

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Minerals Management Service****30 CFR Chapter II****Meetings of the Indian Gas Valuation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee**

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Department) has established an Indian Gas Valuation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) to develop specific recommendations with respect to Indian gas valuation under its responsibilities imposed by the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982, 30 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.* (FOGRMA). The Department has determined that the establishment of this Committee is in the public interest and will assist the Agency in performing its duties under FOGRMA.

**DATES:** The Committee will meet on February 22–23, and March 8–9, 1995, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

**ADDRESSES:** The February meetings will be held at the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), Board Room, 25th floor, 1999 Broadway, Denver, Colorado, 80202, telephone (303) 297–2378.

The March meetings will be held at the Lakewood Compliance Division, Golden Hill Office Building, Suite B200, 12600 West Colfax Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, telephone (303) 275–7401.

Written statements may be submitted to Mr. Donald T. Sant, Deputy Associate Director for Valuation and Operations, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, P.O. Box 25165, MS–3100, Denver, CO 80225–0165.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Donald T. Sant, Deputy Associate Director for Valuation and Operations, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, P.O. Box 25165, MS–3100, Denver, Colorado, 80225–0165, telephone number (303) 231–3899, fax number (303) 231–3194.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The location and dates of future meetings will be published in the **Federal Register**.

The meeting will be open to the public without advanced registration. Public attendance may be limited to the space available. Members of the public may make statements during the meeting, to the extent time permits, and file written statements with the Committee for its consideration.

Written statements should be submitted to the address listed above. Minutes of Committee meetings will be available for public inspection and copying 10 days following each meeting at the same address. In addition, the materials received to date during the input sessions are available for inspection and copying at the same address.

Dated: February 1, 1995.

**Donald T. Sant,**

*Acting Associate Director for Royalty Management.*

[FR Doc. 95–2931 Filed 2–3–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 222**

[Docket No. 940822–4334; I.D. 101194C]

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Status of Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon and Snake River Fall Chinook Salmon; Correction**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; correction.

**SUMMARY:** On December 28, 1994, NMFS issued a proposed rule to permanently reclassify Snake River spring/summer and Snake River fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) as endangered. The closing date for comments on this proposed rule was inadvertently listed as February 21, 1995. NMFS is correcting the comment period to February 26, 1995, to allow for a 60-day comment period from the date of publication. In addition, the due date for requests for a public hearing is corrected from February 6, 1995, to February 11, 1995, to allow for a 45-day comment period, from the date of publication.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by February 26, 1995. Requests for a public hearing must be received by February 11, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Garth Griffin, 503–230–5430, or Marta Nammack, 301–713–1401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Need for Correction**

As published the proposed regulations contain errors which are in need of clarification.

**Correction of Publication**

Accordingly, the publication on December 28, 1994, of the proposed regulations (I.D. 101194C), which were subject of FR Doc. 94–31869, are corrected as follows:

**[Corrected]**

On page 66784, under the preamble caption, DATES, correct the comment period date “February 21, 1995” to read “February 26, 1995”, and correct the requests for a public hearing date of “February 6, 1995” to read “February 11, 1995”.

Dated: January 27, 1995.

**William W. Fox, Jr.,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 95–2849 Filed 2–3–95; 8:45 am]

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**50 CFR Part 652**

[Docket No. 950126030–5030–01; I.D. 111794A]

**Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed 1995 fishing quotas for surf clams and ocean quahogs; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes quotas for the Atlantic surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries for 1995. These quotas were selected from a range defined as optimum yield (OY) for each fishery. The intent of this action is to establish allowable harvests of surf clams and ocean quahogs from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 1995.

**DATES:** Public comments must be received on or before March 6, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s analysis and recommendations are available from David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, Federal Building, 300 South New Street, Dover, DE 19901–6790.

Send comments to Jon C. Rittgers, Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930–2298. Mark on the outside of the envelope, “Comments—1995 Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Quotas.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Myles Raizin, Resource Policy Analyst, 508–281–9104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Fishery Management Plan for the Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries (FMP) directs NMFS, in consultation with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), to specify quotas for surf clams and ocean quahogs on an annual basis from a range to represent the OY for each fishery.

In a 1992 policy, the Council selected annual harvest levels that would allow those harvests to continue for at least 10 years for surf clams and 30 years for ocean quahogs. As a further refinement of the 1992 policy, the Council voted in 1993 that, within the biological constraints imposed by the finite resource, annual quotas would be set at levels that will meet estimated annual demand.

For surf clams, the quota must fall within the OY range of 1.85 million bu (652 thousand hectoliters (hL)) and 3.40 million bu (1.2 million hL). For ocean quahogs, the quota must fall within the OY range of 4.00 million bu (1.4 million hL) and 6.00 million bu (2.1 million hL).

In proposing the 1995 quotas, NMFS considered the available stock assessments, data reported by harvesters and processors, and other relevant information concerning exploitable biomass and spawning biomass, fishing mortality rates, stock recruitment, projected effort and catches, and areas closed to fishing. This information was presented in a written report prepared by the Council and adopted by the Director, Northeast Region, NMFS.

Proposed quotas as recommended by the Council are: Surf clams—2.565 million bu (933.8 thousand hL); ocean quahogs—4.9 million bu (1.73 million hL). These proposed quotas represent decreases from the 1994 quotas of 2.85 million bu (1.0 million hL) for surf clams, and 5.4 million bu (1.9 million hL) for ocean quahogs.

On January 30 and 31, 1995, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center presented a new stock assessment of surf clams and ocean quahogs. Copies may be obtained from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, telephone: 508-548-5123. Results of this stock assessment were not available to the Council at the time the proposed 1995 quotas were established.

NMFS is concerned that the overfishing definitions for these two species, as contained in the FMP, may be inadequate to protect the long-term productivity of these resources, based on the findings of a recent Scientific Review Committee. Therefore, NMFS will advise the Council that prior to setting the 1996 quotas, it should revise

these definitions to ensure they have a biological basis.

**Surf Clams**

The proposed 1995 quota for surf clams of 2.565 million bu (933.8 thousand hL) was recommended by the Council staff.

The potential harvest of 300,000 bu (105.7 thousand hL) from the Georges Bank area, which constitutes nearly 20 percent of the surf clam biomass, was not added to this proposed quota on the assumption that the area east of 69° W. long. will remain closed to fishing in 1995 due to the continued danger of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP).

Under the current FMP, the Mid-Atlantic, Nantucket Shoals, and Georges Bank areas are combined. Therefore, the 300,000 bu (105.7 thousand hL) from Georges Bank could be safely harvested in other areas west of 69° W. long. However, with the decline in abundance of surf clams in the Mid-Atlantic region, and the absence of a significant year class since 1976 off New Jersey and 1977 off the Delmarva peninsula, the Council concurred with staff recommendations that the conservation of the resource is best served by reducing the present quota to 2.565 million bu (933.8 thousand hL).

**Ocean Quahogs**

The proposed 1995 quota for ocean quahogs of 4.9 million bu (1.73 million hL) was recommended by the Council.

Council staff had recommended a 1995 quota of 4.6 million bu (1.6 million hL) due to a lack of significant recruitment to the population for the past several decades, and strong indications that the proportion of quahog resource available to the industry is dwindling. As with surf clams, the quahog resource on Georges Bank remains unavailable for harvest due to PSP.

In 1993, the Council adopted as a quota setting policy that the quota should be set within the OY range (4.0 million—6.0 million bu (1.4 million—2.1 million hL)) at a level that will allow fishing to continue at that level for at least 30 years.

Based on that policy, Council staff recommended a 1995 quota of 4.6 million bu (1.6 million hL). The recommendation was based on a determination that current estimates (1992) of the total EEZ ocean quahog abundance indicate a supply that would support current catches for 22 to 32 years. The Council staff also provided an analysis, which indicated that the average annual landings from 1984 to 1993 were 4.6 million bu (1.6 million hL). This amount was used as an

estimate of quantity demanded for ocean quahogs.

At the Council meeting, discussion focused on the quantity of quahogs that can be sold in the market. Average annual landings were used as an indicator of that quantity. Annual landings for the 10-year period 1984 through 1993 averaged 4.6 million bu (1.6 million hL). If, however, data from the last 3 years are used, average annual landings were 4.9 million bu (1.73 million hL). At this higher exploitation rate, the stock of ocean quahogs is expected to support landings for 20 to 30 years. Within the above constraint, the quota should be set at a level that will meet estimated annual demand. The Council voted in favor of a proposed quota of 4.9 million bu (1.73 million hL).

Continued recruitment failure in this fishery and the difficulty in resolving the PSP problem for the Georges Bank portion of the stock warrant a conservative biological stance with regard to the likely long-term supply of quahogs. Nevertheless, NMFS is specifically seeking comment on the appropriate approach to consideration of market demand in establishing annual quotas for species managed under individual transferable quota.

While quotas are set for maximum sustainable yield, the social implications of the quota must be addressed as well. If the quahog quota were to be set significantly in excess of current market demand, it would result in a segment of the industry being unable to sell part or all of its allocation, as vertically integrated operations would buy preferentially from their own boats. Current market demand would allow for a quota level of between 4.8 million bu (1.69 million hL) and 5.0 million bu (1.76 million hL). The proposed quota of 4.9 million bu (1.73 million hL) serves to strike a balance between the yield of the resource and the effects on the industry.

The proposed quotas for the 1995 Atlantic surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries are as follows:

**PROPOSED 1995 SURF CLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG QUOTAS**

Fishery	1995 proposed quotas (bu)	1995 proposed quotas (hL)
Surf clam .....	2,565,000	933,800
Ocean quahog ..	4,900,000	1,730,000

**Classification**

This action is authorized by 50 CFR part 652, and these proposed

specifications are exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: January 31, 1995.

**Gary Matlock,**

*Program Management Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 95-2749 Filed 2-3-95; 8:45 am]

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