

requirements for gas transmission pipelines. It should be noted that the notice dated August 1, 2013, was incorrectly identified as a "Notice of proposed rulemaking" instead of the correct identifier, "Notice of inquiry."

The notice of inquiry was published in response to Section 5 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011, which requires the Secretary of Transportation to evaluate and issue a report on whether IMP requirements should be expanded beyond HCAs and whether such expansion would mitigate the need for class location requirements.

The American Petroleum Institute (API) and American Gas Association (AGA), on September 23, 2013, and September 24, 2013, respectively, requested that PHMSA extend the notice comment period deadline from September 30, 2013, to November 1, 2013, to give API and AGA members enough time to share the notice with their membership and to collect their members' responses and comments for docket submission.

PHMSA concurs with API and AGA's request and is extending the comment period from September 30, 2013, to November 1, 2013. This extension will provide sufficient additional time for commenters to submit their comments.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 25, 2013.

Alan K. Mayberry,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy and Programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR 226

RIN 0648-BD27

Endangered and Threatened Species: Proposed Rule To Designate Critical Habitat for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean Loggerhead Sea Turtle Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and Proposed Determination Regarding Critical Habitat for the North Pacific Ocean Loggerhead DPS

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reopening the comment period for its Proposed Rule to

Designate Critical Habitat for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean Loggerhead Sea Turtle Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and Proposed Determination Regarding Critical Habitat for the North Pacific Ocean Loggerhead DPS. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

DATES: The comment period for the proposed rule published on July 18, 2013 (78 FR 43005) is reopened. Comments and information on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2013-0079, must be received by November 29, 2013. Requests for public hearings must be made in writing (see **ADDRESSES**) by November 14, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2013-0079, 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-2013-0079, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach our comments.
- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Susan Pultz, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- **Fax:** 301-713-0376; Attn: Susan Pultz.

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 will be 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). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

The proposed rule, list of references and supporting documents, including the biological report, the draft Economic Analysis and the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Act (IRFA) analysis which is appended to the draft Economic Analysis, are also available electronically at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/loggerhead.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Pultz, NMFS, Office of Protected

Resources 301-427-8472 or susan.pultz@noaa.gov; or Angela Somma, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources 301-427-8474 or angela.somma@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Reopening of Comment Period

The comment period will be reopened through November 29, 2013.

Background

On July 18, 2013, we (NMFS) published in the **Federal Register** a proposed rule to designate critical habitat for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean loggerhead sea turtle Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (*Caretta caretta*) within the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and a proposed determination that no marine areas meet the definition of critical habitat within the jurisdiction of the United States for the North Pacific Ocean DPS. The comment period for this action ended Monday, September 16, 2013. The comment period is being reopened to provide additional opportunity for public comment.

Specific areas proposed for designation include 36 occupied marine areas within the range of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS. These areas contain one or a combination of nearshore reproductive habitat, winter area, breeding areas, and migratory corridors. We are also asking for comment on whether to include as critical habitat in the final rule some areas that contain foraging habitat and two large areas that contain *Sargassum* habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service addressed terrestrial areas (nesting beaches) in a separate document (78 FR 18000; March 25, 2013).

We are soliciting comments from the public on all aspects of the proposal, including information on the economic, national security, and other relevant impacts. We will consider additional information received prior to making a final designation.

Public Hearings

We held hearings regarding this proposed rule in Wilmington, NC on September 9, 2013, and in Morehead City, NC on September 10, 2013. Due to budget constraints, we are unsure whether we can hold additional public hearings. However, we are considering requests for additional hearings. Requests for public hearings must be made in writing (see **ADDRESSES**) by November 14, 2013. If we are able to hold an additional public hearing, a notice detailing the specific hearing location and time will be published in

the **Federal Register** at least 15 days before the hearing is to be held. Information on the specific hearing locations and times will also be posted on our Web site at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/loggerhead.htm>.

Dated: September 25, 2013.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

RIN 0648-BC73

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Amendment 99

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of fishery management plan amendment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council submitted Amendment 99 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI FMP) to NMFS for review. If approved, Amendment 99 would enable the holders of license limitation program (LLP) licenses authorizing a designated vessel to catch and process Pacific cod in the BSAI hook-and-line fisheries to use newly built or existing vessels that are not eligible under current vessel length and capacity restrictions. This action is necessary to promote safety-at-sea by encouraging the replacement of older vessels with newer and more efficient vessels that are able to meet modern vessel safety standards. This action is intended to facilitate the increased retention and utilization of groundfish by allowing sector participants to use larger vessels with increased processing and hold capabilities. This action is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and other applicable laws.

DATES: Comments on the amendment must be received on or before November 29, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2012-0220, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2012-0220, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments
- **Mail:** Address written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.
- **Fax:** Address written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. Fax comments to 907-586-7557.

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). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Electronic copies of the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) and the Categorical Exclusion prepared for this proposed action may be obtained from <http://www.regulations.gov> or from the NMFS Alaska Region Web site at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov>.

Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this proposed rule may be submitted to NMFS Alaska Region and by email to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202) 395-7285.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Seanbob Kelly, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that each regional fishery management

council submit any fishery management plan amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary). The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving a fishery management plan amendment, immediately publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing that the amendment is available for public review and comment. This notice announces that proposed Amendment 99 to the FMP is available for public review and comment.

NMFS manages the U.S. groundfish fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Alaska under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA FMP) and the BSAI FMP. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared the GOA FMP and BSAI FMP pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

Amendment 99 would make three substantive changes to the FMP to: (1) Increase the maximum length overall (MLOA) to 220 feet (67 m) on LLP licenses authorizing vessels to catch and process Pacific cod with hook-and-line gear in the BSAI; (2) allow holders of LLP licenses authorized to catch and process Pacific cod with hook-and-line and pot gear in the BSAI to increase the MLOA on the LLP license to 220 feet (67 m) only if the pot gear endorsement is surrendered within a specific time frame; and (3) allow vessels that catch and process Pacific cod with hook-and-line in the BSAI to exceed length, tonnage, and power limits established under the American Fisheries Act (AFA).

The LLP and BSAI Longline Catcher Processor Subsector

Under the LLP, which was implemented by NMFS on January 1, 2000 (63 FR 52642, October 1, 1998), an LLP license is required for all vessels directed fishing for groundfish in the BSAI and GOA, with limited exemptions for smaller vessels and vessels using a limited amount of jig gear. Directed fishing is defined in regulations at § 679.2. For a vessel designated on an LLP license, the LLP license authorizes the type of fishing gear that may be used by the vessel, the maximum size of the vessel, and whether the vessel may catch and process fish at sea or if it is limited to delivering catch without at-sea processing. LLP licenses specify the MLOA of the vessel to which that LLP license may be assigned. Participants in LLP groundfish fisheries are prohibited from using a vessel to fish for LLP