

cases of aboriginal title to their respective traditional use areas.

"3. The Department recognizes that the aboriginal title and rights of such tribes were not extinguished by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), 43 U.S.C. 1601, et seq., the Outer continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1331, et seq. or by any other Congressional Act. Nor, is the continuing existence of such rights contrary to the Paramountcy Doctrine (see *United States v. California*, 332 U.S. 19 (1947); *United States v. Maine*, 420 U.S. 515 (1975); and *United States v. Louisiana*, 339 U.S. 699 (1950) or to the Ninth Circuit decisions in *Native Village of Gambell v. Hodel*, 869 F.2d 1273 (9th Cir. 1989) (*Gambell III*) or *Gambell v. Babbitt*, 999 F.2d 403 (9th Cir. 1993) (*Gambell IV*).

"4. Hereafter all Alaska native tribes whose aboriginal territory or aboriginal rights to the OCS would likely suffer trespass or be disturbed or affected in any significant way by Departmental leases of the OCS off the coast of Alaska, shall be given written notice of such sale and of this regulation at least 180 days prior to the official sale of such leases. Oil, gas, or other mineral leases that would likely cause disruptive effects merely by nature of their proximity to aboriginal territory are included within this notice requirement.

"The types of disruptions or effects requiring such prior notice include any potential trespass upon the tribes' aboriginal hunting and fishing grounds, or any potentially significant disturbance, depletion, or interference with Native hunting, fishing or exploitation of other resources or other uses of their aboriginal territory.

"5. The Department recognizes that all existing as well as future leases of the OCS off Alaska are subject to the aboriginal title and aboriginal hunting and fishing rights of Alaskan Native Tribes."

The matter addressed in the petition has been the subject of litigation for many years now and is currently the subject of litigation brought by the petitioning Villages seeking to halt proposed OCS Lease Sale 149 in the Cook Inlet in Alaska. *Native Village of Eyak, et al. v. Trawler Diane Marie, Inc., et al.*, Case No. A95-0063 CIV (HRH) (D. Alaska, filed Feb. 23, 1995). The Government has consistently taken the position that no person or entity has title to, or hunting and fishing rights on, the Alaska OCS. Rather, the Alaska OCS is subject to the paramount authority of the Federal Government, and to uses permitted by the United States pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.

Nevertheless, in fairness to the Villages, the MMS is publishing the text of the rule pursuant to 43 CFR part 14 and invites knowledgeable parties to comment on it and to consider the following:

1. Should we engage in this rulemaking?
2. Would such a rule be consistent with the laws governing the OCS?

3. Would granting the rule be consistent with the paramount interest of the United States?

4. Do we have other mechanisms sufficient to protect claimed Native interests? and,

5. Where should undertaking such rulemaking fit in among the other priorities of the agency?

Anyone so wishing should submit comments to MMS at the address above. In a separate Federal Register notice, MMS is also pursuing factual inquiry into the potential nature and extent of the claims of the five petitioning Villages with respect to the areas proposed for lease in Cook Inlet Sale 149 and Gulf of Alaska-Yakutat Sale 158 in connection with the decisions to conduct such sales.

Dated: February 26, 1996.  
Cynthia Quarterman,  
Director, Minerals Management Service.  
[FR Doc. 96-5009 Filed 3-4-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

#### 46 CFR Parts 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 161

[CGD 94-108]

RIN 2115-AF24

#### Electrical Engineering Requirements for Merchant Vessels

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Correction to proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains corrections to the notice of proposed rulemaking, which was published Friday, February 2, 1996, as part of the President's Regulatory Reinvention Initiative, the proposed rule amends the Coast Guard's electrical engineering regulations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 5, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Gerald P. Miente, Project Manager, or LT(jg) Jacqueline M. Twomey, Project Engineer, Design and Engineering Standards Division (G-MMS), (202) 267-2206.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The notice of proposed rulemaking that is the subject of these corrections amends the Coast Guard's electrical engineering regulations to reduce the regulatory burden on the marine industry, purge obsolete regulations and replaces prescriptive requirements with

performance-based regulations that incorporate international standards.

#### Need for Correction

As published, the final rule contains typographical errors and omissions which may prove to be misleading and are in need of correction.

#### Correction of Publication

Accordingly, the publication on February 2, 1996, of the notice of proposed rulemaking at 61 FR 4132, which was the subject of FR Doc. 96-2149, is corrected as follows:

1. On page 4135, in the first column, in the paragraph entitled "Section 111.05-33," sixth line, the word "a" should be added before the word "current."
2. On the same page, in the second column, in the paragraph entitled "Section 111.12-1," seventh line, remove the word "governor" and add, in its place, the words "overspeed device".
3. On page 4136, in the first column, in the paragraph entitled "Section 111.30-4," tenth line, remove the words "a section", and add in their place the word "sections".
4. On page 4137, in the first column, in the paragraph entitled "Section 111.60-3," fourth line, "IEC Publication 352" should be replaced with "IEC Publication 92-352".
5. On page 4146, in the list of Underwriters Laboratories' standards, the section affected for UL 62, Flexible Cord and Fixture Wire, should read "111.60-13(a)".
6. On page 4153, in the second column, in § 111.60-13(a), fourth and fifth lines, remove the words "NEMA WC 3 and NEMA WC 8" and add, in their place the words, "NEMA WC 3, NEMA WC 8 or UL 62."
7. On page 4159, in the third column, in the paragraph numbered "154," second line, remove "(q)" and add, in its place, "(g)".
8. On page 4161, in the third column, in the paragraph numbered "184," second and third lines, remove the words "(g), (h), and (i) are revised and paragraph (j) is added" and add, in their place, the words "(g) and (h) and paragraphs (i) and (j) are added".
9. On page 4163, in the first column, in § 113.50-5(g), fourth line, add the word "or" before "4X".
10. On the same page, in the second column, in the paragraph numbered "201," third line, add the words "paragraph (e) is removed;" before the words "and Table 1135.50-15" and after § 113.50-15(d) remove the five asterisks.

Dated: February 26, 1996.

Joseph J. Angelo,

*Director for Standards, Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection.*

[FR Doc. 96-5060 Filed 3-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 651

[Docket No. 960216032-6032-01; I.D. 021296E]

RIN 0648-AH70

#### Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 7

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

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

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes regulations to implement Amendment 7 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). These regulations would: Establish an annual target Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for regulated species; accelerate the current days-at-sea (DAS) effort reduction program; eliminate most of the current exemptions to the effort control program; add new closed areas; restrict fisheries in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/GB) and Southern New England (SNE) regulated mesh areas having more than a minimal bycatch of regulated species; establish a possession limit for vessels 30 ft (9.1 m) or less in length; establish the current experimental Nantucket Shoals dogfish fishery as an exempted fishery; modify the permit categories; establish restrictions on charter or party, and recreational vessels; revise and expand the existing framework provisions; and revise the harbor porpoise protection framework procedures. The intended effect of this rule is to rebuild multispecies stocks.

**DATES:** Comments are invited on the proposed Amendment 7 and its supporting documents, including the regulatory impact review (RIR) and the initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA) contained within the RIR, and the proposed rule through April 19, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Dr. Andrew A. Rosenberg, Director, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1

Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Multispecies Plan."

Comments regarding burden-hour estimates for collection-of- information requirements contained in this proposed rule should also be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer).

Copies of proposed Amendment 7, its RIR and the IRFA contained within the RIR, and the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) are available from Douglas Marshall, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, Suntaug Office Park, 5 Broadway (US Rte. 1), Saugus, MA 01906-1097.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan A. Murphy, Fishery Policy Analyst, 508-281-9252.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations implementing Amendment 5 to the FMP were published on March 1, 1994 (59 FR 9872). Amendment 5's principal objective was to eliminate the overfished condition of the multispecies finfish stocks. An emergency rule to further protect the severely depleted haddock resource was issued by NMFS and published January 3, 1994 (59 FR 26). This rule was extended through further rulemaking and permanently became effective with the publication of Secretarial Amendment 6 to the FMP (59 FR 32134).

Amendment 7 development began in response to an unprecedented report entitled, "Special Advisory: Groundfish Status on Georges Bank," issued and delivered by the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop to the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) at its August 9-10, 1994, meeting. The Advisory announced that Amendment 5 to the FMP is inadequate to achieve the reductions in fishing mortality rates needed to rebuild the principal groundfish stocks of cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder and cautioned that fishing mortality "should be reduced to as low a level as possible, approaching zero" to prevent further decline and to rebuild already collapsed stocks.

In response to this advice, the Council began development of Amendment 7 to the FMP. As an interim measure, the Council initiated, and NMFS approved, an emergency interim rule (59 FR 63926, December 12, 1994) to afford some additional protection to the multispecies resource during the development of Amendment 7. This emergency action was extended on March 13, 1995 (60 FR 13078). At the

request of the Council, NMFS approved Framework Adjustment 9 to the FMP (60 FR 19364, April 18, 1995) to implement measures contained in the emergency action on a permanent basis, until Amendment 7 could be finalized and implemented.

Recent scientific information from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) confirms that groundfish stocks are at historical lows. Results from Stock Assessment Workshop 19 (SAW 19), presented to the Council at its February 15-16, 1995, meeting concluded that GOM cod continues to be overexploited and exhibits persisting low biomass levels. Stock assessment scientists counsel that spawning stock biomass decline for GOM cod should be halted and reversed immediately. Similarly, results from SAW 20 on GB haddock, presented at the August 10-11, 1995, Council meeting indicate that this stock remains in an overfished and collapsed condition and that fishing mortality needs to remain as low as possible.

In addition, the most recent U.S. and Canadian bottom trawl survey indices, through fall 1995 for GB and SNE yellowtail flounder and GB and GOM cod, indicate no significant new recruitment in any of these stocks and suggest a continuation of consistently low biomass levels. Overall, there is very little recruitment and very low biomass levels observed for all of these stocks and conservation of the vulnerable existing year classes has become critical. In the absence of immediate measures to husband older year classes and begin stock rebuilding, scientists caution that the recovery period may be substantially lengthened.

For haddock, both U.S. and Canadian survey results indicate a small amount of recruitment into the fishery, which, if mortality levels are kept low, may contribute to rebuilding these stocks.

#### Amendment 7

This Amendment would implement Alternative 3 of the Council's Amendment 7 public hearing document as refined and modified by the Council for adoption as its preferred alternative. The foundation of this action is an acceleration of the Amendment 5 effort-reduction schedule. This action would build and expand upon the current management system, serving as a basic structure to be further developed by the Council through the framework process.

#### Disapproved Measures

Three measures proposed in Amendment 7 have been disapproved by NMFS and are not included in this proposed rule. The allowance of