

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**48 CFR Part 225**

[DFARS Case 99-D005]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Foreign Military Sales Customer Observation of Negotiations**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).**ACTION:** Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: DoD is withdrawing the proposed rule published at 64 FR 22825 on April 28, 1999. The rule proposed to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to allow Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customers to observe contract price negotiations. This change was proposed as a part of a DoD initiative to improve the FMS process. DoD has reconsidered this rule based on public comments. DoD is considering alternative methods of satisfying the pricing information needs of countries that acquire supplies and services through the FMS program. Therefore, DoD is withdrawing the proposed rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, OUSD (AT&L) DP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0288; telefax (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 99-D005.

Michele P. Peterson,*Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.*

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BILLING CODE 5000-04-M**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 622**

[Docket No. 001005281-0281-01; I.D. 082900C]

RIN 0648-AN85

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; 2000-2001 Catch Specifications for Gulf Group King Mackerel

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the framework procedure for adjusting management measures of the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP), NMFS proposes, for Gulf group king mackerel, to reduce the total allowable catch (TAC), reinstate a 2-fish per person daily bag limit for captain and crew of for-hire vessels (charter vessels and headboats), and revise the commercial trip limit applicable within the Florida east coast subzone (Miami-Dade County, FL through Volusia County, FL). The intended effect of this proposed rule is to protect the Gulf group king mackerel stock from overfishing while still allowing catches by the commercial and recreational fisheries. In addition, NMFS proposes a minor change to correct a cross-reference.

DATES: Written comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., eastern standard time, on November 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the proposed rule must be sent to Dr. Steve Branstetter, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments also may be sent via fax to 727-570-5583. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

Comments on any ambiguity or unnecessary complexity arising from the language used in this proposed rule should be directed to Rod Dalton, Southeast Regional Office, at the above address.

Requests for copies of the environmental assessment and regulatory impact review supporting this action should be sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL, 33619-2266, telephone: 813-228-2815, fax: 813-225-7015, e-mail: gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Steve Branstetter, telephone: 727-570-5305, fax: 727-570-5583, e-mail: Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fisheries for coastal migratory pelagic resources are regulated under the FMP. The FMP was prepared jointly by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and was approved by NMFS and implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

In accordance with the FMP's framework procedure, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) and South Atlantic

Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) submitted to the Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, a regulatory amendment that contained recommendations for changes in the catch specifications for Gulf migratory group king mackerel. The recommended changes are within the scope of the management measures that may be adjusted under the framework procedure, as specified in 50 CFR 622.48.

Background*Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Gulf Group King Mackerel*

In setting TAC, the Gulf Council considered the comments of its Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel (MSAP), Socioeconomic Panel, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Mackerel Advisory Panel, public testimony, and legal requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act. The MSAP concluded that there is only a 33-percent chance that the stock is undergoing overfishing, and only a 35-percent chance the stock is overfished. Currently, the FMP's target for optimum yield (OY) for this stock is a fishing mortality rate that would produce a 30-percent static spawning potential ratio (F30% static SPR). Based on an F30% static SPR, the MSAP calculated a range of allowable biological catch (ABC) of 8.2 to 12.8 million lb (3.7 to 5.8 million kg). The Gulf Council chose the midpoint of the ABC range (10.2 million lb (4.6 million kg)), which has a 50-percent chance of not exceeding the fishing mortality that would allow the stock to reach the OY target (an $F > F30\%$ static SPR). This TAC represents a slight reduction from the existing TAC of 10.6 million lb (4.8 million kg).

The Gulf Council considers the TAC reduction from 10.6 million lb (4.8 million kg) to 10.2 million lb (4.6 million kg) sufficient to allow continued rebuilding of the Gulf group king mackerel stock while minimizing the social and economic impacts of the TAC reduction. Additionally, the Gulf Council recognized that benefits of reduced fishing mortality on the stock are accruing from the use of bycatch reduction devices in the shrimp fishery and the recent increase in the minimum size limit to 24 inches (61.0 cm) fork length.

Bag Limit for Captains and Crews of For-Hire Vessels

The recreational sector annually exceeded its allocation between the 1986-1987 and 1996-1997 fishing years. In early 1998, preliminary information for the 1997-1998 fishing year indicated