these monies by using the DD Form 2293. This information collection is needed to provide DFAS the basic data needed to process the request.

Affected Public: Individuals or households

Annual Burden Hours: 5130 hours

Number of Respondents: 20,520

Responses Per Respondent: 1

Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes

Frequency: On occasion

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The respondents of this information collection are spouses or former spouses of military members. The applicant submits a DD Form 2293 to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The information from the DD Form 2293 is used by DFAS in processing the applicant's request as authorized under 10 U.S.C. 1408. The DD Form 2293 was devised to standardize applications for payment under the Act. Information on the form is also used to determine the applicant's current status and contains statutory required certifications the applicant/former spouse must make when applying for payments.

Dated: March 16, 1998.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98–7211 Filed 3–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000–04–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000–0137]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Simplified Acquisition Procedures/FACNET

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 34), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve