

201-205, 215, 218, 220, 229, 254 and 410 that *notice is hereby given* of proposed amendments to Part 32 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR part 32, as described in this *notice of proposed rulemaking*.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 32

Uniform System of Accounts.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-32223 Filed 12-9-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 648

[I.D. 112897A]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Applications for Experimental Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Notification of experimental fishery proposal; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notice to announce that the Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS is considering approval of an experimental fishing proposal that would allow vessels to conduct operations otherwise restricted by regulations governing the Fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The experimental fishery would involve fishing for, retention, and limited landing of Atlantic sea scallops with a modified sea scallop dredge in Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions require publication of this notice to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed experimental fishery.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph. D., Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark on the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed Experimental Fishery."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Christopher, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9288.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Virginia Institute of Marine Science submitted an application for an EFP on October 17, 1997, to investigate summer flounder bycatch by Atlantic sea scallop dredges. An experimental dredge would be modified with large mesh on the upper portion of the dredge to allow for summer flounder escapement. Fishing activity would target a limited amount of Atlantic sea scallops in the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science would conduct experimental fishing activities on chartered fishing vessels. EFPs are required to exempt vessels from possession limits, gear restrictions, and days-at-sea restrictions of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan.

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

Dated: December 4, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-32337 Filed 12-9-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 648

[I.D. 112897B]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Applications for Experimental Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Notification of experimental fishery proposal; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notice to announce that the Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), is considering approval of an experimental fishing proposal that would permit vessels to conduct operations otherwise restricted by regulations governing the Fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The experimental fishery would involve the possession and retention of *Crangon* shrimp (brown shrimp), including the possible capture and release of regulated multispecies, in the Gulf of Maine/ Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Area. Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions require publication of this notice to provide

interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed experimental fishery.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark on the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed Experimental Fisheries."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bonnie VanPelt, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9244.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) has been approved for a Saltonstall/Kennedy (S/K) Grant to investigate the feasibility of developing a 3-month winter *Crangon septemspinus* shrimp (brown shrimp) fishery between Frenchman's Bay and Casco Bay, Maine, in nearshore and estuarine waters. The two main objectives of the proposed project are the use of gear technology to address regulatory species bycatch and the development of a sustainable fishery that will ease financial hardship by absorbing displaced groundfishing effort. New gears and fishing methods will be employed based on technology of a similar *Crangon* shrimp fishery that exists in Europe, as well as on a modification of the gear technology currently used in the northern shrimp fishery.

The MEDMR submitted an application for an EFP to conduct the proposed project on October 14, 1997. The experimental trawl surveys are proposed for January through June 1998. The proposed experiment will allow approximately three commercial fishing vessels to conduct gear trials using a *Crangon* otter trawl, an otter trawl of European design, and two beam trawl nets with mesh sizes of 20 mm. One otter trawl will be assembled with a Nordmore grate (physical separator) and the other with a bycatch reduction device known as a false upper (behavioral separator), while the beam trawl nets will contain a finfish excluder device called a sieve. Bar spacing of the Nordmore grate will be 1/2 inch (1.27 cm), smaller than the 1 inch (2.54 cm) now being used in the northern shrimp fishery. All trawl gear is designed to enable finfish to escape through a hole in the lower panel of the net. Experimental gear performance will be tested with control otter trawl nets of 20 mm stretched mesh with 1/4 inch (0.635 cm) mesh liners and 20 mm beam trawl nets. Trawl effectiveness will be