

deliberately review their rules in accordance with DOT's 1979 Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034), Executive Order (E.O.) 12866, E.O. 13563, and section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. That process is summarized in Appendix D of DOT's semi-annual regulatory agenda (*e.g.*, 81 FR 94784). In E.O. 13771 and E.O. 13777, President Trump directed agencies to further scrutinize their regulations. Comments received will inform the review described in this notice and supplement MARAD's periodic regulatory review and its activities under E.O. 13771 and E.O. 13777. This request for comments is narrowly focused on improving and modernizing MARAD's program administration.

Accordingly, MARAD has identified its regulations at 46 CFR part 355 governing requirements for evidencing United States citizenship for consideration consistent with the President's direction. This notice seeks to solicit comments to ensure that MARAD's programs remain effective, modern, and the least burdensome to the public. As part of our review, MARAD is issuing this notice to engage the public and the broad spectrum of stakeholders that may be affected. Information received will be used to evaluate the issues and determine whether to propose a change in how corporations evidence their citizenship.

Citizenship eligibility criteria and documentation requirements may affect stakeholders who participate, directly or indirectly, in MARAD programs and activities, including ship managers and agents of MARAD-owned ships (herein collectively referred to as "Vessel Operators") which may be used by the Department of Defense (DOD) in support of certain DOD-controlled activities. For example, Vessel Operators are required by regulation to be at least majority owned and controlled by United States citizens at each tier of ownership.

Scope of Comments

MARAD is interested in learning how it could reduce or remove regulatory burdens on the public. Accordingly, commenters may want to focus on the following: (1) Recognition of modern business forms in addition to corporations (*e.g.*, limited liability companies and limited partnerships) and modern securities ownership practices (*e.g.*, street name securities); (2) aligning with current best business practices; (3) reducing the cost of compliance; and (4) revising the corporate citizenship affidavit.

Content of Comments

We are interested in information on how any changes to 46 CFR part 355 could impact small businesses, either positively or negatively. In describing a burden placed on your organization by our regulations or potential changes to the regulations, direct experience and quantifiable data are more useful than anecdotal descriptions. If the commenter believes that there is a less burdensome alternative, the commenter should describe that alternative in verifiable detail.

Under this notice, MARAD is not soliciting petitions for rulemaking.

Public Participation

How do I submit comments?

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Please note that even after the comment period has closed, MARAD will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available.

Where do I go to read public comments and find supporting information?

Go to the docket online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search MARAD-2019-0069 or visit us in person at the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

Will my comments be made available to the public?

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

May I submit comments confidentially?

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Office of Legislation and Regulations, MAR-225, W24-220, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover

letter setting forth with specificity the basis for any such claim and, if possible, a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

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, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL-14 FDMS, accessible through www.dot.gov/privacy. To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

(Authority: 49 CFR Sections 1.92 and 1.93)

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Dated: April 26, 2019.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2019-08859 Filed 4-30-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

46 CFR Part 356

[Docket No. MARAD-2019-0070]

RIN 2133-AB91

How Best To Simplify Filing Statements of American Fisheries Act Citizenship: Policy and Regulatory Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM), request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is publishing this notice to solicit public comment on steps MARAD could take to simplify annual citizenship filing procedures under the American Fisheries Act Program to reduce costs or administrative burdens placed on program participants. MARAD is responsible for ensuring compliance with the American Fisheries Act's (AFA's) U.S. citizen ownership and control requirements for certain

U.S. flag fishing industry vessels, including determining whether vessels 100 feet or greater in length are owned and controlled by U.S. citizens and eligible for fishery endorsements. MARAD is not considering any changes to those standards, but to the types of documents or evidence applicants provide to MARAD.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 1, 2019. MARAD will consider comments filed after this date to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2019–0070 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD–2019–0070 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Email:* Rulemakings.MARAD@dot.gov. Include MARAD–2019–0070 in the subject line of the message and provide your comments in the body of the email or as an attachment.
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD–2019–0070, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Note: If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the section entitled Public Participation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr., Office of Chief Counsel, Division of Legislation and Regulations, (202) 366–9373 or via email at Mitch.Hudson@dot.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during business hours. The FIRS is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a

reply during normal business hours. You may send mail to Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Office of Chief Counsel, Division of Legislation and Regulations, W24–220, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Improvement of regulations is a continuous focus for the Department of Transportation (DOT) and MARAD. For that reason, DOT/MARAD regularly and deliberately review their rules in accordance with DOT's 1979 Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034), Executive Order (E.O.) 12866, E.O. 13563, and section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. That process is summarized in Appendix D of DOT's semi-annual regulatory agenda (*e.g.*, 81 FR 94784). In E.O. 13771 and E.O. 13777, President Trump directed agencies to further scrutinize their regulations. Comments received will inform the review described in this notice and supplement MARAD's periodic regulatory review and its activities under E.O. 13771 and E.O. 13777. This request for comments is narrowly focused on improving and modernizing MARAD's program administration.

Accordingly, MARAD has identified its AFA regulations governing citizenship procedures for consideration consistent with the President's direction. This notice seeks to solicit comments to ensure that the program remains effective, modern, and the least burdensome to the public. As part of our review, MARAD is issuing this notice to engage the public and the broad spectrum of stakeholders that may be affected. Information received will be used to evaluate the issues and determine whether to propose a change in acceptable statements of citizenship.

Scope of Comments

MARAD is interested in learning how it could reduce or remove regulatory burdens on the public. Accordingly, commenters may want to focus on the following: (1) Whether there are less burdensome methods to evidence corporate citizenship annually; (2) how those alternatives may be applied to improve MARAD program administration consistent with E.O. 13771; and (3) how program participants will benefit from a revision of our AFA regulations.

Content of Comments

We are interested in information on how any changes to these regulations could impact small businesses, either

positively or negatively. In describing a burden placed on your organization by our regulations or potential changes to the regulations, direct experience and quantifiable data are more useful than anecdotal descriptions. If the commenter believes that there is a less burdensome alternative, the commenter should describe that alternative in verifiable detail.

Under this notice, MARAD is not soliciting petitions for rulemaking.

Public Participation

How do I submit comments?

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Please note that even after the comment period has closed, MARAD will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available.

Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?

Go to the docket online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search MARAD–2019–0070 or visit us in person at the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

Will my comments be made available to the public?

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

May I submit comments confidentially?

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Office of Legislation and Regulations, MAR–225, W24–220, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter setting forth with specificity the basis for any such claim and, if possible, a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

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, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL-14 FDMS, accessible through www.dot.gov/privacy. To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

(Authority: 49 CFR Sections 1.92 and 1.93)

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Dated: April 26, 2019.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2019-08857 Filed 4-30-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 648**

[Docket No. 181129999-9376-01]

RIN 0648-XG657

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Specifications

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

ACTION: Proposed rule, request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes new *Illex* squid specifications, while maintaining previously approved longfin squid and butterfish specifications for the 2019 fishing year. NMFS previously set specifications for all three species for 2018–2020 but proposes to increase the 2019 *Illex* squid acceptable biological catch by 2,000 mt based on updated scientific advice. No changes to the previously approved 2019 longfin squid or butterfish specifications are proposed in this action. This action is necessary to specify catch levels for the *Illex* squid fishery based on updated information

on allowable catch levels and to provide notice that NMFS is maintaining the previously approved longfin squid and butterfish specifications. These proposed specifications are intended to promote the sustainable utilization and conservation of the squid and butterfish resources.

DATES: Public comments must be received by May 31, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Copies of supporting documents used by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Supplemental Information Report (SIR), the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) analysis are available from: Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901, telephone (302) 674-2331. The EA/RIR/RFA analysis is also accessible via the internet at www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2018-0135.

You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2018–0135, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2018-0135, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** Submit written comments to NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope “Comments on 2019 MSB Specifications.”
- **Fax:** 978-281-9135; Attn: Douglas Christel.

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 NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on 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. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Christel, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9141, fax (978) 281-9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This rule proposes specifications, which are the combined suite of commercial and recreational catch levels established for one or more fishing years, for *Illex* squid. Section 302(g)(1)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act states that the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for each regional fishery management council shall provide its Council ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for acceptable biological catch (ABC), preventing overfishing, ensuring maximum sustainable yield, and achieving rebuilding targets. The ABC is a level of catch that accounts for the scientific uncertainty in the estimate of the stock’s defined overfishing level (OFL).

The regulations implementing the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) require the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Monitoring Committee to develop specification recommendations for each species based upon the ABC advice of the Council’s SSC. The FMP regulations also require the specification of annual catch limits (ACL) and accountability measure (AM) provisions for butterfish. Both squid species are exempt from the ACL/AM requirements because they have a life cycle of less than one year. In addition, the regulations require the specification of domestic annual harvest (DAH), domestic annual processing (DAP), total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF), joint venture processing (JVP), commercial and recreational annual catch targets (ACT), the butterfish mortality cap in the longfin squid fishery, and initial optimum yield (IOY) for both squid species.

On March 1, 2018 (83 FR 8764), we published a final rule in the **Federal Register** implementing *Illex* and longfin squid and butterfish specifications for 2018 and projected specifications for fishing years 2019 and 2020. Since then, the Council’s SSC met on May 8, 2018, to reevaluate the 2019 specifications based upon the latest information. At that meeting, the SSC concluded that no adjustments to these specifications were warranted. However, the SSC met again on September 18, 2018, at the request of the Council to reevaluate its *Illex* squid specification recommendation and consider increasing the 2019 *Illex* landing limit given the fishery had fully harvested available quotas in both the 2017 and 2018 fishing years. The SSC reiterated its observation that landings