

Chesapeake shall open on signal, except:

(1) From 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the drawbridge may not open the passage of recreational vessels.

(2) Vessels in an emergency involving danger to life or property shall be passed at any time.

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Dated: June 14, 1995.

W.J. Ecker,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander,
Fifth Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 95-17874 Filed 7-19-95; 8:45 am]

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46 CFR Parts 25, 26, and 162

[CGD 74-284]

RIN 2115-AA08

Fixed Fire-Extinguishing Systems for Pleasure Craft and Other Uninspected Vessels

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of withdrawal.

SUMMARY: This rulemaking was initiated to establish standards and procedures for approving gaseous-type fixed fire-extinguishing systems for pleasure craft and other uninspected vessels. At the time, most fixed systems for pleasure craft used Halon 1301 and Halon 1211 as the extinguishing agents, and several of the provisions of this rulemaking specifically would have allowed (though not required) the use of halons. Since that time, halons have been identified as an ozone-depleting substance; on January 1, 1995, their production was terminated. The Coast Guard considered redrafting this rulemaking to allow the use of halon replacement gases instead of halons. However, the development and evaluation of these gases is incomplete. The Coast Guard has decided to withdraw this project. It may initiate new rulemaking under a new docket number when the development and evaluation are complete.

DATES: This withdrawal is effective on July 20, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Klaus Wahle, Project Manager, Office of Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection (G-MVI-3), (202) 267-1444.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 9, 1991, the Coast Guard published a Supplementary Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM) [56 FR 829] titled "Fixed Fire-Extinguishing

Systems for Pleasure Craft and Other Uninspected Vessels" [CGD 74-284]. The SNPRM contained approval standards for voluntary fixed systems using halon and carbon dioxide, and depended in large part on standards of industry such as ANSI/UL 1058 of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., titled "Halogenated Agent Extinguishing System Units" (Second Edition; October 6, 1989). The termination of halon production due to environmental concerns and the development and evaluation of halon replacement gases will require some changes in the rulemaking to delete references to halons and address the properties of the new gases instead. Since several of these gases are still being developed and evaluated, not enough information is available to redraft the approval standards contained in the SNPRM.

The Coast Guard has therefore determined that the best course of action at this point is to withdraw this rulemaking, and examine the necessity of a distinct rulemaking at some point in the future. The Coast Guard withdraws all rulemaking under docket number 74-284.

Dated: July 7, 1995.

G.N. Naccara,

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Chief,
Office of Marine Safety, Security and
Environmental Protection.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AD24

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Rule Exempting Certain Small Landowners and Low-Impact Activities From Endangered Species Act Requirements for Threatened Species

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to amend the general regulations for threatened species (50 CFR 17.31) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by establishing a new exemption for certain small landowners and low impact activities that are presumed to individually or cumulatively have little or no lasting effect on the likelihood of survival and recovery of threatened

species of fish and wildlife, and, therefore, have only minor or negligible adverse effects. This exemption would be applied to all threatened species of fish and wildlife listed in the future unless the Service concluded for a given species that the exemption was inappropriate because its individual or cumulative biological effects would not be insignificant for the species as a whole. In such a case, the Fish and Wildlife Service would issue a "special rule" for the species that would contain either no small landowner or low-impact activities exemptions or some reduced variation of those exemptions. This proposed rule also seeks to establish an additional general exemption for activities that are conducted in accordance with a State-authorized or -developed habitat conservation strategy for a threatened species which the Service has found to comprehensively address the threats to the species and promote the species' survival and recovery.

DATES: Comments on this proposal must be received by September 18, 1995, in order to be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours in Room 452, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. LaVerne Smith, Chief, Division of Endangered Species, at the above address (703/358-2171; facsimile 703/358-1735).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 26, 1975, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) adopted general regulations in 50 CFR Part 17 governing the way endangered and threatened species would be regulated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Section 9 of the Act prohibits by statute the "take" of federally listed endangered species. However, Congress deferred to Secretarial discretion the issue of how "threatened" species would be treated with respect to the section 9 take prohibition. In the 1975 regulations (50 CFR 17.31), the Service generally adopted for threatened species of fish and wildlife a blanket set of prohibitions identical to the prohibitions the Act itself applied to