

Register on October 20, 1998 (63 FR 55996) (October supplemental notice), the Surface Transportation Board requested the filing of supplemental reply comments on November 6, 1998. In response to a request filed by Edison Electric Institute (EEI), the Board is extending for one week (to November 13, 1998) the date for filing supplemental replies. The supplemental comment date of October 30, 1998, remains the same.

DATES: Supplemental reply comments are now due November 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: An original plus 12 copies of all supplemental replies, referring to STB Ex Parte No. 628, must be sent to the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, copies should be served upon all parties included in the service list issued by the Board in its notices served June 9 and 16, 1998, which are available on the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov). The October supplemental notice contains further information concerning the availability of obtaining, copying, and seeing documents, and the requirements for electronic submission of documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a decision in this proceeding served May 12, 1998, and published in the **Federal Register** on May 18, 1998 (63 FR 27253), the Board instituted a proceeding to solicit comments on proposed rules that would establish expedited procedures for shippers to obtain alternative rail service from another carrier when the incumbent carrier cannot properly serve shippers. In the October supplemental notice, the Board requested comments on a request by the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) for similar expedited procedures to be established for Class II and Class III railroads to obtain temporary access to an additional carrier under similar circumstances. Supplemental comments on the ASLRRA request are due October 30, 1998. Supplemental replies to such comments are due November 6, 1998.

In a request filed October 22, 1998, EEI asks that the supplemental reply comments be due on or before November 13, 1998. In support of its

request, EEI submits that the one-week extension is needed, *inter alia*, to prepare meaningful replies and to coordinate with other parties, and to avoid conflict with two meetings outside Washington, D.C. on November 2-3 and November 4-6, involving a large number of shippers. EEI states that ASLRRA does not oppose the one-week extension. EEI's request is reasonable, and it will be granted.

Decided: October 27, 1998.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-29155 Filed 10-29-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 101698B]

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Northern Anchovy Fishery

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

ACTION: Receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) that would allow an experimental fishery for northern anchovy in an area off San Francisco closed to vessels fishing for the purposes of reducing the catch into products such as fish meal and oil. Reduction fishing is prohibited in the Farallon Islands closure by 50 CFR 660.512 of the regulations implementing the Northern Anchovy Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The purpose of the proposed experiment is to investigate the consequences of conducting a small-scale reduction fishery in the area. If granted, the permit would allow fishing that otherwise would be prohibited by the FMP and its implementing regulations. NMFS may authorize such a permit pursuant to regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b).

DATES: Comments must be received by November 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Dr. William T. Hogarth, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Svein Fougner or James Morgan at (562)980-4030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FMP and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) specify that EFPs may be issued to authorize fishing that otherwise would be prohibited by an FMP and set forth procedures for issuing permits.

NMFS has accepted an EFP application for review and has forwarded copies to the U.S. Coast Guard and the Director of the California Department of Fish and Game. The applicant proposes to harvest northern anchovy off the coast of California in the area of the Farallon Islands. This area has been closed to reduction fishing since implementation of the FMP in 1978 and, like other area closures in the FMP, was meant to avoid conflict between recreational vessels and what was then a high-volume reduction fishery. Fishing operations would most likely take place in the spring of 1999 with roundhaul gear and would involve from one to three vessels of 30 to 50 mt capacity.

The application will be discussed at the November 2-6, 1998, meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, which will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Columbia River in Portland, OR 1401 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217 (63 FR 54450, October 9, 1998). The decision on whether to issue an EFP and determinations on appropriate permit conditions will be based on a number of considerations, including recommendations made by the Council and comments received from the public. A copy of the application is available for review at the NMFS Southwest Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

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

Dated: October 23, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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