

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 271**

[FRL-6430-5]

Indiana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA proposes to grant final authorization to the hazardous waste program revisions submitted by Indiana. In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is authorizing the State's program revisions as an immediate final rule without prior proposal because EPA views this action as noncontroversial and anticipates no adverse comments. The Agency has explained the reasons for this authorization in the preamble to the immediate final rule. If EPA does not receive adverse written comments, the immediate final rule will become effective and the Agency will not take further action on this proposal. If EPA receives adverse written comments, EPA will withdraw the immediate final rule and it will not take effect. EPA will then address public comments in a later final rule based on this proposal. EPA may not provide further opportunity for comment. Any parties interested in commenting on this action must do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before October 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments to Gary Westefer, Indiana Regulatory Specialist, U.S. EPA Region 5, DM-7J, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, Telephone 312/886-7450. You can examine copies of the materials submitted by Indiana during normal business hours at the following locations: EPA Region 5, contact Gary Westefer at the above address and telephone number; or Lynn West, Chief, Regulatory Development Section, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, 100 North Senate, P.O. Box 6015, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6015, Phone number: 317/232-3593.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Westefer at U.S. EPA Region 5, DM-7J, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, Telephone 312/886-7450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information, please see the immediate final rule published in the

"Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**.

Francis X. Lyons,*Regional Administrator, Region 5.*

[FR Doc. 99-22449 Filed 8-31-99; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 403**

[FRL-6431-5]

Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Proposed rule; notice of extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: Today, EPA is providing notice that the public comment period for the proposed rule that would revise several provisions of the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution (40 CFR Part 403) published in the **Federal Register** on July 22, 1999 (64 FR 39563) is being extended.

DATES: Written comments on this proposed rule must be submitted on or before November 19, 1999. Comments provided electronically will be considered timely if they are submitted by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) November 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Commenters are requested to submit an original and two copies of their comments and enclosures (including references) to the Comments Clerk for Pretreatment Program Streamlining, Water Docket (MC-4101), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. Commenters who would like acknowledgment of their comments should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No facsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

EPA will also accept comments electronically. Comments should be addressed to the following Internet address: "ow-docket@epa.gov". Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII or WordPerfect file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Electronic comments must be identified by the docket number W-97-09, and may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. No confidential business information (CBI) should be sent via e-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey B. Smith, U.S. EPA, Office of

Wastewater Management (OWM), Permits Division (4203), 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 260-5586.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 22, 1999, EPA published proposed revisions for "Streamlining the General Pretreatment Streamlining Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution, 40 CFR Part 403" (64 FR 39563). The July 22 notice provided a deadline of 60 days from the date of publication for receipt of public comments. Since the publication of the July 22 notice EPA has received requests to extend the comment period to allow sufficient time for all parties potentially impacted by these revisions to consider and provide comprehensive comments on the proposed regulatory changes. In response to these requests, EPA has decided to extend the public comment period by an incremental 60 days to November 19, 1999.

Dated: August 24, 1999.

J. Charles Fox,*Assistant Administrator for Water.*

[FR Doc. 99-22743 Filed 8-31-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17**

RIN 1018-AC48

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Public Hearings on Proposed Rule To Remove the Bald Eagle From the List of Endangered and Threatened Species in the Lower 48 States.**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed rule; Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The Service gives notice of the agency's intent to hold public hearings on the proposed rule to remove the bald eagle from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species in the lower 48 States. The public hearings are being held in response to written requests received within the 45-day hearing request period. The comment period remains open through October 5, 1999. Public hearings will be held within the comment period and will allow appropriate time for the public to provide further comments.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: The first public hearing will be held on Monday, September 13, 1999, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the McGavock High

School Auditorium, 3150 McGavock Pike, Nashville, Tennessee, from 6:30 pm–8:30 pm. The second public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 1999, in Yorktown, Virginia, at the York High School Auditorium, 9300 George Washington Highway (U.S. Route 17), Yorktown, Virginia, from 6:00 pm–9:00 pm. The final public hearing will be held on Thursday, September 23, 1999, in Phoenix, Arizona, in the 4th Floor Music Room of the Phoenix Public Library, 1221 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

The comment period remains open until October 5, 1999, as originally published in the July 6, 1999, **Federal Register** Notice. Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to Jody Gustitus Millar, Bald Eagle Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4469–48th Avenue Court, Rock Island, Illinois 61201, or may be sent through our website at www.fws.gov/r3pao/eagle. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours, at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jody Gustitus Millar, Bald Eagle Recovery Coordinator, at 309/793–5800 x 524.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 throughout the lower 48 States. The bald eagle also occurs in Alaska, Canada, and in small numbers in northern Mexico, where it is not protected under the Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to remove the bald eagle from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species in the lower 48 States. This action would not alter those conservation measures already in force to protect the species and its habitats.

The **Federal Register** notice announcing the proposed rule was published on July 6, 1999 (64 FR 36454). The comment period ends on October 5, 1999, and the deadline for receipt of public hearing requests was August 20, 1999. Six requests for public hearings have been received within the deadline, including one from New York, one from Virginia, two from Kentucky, one from Arkansas, and one from Arizona. Those parties wishing to make statements for the record should have available a copy of their statements to be presented to the Service at the start of the hearing. Oral statements may be limited to 5 or 10 minutes if the number of parties present necessitates some limitation. There are no limits to the

length of written comments presented at this hearing or mailed to the Service.

Dated: August 27, 1999.

Charles M. Wooley,

Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, Region 3, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

[FR Doc. 99–22917 Filed 8–31–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 697

[Docket No. 990105002–9234–02; I.D. 071599B]

RIN 0648–AH41

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery; Control Date for American Lobster

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

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking; consideration of a control date for the American lobster fishery.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that it is considering, and is seeking public comment on, whether there is a need under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (Atlantic Coastal Act) to limit or restrict future access to the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) fishery in certain geographic areas. This notice is intended to promote awareness of the potential eligibility criteria for future access to lobster management areas, and to discourage shifts into new areas by lobster trap vessels subject to Federal lobster regulations. It also discourages non-trap vessels from entering the trap fishery based on economic speculation while NMFS, in consultation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission), considers whether and how access and effort should be controlled. The potential eligibility criteria may be based on historical participation and/or historical trap levels in lobster conservation management areas (LCMAs). NMFS is considering September 1, 1999 as a possible “control date,” and such date may be used as a cut-off date for establishing eligibility criteria for future access in the lobster trap fishery subject to Federal authority. This document, therefore, gives the public notification that interested participants should locate and preserve records that

substantiate and verify their participation in the American lobster fishery in Federal waters.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Harold Mears, Director, State, Federal and Constituent Programs Office, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Ross, Fishery Management Specialist, 978–281–9234.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lobster fishery takes place from North Carolina to Maine. Over one-half of all American lobsters are landed in Maine, with most of the other landings occurring in or from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Long Island Sound, and Georges Bank. Most lobsters (over 80 percent) are taken in state waters, which extend from the coast to 3 nautical miles (5.56 kilometers) from shore. The offshore trap fishery, which occurs primarily in the offshore canyon areas at the edge of the continental shelf, has developed only in the past 15 years and accounts for most of the remaining landings. The lobster fishery is a year-round fishery in the United States, including the summer and fall months when the lobsters are molting. Approximately 97 percent of lobsters are taken in lobster traps. The rest are taken in trawls, gillnets, dredges, and by divers.

There has been a dramatic increase in fishing effort since the 1970s and effort is now at an all-time high. NMFS estimates that each trap remains in the water about 30 percent longer than in 1970 before being hauled. Current fishing effort removes a large proportion of lobsters before they have had a chance to spawn even once, and the average size of lobsters landed continues to drop. Harvesters depend heavily on lobsters within one molt of the legal size (3–1/4 inches or 8.26 cm carapace length). In recent years, 85 percent or more of landings have been composed of animals in this size range.

The most recent NMFS assessment of the American lobster stock concluded that it is overfished throughout its range (22nd Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop Document 96–13, dated September, 1996). In the Report to Congress on the Status of Fisheries of the United States, dated September 1997, NMFS included American lobster on the list of overfished fisheries. The lobster stock is considered to be overfished because the number of eggs produced each year is less than 10 percent of the number that would have been produced if the stock