

NHTSA Chief Counsel, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC 20590, and seven copies from which the purportedly confidential information has been deleted should be submitted to the Docket Section at the street address given above. A request for confidentiality should be accompanied by a cover letter setting forth the information specified in the agency's confidential business information regulation (49 CFR Part 512).

Comments on this notice will be available for inspection in the docket. NHTSA will continue to file relevant information as it becomes available in the docket after the closing date. Those persons desiring to be notified upon receipt of their written comments in the Docket Section should enclose, in the envelope with their comments, a self addressed stamped postcard. Upon receipt, the docket supervisor will return the postcard by mail.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: October 16, 2001.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 01-26560 Filed 10-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-59-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Parts 222 and 223

[I.D. 101701B]

RIN 0648-AN62

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Sea Turtle Conservation Requirements

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Public hearing notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce, will hold public hearings for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed rule to amend the regulations protecting sea turtles to enhance their effectiveness in reducing sea turtle mortality resulting from shrimp trawling in the Atlantic and Gulf Areas of the southeastern United States, published in the **Federal Register** on October 2, 2001. Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) have proven to be effective at excluding sea turtles from shrimp trawls; however, NMFS has determined that modifications to the design of TEDs need to be made to exclude leatherbacks and large, sexually mature loggerhead and green turtles; several approved TED designs are structurally weak and do not function properly under normal fishing conditions; and modifications to the trynet and bait shrimp exemptions to the TED requirements are necessary to decrease lethal take of sea turtles. These proposed amendments are necessary to protect endangered and threatened sea turtles in the Atlantic and Gulf Areas.

**DATES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates, times and addresses of the hearings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Hoffman (ph. 727-570-5312, fax 727-570-5517, e-mail Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov), or Therese A. Conant (ph. 301-713-1401, fax 301-713-0376, e-mail Therese.Conant@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. October 24, 2001 at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Madeira Beach, FL

2. November 1, 2001, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Charleston, SC

3. November 5, 2001, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Beaufort, NC

4. November 5, 2001, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Kenner, LA

5. November 6, 2001, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Brunswick, GA

6. November 7, 2001, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Galveston, TX

7. November 8, 2001, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Port Isabel, TX

8. November 9, 2001, at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Cocoa, FL

The hearings will be held in the following locations:

1. Madeira Beach City Hall, 300 Municipal Dr., Madeira Beach, FL 33708

2. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Marine Resources Research Institute Main Auditorium, 217 Fort Johnson Rd., Charleston, SC 29412

3. Duke Marine Laboratory, I.E. Grey Library Auditorium Building, 135 Duke Marine Lab Rd., Beaufort, NC 28516

4. Airport Hilton, Main Ballroom, 901 Airline Dr., Kenner, LA 70062

5. University of Georgia, Marine Extension Service Office, 715 Bay St., Brunswick, GA 31520

6. Texas A&M University, Classroom Laboratory Building, Room 100, 200 Seawolf Parkway, Galveston, TX 77553

7. Laguna Madre Learning Center at the Port Isabel High School Lecture Hall, Highway 100, Port Isabel, TX 78578

8. Brevard Agricultural Center Auditorium, 3695 Lake Dr., Cocoa, FL 32926

Dated: October 16, 2001.

**Wanda L. Cain,**

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 01-26552 Filed 10-19-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**