

date, and it is recommended that interested persons continue to examine the docket for new material.

Those persons desiring to be notified upon receipt of their comments in the rule's docket should enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope with their comments. Upon receiving the comments, the docket supervisor will return the postcard by mail.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: June 12, 1996.

Barry Felrice,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 96-15325 Filed 6-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AD20

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Special Rule for the Conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl on Non-Federal Lands

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Service issued a Draft Environmental Alternatives Analysis (EAA) (February 23, 1996, 61 FR 6964) for the proposed special rule for the conservation of the northern spotted owl on non-Federal lands in California and Washington, which is currently out for public comment. The proposed special rule was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 1995 (60 FR 9484). The comment period for both documents was scheduled to end on June 3, 1996. The intent of this document is to extend the comment period to June 27, 1996.

The Service is briefly extending the comment period in order to accept the comments of The Resources Agency of California, and invites other interested parties who have not yet submitted comments to do so.

DATES: The comment period for written comments is extended until June 27, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this Draft Environmental Alternatives Analysis and the proposed rule should be sent to Mr. Michael J. Spear, Regional Director, Region 1, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181. The complete file for this proposed rule will be available for public inspection, by appointment during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 SW. 1st Avenue, 4th Floor, Portland, Oregon 97204, (503/326-6218).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Curt Smitch, Assistant Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3704 Griffin Lane SE., Suite 102, Olympia, Washington 98501, (206/534-9330); or Ron Crete, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 SW. 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181, (503/326-6218).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has prepared a draft document called an Environmental Alternatives Analysis (EAA) that describes and analyzes the potential environmental effects of the proposed special rule and six alternatives for the conservation of the northern spotted owl on non-Federal lands in Washington and California. Each alternative would revise to varying degrees the Federal prohibitions and exceptions regarding the incidental take of spotted owls on non-Federal lands in California and Washington. The proposed rule, analyzed in the Draft EAA as Alternative 3, was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 1995 (60 FR, No. 33, Page 9484).

The Service's Draft EAA, including all maps, tables, charts, and graphs, remains available on the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/4deaa/welcome.html>.

Dated: June 10, 1996.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

[FR Doc. 96-15123 Filed 6-14-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 217 and 227

[Docket No.950830222-6103-02; I.D. 011696D]

RIN 0648-AH89

Sea Turtle Conservation; Revisions to Sea Turtle Conservation Requirements; Restrictions to Shrimp Trawling Activities; Reopening of Comment Period

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period; notice of availability.

SUMMARY: On April 24, 1996, NMFS published a proposed rule to amend the regulations protecting sea turtles to enhance their effectiveness in reducing sea turtle mortality resulting from shrimp trawling in the Atlantic and Gulf Areas in the southeastern United States. In response to several requests for an extension of the comment period, NMFS is reopening the comment period through July 15 to provide further opportunity to submit comments on the proposed rule and to review additional analyses, including the preliminary report scheduled to be submitted to NMFS by June 28, 1996, by the sea turtle expert working group.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be submitted on or before July 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this proposed rule and requests for a copy of the sea turtle expert working group report should be addressed to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles A. Oravetz, 813-570-5312, or Therese A. Conant, 301-713-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 24, 1996, NMFS published a proposed rule (61 FR 18102) to amend the regulations at 50 CFR 227.72(e) protecting sea turtles to enhance their effectiveness in reducing sea turtle mortality resulting from shrimp trawling in the Atlantic and Gulf Areas in the southeastern United States. The background and rationale for the proposed amendments were contained in the preamble of the proposed rule and are not repeated here. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on June 10, 1996. However, NMFS is reopening the comment period through July 15 to provide further opportunity to submit comments on the proposed rule and to review additional analyses, including the preliminary report scheduled to be submitted to NMFS by June 28, 1996, by the sea turtle expert working group. The formation of this group of scientists to analyze existing databases to determine sea turtle population abundance, population trends, and sustainable take levels was a requirement of the November 14, 1994, biological opinion. The report will be made available for public review and distributed upon request when it is submitted to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; and 16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*, unless otherwise noted.

Dated: June 11, 1996.

Rolland A. Schmitt, Jr.,
*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 96–15324 Filed 6–14–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

50 CFR Part 669

[I.D. 060496E]

Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Hearing

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

ACTION: Public hearing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Caribbean Council) will convene one public hearing on alternatives for closed areas to protect spawning aggregations of red hind in an area off Mayaguez, PR.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted on or before July 15, 1996. The public hearing will be held on June 19, 1996, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to, and copies of a document summarizing the management alternatives to be considered are

available from, Mr. Miguel A. Rolon, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Munoz Rivera Ave., Suite 1108, San Juan, PR 00918. The hearing will be held at the Joyuda Plaza Hotel, Cabo Rojo, PR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Miguel A. Rolon, 809–766–5926; Fax: 809–766 6239.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Caribbean Council will be holding a public hearing on alternatives for closed areas to protect the spawning aggregations of the red hind grouper, which usually form during the period December 1 through February 28 of each consecutive year.

The current regulations implementing the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands establish a closed area off Mayaguez, PR, to protect the spawning grounds of this grouper species. Recent information obtained by the Caribbean Council indicates that the red hind aggregations are taking place in other sites outside the present closed area. The Caribbean Council will be considering closed area alternatives that would be more effective in protecting the red hind spawning aggregations while resulting in fewer adverse regulatory impacts to fishers.

Alternatives under consideration include: (1) No action (i.e., keep the

same area of seasonal closure (Amendment 2 of the Reef Fish FMP, 1993)); (2) closing an area of 1/2 mile (2.41 km) radius around “Buoy 8” to all fishing from December 1 to February 28 of each fishing year; (3) closing an area of 1/2 mile (2.41 km) radius around “Buoy 6” to all fishing from December 1 to February 28 of each fishing year; (4) closing an area of 1/2 mile (2.41 km) radius centered around a buoy to be deployed in the area known as “El Bajo de Sico” to all fishing between December 1 to February 28 of each fishing year; and (5) closing all three areas identified above to all fishing between December 1 and February 28 of each fishing year.

Special Accommodations

This hearing is physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolon at 809–766–5926 (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 days prior to the hearing date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: June 11, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,
*Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and
Management, National Marine Fisheries
Service.*

[FR Doc. 96–15232 Filed 6–14–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F