

at least 24 hours before the day of the visit.

Environmental Protection Agency,
Region X, Office of Air Quality, 1200
Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.
Idaho Division of Environmental
Quality, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID
83720 (Contact Tim Teater at 208-
373-0457 for an appointment at
IDEQ).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Catherine Woo, Office of Air Quality
(OAQ-107), US EPA, Region X, 1200
Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, (206)
553-1814.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For
additional information see the direct
final action which is published in the
Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 4, 2000.

Chuck Clarke,

Regional Administrator, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 00-9649 Filed 4-20-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 62

[Docket No. ID-03-0001; FRL-6583-7]

Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Oregon; Negative Declaration

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA proposes to approve the Clean Air Act (CAA), Sections 111(d) and 129 negative declaration submitted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on October 20, 1998, and November 6, 1998. This negative declaration adequately certifies that there are no Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators (HMIWI) located within its boundaries.

In the final rules section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is approving Oregon's negative declaration as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial action and anticipates no relevant adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no relevant adverse comments are received in response to this action, EPA will not take action on this rule. If the EPA receives relevant adverse comments, EPA will withdraw the direct final rule and it will not take effect. EPA will then address all public comments received in a subsequent final rule based on this

proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action.

DATES: Written comments must be received by May 22, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to: Catherine Woo, US EPA, Region X, Office of Air Quality (OAQ-107), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.

Copies of the State negative declaration are available for public review during normal business hours at the following locations. Persons wanting to examine these documents should make an appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the day of the visit.

Environmental Protection Agency,
Region X, Office of Air Quality, 1200
Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.
Oregon Department of Environmental
Quality, 811 SW Sixth Avenue,
Portland, OR 97204.

Contact Kathleen Craig at 503-229-
6833, for an appointment at ODEQ.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Catherine Woo, Office of Air Quality
(OAQ-107), US EPA, Region X, 1200
Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101, (206)
553-1814.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For
additional information see the direct
final action which is published in the
Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 4, 2000.

Chuck Clarke,

Regional Administrator, Region X.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

49 CFR Parts 222 and 229

[Docket No. FRA-1999-6439, Notice No. 5;
Docket No. FRA-1999-6440]

RIN 2130-AA71

Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway- Rail Grade Crossings

AGENCY: Federal Railroad
Administration (FRA), Department of
Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Technical conference on
proposed rule.

SUMMARY: On January 13, 2000 (65 FR 2230), FRA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on the Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings (Docket No. FRA-1999-6439). On the same date FRA released a Draft Environmental

Assessment (DEIS)(Docket No. FRA-1999-6440) pertaining to the proposals contained in the NPRM. A number of public hearings in these proceedings have been held throughout the country, and more have been scheduled prior to the close of the comment period on May 26, 2000. FRA has determined that, in addition to the public hearings, a technical conference addressing locomotive horn acoustics would be helpful to FRA in developing a final rule in this proceeding. Accordingly, FRA is scheduling a technical conference on locomotive horn acoustics to be held on May 10, 2000, in Washington, DC.

DATES: 1. A technical conference will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2000 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

2. Deadline to register for participation in the technical conference is close of business on Friday, May 5, 2000. Please see Public Participation Procedures in **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document for registration details.

ADDRESSES: 1. *Technical conference:* FRA Headquarters, 7th floor conference room, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

2. *FRA Docket Clerk:* Federal Railroad Administration Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Mail Stop 10, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20590. E-mail address for the FRA Docket Clerk is renee.bridgers@fra.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Technical Conference

The technical conference is meant to address specific technical issues that might not be addressed in written comments or through oral comments presented at public hearings. The issues to be addressed will focus on the technical attributes of, variations to, and potential modifications of train horns. Among the issues which may be discussed are tone and decibel levels, sound dispersion and direction, horn placement and shrouding, horn sounding sequence and duration, and whistle board placement and positive train control (as it relates to horn use). Additional subjects within the scope of locomotive horn acoustics may be also be addressed. A transcript of the technical conference will be taken and placed in the public docket of this proceeding.

Public Participation Procedures

Any person wishing to participate in the technical conference should notify the FRA Docket Clerk by mail or by e-mail by close of business on May 5,

2000. The notification of intent to participate should identify the organization the person represents (if any), the names of all participants from that organization planning to participate, and a phone number at which the registrant can be reached. FRA reserves the right to limit active conference participation to those persons who have registered in advance.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 18, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 00-10043 Filed 4-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 000331092-0092-01; I.D. 030100F]

RIN 0648-AM42

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; License Limitation Program for the Scallop Fishery

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 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska (FMP), which would create a license limitation program (scallop LLP) for the scallop fishery. If adopted, this program would limit the number of participants and reduce fishing capacity in the scallop fishery off Alaska. This action is proposed to achieve the conservation and management goals for the scallop fishery and is intended to further the objectives of the FMP.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be submitted on or before June 5, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this proposed rule should be submitted to Sue Salveson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, Attn: Lori Gravel. Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to 907-586-7465. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet. Courier

or hand delivery of comments may be made to NMFS in the Federal Building, Room 453, Juneau, AK. Copies of Amendment 4 to the Scallop FMP, and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) prepared for the amendment are available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252; telephone 907-271-2809.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gretchen Harrington, 907-586-7228, or gretchen.harrington@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared the FMP under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Under the FMP, management of all aspects of the scallop fishery, except limited access, is delegated to the State of Alaska (State). Federal regulations governing the scallop fishery appear at 50 CFR parts 600 and 679. State regulations governing the scallop fishery appear in the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) at 5 AAC Chapter 38—Miscellaneous Shellfish.

State regulations establish guideline harvest levels (GHL) for different scallop registration areas, fishing seasons, open and closed fishing areas, observer coverage requirements, bycatch limits, gear restrictions, and measures to limit processing efficiency (including a ban on the use of mechanical shucking machines and a limitation on crew size). The gear regulations limit vessels to using no more than two, 15-ft (4.5 m) dredges, except in Cook Inlet (State Registration Area H) where vessels are limited to using a single 6-ft (1.8 m) scallop dredge.

The Council has submitted Amendment 4 for Secretarial review, and a Notice of Availability of the amendment was published March 8, 2000 (65 FR 12500) with comments on the FMP amendment invited through May 8, 2000. Comments may address the FMP amendment, the proposed rule, or both, but must be received by May 8, 2000, to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the FMP amendment.

Management Background and Need for Action

Historic Management of the Scallop Fishery

The scallop resource off Alaska has been commercially exploited for more than 30 years. Weathervane scallop stocks off Alaska were first commercially explored by a few vessels in 1967. The fishery grew rapidly over

the next 2 years with about 19 vessels harvesting almost 2 million lb (907.2 metric tons (mt)) of shucked meats. Since then, vessel participation and harvests have fluctuated greatly, but have remained below the peak participation and harvests experienced in the late 1960s. Between 1969 and 1991, about 40 percent of the annual scallop harvest came from State waters. Since 1991, Alaska scallop harvests have increasingly occurred in Federal waters. Before 1990, about two-thirds of the scallop harvest was taken off Kodiak Island and about one-third from the Yakutat area, with harvests from other areas making minor contributions to overall landings. The increased harvests in the 1990s occurred with new exploitation in the Bering Sea. The fishery has occurred almost exclusively in Federal waters in recent years, but some fishing in State waters occurs off Yakutat, Dutch Harbor, and Adak.

Before the early 1990s, the Council concluded that the State's scallop management program provided sufficient conservation and management of the Alaska scallop resource and did not need to be duplicated by Federal regulation. The State concurred with this position under the premise that all vessels participating in the Alaska scallop fishery were registered under the laws of the State and fell under the State's management jurisdiction.

Initial Federal Involvement in the Fishery

By 1992, fishery participants and management agencies developed growing concerns about excessive fishing capacity and exploitation in the scallop fishery. The Council was presented with information indicating that the stocks of weathervane scallops were fully exploited and that any increase in fishing effort could be detrimental to the stocks. Information indicated that dramatic changes in age composition had occurred during the period 1980-1990, with commensurate declines in harvest. In the early 1990s, many fishermen abandoned historical fishing areas and searched for new areas to maintain catch levels. Increased numbers of small scallops were reported in the catch. These events raised conservation concerns because scallops are highly susceptible to local depletion and boom/bust cycles worldwide.

The perceived need to limit access to the fishery was the primary motivation for the Council to begin its consideration of Federal management of the scallop fishery in 1992. The Council believed that Federal action was necessary because existing State statutes precluded a State vessel moratorium