

visit our Web site at <http://www.nationalservice.org>. When providing oral or written input on the issues outlined above, please especially consider the following questions:

General question: As AmeriCorps continues to grow, what changes can you identify to make the program more efficient and effective?

Sustainability: How can the Corporation ensure that Federal funds are used most effectively to meet community needs? How can the Corporation and the field achieve the right balance of federal and private support? What criteria should the Corporation use to promote sustainability of national and community service programs? To what extent should AmeriCorps members be engaged in fundraising and other capacity-building activities? Should the Corporation limit the number of years for which a program or project may receive funding? To promote grantee sustainability, to what extent should the level of Corporation support for a program or project decrease over time? If the level of Corporation support were to decrease over time, what should be the minimum level of Corporation support? Should the Corporation calibrate sustainability requirements to reflect the differences among the programs, such as size, location, time in operation, or mission? How can the Corporation further support and encourage greater engagement of Americans in volunteering?

Federal share: Should the Corporation calibrate matching requirements to reflect the differences among programs, such as size, location, or track record? How can the Corporation and the field achieve the right balance of federal and private support? Should the Corporation adopt matching requirements for member-related costs that are different from requirements for other program operation costs?

Performance measures and evaluation: How can the Corporation ensure that its grantees are achieving identifiable measurable outcomes? How should the Corporation and its grantees establish appropriate performance measures? How can we identify best practices that merit replication? How can the Corporation ensure that its grantees regularly and effectively evaluate national and community programs?

Qualifications for members serving as reading tutors and requirements for programs engaged in literacy activities: How can we ensure that members serving as reading tutors have the skill and ability to provide the necessary instruction to the populations they

serve? How can we ensure that programs engaged in literacy activities achieve reasonable and measurable outcomes?

Timing of grant cycle: For how many months before commencing or continuing a project does a grantee need to know that its application is approved? For how many months before commencing or continuing a project does a grantee need to know that its grant is awarded? What is a reasonable amount of time to prepare an application? Is it useful for the Corporation to have multiple application processes during the course of the year? Does the current cycle work?

Selection Criteria: What criteria should the Corporation use in selecting programs?

Three-year grants: How can the Corporation streamline its grant application process for continuation applications?

Conference Calls and Public Input Meetings

The Corporation is planning five public input meetings across the country and four conference calls in March and early April. Please check our Web site at <http://www.americorps.org/rulemaking> for further information on dates, times, locations, and other information regarding these conference calls and meetings, or contact Angela Martin at (202) 606-5000 x.448 (amartin@cns.gov).

Dated: March 1, 2004.

Frank R. Trinity,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 04-4856 Filed 3-3-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050-SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 040223065-4065-01; I.D. 020604A]

RIN 0648-AR91

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; revised control date.

SUMMARY: 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). In anticipation of such an action, the Council previously established a control date of September 8, 2000. This document is to inform the public that the Council is establishing a revised control date of December 10, 2003. If the Council and NMFS determine that there is a need to impose additional management measures to control participation in the fishery, a rulemaking to do so may be initiated. Should the Council base such rulemaking on this control date, anyone entering the fishery after the control date would not be assured of future access in the fishery.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by April 5, 2004.

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: email@safmc.net.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Steve Branstetter 727-570-5305; email: steve.branstetter@noaa.gov or Ms. Vishwanie Maharaj 843-571-4366; email: vishwanie.maharaj@safmc.net.

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 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 that increased participation in the South Atlantic commercial penaeid shrimp fishery could result in an excess harvesting capacity for the fishery. The Council previously established a control date of September 8, 2000 (65 FR 54474). At its December 2003 meeting, the Council voted unanimously to establish a revised control date for the commercial penaeid shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic EEZ and requested that NMFS notify the industry by publishing a notice of the control date in the **Federal Register**. Accordingly, NMFS publishes this notice to notify the industry that December 10, 2003, is the revised 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 a FMP amendment followed by Secretary of Commerce (Secretarial) review, approval, and implementation. Secretarial review involves publication of a notice of availability of the FMP amendment and publication of proposed and final rules, 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: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 27, 2004.

William T. Hogarth,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-4875 Filed 3-3-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 040223064-4064-01; I.D. 020404F]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Proposed 2004 Harvest Specifications for Skates

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

ACTION: Proposed 2004 harvest specifications for skates and associated

management measures; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes 2004 harvest specifications for skates and associated management measures for the skate fishery of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to establish harvest limits and associated management measures for skates during the 2004 fishing year. The intended effect of this action is to conserve and manage the skate resources in the GOA in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

DATES: Comments must be received by March 19, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be sent to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Durall, or delivered to room 401 of the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 907-586-7557 or by e-mail. The mailbox address for providing e-mail comments is 2004-Skates-TAC@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail comment the following document identifier: 2004 Skates TAC Specifications.

Copies of the final 2003 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report, dated November 2003, are available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99510 or from its homepage at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc>. Copies of the Environmental Assessment/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/IRFA) prepared for this action are available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**) and comments must be received by March 19, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Pearson, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, 907-481-1780 or e-mail at tom.pearson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS manages the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the GOA (FMP). The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared the FMP under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.* Regulations governing U.S. fisheries and implementing the FMP appear at 50 CFR parts 600 and 679.

In October 2003, the Council made final recommendations on Amendment

63 to the FMP and submitted Amendment 63 for Secretarial approval. Amendment 63 would move skates from the "other species" list to the "target species" list in the FMP. By listing skates as a target species, a directed fishery for skates in the GOA may be managed to reduce the potential of overfishing skates while providing an opportunity for achieving a long term sustainable yield from the skate resource in the GOA. On December 2, 2003, NMFS published a Notice of Availability on Amendment 63, inviting public comments through February 2, 2004 (68 FR 67390). The Secretary of Commerce approved Amendment 63 on February 27, 2004.

The FMP and implementing regulations require NMFS, after consultation with the Council, to specify annually the total allowable catch (TAC) for each target species and for the "other species" category, the sum of which must be within the optimum yield (OY) range of 116,000 to 800,000 metric tons (mt) (§ 679.20(a)(1)(ii)). Regulations at § 679.20(c)(1) further require NMFS to publish annually, and solicit public comment on the proposed annual TACs. The proposed specifications set forth in Table 1 satisfies these requirements. For 2004, the sum of the proposed TAC amounts for skates is 6,993 mt. Pending Secretarial approval of Amendment 63 to the GOA FMP, NMFS will publish, under § 679.20(c)(3), the final skate specifications for 2004 after considering public comments received within the comment period (see **DATES**).

Proposed Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and TAC Specifications

The proposed ABC and TAC levels for each species group are based on the best available biological and socioeconomic information, including methods used to calculate stock biomass, assumed distribution of stock biomass, and estimated incidental catch in other directed groundfish fisheries. In December 2003, the Council, its Advisory Panel (AP), and its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), reviewed current biological and harvest information about the condition of groundfish stocks in the GOA. Most of this information was initially compiled by the Council's GOA Plan Team and is presented in the final 2003 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report for the GOA groundfish fisheries, dated November 2003. The Plan Team annually produces such a document as the first step in the process of specifying TACs. The SAFE report contains a review of the latest scientific analyses and estimates of each species'