

## Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Gail Bendixen at 907-271-2809 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

May 11, 2005.

### Emily Menashes,

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E5-2414 Filed 5-13-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 051005A]

### Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Assistant Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. Therefore, the Assistant Regional Administrator proposes to recommend that an EFP be issued that would allow three commercial fishing vessels to conduct fishing operations that are otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The EFP would allow for exemptions from the FMP as follows: The Gulf of Maine (GOM) Rolling Closure Areas II and III.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 31, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on the Manomet Rigid Mesh EFP Proposal." Comments may also be sent via fax to (978) 281-9135 or via e-mail to [da5-85@noaa.gov](mailto:da5-85@noaa.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Tasker, Fishery Management Specialist, phone (978) 281-9273.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences submitted an application for an EFP on March 16, 2005. The primary goal of the research is to test the effectiveness of inserting a rigid mesh panel between the extension and the codend of a trawl net to reduce bycatch while targeting yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, summer flounder, American plaice, and cod in inshore GOM waters.

The proposed rigid mesh panel would be 6.56 ft (2 m) in length and would be constructed of elongate meshes 2.36 inches (60 mm) wide and 7.87 inches (200 mm) long. This panel would be inserted between the extension and the codend of the net and would be the same diameter as the net. This project is proposed to occur in the Western GOM, excluding the Western GOM Closure Area but including GOM Rolling Closure Areas II and III. The project would take place over 22 days from May 2005, to July 15, 2005, in two areas in the GOM waters, excluding the Western GOM Closure Area, as follows: (1) The area from 43°10' N lat. to the Maine shoreline, and from 69°30' W long. to the Maine shoreline; and (2) the area from 42°00' N lat. to 42°30' N lat., and from 70°00' W long. to the Massachusetts shoreline (approximately 70°40' W long.). Researchers request an exemption from the regulations establishing these closures because of the high likelihood that the targeted species would be present in significant numbers during these times, which would enhance the effectiveness of the experiment. Researchers would film the interior and exterior of the net to verify proper construction and to document species' reactions to the net. Once the proper construction of the net has been verified, researchers would use the remainder of the trials to test the potential for bycatch reduction of the experimental panel by conducting alternating tows using the net with the experimental panel and a conventional codend, following an A-B-B-A pattern, comparing the catches between the two

codends. No more than 110 tows total for the three vessels combined would be performed during at-sea trials. Under the previously issued EFP, researchers were authorized to conduct similar research over 30 days of sea trials; however, they were able to conduct only 8 days of sea trials.

The researchers anticipate that a total of 4,917 lb (2,230.3 kg) of fish, including 1,320 lb (598.7 kg) of cod, 550 lb (249.5 kg) of yellowtail flounder, 550 lb (249.5 kg) of winter flounder, and 550 lb (249.5 kg) of American plaice would be harvested throughout the course of the study. Other species that are anticipated to be caught are species of skates, smooth and spiny dogfish, sculpins, sea ravens, and sea robins. All legal-sized fish, within the possession limits, would be sold, with the proceeds going toward defraying the cost of vessel chartering fees. There would be no retention of undersized fish aboard the vessels and there is no anticipated impact on marine mammals or endangered species.

The applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research, and minimal enough so as not to change the scope or impact the initially approved EFP request.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: May 10, 2005.

### Alan D. Risenhoover

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E5-2394 Filed 5-16-05; 8:45 am]

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## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Request for Public Comment on Commercial Availability Request under the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA); Correction

May 10, 2005.

In the document published in the **Federal Register** on May 10, 2005 (70 FR 24553), on page 24554, Column 1, line 21 in the 1st full paragraph, please change the date from "June 16, 2004" to "June 9, 2005". Please make the same correction to the date, "June 16, 2004",