

Dated: June 7, 1996.

Carol M. Browner,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 96-15034 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

41 CFR Part 101-20

RIN 3090-AG00

Small Purchase Authority

AGENCY: General Services Administration.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This General Services Administration (GSA) proposed rule revises the regulations regarding the delegation of authority to occupant agencies to contract for reimbursable space alterations. The present FPMR provisions stated in 101-20.106.1 cite a project accomplishment threshold of \$25,000. This threshold was established based on the small purchase authority in place at the time of the original publication of this provision.

Since the purpose of this FPMR provision is to provide occupant agencies choices in their use of a service provider, it is recommended that the Simplified Acquisition Procurement threshold be used. Rather than establish an authority at a selected value, the reference should be changed to link it to the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994. Therefore, if the value of the statute changes the FPMR would not require a change. The present Simplified Acquisition Procedures (SAP) authority is \$50,000 for GSA procurement activities.

Modifying the FPMR provisions to tie to the SAP authority gives occupants increased flexibility in accomplishing alteration tasks and fully delegates the authority to do the work.

No other changes are suggested.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to General Services Administration, Office of Property Management, Portfolio Customer Team (PMX), 18th and F Streets, NW, Room G118, Washington, DC 20405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Neely, Portfolio Customer Team, PMX, (202) 208-1497.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The General Services Administration (GSA) has determined that this rule is not a significant regulatory action for the purposes of Executive Order 12866.

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the revisions do not impose record keeping or information collection requirements, or collections of information from offerors, contractors, or members of the public which require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

This rule is not required to be published in the Federal Register for notice and comment. Therefore, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply.

List of Subjects in 41 CFR Part 101-20

Concessions, Federal buildings and facilities, Government property management.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, it is proposed to amend 41 CFR Part 101-20 as follows:

PART 101-20—MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

1. The authority citation for Part 101-20 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Sec. 205(c) of Pub. L. 152, 63, Stat., 390, 40 U.S.C., 486(c).

Subpart 101-20.1—Buildings Operations, Maintenance, Protection, and Alterations

2. Section 202-20.106-1 is amended by revising paragraphs (b) and (e) to read as follows:

§ 101-20.106-1 Placing of orders for reimbursable alterations by occupant agencies.

* * * * *

(b) No individual order, or combination of orders for a single alteration project, shall exceed the statutory limitation for a simplified acquisition procedure, and agencies shall not split orders so as to circumvent this limitation.

* * * * *

(e) Where no GSA contracts or agreements are in effect, an agency may contract directly for services up to the maximum of the statutory limitation for simplified acquisition procedures per project after obtaining written approval of the GSA buildings manager. Agencies contracting directly must provide the GSA buildings manager with complete documentation of the scope of work and contract specifications at the time of submission for approval. Each project shall include appropriate reviews by the regional safety staff. If contracting for security systems, agencies must submit the design work to the regional Federal Protective Service Division for review and approval. Agencies shall be responsible for inspecting and certifying

satisfactory completion of the ordered work. All work must conform to GSA fire and safety standards. GSA at anytime has the authority to make inspections and require correction if the project is found not in compliance with GSA fire and safety standards. As-built drawings must be submitted to the GSA buildings manager within 30 days of completion of work.

Dated: April 5, 1996.

Robert A. Peck,

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service.

[FR Doc. 96-15002 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 36 and 69

[CC Docket 96-45; DA-96-926]

Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the notice is to inform the general public of a meeting that will be held by the Federal-State Joint Board on universal service.

DATES: The Federal-State Joint Board in CC Docket 96-45 will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 1996 at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 856 at 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Irene Flannery, Accounting and Audits Division, Common Carrier Bureau, at (202) 418-0847.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the meeting, the Federal-State Joint Board will hear from two panels of experts addressing universal service issues set forth in Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act. Specifically, the panelists will address what types of functionalities schools, libraries, and rural health care providers require of telecommunications services, as well as the cost, on a nationwide basis, of providing services able to deliver those functionalities.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-15146 Filed 6-11-96; 11:17 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 651**

[Docket No. 960216032-6158-05; I.D. 052196A]

Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 7; Resubmission of Disapproved Measure for an Open Access Permit for Nonregulated Multispecies

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes regulations to implement a revised measure that was disapproved in the preliminary evaluation of Amendment 7 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) as revised and resubmitted by the New England Fishery Management Council (Council). This revision would rename the existing open access Possession Limit Permit, and allow certain fisheries to continue under this permit category that would otherwise be prohibited by Amendment 7. The intended effect of this action is to continue to allow fishing for nonregulated multispecies (silver hake, red hake, and ocean pout) by vessels that do not qualify for a limited access multispecies permit.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received by July 1, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Dr. Andrew A. Rosenberg, Director, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark on the outside of the envelope "Comments on Possession Limit Permit Category."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter W. Christopher, Fishery Management Specialist, 508-281-9288.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council submitted Amendment 7 to the FMP on February 5, 1996. After a preliminary evaluation, the following three measures in the amendment were disapproved on February 14, 1996: An additional allowance of days-at-sea (DAS) for trawl vessels enrolled in the Individual DAS category that use 8-inch (20.32 cm) mesh, a 300-lb (136.1 kg) possession limit of regulated species for vessels that use 8-inch (20.32 cm) mesh in an exempted fishery, and the establishment of a limited access category for vessels that fished in the

Possession Limit Open Access category under Amendment 5. The remainder of Amendment 7 was published as a proposed rule on March 5, 1996 (61 FR 8540). The first two of the three disapproved measures were resubmitted by the Council. The measure that would have allowed a 300-lb (136.1 kg) regulated species possession limit for vessels fishing with 8-inch (20.32 cm) mesh in an exempted fishery was again disapproved, and the measure that would give additional multispecies DAS to all limited access multispecies vessels fishing exclusively with large mesh was published as a proposed rule on April 18, 1996 (61 FR 16892), and was added to the final rule to implement Amendment 7, which was published on May 31, 1996 (61 FR 27710). Pursuant to section 304(b)(3)(A) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act), the Council has resubmitted the measure that would implement a possession limit permit by revising it to allow possession of nonregulated multispecies, defined to be silver hake, red hake, and ocean pout. This proposed permit is now named the "open access nonregulated multispecies permit."

On February 27-28, 1996, the Council discussed the three disapproved measures and voted to resubmit revisions of the first and second while deferring action on the third measure pending further discussions. The third measure disapproved by NMFS was the proposed implementation of a limited access possession limit permit under the FMP. An inequity would have been established if this measure were implemented, because vessels would have to qualify for a permit that would not allow fishing for regulated multispecies, whereas, if vessel owners selected an open access category and used appropriate gear, they would be allowed to catch regulated and nonregulated multispecies. Furthermore, an administrative burden would have been created because vessel permit applications would have to be processed through a review procedure to qualify for the permit, with a possibility that no fishing for multispecies finfish would be allowed after this time.

Subsequent to the disapproval of this measure, several affected fishermen contacted the Council and indicated that, if an open access permit for nonregulated multispecies were not established, they would be denied an opportunity to fish for or retain a bycatch of nonregulated multispecies. The fishermen indicated that this would occur even though the impact of their

activities on regulated species would be controlled by the fishery exemption program that only allows those fisheries that have a minimal bycatch of regulated species.

On April 17-18, 1996, the Council passed a motion to resubmit the proposed possession limit permit category, redefining it as an open access permit category for nonregulated species and renaming it the "Nonregulated Multispecies" permit category. This permit category would allow fishing for nonregulated multispecies by vessels using various gear types that do not qualify for a limited access multispecies permit and would eliminate any inequity or administrative burden associated with the need to qualify for a permit. The Council believes that implementation of this permit category jeopardizes neither the nonregulated multispecies, because they are not currently categorized as overfished, nor the regulated species, because a fishery allowed under this permit would be required to be exempted and meet the regulated multispecies bycatch limit of 5 percent.

Classification

Section 304(a)(1)(D)(ii) of the Magnuson Act, as amended, requires NMFS to publish implementing regulations proposed by a Council within 15 days of the receipt of an amendment and proposed regulations. At this time, NMFS has not determined whether the amendment this rule would implement is consistent with the national standards, other provisions of the Magnuson Act, and other applicable law. NMFS, in making that determination, will take into account the information, views and comments received during the comment period.

This proposed rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

The Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration that this proposed rule, if adopted, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Vessels benefitting from this open access permit could have an increase in gross ex-vessel revenues of more than 5 percent compared to the status quo. However, the number of small entities being affected in this manner is believed to be much less than 20 percent of the vessels that are in the Northeast multispecies fishery (all of which are considered small entities). No vessels are expected to cease operations if the proposed action is implemented, nor are

vessels expected to incur increased operating costs. As a result, a regulatory flexibility analysis was not prepared.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 651

Fisheries, Fishing, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: June 6, 1996.

Gary Matlock,

Program Management Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 651 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 651—NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES FISHERY

1. The authority citation for part 651 continues to read as follows:

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

2. In § 651.2, the definition for “Nonregulated Multispecies” is added in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 651.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

Nonregulated Multispecies means the subset of multispecies finfish that includes silver hake, red hake, and ocean pout.

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3. In § 651.4, paragraph (c) is revised to read as follows:

§ 651.4 Vessel permits.

* * * * *

(c) *Open access permits.* Subject to the restrictions in § 651.33, a U.S. vessel that has not been issued a limited access multispecies permit may obtain an open access Handgear, Charter/Party or Nonregulated Multispecies permit.

Vessels that are issued a valid scallop limited access permit under § 650.4 of this chapter may obtain an open access Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit permit.

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4. In § 651.33, paragraph (d) is added to read as follows:

§ 651.33 Open access permit restrictions.

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(d) A vessel issued a valid open access Nonregulated Multispecies permit issued under § 651.4(c) may possess nonregulated multispecies, provided it does not fish for, possess, or land regulated species. The vessel is subject to restrictions on gear, area, and time of fishing specified in § 651.20.

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