III. Ordering Paragraphs

[Order No. 99]

It is Ordered:


2. An informal technical conference to explore and clarify proposals is scheduled for August 27, 2008 at 10 a.m. in the Commission’s hearing room.

3. Interested persons may file initial comments on or before September 8, 2008.

4. Reply comments may be filed on or before September 15, 2008.

5. William C. Miller is designated as the Public Representative representing the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

6. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice in the Federal Register.

[Order No. 102]

1. The Motion of the United States Postal Service to Supplement the List of Its Proposed Costing Changes for Purposes of Preparing the FY 2008 Annual Compliance Report, filed August 18, 2008, is granted.

2. The proposal described in this Order will be considered under the current procedural schedule in Docket No. RM2008–2.

3. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice in the Federal Register.


By the Commission.

Judith M. Grady,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8–20694 Filed 9–5–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P
We intend to develop proposed regulations by following the negotiated rulemaking procedures in section 492 of the HEA. We anticipate using the negotiated rulemaking procedures in section 492 of the HEA to develop any regulations for the new teacher preparation program provision in section 207(b)(2) of the HEA, although the Secretary is not required to do so. After a complete review of the HEOA and the public comments presented at the public hearings and through written submission, we will publish a subsequent notice (or notices) announcing the specific subject areas for which we intend to establish negotiated rulemaking committees, and a request for nominations for individual negotiators for those committees who represent the interests significantly affected by the proposed regulations.

We anticipate that we will announce our intent to establish most of the negotiated rulemaking committees by the end of this year, with negotiations beginning in February 2009. For subject areas for which implementation must occur more quickly, the schedule will be expedited.

For general information on the implementation of the HEOA, see http://www.ed.gov/HEOA.

Public Hearings

We will hold six public hearings for interested parties to discuss the agenda for the negotiated rulemaking sessions. The public hearings will be held on:
- September 19, 2008 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas;
- September 29, 2008 at the University of Rhode Island, in Providence, Rhode Island;
- October 2, 2008 at Pepperdine University, in Malibu, California;
- October 6, 2008 at Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina;
- October 8, 2008 at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC; and
- October 15, 2008 at Cuyahoga Community College, in Cleveland, Ohio.

The public hearings will be held from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., local time, with the exception of the hearing at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, which will be held from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., local time. Further information on the public hearing sites, including addresses and directions, is available at http://www.ed.gov/HEOA. Individuals desiring to present comments at the public hearings are encouraged to do so. It is likely that each participant choosing to make a statement will be limited to five minutes. Individuals interested in making oral statements will be able to register to make a statement beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the public hearing. Individuals unable to attend a public hearing, the Department will accept written comments through October 8, 2008. (See the ADDRESSES sections of this notice for submission information.)

The public hearing sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Individuals needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in a meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in alternative format), should notify the contact person for information about hearings listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT in this notice in advance of the scheduled meeting date. Although we will attempt to meet any request we receive, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

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The CNMI is relatively close to Guam, and it is possible for large bottomfish vessels based in Guam to travel to fishing grounds in the CNMI. NMFS recently implemented a final rule that prohibits large vessels (i.e., greater than 50 ft (15.2 m)) from bottomfish fishing within 50 nm (80.5 km) around Guam (71 FR 64474; November 2, 2006). Without similar closed areas around the CNMI, operators of these large Guam-based vessels may choose to fish for bottomfish within U.S. EEZ waters around the CNMI. This could result in excessive fishing pressure on bottomfish stocks at nearshore banks, potentially threatening both the fish stocks and the fisheries that have historically been dependent on these resources.

In addition to the possibility of Guam-based vessels entering the CNMI bottomfish fishery, the Council is concerned about several other issues regarding bottomfish fishing in the CNMI. First, existing data collection programs in the CNMI are insufficient to monitor catches and determine the impacts of the fishery on the bottomfish stocks being harvested, or to determine the species composition and amount of discarded catch. Second, large bottomfish vessels need to harvest relatively large catches to cover operational costs, and these large catches could deplete nearshore stocks. Stock depletion would threaten the sustainability of the CNMI bottomfish fishery, and if catch rates were significantly reduced, small vessels would not be able to continue operating. Finally, because the catches from large vessels are typically exported, traditional patterns of supply and consumption of bottomfish in the local community would be disrupted.

In response to these concerns, the Council developed Amendment 10 with the following objectives: (1) ensure that adequate information is routinely collected for the CNMI offshore fisheries, that have historically been dependent on these resources.