

compliance with this airworthiness directive, if any, may be obtained from the Chicago Aircraft Certification Office.

(e) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the aircraft to a location where the inspection requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on January 20, 1999.

Ronald L. Vavruska,

Acting Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.
[FR Doc. 99-1828 Filed 1-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

United States Mint

31 CFR Part 100.11, 100.12

RIN 1525-ZA00

Exchange of Coin

AGENCY: Department of the Treasury, United States Mint.

ACTION: Proposed Rule; Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: In furtherance of the U.S. Mint's efforts to improve the environment, reduce energy consumption and enhance workplace safety and efficiency, the Mint wishes to discontinue melting and instead employ mechanical means as a means of destroying mutilated coins. These mechanical means cannot be used to process fused or mixed coins, which

represent a very small percentage of the coins redeemed annually by the Mint. Accordingly, the proposed amendment would also allow the Mint to discontinue accepting fused or mixed coins for redemption, and require that all bent or partial coins submitted for redemption be separated by denomination in order to be acceptable.

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this proposed rule to Gwen H. Mattleman, United States Mint, 633 Third Street NW, Washington DC 20220. See Supplementary Information for electronic access and filing information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: (Legal) Kenneth Gubin, Chief Counsel (202) 874-5953; (Technical) Andrew Cosgarea, Associate Director, Head, Circulating Coinage Business Unit (202) 874-6100

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Part 100, Subpart C of Treasury Regulations 31 CFR, promulgated under 31 U.S.C. 5120, provides among other things for the exchange of bent, partial, fused and mixed coins. Bent, partial and mixed coins (i.e., coins of several alloy categories presented together) which are submitted and accepted for redemption are currently separated by alloy, melted and cast into ingots or bars by the United States Mint. These bars are furnished to the Mint's suppliers and used to fabricate coinage strip in lieu of virgin copper and nickel. Fused coins

are also melted and cast into bars, but since this material has been contaminated with base elements such as lead and arsenic it is unsuitable for using in fabricating coinage strip and is instead sold as scrap through the General Services Administration. The Mint has identified and is actively pursuing initiatives to improve the environment, reduce energy consumption and enhance efficiency and workplace safety. Melting coins submitted for redemption by the Mint's current heat induction procedures is not energy efficient and adds to the Mint's annual electrical expenses. It is also a physically challenging process for the Mint's employees. As metal is heated and poured in its molten state into ingots, it can reach 1500 degrees Celsius. Ingots weighing 60 lbs. must be lifted and moved manually. Therefore, the Mint wishes to discontinue melting and use mechanical means (such as a hammer mill or rolling mill) to destroy mutilated coins. However, as the proposed mechanical destruction process requires that coins be separated by alloy, these mechanical methods cannot be used to process fused coins or unsorted (mixed) coin lots. Because mutilated coins delivered in lots of mixed alloy categories often are in a condition which precludes machine sorting, redemption of mixed coins can be labor-intensive and inefficient. As shown by the charts below, fused and mixed coins represent a very small component of the United States Mint's annual coin redemptions.

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YR	Total Coins Redeemed by U. S. Mint (Kg.)	Total Mixed or Fused Coins Redeemed (U.S.Mint records do not distinguish mixed and fused redemptions) (Kg.)	% of Mixed or Fused Coins Redeemed Over Total Redeemed	Total U.S. Mint Payout for All Coins Redeemed (includes sorted bent and partial coins redeemed at weight equivalent of face value, plus fused/mixed at lower, metal rates (fixed or inventory))
1996	310,000	2849	.91	\$6,400,000
1997	342,000	2750	.80	\$7,200,000
1998 (ends 7/31)	327,000	2107	.64	\$5,500,000

YR	Total Lots of Coins Redeemed	Mixed or Fused Lots Redeemed	% of Mixed or Fused Lots Redeemed over Total Lots Redeemed
1996	1820	23	1.26
1997	2200	19	.86
1998 (ends 7/31)	1720	13	.75

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For the foregoing reasons, the Mint wishes to amend Part 100 of 31 CFR to discontinue acceptance of fused and mixed coins for redemption, and require that all bent or partial coins be separated by denomination when submitted for redemption.

Certifications

This proposed regulation is not a significant regulatory action for purposes of Executive Order 12866. The Mint has paid out less than \$8 million in total annual mutilated coin redemptions for each of 1996, 1997 and the seven-month period ending July 31, 1998. For each such period, fused and mixed coins as a group constitute less than 1% of total coins redeemed, and approximately 1% or less of the total lots redeemed. Fused and mixed coins are currently redeemed at metal rates lower than the rates paid for sorted coins. For these reasons, the United States Mint does not believe that the proposed regulation will have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or materially adversely affect any sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities. The Mint does not anticipate that the rule will result in inconsistency, interfere with another agency's actions, materially

alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof, or raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in Executive Order 12866. It is hereby certified that this proposed regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a significant number of small entities. Accordingly, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required. Lots of fused and mixed coins recorded together as a group constituted approximately 1% or less of the total coin lots redeemed for each of calendar 1996, 1997 and the period ending July 31, 1998, amounting to 23, 19 and 13 lots, respectively, of fused and mixed coins. Although the Mint does not maintain records which consistently indicate the business or personal nature of the transactions conducted by individuals or entities tendering coins for redemption, the majority of these lots were submitted by individuals transacting with the Mint in their own name. Even if each such individual were a "small entity" within the meaning of 5 USC 604(a), the Mint does not believe that this quantity of lots indicates that a significant number of small entities will be significantly impacted if the Mint were to require sorting of coins previously accepted as

mixed and discontinue accepting fused coins.

Comments

In lieu of hand-delivery, comments on the proposed rules may be faxed to the attention of Gwen H. Mattleman at (202) 874-6479 or sent by electronic mail to: legal@usmint.treas.gov. Hand delivery, U.S. mail or fax are preferred.

List of Subjects in 31 CFR Part 100 Subpart C

Currency.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the United States Mint proposes to amend 31 CFR Part 100 substantially as follows:

PART 100—EXCHANGE OF PAPER CURRENCY AND COIN**Subpart C—Exchange of Coin**

1. The authority citation for Part 100 Subpart C is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 31 U.S.C. 321.

2. Revise 100.11(b) to read as follows:

§ 100.11 Exchange of bent and partial coins.

* * * * *

(b) Redemption basis. Bent and partial coins shall be presented separately by denomination category in lots of at least one pound for each category. Bent and partial coins shall be redeemed on the

basis of their weight and denomination category rates (which is the weight equivalent of face value). If not presented separately by denomination category, bent and partial coins will not be accepted for redemption.

Denomination categories and rates are: Cents, @ \$1.4585 per pound; Nickels, @ \$4.5359 per pound; Dimes, Quarters, Halves, and Eisenhower Dollars @ \$20.00 per pound; and Anthony Dollars @ \$56.00 per pound. Copper plated zinc cents shall be redeemed at the face value equivalent of copper one cent coins.

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3. Revise 100.12(b) to read as follows:

§ 100.12 Exchange of fused and mixed coins.

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(b) The United States Mint will not accept fused or mixed coins for redemption.

Philip N. Diehl,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-1683 Filed 1-26-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 011499B]

RIN 0648-AL73

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Atlantic Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish Fisheries; and Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of amendments to three fishery management plans; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Amendment 8 to the FMP for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish Fisheries; and Amendment 12 to the FMP for the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries, for review by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and is requesting

comments from the public. These amendments are intended to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of October 1996 (SFA).

DATES: Comments on the amendments must be received on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Jon C. Rittgers, Acting Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-3799. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on the Mid-Atlantic SFA Amendments."

Copies of the proposed amendments, the Environmental Assessments (EA), the regulatory impact reviews (RIR), and other supporting documents are available from Daniel Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904-6790.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina L. Spallone, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Council has submitted three amendments that are intended to bring the aforementioned FMPs into compliance with the SFA requirements. The SFA revised significantly several of the national standards and added three new standards regarding impacts on fishing communities (national standard 8), minimizing bycatch (national standard 9), and promoting safety at sea (national standard 10). In addition, the SFA requires the Councils to identify and to describe essential fish habitat (EFH) for the species managed.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that each regional fishery management council submit any fishery management plan or amendment it prepares to the Secretary for review. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that the Secretary, upon receiving the plan or amendment for review, immediately make a preliminary evaluation of whether the amendment is sufficient to warrant continued review and publish notification that the plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comments in determining whether to approve the plan or amendment.

The amendments to the FMPs, if approved, would revise overfishing definitions, describe and identify EFH, implement a framework adjustment process for amending management measures for these fisheries in the future, limit the size of domestic

harvesting vessels permitted in the Atlantic mackerel fishery, and implement an operator permit requirement for the surfclam and ocean quahog fishery.

A proposed rule that would implement the amendments has been submitted for Secretarial review and approval. NMFS expects to publish and request public comment on proposed regulations to implement the amendments in the near future. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period on the amendments in order to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendments to the FMPs. All comments received by March 29, 1999, whether specifically directed to the amendments or the proposed rule, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendments.

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

Dated: January 21, 1999.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-1876 Filed 1-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 011999B]

RIN: 0648-AK83

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Amendment 13

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

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

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 13 to The West Coast Salmon Plan (Salmon FMP) for Secretarial review. Amendment 13 changes the management goals for the Oregon coastal natural (OCN) coho salmon (coho). The FMP amendment implements the fisheries management provisions of the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative (OCSRI).