

16, 1990, for the State portion, and on November 16, 1990, for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County portion. Supplemental information was submitted for Albuquerque/Bernalillo County on December 18, 1990, October 21, 1991, and November 22, 1991. These revisions correct deficiencies for the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board and the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Board in order to comply with section 128 of the Act. The EPA approval of these New Mexico SIP revisions would make the revisions federally enforceable.

In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the State's SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipates no adverse comments. The rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn, and all public comments received during the 30-day comment period set forth below will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by July 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to Mr. Thomas Diggs, Chief, Air Planning Section, at the EPA Region 6 Office listed below. Reference Docket Number: File Code SIP 1-3-10; NM-90-05. Copies of the documents relevant to this proposed rule are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. Anyone wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least two working days in advance.

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6, Air Planning Section (6PD-L), Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau, 1190 St. Frances Drive, Room So. 2100, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. John Crocker, P.E., of the EPA Region 6 Air Planning Section at the above address, telephone (214) 665-7596.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the direct final action of the same title which is published in the Rules and Regulations section of this **Federal Register**.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: April 26, 1999.

Jerry Clifford,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 6.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

43 CFR Parts 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, and 3180

[WO-310-1310-00-2I-IP]

RIN 1004-AC94

Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing and Operations

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the public comment period on a Notice of Proposed Rule, published in the **Federal Register** on December 3, 1998 (63 FR 66840). On March 26, 1999, BLM extended the comment period for 60 days (64 FR 14666). The proposed rule would revise BLM's oil and gas leasing and operations regulations. The rule uses performance standards in certain instances in lieu of the current prescriptive requirements. It would also cite industry standards and incorporate them by reference rather than repeat those standards in the rule itself. Also, BLM's onshore orders and national notices to lessees would be incorporated into the regulations to eliminate overlap with existing regulations. The rule would increase certain minimum bond amounts and would revise and replace BLM's current unitization regulations with a more flexible unit agreement process. Finally, the proposed rule would eliminate redundancies, clarify procedures and regulatory requirements, and streamline processes. In response to public requests for additional time, BLM extends the comment period 45 days from the comment period closing date of June 4, 1999, to the extended comment period's closing date of July 19, 1999.

DATES: Comments. Send your comments to BLM on or before July 19, 1999. BLM will consider comments received or postmarked on or before this date in preparing the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comments to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401 LS, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240, or hand deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW., Washington DC. For information about filing comments electronically, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under "Electronic access and filing address."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Duletsky of BLM's Fluid Minerals Group at (202) 452-0337 or Ian J. Senio of BLM's Regulatory Affairs Group at (202) 452-5049. If you require a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access and Filing Address

You can view an electronic version of this proposed rule at BLM's Internet home page: www.blm.gov. You can also comment via the Internet at: WOComment@wo.blm.gov. Please include "Attention: AC94" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from our system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (202) 452-5030.

Written Comments

Written comments on the proposed rule are most helpful if you:

- (A) Are specific;
- (B) Confine comments to issues pertinent to the proposed rule;
- (C) Explain the reason for any recommended change; and
- (D) Reference the specific section or paragraph of the proposal you are addressing.

We welcome suggested regulatory language.

BLM may not necessarily consider or include in the Administrative Record for the final rule comments which BLM receives after the close of the comment period (See **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (See **ADDRESSES**).

You can review comments, including names, street addresses, and other contact information of respondents at this address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you are an individual respondent you may request confidentiality. If you request that BLM consider withholding your name, street address, and other

contact information (such as Internet address, FAX or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. BLM will honor requests for confidentiality on a case-by-case basis to the extent allowed by law. BLM will make available for public inspection in their entirety all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

Dated: May 26, 1999.

Sylvia V. Baca,

Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 050399A]

RIN 0648-AL27

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Amendment 12 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan; Measures to Address the Sustainable Fisheries Act Requirements

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

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

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 12 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 12) for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public. Amendment 12 proposes to address the management of silver hake (whiting), red hake, offshore hake, and ocean pout through management measures, including a moratorium on commercial permits to fish for these species, Cultivator Shoal Whiting Fishery restrictions, differential whiting possession limits based on the mesh size with which a vessel chooses to fish in areas outside of the Cultivator Shoal Whiting Fishery, limitations on transfers at sea, and a year 4 default measure to ensure that overfishing is ended. The

intended effect of this action is to reduce fishing mortality rates on whiting and red hake to eliminate overfishing and rebuild the biomass in order 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 must be received on or before August 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this amendment should be sent to Jon C. Rittgers, Acting Regional Administrator, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, "Comments on Amendment 12."

Copies of Amendment 12, its regulatory impact review, initial regulatory flexibility analysis, the final supplemental environmental impact statement, and the supporting documents for Amendment 12 are available from Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In September 1997, NMFS' report to Congress on the "Status of Fisheries of the United States" concluded that red hake and the southern stock of whiting are overfished and the northern stock of whiting is approaching an overfished condition. In response, the Council began the development of the Whiting Amendment (now Amendment 12) to specifically address overfishing.

Amendment 12 proposes to do the following: (1) Establish new overfishing definitions for two stocks of silver hake, two stocks of red hake, and offshore hake (*Merluccius albidus*); (2) specify optimum yield (OY) for silver hake, offshore hake, and red hake; (3) identify whiting, red hake, and offshore hake as small-mesh multispecies; (4) identify geographic areas for potential use in management of different stocks of whiting; (5) implement a moratorium on commercial permits to fish for small-mesh multispecies; (6) implement an open access permit category to allow an incidental catch for 100 lb (45.36 kg) combined of small-mesh multispecies (whiting, red hake, offshore hake), and unlimited amounts of ocean pout; (7) implement a 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) whiting/offshore hake possession limit for vessels fishing in the Cultivator Shoal Whiting Fishery (the current 3-inch (76 mm) minimum mesh requirement will remain the same); (8)

initiate management measures for all areas excluding the Cultivator Shoal Whiting Fishery based on mesh size/possession limit categories (vessels electing to use mesh smaller than 2.5-inches (64 mm) are allowed to possess/land combined whiting and offshore hake up to 3,500 lb (1,588 kg); vessels electing to use a minimum 2.5-inch (64 mm) mesh are allowed to possess/land combined whiting and offshore hake up to 7,500 lb (3402 kg); and vessels electing to use a minimum 3-inch (76 mm) mesh are allowed to possess/land combined whiting and offshore hake up to 35,000 lb (13,608 kg); (9) add measures that may be implemented by a framework adjustment, including essential fish habitat (EFH) designation measures (these new framework measures would include a whiting quota for vessels fishing in the northern management area with mesh smaller than the minimum mesh in combination with a separator trawl/grate; modifications or adjustments to whiting grate/mesh configuration requirements; adjustments to whiting stock boundaries for management purposes; modifications to requirements for fisheries exempt from the minimum mesh requirements for small-mesh multispecies; and seasonal adjustments, declarations, and participating requirements for the Cultivator Shoal Whiting fishery); (10) implement codend specifications and restrictions on net strengtheners (a net strengthener may not be used to fish for small-mesh multispecies with either a minimum 2.5-inch (64 mm) or 3-inch (76 mm) mesh, but a vessel that chooses to fish for small-mesh multispecies with a mesh less than 2.5-inches (64 mm) may use a net strengthener, provided the vessel complies with the net strengthener provisions specified in other small-mesh fisheries); (11) restrict the transfer at sea of small-mesh multispecies; (12) provide a default measure to be applied on a stock specific basis, beginning in year 4 of the amendment if other measures have not been implemented to meet the fishing mortality objectives (this default measure would establish a Regulated Mesh Area with a 3-inch (76 mm) minimum mesh requirement for all fishing activities); (13) designate EFH for offshore hake; and (14) establish a Whiting Monitoring Committee (WMC). Ocean pout will remain an open access multispecies; none of the management measures proposed in this amendment address fishing for ocean pout.

The most recent estimates indicate that fishing mortality in whiting is approximately 1.79 for the northern