

Dated: August 15, 2017.

**Jeffrey Martin,**

*Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

### List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 8

Life insurance, Veterans.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, VA proposes to amend 38 CFR part 8 as set forth below:

### PART 8—NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 8 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 38 U.S.C. 501, 1901–1929, 1981–1988, unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. Adding new section 8.34 to read as follows:

**§ 8.34 Ineligibility for insurance under section 1922A of title 38, U.S.C. (supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance) if person insured under section 1922(b) of title 38, U.S.C.**

A person who is granted Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance under 38 U.S.C. 1922(b) is not eligible for supplemental Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance under 38 U.S.C. 1922A.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1912, 1922, 1922A)

[FR Doc. 2017–17587 Filed 8–22–17; 8:45 am]

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### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

#### 40 CFR Part 86

[EPA–HQ–OAR–2015–0827; FRL–9966–91–OAR]

#### Public Hearing for Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Years 2022–2025 Light-Duty Vehicles

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Announcement of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a public hearing to be held in Washington, DC on September 6, 2017 for the notice “Request for Comment on Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Years 2022–2025 Light-duty Vehicles; Request for Comment on Model Year 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards” announced August 10, 2017 and

projected to be published on August 21, 2017. In the document signed on August 10, 2017, EPA announced that it is reconsidering whether the light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas standards previously established for model years 2022–2025 are appropriate under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act and invited stakeholders to submit any comments, data, and information they believe are relevant to the Administrator's reconsideration of the January 2017 Mid-term Evaluation Final Determination and in particular, highlight any new information. EPA also requested comment on the separate question of whether the light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas standards established for model year 2021 remain appropriate, regardless of the agency's decision on the Mid-term Evaluation.

**DATES:** The public hearing will be held on September 6, 2017, at the location noted below under **ADDRESSES**. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. and end when all parties present who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so. Parties wishing to testify at the hearing should notify EPA by August 30, 2017, by sending an email to Hearing Registration [ASD@epa.gov](mailto:ASD@epa.gov) or by contacting the contact person listed below under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Additional information regarding the hearing appears below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. Any updates made to any aspect of the hearing, including any change to the location of the hearing, will be posted online at <https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/midterm-evaluation-light-duty-vehicle-ghg-emissions>. The EPA does not intend to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing any such updates. Please go to <https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/midterm-evaluation-light-duty-vehicle-ghg-emissions> for more information on the public hearing.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing will be held at the following location: Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel, 999 Ninth Street NW., Washington, DC, USA, 20001 (phone number 202–898–9000). A complete set of documents related to the Mid-term Evaluation are available for public inspection through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>, Docket Identification No. EPA–HQ–OAR–2015–0827. Documents can also be viewed at the EPA Docket Center, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 3334, Washington, DC between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher Lieske, Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ), Assessment and Standards Division (ASD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000 Traverwood Drive, Ann Arbor MI 48105; telephone number: (734) 214–4584; fax number: (734) 214–4816; email address: Hearing Registration [ASD@epa.gov](mailto:ASD@epa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the public hearing is to provide the public an opportunity to present oral comments related to the notice “Request for Comment on Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Years 2022–2025 Light-duty Vehicles; Request for Comment on Model Year 2021 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards” projected to be published on August 21, 2017. Once EPA learns how many people have registered to speak at the public hearing, we will allocate an appropriate amount of time to each participant, allowing time for necessary breaks. In addition, we will reserve a block of time for anyone else in the audience who wants to give testimony. For planning purposes, each speaker should anticipate speaking for no more than five minutes, although we may need to shorten that time if there is a large turnout. We request that you bring two copies of your statement or other material for the EPA panel.

EPA will conduct the hearings informally, and technical rules of evidence will not apply. We will arrange for a written transcript of the hearing and keep the official record for the notice open until the close of the comment period to allow speakers to submit supplementary information. You may make arrangements for copies of the transcripts directly with the court reporter. Panel members may ask clarifying questions during the oral statements but will not respond to the statements at that time. Written statements and supporting information submitted during the comment period will be considered with the same weight as oral comments and supporting information presented at the public hearing. Written comments must be received by the last day of the comment period.

#### How can I get copies of this document and other related information?

You may learn more about the Mid-term Evaluation by visiting EPA's Web site <https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/midterm-evaluation-light-duty-vehicle>

greenhouse-gas-ghg or by searching the Mid-term Evaluation Docket Identification No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0827 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Dated: August 18, 2017.

**Ben Hengst,**

Acting Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Office of Air and Radiation.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 141222999-7741-01]

RIN 0648-BE77

#### Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries Management Plan; Adjustments to the Pacific Sardine Harvest Guideline Control Rule

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** Under the framework procedures of the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), NMFS proposes to revise the FRACTION parameter of the Pacific sardine harvest guideline (HG) control rule to use a 3-year average of ocean temperature data from the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) survey that takes place off southern and central California, rather than temperatures measured from the end of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Pier, and revise the upper bound of fraction from 15 percent to 20 percent. These changes are intended to better reflect the best available science and to better conserve and manage the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine off the U.S. West Coast managed under the CPS FMP.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by September 22, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document identified by NOAA-NMFS-2015-0044 by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)#!/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0044, click the "Comment Now!" icon,

complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Barry A. Thom, Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070; Attn: Joshua Lindsay.

**Instructions:** Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Joshua Lindsay, West Coast Region, NMFS, (562) 980-4034.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The HG control rule, in conjunction with the overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules in the FMP, are used to set annual harvest levels for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine (hereafter, simply Pacific sardine), in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* The HG formula for Pacific sardine is  $HG = [(Biomass-CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION]$  and was first established by Amendment 8 to the CPS FMP. FRACTION, expressed as a percentage, is dependent on oceanographic conditions, specifically ocean temperature, and is a proxy for  $E_{MSY}$  (the exploitation rate for deterministic equilibrium maximum sustainable yield (MSY)). The value used for FRACTION in the control rule is calculated annually and varies with water temperature (a higher fraction for warmer ocean temperatures and a lower fraction for cooler temperatures). The rationale for setting FRACTION in the HG in this manner is that the productivity of the sardine stock is correlated to ocean temperatures, with

sardines being more productive during times of higher ocean temperatures. FRACTION under the FMP is currently bounded between 5 and 15 percent, meaning that although the calculated  $E_{MSY}$  estimate for any given year may be higher or lower, FRACTION is bounded and is never allowed to be higher than 15 percent or lower than 5 percent.

Since 1999, the formula prescribed in the FMP used for calculating FRACTION has been based on an average 3-year sea surface temperature measured at the SIO Pier and an estimate of the relationship between Pacific sardine  $E_{MSY}$  and ocean temperatures of:

$$FRACTION = 0.248649805$$

$$T^2 - 8.190043975 T + 67.4558326$$

where T is the average three season sea surface temperature at SIO during the three preceding seasons.

In 2010, new research by scientists at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) called into question the original relationship between SIO temperature and productivity used in the analysis to establish the existing FRACTION parameter and control rule in the FMP. In February 2013, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the SWFSC convened a workshop to further examine the temperature-recruitment relationship used to inform FRACTION. The scientists at this workshop found that although a temperature-recruitment correlation based on SIO was still scientifically valid, a temperature index based on data from the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) survey (a compilation of temperatures measured throughout the southern California bight, from now on referred to as CalCOFI index) explained a more significant amount of sardine recruitment variability and success than the SIO index and was generally better aligned with ocean temperatures in the primary habitat of Pacific sardine (PFMC 2013).

Based on this new information, and a recommendation from their Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) that the CalCOFI index represented the best available science for Pacific sardine management, the Council adopted the use of the CalCOFI temperature index and a new temperature-recruitment relationship as follows:

$$E_{MSY} = 0.248649805 T^2 - 8.190043975 T + 67.4558326$$

This was adopted at their March 2014 meeting for use in the Pacific sardine OFL and ABC calculations and the Council stated their intent to also use the CalCOFI index in the calculation of