

(b) * * *

(5) To purchases of articles containing para-aramid fibers and yarns manufactured in a country listed in subsection 225.872-1 of the Defense FAR Supplement, if the Secretary of Defense makes a determination for such purchases in accordance with Section 807 of Pub. L. 105-261.

(End of clause)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 253

[DFARS Case 97-D024]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Order for Supplies or Services

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Director of Defense Procurement has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to update instructions for completion of a form that DoD contracting officers use to place orders for supplies and services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, PDUSD (A&T) DP (DAR), IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0131; telefax (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 97-D024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This final rule amends DFARS 253.213-70 to update instructions for completion of DD Form 1155, Order for Supplies or Services. The amendments address use of the form for purchases under blanket purchase agreements, and make other minor editorial changes.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The final rule does not constitute a significant revision within the meaning of FAR 1.501 and Public Law 98-577 and publication for public comment is not required. However, comments from small entities concerning the affected DFARS subpart will be considered in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 610. Such comments should cite DFARS Case 97-D024.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the final rule does not impose any information collection

requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, et seq.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 253

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

Therefore, 48 CFR Part 253 is amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR Part 253 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

PART 253—FORMS

2. Section 253.213-70 is amended in paragraph (e) by revising the introductory text and the entries for Blocks 1, 2, 3, and 13 to read as follows:

253.213-70 Instructions for completion of DD Form 1155.

* * * * *

(e) Instructions for DD Form 1155 entries. (Instructions apply to purchase orders, delivery orders, and calls, except Block 2, which applies only to delivery orders and calls, and Block 12, which applies only to purchase orders.)

Block

1 Contract/Purch Order/Agreement No.—Enter the Procurement Instrument Identification (PII) number and, when applicable, the supplementary identification number for contracts, purchase orders, and agreements as prescribed in Subpart 204.70.

2 Delivery Order/Call No.—Enter the PII number for delivery orders/calls, when applicable, as prescribed in Subpart 204.70.

3 Date of Order/Call—Enter the four position numeric year, three position alpha month, and two position numeric day.

* * * * *

13 Mail Invoices to the Address in Block—Enter a reference to the block number containing the address to which invoices are to be mailed. When not in Block 6, 7, 14, or 15, insert in Block 13, "see schedule."

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[FR Doc. 99-846 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 010699B]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Summer Flounder Commercial Quota Transfer from North Carolina to Virginia

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

ACTION: Commercial quota transfer.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the State of North Carolina is transferring 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) of commercial summer flounder quota to the Commonwealth of Virginia from its 1999 quota. NMFS adjusted the quotas and announces the revised commercial quota for each state involved.

DATES: Effective January 12, 1999, through December 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary M. Grim, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from North Carolina through Maine. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state are described in § 648.100.

The initial total commercial quota for summer flounder for the 1999 calendar year was set equal to 11,111,191 lb (5,039,951 kg) (63 FR 72203, December 31, 1998). The resulting quota for Virginia is 2,368,569 lb (1,074,365 kg) and for North Carolina is 3,049,589 lb (1,383,270 kg).

The final rule implementing Amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was published December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), and allows two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, (Regional Administrator) to transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota. The Regional Administrator is required to consider the criteria set forth in § 648.100(e)(1) in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations.

North Carolina has agreed to transfer 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) of its 1999

commercial quota to Virginia. The Regional Administrator has determined that the criteria set forth in § 648.100(e)(1) have been met, and publishes this notification of quota transfer. The revised quotas for the calendar year 1999 are: Virginia, 2,373,569 lb (1,076,633 kg); and North Carolina, 3,044,589 lb (1,381,002 kg).

This action does not alter any of the conclusions reached in the environmental impact statement prepared for Amendment 2 to the FMP regarding the effects of summer flounder fishing activity on the human environment. Amendment 2 established procedures for setting an annual coastwide commercial quota for summer flounder and a formula for determining commercial quotas for each state. The quota transfer provision was established by Amendment 5 to the FMP and the environmental assessment prepared for Amendment 5 found that the action had no significant impact on the environment. Under section 6.02b.3(b)(1)(aa) of NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, this action is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare additional environmental analyses. This is a routine administrative action that reallocates commercial quota within the scope of previously published environmental analyses.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: January 11, 1999.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-1001 Filed 1-12-99; 3:29 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 981231335-8335-01; I.D. 122498B]

RIN 0648-AM14

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 26

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to implement measures contained in Framework 26 of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This final rule implements management measures that expand the April Gulf of Maine (GOM) closure area and adds an inshore GOM closure area and an offshore Georges Bank (GB) closure area for the month of February. The intent of this action is to provide additional protection for cod, particularly GOM cod, during the 1999 spring spawning season, while the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) develops the May 1, 1999, annual framework adjustment to address the fishing mortality reductions identified by the Multispecies Monitoring Committee (MSMC).

DATES: Effective January 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Amendment 7 to the FMP (Amendment 7), its regulatory impact review (RIR), and the final regulatory flexibility analysis contained with the RIR, its final supplemental environmental impact statement, and Framework Adjustment 26 documents are available on request from Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1097.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan A. Murphy, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Results from the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop 27 (SAW 27), presented to the Council at its August 1998 meeting, concluded that the GOM cod stock is at a very low biomass level and remains overexploited. Although fishing mortality has declined from 1996 levels, the report estimates that there is a 90-percent probability that the 1997 fishing mortality is at least twice the maximum allowable level for achieving stock rebuilding. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has declined from more than 26,000 metric tons (mt) in 1989 to a record low of 6,600 mt in 1998, and is expected to further decline in 1999 to a record low of 5,700 mt or less. Furthermore, recruitment from the three most recent year classes produced in 1994, 1995, and 1996 is extremely poor and far below any previously observed levels. The combined effects of low SSB, high fishing mortality, record low recruitment, and record low survival of pre-recruit fish indicate that the stock is collapsing. Management advice contained in the SAW 27 Advisory Report recommends immediate action to cease all directed fishing and minimize by catch on this stock.

Although SAW 27 information regarding GB cod is less dismal, the report concluded that this stock is also at a low biomass level and remains overexploited relative to the Amendment 7 rebuilding target of $F_{0.1}$. Fishing mortality has declined significantly from the record high levels in 1994 and 1995 but still remains about 45 percent higher than the Amendment 7 objective of $F_{0.1} = 0.18$. Management advice recommends a reduction in fishing mortality to substantially less than the $F_{0.1}$ objective. The MSMC, which delivered its report at the December 1998 Council meeting, confirmed the findings of SAW 27 for both stocks of cod.

The GOM cod situation is very critical. Preliminary landing statistics for this stock indicate that more than 100 percent of the 1998 total allowable catch (TAC) level of 1,783 mt was landed within the first 6 months of the 1998 fishing year. Based on this information, the Council and NMFS are very concerned that current management measures are not sufficient to prevent further stock decline. Given this concern, and the upcoming opportunity to delay fishing mortality on mature cod during the spring spawning period, a time when stocks aggregate and are particularly vulnerable to fishing pressure, the Council initiated development of Framework 26 to afford some additional protection prior to the May 1, 1999, annual framework adjustment. The Council and NMFS believe that preservation of SSB is necessary to prevent a stock collapse caused by poor recruitment, while enhancing the probability of long-term rebuilding.

This action implements measures to modify the current April Inshore Closure Area within the GOM and would add an inshore closure area and offshore closure area to protect GOM and GB cod, respectively, for the month of February. The current March Inshore Closure Area and the year-round near shore Western GOM Closure Area would remain in effect. These closures, in combination, represent areas that have the highest catch per unit effort of cod.

Abbreviated Rulemaking

NMFS is making these revisions to the regulations under the framework abbreviated rulemaking procedure codified at 50 CFR part 648, subpart F. This procedure requires the Council, when making specifically allowed adjustments to the FMP, to develop and analyze the actions over the span of at least two Council meetings. The Council must provide the public with advance