

Included in this industry are commercial, religious, educational, and other television stations. Also included are establishments primarily engaged in television broadcasting and which produce taped television program materials. There were 1,509 television stations operating in the nation in 1992. That number has remained fairly constant as indicated by the approximately 1,563 operating television broadcasting stations in the nation as of October 31, 1997. For 1992 the number of television stations that produced less than \$10.0 million in revenue was 1,155 establishments.

Thus, the proposed rules will affect many of the approximately 1,563 television stations; approximately 1,200 of those stations are considered small businesses. These estimates may overstate the number of small entities since the revenue figures on which they are based do not include or aggregate revenues from non-television or non-radio affiliated companies.

In addition to owners of operating television stations, any entity who seeks or desires to obtain a television broadcast license may be affected by the proposals contained in this item. The number of entities that may seek to obtain a television broadcast license is unknown.

*Federal Rules That Overlap, Duplicate, or Conflict With the Proposed Rules*

The initiatives and proposed rules raised in this proceeding do not overlap, duplicate or conflict with any other rules.

*Any Significant Alternatives Minimizing the Impact on Small Entities and Consistent with the Stated Objectives*

This Notice solicits comment on a variety of alternatives discussed herein. Any significant alternatives presented in the comments will be considered. The proposed rules and policies are required to implement provisions of the 1996 Act. These proposed rules and policies may affect broadcast television licensees, some of which are small businesses. The Commission believes that the proposed rules and policies may be necessary to the recovery of a portion of the value of the public spectrum and to promote the development of innovative uses of the DTV capacity. The Commission seeks comment on the alternatives proposed in the *Notice* and on whether there is a significant economic impact on any class of small licensee or permittee as a result of any of the proposed approaches.

**List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 1**

Television, Television broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-144 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 648**

[I.D. 122397D]

**New England Fishery Management Council; Meeting**

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

**ACTION:** Public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting on January 14 and 15, 1998, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, 1998, at 10 a.m., and Thursday, January 15, 1998, at 8:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Colonial Hilton Resort, 427 Walnut Street, Wakefield, MA; telephone (617) 245-9300. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Wednesday, January 14, 1998**

After introductions the Council meeting will begin with a Stock Assessment Workshop advisory report on the status of spiny dogfish, surf clams, weakfish, and striped bass. Following the report, the Monkfish Committee will provide information on recent changes to the management measures proposed for inclusion in Amendment 9 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (Multispecies FMP) and review the concerns of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

During the afternoon session, the Interspecies Committee will outline its priorities for the upcoming year: Long-term objectives and a Council strategic plan; approaches to easing management restrictions; consistency of Multispecies FMP objectives; the Multispecies FMP

exempted fisheries program; concerns over latent effort in some fisheries; inconsistencies in vessel upgrading, replacement, and permit-splitting restrictions; policy statement on the introduction of harvesting innovations, and new fisheries technology; NMFS's proposed list of authorized gear/fisheries; area management of fisheries; and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program fishing vessel logbook form.

The Overfishing Definition Review Panel will discuss new overfishing definitions developed to comply with the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA); species will include Atlantic sea scallops, sea herring, silver hake, and possibly other groundfish species. The Sea Scallop Committee will review its discussions on alternatives to reach the new SFA-mandated overfishing targets, mechanisms for opening and closing management areas, and the inclusion of days-at-sea (DAS) leasing as a measure to be implemented through a framework adjustment to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (Scallop FMP). The Council also will discuss further the recommendation to close mid-Atlantic areas to protect small scallops and the development of a framework adjustment to allow scalloping in areas where it is currently prohibited because of groundfish conservation concerns. Finally, the Council will consider additional management measures for implementation in 1998, such as other reductions in DAS to meet the Scallop FMP fishing mortality objectives.

**Thursday, January 15, 1998**

Thursday's meeting will begin with reports from the Council Chairman, Executive Director, NMFS Regional Administrator, Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons, and representatives of the Coast Guard and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The Council will discuss and seek approval of final action on Framework Adjustment 25 to the Multispecies FMP. The adjustment will include the following measures to meet the 1998 fishing year rebuilding plan objectives: One or a combination of three options for area closures in the Gulf of Maine (sequential one or two month closures that progress from the Cape Cod to Penobscot Bay areas during March through September, with additional areas closed seasonally or, in one option, year-round); 400-1,000 lb/day (181.4-453.6 kg/day) trip limit for

Gulf of Maine cod; an increase in the haddock trip limit; a raised footrope trawl requirement in the Small Mesh Areas 1 and 2; and a one-year postponement of the mandatory use of vessel monitoring systems on vessels fishing under individual DAS in the Gulf of Maine (north of the cod trip limit exemption line). Following the groundfish discussions, the Whiting Committee will provide an update on its scoping process and review the issues discussed at the joint oversight committee/advisory panel meeting held to discuss and identify issues to be

considered during development of a fishery management plan. The Council meeting will adjourn after the conclusion of any other outstanding Council business.

Although other issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice.

### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: December 30, 1997.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 98-175 Filed 1-5-98; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**