

to undertake the proposed transaction at the workplace of the employees on the affected line(s) and serve a copy of the notice on the national offices of the labor unions with employees on the affected line(s), setting forth the terms of employment and principles of employee selection, and certify to the Board that it has done so.

5. Section 1150.35 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 1150.35 Procedures and relevant dates—transactions that involve creation of Class I or Class II carriers.

(a) To qualify for this exemption, applicant must serve a notice of intent to file a notice of exemption no later than 14 days before the notice of exemption is filed with the Board, and applicant must comply with the notice requirement of § 1150.32(e).

* * * * *

6. Section 1150.42 is amended by adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 1150.42 Procedures and relevant dates for small line acquisitions.

* * * * *

(e) If the projected annual revenue of the rail lines to be acquired, together with the acquiring carrier's projected annual revenue, exceeds \$5 million, the applicant must, at least 60 days before the exemption becomes effective, post a notice of applicant's intent to undertake the proposed transaction at the workplace of the employees on the affected line(s) and serve a copy of the notice on the national offices of the labor unions with employees on the affected line(s), setting forth the terms of employment and principles of employee selection, and certify to the Board that it has done so.

7. Section 1150.45 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 1150.45 Procedures and relevant dates—transactions under section 10902 that involve creation of Class I or II rail carriers.

(a) To qualify for this exemption, applicant must serve a notice of intent to file a notice of exemption no later than 14 days before the notice of

exemption is filed with the Board, and applicant must comply with the notice requirement of § 1150.42(e).

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 97-11360 Filed 4-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[I.D. 120996A]

Magnuson Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat (EFH); Public Meetings

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

ACTION: Public meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will hold public meetings to allow for input on the proposed rule to implement essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson Act.

DATES: The meetings are scheduled to be held from May 12 to May 21, 1997. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to Office of Habitat Conservation, Attention: EFH, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282; telephone: 301/713-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lee Crockett, NMFS, 301/713-2325.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS issued proposed regulations containing guidelines for the description and identification of EFH in fishery management plans, adverse impacts on EFH, and actions to conserve and enhance EFH on April 23, 1997 (62 FR 19723). The regulations would also provide a process for NMFS to

coordinate and consult with Federal and state agencies on activities that may adversely affect EFH. The guidelines are required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The purpose of the rule is to assist fishery management councils in fulfilling the requirements set forth by the Magnuson-Stevens Act to amend their FMPs to describe and identify EFH, minimize adverse effects on EFH, and identify other actions to conserve and enhance EFH. The purpose of the coordination and consultation provisions is to specify procedures for adequate consultation with NMFS on activities that may adversely affect EFH.

Public Meetings

All public meetings will begin at 7 p.m., except the Seattle, Washington, public meeting, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. The dates and locations of the hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Monday, May 12, 1997—Meadowlands Hilton, Solarium Room; Two Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, NJ.

2. Tuesday, May 13, 1997—Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza; 333 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA.

3. Tuesday, May 20—NMFS Northwest Regional Headquarters, Auditorium Building 9; 7600 Sand Point Way, NW., Seattle, WA.

4. Wednesday, May 21—Centennial Hall, Hickel Room; 101 Egan Drive, Juneau, AK.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Lee Crockett (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: April 25, 1997.

James P. Burgess,

Acting Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-11245 Filed 4-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F