

Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

24. There are no *ex parte* or disclosure requirements applicable to this proceeding pursuant to § 1.1204(a)(4) of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR 1.1204(a)(4).

List of Subjects 47 CFR Parts 20, 22, 24, and 90

Radio.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-28762 Filed 10-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[I.D. 102197D]

RIN 0648-AG27

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Amendment 8

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of an amendment to a fishery management plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 8 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-

Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region for review, approval, and implementation by NMFS. Written comments are requested from the public.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

Requests for copies of Amendment 8, which includes a final supplemental environmental impact statement, an initial regulatory flexibility analysis, a regulatory impact review, and a social impact assessment, should be sent to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; phone: 803-571-4366; fax: 803-769-4520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter J. Eldridge, 813-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires each regional fishery management council to submit any fishery management plan or amendment to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving an amendment, immediately publish a document in the **Federal Register** stating that the amendment is available for public review and comment.

Amendment 8 would: Limit access to the commercial snapper-grouper fishery; allow the retention of snapper-grouper in excess of the bag limits on a permitted vessel that has a single bait net or cast nets on board; subject to specific conditions, exempt snapper-

grouper lawfully harvested in Bahamian waters from the requirement that they be maintained with head and fins intact in the exclusive economic zone of the South Atlantic; redefine "optimum yield," "overfished," and "overfishing" for snapper-grouper; and establish a "threshold level" for snapper-grouper, i.e., the level of spawning potential ratio at which the Council will take appropriate action including, but not limited to, eliminating directed fishing mortality and evaluating measures to eliminate any bycatch mortality.

A proposed rule to implement Amendment 8 has been received from the Council. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is evaluating the proposed rule to determine whether it is consistent with Amendment 8, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law. If that determination is affirmative, NMFS will publish it in the **Federal Register** for public review and comment.

Comments received by December 29, 1997, whether specifically directed to the amendment or the proposed rule, will be considered by NMFS in its decision to approve, disapprove, or partially approve Amendment 8. Comments received after that date will not be considered by NMFS in this decision. All comments on Amendment 8 or on the proposed rule during their respective comment periods will be addressed in the final rule.

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

Dated: October 23, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 97-28713 Filed 10-29-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F