

Washington, DC 20573–0001. The Commission will treat such comments as confidential in accordance with § 535.608.

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■ 20. Amend § 535.608 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

**§ 535.608 Confidentiality of submitted material.**

(a) Except for an agreement filed under 46 U.S.C. ch. 403, all information and documents submitted to the Commission by the filing party(ies) or third parties regarding an agreement will be exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552. Included in this disclosure exemption is information provided in the Information Form, voluntary submission of additional information, reasons for noncompliance, replies to requests for additional information, and third-party comments.

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## PART 545—INTERPRETATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF POLICY

■ 21. The authority citation for part 545 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 553; 46 U.S.C. 305, 40307, 40501–40503, 41101–41106, and 40901–40904; 46 CFR 515.23.

■ 22. Amend § 545.1 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

**§ 545.1 Interpretation of Shipping Act of 1984—Refusal to negotiate with shippers' associations.**

(a) 46 U.S.C. 40502 authorizes ocean common carriers and agreements between or among ocean common carriers to enter into a service contract with a shippers' association, subject to the requirements of the Shipping Act of 1984 ("Act"). 46 U.S.C. 41104(a)(10) prohibits carriers from unreasonably refusing to deal or negotiate. 46 U.S.C. 40307(a)(3) exempts from the antitrust laws any activity within the scope of the Act, undertaken with a reasonable basis to conclude that it is pursuant to a filed and effective agreement.

\* \* \* \* \*

By the Commission.

**Rachel Dickon,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019–21537 Filed 10–8–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6731-AA-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

#### 49 CFR Parts 350, 355, and 388

[Docket No. FMCSA–2017–0370]

#### Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program; Extension of Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) extends the comment period for its August 22, 2019, notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend its rules concerning the Agency's financial assistance programs. FMCSA received a request for an extension to the comment period from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). The Agency believes it is appropriate to extend the comment period to provide interested parties additional time to submit their responses to the NPRM. Therefore, the Agency extends the deadline for the submission of comments until October 21, 2019.

**DATES:** The comment period for the NPRM published August 22, 2019, at 84 FR 44162, is extended to October 21, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket ID FMCSA–2017–0370 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2017-0370>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* (202) 493–2251.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the "Public Participation" portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for instructions on submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Jack Kostelnik, State Programs Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey

Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001, by telephone at (202) 366–5721, or by email at [jack.kostelnik@dot.gov](mailto:jack.kostelnik@dot.gov). If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Services, telephone (202) 366–9826.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Public Participation and Request for Comments

##### A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for the NPRM (Docket No. FMCSA–2017–0370), indicate the specific section of the NPRM to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so that FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission. To submit your comment online, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2017-0370>. Click on the "Comment Now!" button and type your comment into the text box on the following screen. Choose whether you are submitting your comment as an individual or on behalf of a third party and then submit.

If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

##### B. Viewing Documents and Comments

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in the NPRM as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2017-0370> and choose the document to review. If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting the Docket Management Facility in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

### C. Privacy Act

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14-FDMS), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy).

## II. Background

The August NPRM proposed amendments to the Agency's financial assistance programs resulting from the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, including amendments based on the funding formula recommendations derived from the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Formula Working Group (working group). The NPRM proposed reorganizing the Agency's regulations to create a standalone subpart for the High Priority Program. It also proposed other programmatic changes to reduce redundancies, require the use of 3-year MCSAP commercial vehicle safety plans (CVSPs), and align the financial assistance programs with FMCSA's current enforcement and compliance programs.

The comment period for the NPRM was set at 45 days, and would end on October 7, 2019. FMCSA received a request to extend the comment period for an additional 45 days from the CVSA (available in the docket). CVSA stated that the original 45-day period did not allow enough time to prepare and approve comments on such a complicated and important issue.

In consideration of the CVSA request, FMCSA extends the public comment period until October 21, 2019.

Issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.87.

Dated: October 1, 2019.

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2019-22062 Filed 10-8-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 191001-0048]

RIN 0648-BI80

### Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Amendment 8

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule, request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This rule proposes regulations to implement Amendment 8 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. The New England Fishery Management Council developed Amendment 8 to specify a long-term acceptable biological catch control rule for Atlantic herring and address localized depletion and user group conflict. This amendment would establish an acceptable biological catch control rule that accounts for herring's role in the ecosystem and prohibit midwater trawling in inshore Federal waters from the U.S./Canada border to the Rhode Island/Connecticut border. Amendment 8 is intended to support sustainable management of the herring resource and help ensure that herring is available to minimize possible detrimental biological impacts on predators of herring and associated socioeconomic impacts on other user groups.

**DATES:** Public comments must be received by November 25, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2019-0078, by either of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

1. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)/  
#!/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-0078;

2. Click the "Comment Now!" icon and complete the required fields; and
3. Enter or attach your comments.

- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, "Comments on the Proposed Rule for Herring Amendment 8."

*Instructions:* 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 us. 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. We will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Copies of Amendment 8, including the Environmental Impact Statement, the Regulatory Impact Review, and the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EIS/RIR/IRFA) prepared in support of this action are available from Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. The supporting documents are also accessible via the internet at: <http://www.nefmc.org>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carrie Nordeen, Fishery Policy Analyst, phone: (978) 282-9272 or email: [Carrie.Nordeen@noaa.gov](mailto:Carrie.Nordeen@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The goal of the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is to manage the herring fishery at long-term sustainable levels and objectives of the FMP include providing for full utilization of the optimum yield (OY) and, to the extent practicable, controlled opportunities for participants in other New England and Mid-Atlantic fisheries. The Herring FMP describes OY as the amount of fish that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems, including maintenance of a biomass that supports the ocean ecosystem, predator consumption of herring, and biologically sustainable human harvest. This includes recognition of the importance of herring as one of many forage species of fish, marine mammals, and birds in the Greater Atlantic Region. Consistent with these aims, the goals for Amendment 8 are to: (1) Account for the role of herring within the ecosystem, including its role as forage; (2) stabilize the fishery at a level designed to achieve OY; and (3) address localized depletion in inshore waters.