requirement that Federal agencies refrain from taking any action that destroys or adversely modifies critical habitat. Designating critical habitat may also provide some educational or informational benefits.

On December 3, 1999 (64 FR 67814), we published a proposal, with additional background information, to list *Silene spaldingii* as a threatened species. In the proposed rule, we did not propose a critical habitat determination for *Silene spaldingii*, but stated that we would publish such a determination for this species in the **Federal Register** subsequent to the proposed rule. The original comment period closed on February 1, 2000. On April 24, 2000 (65 FR 21711), we published a notice of proposed critical habitat determination for *Silene spaldingii*. In that notice, we proposed that designation of critical habitat is prudent for *Silene spaldingii*, and the comment period closed on June 23, 2000.

Public Comments Solicited

It is our intent that any final action resulting from the proposal will be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, we solicit comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the proposed rule. Our practice is to make comments including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extend allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. All comments, including written and e-mail, must be received in our Snake River Basin Office by September 22, 2000. We particularly seek comments concerning:

(1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to this species;

(2) The location of any additional occurrences of this species and the reasons why critical habitat should or should not be considered prudent for this species;

(3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population size of this species;

(4) Current or planned activities in the range of this species and their possible impacts on *Silene spaldingii* or its habitat;

The final decision on the proposal to list *Silene spaldingii,* and make a critical habitat determination, will take into consideration the comments and any additional information we receive, and such communications may lead to a final regulation that differs from the proposal.

References Cited

Ertter, B. and R. Moseley. 1992. Floristic regions of Idaho. Journal of the Idaho Academy of Science 28(2):57–65.

Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. Flora of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington.

Lesica, P. 1992. The effects of fire on *Silene spaldingii* at Dancing Prairie Preserve: 1992 progress report. The Nature Conservancy, Helena, Montana.

Lichthardt, J. 1997. Revised report on the conservation status of Silene spaldingii in Idaho. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Conservation Data Center, Boise, Idaho.

Noss, R.F., E.T. LaRoe III, and J.M. Scott. 1995. Endangered ecosystems of the United States: a preliminary assessment of loss and degradation. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Biological Service, Washington, D.C.

Tisdale, E.W. 1961. Ecological changes in the Palouse. Northwest Science 35(4):134–138.

Tisdale, E.W. 1986. Native vegetation of Idaho. Rangelands 8(5):202–206.

Watson, S. 1875. Revision of the genus *Ceanothus,* and descriptions of new plants, with a synopsis of the western species of *Silene.* Proc. Am. Acad. 10:333–350.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Barb Behan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Authority

The authority of this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: August 31, 2000.

Don Weathers,

Regional Director, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 00–23037 Filed 9–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 000824247-0247-01; I.D. 080200A]

RIN 0648-AO39

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Control Date

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

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking; consideration of a control date.

SUMMARY: This document announces that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is considering whether there is a need to impose additional management measures limiting entry into the commercial penaeid shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and, if there is a need, what management measures should be imposed. If the Council and NMFS determine that there is a need to impose additional management measures, a rulemaking to do so may be initiated. Possible measures include the establishment of a limited entry program to control participation or effort in this fishery. This document intends to inform the public that the Council is establishing a control date of September 8, 2000. Anyone entering the fishery after the control date would not be assured of future access should a management regime that limits the number of participants in the fishery be prepared and implemented. The document also intends to discourage new entry into the fishery based on economic speculation during the Council's deliberation on the issues.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by October 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, South Carolina 29407-4699; telephone: 843-571-4366; fax: 843-769-4520; email: safmc@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Steve Branstetter 727-570-5305; email: steve.branstetter@noaa.gov or Mr. Roger Pugliese 843-571-4366; email: roger.pugliese@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The commercial penaeid shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic Region is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP) as prepared by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and approved and implemented by NMFS. The FMP is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

The Council has concerns about increasing shrimping effort in the South Atlantic EEZ and wants to prevent the possibility of the development of an excess harvesting capacity for the shrimp fishery of the region. At its June 2000 meeting, the Council voted unanimously to establish a control date for the commercial penaeid shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic EEZ and requested that NMFS notify the industry by publishing notification of the control date in the **Federal Register**. Accordingly, NMFS publishes this document to notify the industry that September 8, 2000 is the control date for the commercial penaeid shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic EEZ. Implementation of any program that limits participation or effort in the penaeid shrimp fishery would require preparation of an FMP amendment followed by Secretarial review, approval, and implementation. Secretarial review involves publication of a notice of availability of the FMP amendment and of a proposed rule, with pertinent public comment periods.

Establishment of a control date does not commit the Council or NMFS to any particular management regime or criteria for entry into this fishery. Fishermen are not guaranteed future participation in the fishery regardless of their entry date or intensity of participation in the fishery before or after the control date under consideration. The Council may choose to use a different control date or a management regime that does not make use of such a date or to give variably weighted consideration to fishermen active in the fishery before and after the control date. Other qualifying criteria, such as documentation of landings and sales, may be applied for entry. The Council may also choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the fishery, in which case the control date may be rescinded.

This advanced notice of proposed rulemaking has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 6 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 1, 2000.

William T. Hogarth,

Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00–23132 Filed 9–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[I.D. 082800F]

RIN 0648–AO31

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Amendment 12

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 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 12 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Secretarial review. Amendment 12 is intended to provide procedures for the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to develop rebuilding plans for overfished species, to set guidelines for rebuilding plan contents, and to provide rebuilding plans for NMFS review and approval/disapproval. Amendment 12 would also declare all Pacific coast groundfish to be fully utilized by domestic harvesters and processors.

DATES: Comments on Amendment 12 must be received on or before November 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments on Amendment 12 or supporting documents should be sent to William Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115–0070; or to Rebecca Lent, Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213.

Copies of Amendment 12 and the Environmental Assessment/ Regulatory Impact Review are available from Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvonne deReynier at 206–526–6140, Svein Fougner at 562–980–4000, or the Pacific Fishery Management Council at 503–326–6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that each regional fishery management council submit any new FMP or plan amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving an FMP or amendment, immediately publish a notification in the Federal Register that the FMP or amendment is available for public review and comment. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period described here in determining whether to approve the FMP or amendment.

In 1998, the Council adopted Amendment 11 to the FMP to make the FMP consistent with revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Among other things, Amendment 11 set control rules to define rates of ''overfishing,'' and set defined levels at which managed stocks are considered ''overfished.'' Amendment 11 was approved and incorporated into the FMP in March 1999.

While implementing Amendment 11 provisions for rebuilding overfished stocks, the Council determined that it needed to set procedures within the groundfish FMP for developing overfished species rebuilding plans and for providing NMFS with the opportunity to review and approve/ disapprove those plans. Amendment 12 provides for a process in which the Council will develop overfished species rebuilding plans during its annual specifications and management measures process.

During the Council's two-meeting process for setting annual specifications and management measures (usually September and November) the Council will make overfished species rebuilding plans available for public review, and will incorporate measures to implement those plans within the annual specifications and management measures. Rebuilding plan contents are defined in the FMP and rely upon the Council's annual stock assessment and review process. Once the Council approves a new rebuilding plan, it will submit that plan for NMFS review and approval/disapproval generally at the same time that it submits its annual specifications package for review and approval/disapproval. This process will ensure that rebuilding efforts are incorporated into fishery management measures as quickly and efficiently as