

**Changes Requested But Not Made**

*Fortified Cooking Wines—Marsala and Sherry*

Two comments addressed Marsala and sherry fortified cooking wines. One comment did not support the listing on the basis that organic versions of these cooking wines are commercially available, but failed to provide documentation to support this claim. One comment requested an annotation to prohibit fortified wines that contain synthetic sulfites, such as sulfur dioxide or potassium metabisulfite. The comment referenced the restriction of sulfur dioxide to wines that are “made with organic grapes” in questioning the legal basis for allowing cooking wines containing sulfites to be listed on § 205.606 and, therefore, to be used to produce “organic” products.

In its discussion at the May 20–22, 2008 meeting, the NOSB acknowledged that the manufacturer cited in the fortified cooking wine petitions did not add sulfites to its sherry and Marsala cooking wines. However, the NOSB did not recommend prohibiting sherry or Marsala cooking wines which contain added sulfites. We believe the recommendation is consistent with OFPA, § 6510(a)(3), which prohibits the addition of sulfites except in the production of wine. Therefore, we are not adopting the proposed annotation to prohibit conventional forms of Marsala and sherry fortified cooking wines which contain added sulfites.

*F. Effective Date*

This final rule reflects recommendations submitted to the Secretary by the NOSB. The substances being added to the National List were based on petitions from the industry and evaluated by the NOSB using criteria in the Act and the regulations. Because these substances are crucial to organic crop production and processing operations, producers should be able to use them in their operations as soon as possible. Accordingly, AMS finds that good cause exists under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) for not postponing the effective date of this rule until 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

**List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 205**

Administrative practice and procedure, Agriculture, Animals, Archives and records, Imports, Labeling, Organically produced products, Plants, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Seals and insignia, Soil conservation.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 7 CFR part 205, subpart G is amended as follows:

**PART 205—NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM**

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 205 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 6501–6522.

- 2. Section 205.601 is amended by:
  - A. Adding new paragraph (a)(8);
  - B. Redesignating paragraphs (e)(2) through (e)(9) as (e)(3) through (e)(10) and adding new paragraph (e)(2);
  - C. Redesignating paragraphs (i)(1) through (i)(11) as (i)(2) through (i)(12) and adding new paragraph (i)(1); and
  - D. Revising paragraph (m)(2).
 The additions and revisions read as follows:

**§ 205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \*

(8) Sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate (CAS #–15630–89–4)—Federal law restricts the use of this substance in food crop production to approved food uses identified on the product label.

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) \* \* \*

(2) Aqueous potassium silicate (CAS #–1312–76–1)—the silica, used in the manufacture of potassium silicate, must be sourced from naturally occurring sand.

\* \* \* \* \*

(i) \* \* \*

(1) Aqueous potassium silicate (CAS #–1312–76–1)—the silica, used in the manufacture of potassium silicate, must be sourced from naturally occurring sand.

\* \* \* \* \*

(m) \* \* \*

(2) EPA List 3—Inerts of unknown toxicity—for use only in passive pheromone dispensers.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 2. Section 205.605 is amended by adding one new substance in alphabetical order to paragraph (a) to read as follows:

**§ 205.605 Nonagricultural (nonorganic) substances allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s)).”**

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Gellan gum (CAS # 71010–52–1)—high-acyl form only.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. Section 205.606 is amended by:

- A. Redesignating paragraphs (g) through (t) and (u) through (w) as paragraphs (h) through (u) and (w) through (y) respectively;
- B. Adding new paragraphs (g) and (v) to read as follows:

**§ 205.606 Nonorganically produced agricultural products allowed as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic.”**

\* \* \* \* \*

(g) Fortified cooking wines.

- (1) Marsala.
- (2) Sherry.

\* \* \* \* \*

(v) Tragacanth gum (CAS #–9000–65–1).

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: December 7, 2010.

**David R. Shipman,**

*Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010–31196 Filed 12–10–10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–02–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

**14 CFR Part 29**

[Docket No. SW023; Special Conditions No. 29–023–SC]

**Special Conditions: Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S–92A Helicopter; Installation of a Search and Rescue (SAR) Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS)**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final special conditions; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** These special conditions are issued for the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) model S–92A helicopter. This helicopter, as modified by Sikorsky, will have novel or unusual design features associated with installing an optional SAR AFCS. The applicable airworthiness standards do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for this design feature. These special conditions contain the additional safety standards the Administrator considers necessary to show a level of safety equivalent to that established by the existing airworthiness standards.

**DATES:** The effective date of these special conditions is December 3, 2010. We must receive your comments by February 11, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** You must mail or deliver two copies of your comments to: Federal

Aviation Administration, Rotorcraft Directorate, Attn: Special Conditions Docket (ASW-111), Docket No. SW023, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137. You must mark your comments: Docket No. SW023. You can inspect comments in the Docket on weekdays, except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
FAA, Aircraft Certification Service, Rotorcraft Directorate, Regulations and Policy Group (ASW-111), Attn: John VanHoudt, 2601 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137; telephone (817) 222-5167, facsimile (817) 222-5961.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background and Discussion**

On July 30, 2007, Sikorsky applied for a change to Type Certificate (TC) No. R00024BO to install an optional SAR AFCS in the model S-92A helicopter. These special conditions were recently developed due to the intended function of the S-92A SAR AFCS not being completely defined until late in the certification program. The model S-92A is a transport category helicopter certified to Category A requirements when configured for more than nine passengers and Category A or B requirements when configured for nine or less passengers. This helicopter is also certified for instrument flight under the requirements of Appendix B of 14 CFR part 29, Amendment 29-47.

The use of dedicated AFCS upper modes, in which a fully coupled autopilot provides operational SAR profiles, is needed for SAR operations conducted over water in offshore areas clear of obstructions. The SAR modes enable the helicopter pilot to fly fully coupled maneuvers, to include predefined search patterns during cruise flight, and to transition from cruise flight to a stabilized hover and departure (transition from hover to cruise flight). The SAR AFCS also includes an auxiliary crew control that allows another crewmember (such as a hoist operator) to have limited authority to control the helicopter's longitudinal and lateral position during hover operations.

Flight operations conducted over water at night may have an extremely limited visual horizon with little visual reference to the surface even when conducted under Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC). Consequently, the certification requirements for SAR modes must meet Appendix B to 14 CFR part 29. While Appendix B to 14 CFR part 29 prescribes airworthiness criteria for instrument flight, it does not consider operations below instrument

flight minimum speed ( $V_{MINI}$ ), whereas the SAR modes allow for coupled operations at low speed, all-azimuth flight to zero airspeed (hover).

Since SAR operations have traditionally been a public use mission, the use of SAR modes in civil operations requires special airworthiness standards (special conditions) to ensure that a level of safety consistent with Category A and Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) certification is maintained. In this regard, 14 CFR part 29 lacks adequate airworthiness standards for AFCS SAR mode certification to include flight characteristics, performance, and installed equipment and systems.

**Type Certification Basis**

Under 14 CFR 21.101, Sikorsky must show the S-92A, as changed, continues to meet the applicable provisions of the rules incorporated by reference in TC No. R00024BO or the applicable regulations in effect on the date of application for the change. The regulations incorporated by reference in the TC are commonly referred to as the "original type certification basis." The regulations incorporated by reference in R00024BO are as follows:

- (a) 14 CFR part 29 Amendments 29-1 to 29-47, inclusive.
- (b) 14 CFR part 36 Amendment 20.
- (c) Equivalent Safety Findings:
  - (1) Number TC0309BO-R/F-1.
  - (i) 14 CFR 29.173 Static longitudinal stability.
  - (ii) 14 CFR 29.175 Demonstration of static longitudinal stability.
  - (2) Number TC0309BO-R/F-4.
  - (i) 14 CFR 29.177 Static directional stability.
  - (3) Number TC0309BO-R/P-1.
  - (i) 14 CFR 29.1305(a)(24) Power Plant Instruments.
  - (4) Number TC0309BO-R/P-5.
  - (i) 14 CFR 29.1181(a)(4) Designated Fire Zones; Regions Included.
  - (d) Special Conditions:
    - (1) No. 29-011-SC for Dual-Engine 30 Minute Power.
    - (2) No. 29-008-SC for High Intensity Radiated Frequency.
    - (e) Noise Control Act of 1972.
    - (f) Compliance with the following optional requirements has been established: Ditching provisions § 29.563 including §§ 29.801 and 29.807(d), and excluding §§ 29.1411, 29.1415, and 29.1561 when emergency flotation system is installed. For extended over-water operations, compliance with the operating rules and §§ 29.1411, 29.1415, and 29.1561 must be shown.

In addition to the applicable airworthiness standards and special

conditions, the Sikorsky model S-92A must comply with the noise certification requirements of 14 CFR part 36.

**Regulatory Basis for Special Conditions**

If the Administrator finds the applicable airworthiness standards (that is, 14 CFR part 29) do not contain adequate or appropriate safety standards for the Sikorsky model S-92A helicopter because of a novel or unusual design feature, special conditions are prescribed under § 21.16.

The FAA issues special conditions, as defined in § 11.19, under § 11.38 and they become part of the type certification basis under § 21.101.

Special conditions are initially applicable to the model for which they are issued. Should the TC for that model be amended later to include any other model that incorporates the same novel or unusual design feature, or should any other model already included on the same TC be modified to incorporate the same novel or unusual design feature, these special conditions would also apply to the other model.

**Novel or Unusual Design Features**

The Sikorsky model S-92A helicopter will incorporate the following novel or unusual design features:

The SAR system is composed of a navigation computer with SAR modes, an AFCS that provides coupled SAR functions, hoist operator control, a hover speed reference system, and two radio altimeters. The AFCS coupled SAR functions include:

- (a) Hover hold at selected height above the surface.
- (b) Ground speed hold.
- (c) Transition down and hover to a waypoint under guidance from the navigation computer.
- (d) SAR pattern, transition down, and hover near a target over which the helicopter has flown.
- (e) Transition up, climb, and capture a cruise height.
- (f) Capture and track SAR search patterns generated by the navigation computer.
- (g) Monitor the preselected hover height with automatic increase in collective if the aircraft height drops below the safe minimum height.

These SAR modes are intended to be used over large bodies of water in areas clear of obstructions. Further, use of the modes that transition down from cruise to hover will include operation at airspeeds below  $V_{MINI}$ .

The SAR system only entails navigation, flight control, and coupled AFCS operation of the helicopter. The system does not include the extra equipment that may be required for over

water flight or external loads to meet other operational requirements.

### Comments Invited

We invite interested people to take part in this rulemaking by sending written comments, data, or views. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the special conditions, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data.

We will file in the special conditions docket all comments we receive, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel about these special conditions. You can inspect the docket before and after the comment closing date. If you wish to review the docket in person, go to the address in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

We will consider all comments we receive by the closing date for comments. We will consider comments filed late if it is possible to do so without incurring additional expense or delay. We may change these special conditions based on the comments we receive.

If you want us to let you know we received your mailed comments on these special conditions, send us a pre-addressed, stamped postcard on which the docket number appears. We will stamp the date on the postcard and mail it back to you.

### Conclusion

This action affects only certain novel or unusual design features on one model of helicopter. It is not a rule of general applicability.

Normally, in adopting special conditions, the FAA provides notice and an opportunity for comment before issuing the final special conditions. However, because the delivery date of the Sikorsky model S-92A helicopter is imminent, we find that it is impracticable to provide prior notice because a delay would be contrary to the public interest. The FAA therefore finds that good cause exists for making these special conditions effective upon issuance.

### Applicability

These special conditions apply to the Sikorsky model S-92A helicopters. Should Sikorsky apply at a later date for a change to the TC to include another model incorporating the same novel or unusual design feature, these special conditions would apply to that model as well.

### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 29

Aircraft, Aviation safety.

■ The authority citation for these special conditions is as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701-44702, 44704.

### The Special Conditions

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the following special conditions are issued as part of the type certification basis for Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation model S-92A helicopters when the optional Search and Rescue (SAR) Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS) is installed:

In addition to the part 29 certification requirements for Category A and helicopter instrument flight (Appendix B), the following additional requirements must be met for certification of the SAR AFCS:

(a) *SAR Flight Modes.* The coupled SAR flight modes must provide:

(1) Safe and controlled flight in three axes (lateral and longitudinal position/speed and height/vertical speed) at all airspeeds from instrument flight minimum speed ( $V_{MINI}$ ) to a hover (within the maximum demonstrated wind envelope).

(2) Automatic transition to the helicopter instrument flight (Appendix B) envelope as part of the normal SAR mode sequencing.

(3) A pilot-selectable Go-Around mode that safely interrupts any other coupled mode and automatically transitions to the helicopter instrument flight (Appendix B) envelope.

(4) A means to prevent unintended flight below a safe minimum height. Pilot-commanded descent below the safe minimum height is acceptable provided the alerting requirements in (b)(7)(i) are sufficient to alert the pilot of this descent below safe minimum height.

(b) *SAR Mode System Architecture.* To support the integrity of the SAR modes, the following system architecture is required:

(1) A system for limiting the engine power demanded by the AFCS when any of the automatic piloting modes are engaged, so FADEC power limitations, such as torque and temperature, are not exceeded.

(2) A system providing the aircraft height above the surface and final pilot-selected height at a location on the instrument panel in a position acceptable to the FAA that will make it plainly visible to and usable by any pilot at their station.

(3) A system providing the aircraft heading and the pilot-selected heading

at a location on the instrument panel in a position acceptable to the FAA that will make it plainly visible to and usable by any pilot at their station.

(4) A system providing the aircraft longitudinal and lateral ground speeds and the pilot-selected longitudinal and lateral ground speeds when used by the AFCS in the flight envelope where airspeed indications become unreliable. This information must be presented at a location on the instrument panel in a position acceptable to the FAA that is plainly visible to and usable by any pilot at their station.

(5) A system providing wind speed and wind direction when automatic piloting modes are engaged or transitioning from one mode to another.

(6) A system that monitors for flight guidance deviations and failures with an appropriate alerting function that enables the flight crew to take appropriate corrective action.

(7) The alerting system must provide visual or aural alerts, or both, to the flight crew under any of the following conditions:

(i) When the stored or pilot-selected safe minimum height is reached.

(ii) When a SAR mode system malfunction occurs.

(iii) When the AFCS changes modes automatically from one SAR mode to another.

**Note:** For normal transitions from one SAR mode to another, a single visual or aural alert may suffice. For a SAR mode malfunction or a mode having a time-critical component, the flight crew alerting system must activate early enough to allow the flight crew to take timely and appropriate action. The alerting system means must be designed to alert the flight crew in order to minimize crew errors that could create an additional hazard.

(8) The SAR system hoist operator control is considered a flight control with limited authority and must comply with the following:

(i) The hoist operator control must be designed and located to provide for convenient operation and to prevent confusion and inadvertent operation.

(ii) The helicopter must be safely controllable by the hoist operator control throughout the range of that control.

(iii) The hoist operator control may not interfere with the safe operation of the helicopter.

(iv) Pilot and copilot flight controls must be able to smoothly override the control authority of the hoist operator control, without exceptional piloting skill, alertness, or strength, and without the danger of exceeding any other limitation because of the override.

(9) The reliability of the AFCS must be related to the effects of its failure.

The occurrence of any failure condition that would prevent continued safe flight and landing must be extremely improbable. For any failure condition of the AFCS which is not shown to be extremely improbable:

(i) The helicopter must be safely controllable and capable of continued safe flight without exceptional piloting skill, alertness, or strength. Additional unrelated probable failures affecting the control system must be evaluated.

(ii) The AFCS must be designed so that it cannot create a hazardous deviation in the flight path or produce hazardous loads on the helicopter during normal operation or in the event of a malfunction or failure, assuming corrective action begins within an appropriate period of time. Where multiple systems are installed, subsequent malfunction conditions must be evaluated in sequence unless their occurrence is shown to be improbable.

(10) A functional hazard assessment (FHA) and a system safety assessment must be provided to address the failure conditions associated with SAR operations. For SAR catastrophic failure conditions, changes may be required to the following:

- (i) System architecture.
- (ii) Software and complex electronic hardware design assurance levels.
- (iii) HIRF test levels.
- (iv) Instructions for continued airworthiness.

The assessments must consider all the systems required for SAR operations to include the AFCS, all associated AFCS sensors (for example, radio altimeter), and primary flight displays. Electrical and electronic systems with SAR catastrophic failure conditions (for example, AFCS) must comply with the § 29.1317(a)(4) High Intensity Radiated Field (HIRF) requirements.

(c) *SAR Mode Performance Requirements.*

(1) The SAR modes must be demonstrated in the requested flight envelope for the following minimum sea-state and wind conditions:

(i) *Sea State:* Wave height of 2.5 meters (8.2 feet), considering both short and long swells.

(ii) *Wind:* 25 knots headwind; 17 knots for all other azimuths.

(2) The selected hover height and hover velocity must be captured (to include the transition from one captured mode to another captured mode) accurately and smoothly and not exhibit any significant overshoot or oscillation.

(3) For any single failure or any combination of failures of the AFCS that is not shown to be extremely improbable, the recovery must not result

in a loss of height greater than half of the minimum use height (MUH) with a minimum margin of 15 feet above the surface. MUH is the minimum height at which any SAR AFCS mode can be engaged.

(4) The SAR mode system must be usable up to the maximum certified gross weight of the aircraft or to the lower of the following weights:

(i) Maximum emergency flotation weight.

(ii) Maximum hover Out-of-Ground Effect (OGE) weight.

(iii) Maximum demonstrated weight.

(d) *Flight Characteristics.*

(1) The basic aircraft must meet all the part 29 airworthiness criteria for helicopter instrument flight (Appendix B).

(2) For SAR mode coupled flight below  $V_{MINI}$ , at the maximum demonstrated winds, the helicopter must be able to maintain any required flight condition and make a smooth transition from any flight condition to any other flight condition without requiring exceptional piloting skill, alertness, or strength, and without exceeding the limit load factor. This requirement also includes aircraft control through the hoist operator's control.

(3) For SAR modes at airspeeds below  $V_{MINI}$  the following requirements of Appendix B to part 29 must be met and will be used as an extension to the IFR certification envelope of the basic aircraft:

(i) *Static Longitudinal Stability:* the requirements of paragraph IV of Appendix B are not applicable.

(ii) *Static Lateral-Directional Stability:* The requirements of paragraph V of Appendix B are not applicable.

(iii) *Dynamic Stability:* The requirements of paragraph VI of Appendix B are replaced with the following two paragraphs:

(A) Any oscillation must be damped and any aperiodic response must not double in amplitude in less than 10 seconds. This requirement must also be met with degraded upper mode(s) of the AFCS. An "upper mode" is a mode that utilizes a fully coupled autopilot to provide an operational SAR profile.

(B) After any upset, the AFCS must return the aircraft to the last commanded position within 10 seconds or less.

(4) With any of the upper mode(s) of the AFCS engaged the pilot must be able to manually recover the aircraft and transition to the normal (Appendix B) IFR flight profile envelope without exceptional skill, alertness, or strength.

(e) *One-Engine Inoperative (OEI) Performance Information.*

(1) The following performance information must be provided in the Rotorcraft Flight Manual Supplement (RFMS):

(i) OEI performance information and emergency procedures, providing the maximum weight that will provide a minimum clearance of 15 feet above the surface, following failure of the critical engine in a hover. The maximum weight must be presented as a function of the hover height for the temperature and pressure altitude range requested for certification. The effects of wind must be reflected in the hover performance information.

(ii) Hover OGE performance with the critical engine inoperative for OEI continuous and time-limited power ratings for those weights, altitudes, and temperatures for which certification is requested.

**Note:** These OEI performance requirements do not replace performance requirements that may be needed to comply with the airworthiness or operational standards (§ 29.865 or 14 CFR part 133) for external loads or human external cargo.

(f) *RFMS.*

(1) The RFMS must contain, at a minimum:

(i) Limitations necessary for safe operation of the SAR system to include:

(A) Minimum crew requirements.

(B) Maximum SAR weight.

(C) Engagement criteria for each of the SAR modes to include MUH (as determined in subparagraph (c)(3)).

(ii) Normal and emergency procedures for operation of the SAR system (to include operation of the hoist operator control), with AFCS failure modes, AFCS degraded modes, and engine failures.

(iii) Performance information:

(A) OEI performance and height-loss.

(B) Hover OGE performance information, utilizing OEI continuous and time-limited power ratings.

(C) The maximum wind envelope demonstrated in flight test.

(g) *Flight Demonstration.*

(1) Before approval of the SAR system, an acceptable flight demonstration of all the coupled SAR modes is required.

(2) The AFCS must provide fail-safe operations during coupled maneuvers. The demonstration of fail-safe operations must include a pilot workload assessment associated with manually flying the aircraft to an altitude greater than 200 feet above the surface and an airspeed of at least the best rate of climb airspeed ( $V_y$ ).

(3) For any failure condition of the SAR system not shown to be extremely improbable, the pilot must be able to

make a smooth transition from one flight mode to another without exceptional piloting skill, alertness, or strength.

(4) Failure conditions that are not shown to be extremely improbable must be demonstrated by analysis, ground testing, or flight testing. For failures demonstrated in flight, the following normal pilot recovery times are acceptable:

(i) Transition modes (Cruise-to-Hover/ Hover-to-Cruise) and Hover modes: Normal pilot recognition plus 1 second.

(ii) Cruise modes: Normal pilot recognition plus 3 seconds.

(5) All AFCS malfunctions must include evaluation at the low-speed and high-power flight conditions typical of SAR operations. Additionally, AFCS hard-over, slow-over, and oscillatory malfunctions, particularly in yaw, require evaluation. AFCS malfunction testing must include a single or a combination of failures (for example, erroneous data from and loss of the radio altimeter, attitude, heading, and altitude sensors) which are not shown to be extremely improbable.

(6) The flight demonstration must include the following environmental conditions:

(i) Swell into wind.

(ii) Swell and wind from different directions.

(iii) Cross swell.

(iv) Swell of different lengths (short and long swell).

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on December 3, 2010.

**Kimberly K. Smith,**

Manager, Rotorcraft Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-31188 Filed 12-10-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 15 CFR Part 902

[Docket No. 070910507-0576-03]

RIN 0648-AV94

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Final Rulemaking To Establish Take Prohibitions for the Threatened Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American Green Sturgeon; Permit and Reporting Requirements

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; approval of collection-of-information requirements.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the approval of collection-of-information requirements contained in protective regulations established under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the threatened Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*; hereafter, Southern DPS). The intent of this final rule is to inform the public of the permitting and reporting requirements.

**DATES:** The amendment to 15 CFR 902.1 is effective January 12, 2011. The collection-of-information requirements in 50 CFR 223.210 are approved on January 12, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted to the Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, Southwest Region (SWR), NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, and by e-mail to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to 202-395-7285.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melissa Neuman, NMFS SWR, 562-980-4115.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is also accessible at the Web site of the Office of the Federal Register: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

##### Background

A final rule to establish protective regulations under section 4(d) of the ESA for the Southern DPS was published in the **Federal Register** on June 2, 2010 (75 FR 30714) (the final ESA 4(d) Rule). The final ESA 4(d) Rule, other than the collection-of-information requirements, went into effect on July 2, 2010. When the final rule was published, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had not yet approved the collection-of-information requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), and therefore the effective date of the permitting and reporting requirements in that rule was delayed. No public comments were received regarding the permitting and reporting requirements in the final ESA 4(d) Rule.

OMB approved the collection-of-information requirements contained in the final ESA 4(d) Rule on October 5, 2010. Accordingly, this final rule

announces the approval January 12, 2011 of the collection-of-information requirements at 50 CFR 223.210, as published in the final ESA 4(d) Rule.

Under NOAA Administrative Order 205-11, dated December 17, 1990, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere has delegated authority to sign material for publication in the **Federal Register** to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA.

#### Classification

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, and no person shall be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This final rule concerns the following collection-of-information requirements subject to the PRA and approved by OMB under control number 0648-0613:

(1) Exception for Federal, State, or private-sponsored research or monitoring—written notification regarding Federal, State, or private-sponsored research or monitoring activities that meet the exception criteria in the ESA 4(d) Rule, to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the start of the research or monitoring activities, and regular reports summarizing project results and total numbers of takes of ESA listed species, to be submitted on a schedule to be determined by NMFS; (2) Exception for habitat restoration activities—written notification regarding habitat restoration activities that meet the exception criteria in the ESA 4(d) Rule, to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the start of the restoration project, and regular progress reports to be submitted on a schedule to be determined by NMFS; (3) Exception for emergency fish rescue activities—written reports regarding emergency fish rescue activities conducted under the ESA 4(d) Rule exception, to be submitted within 30 days after conducting emergency fish rescue activities; (4) Fishery Management and Evaluation Plans (FMEPs) for NMFS review and approval and biannual reports providing the number of green sturgeon taken in the fishery and an evaluation and summary of the effectiveness of the FMEP; (5) Tribal Fishery Management Plans (TFMPs) for NMFS review and approval; and (6) State ESA 4(d) research programs for NMFS review and approval and annual reports summarizing project results and the