

(4) Construction by special trade contractors, at least 25 percent of the cost of the contract performance incurred for personnel will be spent on the concern's employees or the employees of other eligible veteran-owned small business concerns.

(d) A joint venture may be considered a veteran-owned small business concern if—

(1) At least one member of the joint venture is a veteran-owned small business concern, and makes the following representations: That it is a veteran-owned small business concern, and that it is a small business concern under the NAICS code assigned to the procurement;

(2) Each other concern is small under the size standard corresponding to the NAICS code assigned to the procurement;

(3) The joint venture meets the requirements of paragraph 7 of the explanation of Affiliates in 19.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

(4) The joint venture meets the requirements of 13 CFR 125.15(b), except that the principal company may be a veteran-owned small business concern or a service-disabled veterans-owned small business concern.

(e) Any veteran-owned small business concern (nonmanufacturer) must meet the requirements in 19.102(f) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation to receive a benefit under this program.

(End of Clause)

35. Section 852.219–71 is added to read as follows:

852.219–71 VA Mentor-Protégé Program.

As prescribed in 819.7115(a), insert the following clause:

VA Mentor-Protégé Program (Date)

(a) Large businesses are encouraged to participate in the VA Mentor-Protégé Program for the purpose of providing developmental assistance to eligible service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses to enhance the small businesses' capabilities and increase their participation as VA prime contractors and as subcontractors.

(b) The program consists of:

(1) Mentor firms, which are prime contractors capable of providing developmental assistance;

(2) Protégé firms, which are service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns or veteran-owned small business concerns; and

(3) Mentor-Protégé Agreements approved by the VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

(c) Mentor participation in the program means providing business developmental assistance to aid Protégés in developing the requisite expertise to effectively compete for and successfully perform VA prime contracts and subcontracts.

(d) Large business prime contractors serving as Mentors in the VA Mentor-Protégé Program are eligible for an incentive for subcontracting plan credit. VA will recognize the costs incurred by a Mentor firm in providing assistance to a Protégé firm and apply those costs for purposes of determining

whether the mentor firm attains its subcontracting plan participation goals under a VA contract. The amount of credit given to a Mentor firm for these Protégé developmental assistance costs shall be calculated on a dollar-for-dollar basis and reported by the large business prime contractor via the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS).

(e) Contractors interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact the VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization for more information.

(End of Clause)

36. Section 852.219–72 is added to read as follows:

852.219–72 Evaluation Factor for Participation in the VA Mentor-Protégé Program.

As prescribed in 819.7115(b), insert the following clause:

Evaluation Factor for Participation in the VA Mentor-Protégé Program (Date)

This solicitation contains an evaluation factor or sub-factor regarding participation in the VA Mentor-Protégé Program. In order to receive credit under the evaluation factor or sub-factor, the offeror must provide with its proposal a copy of a signed letter issued by the VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization approving the offeror's Mentor-Protégé Agreement.

(End of Clause)

37. Section 852.228–72 is added to read as follows:

852.228–72 Assisting Service-Disabled Veteran-owned and Veteran-owned Small Businesses in Obtaining Bonds.

As prescribed in 828.106–71, insert the following clause:

Assisting Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses in Obtaining Bonds (Date)

Prime contractors are encouraged to assist service-disabled veteran-owned and veteran-owned small business potential subcontractors in obtaining bonding, when required. Mentor firms are encouraged to assist Protégé firms under VA's Mentor-Protégé Program in obtaining acceptable bid, payment, and performance bonds, when required, as a prime contractor under a solicitation or contract and in obtaining any required bonds under subcontracts.

(End of Provision)

[FR Doc. E8–19261 Filed 8–19–08; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

49 CFR Part 830

Notification and Reporting of Aircraft Accidents or Incidents and Overdue Aircraft, and Preservation of Aircraft Wreckage, Mail, Cargo, and Records

AGENCY: National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On March 31, 2008, the NTSB published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to amend its regulations concerning notification and reporting requirements with regard to unmanned aircraft accidents, found at 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 830, "Notification and Reporting of Aircraft Accidents or Incidents and Overdue Aircraft, and Preservation of Aircraft Wreckage, Mail, Cargo, and Records." This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is available at 73 FR 16826 (Mar. 31, 2008). The NTSB is publishing this notice to inform the public that it is extending the comment period for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to September 30, 2008.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 30, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may send written comments using any of the following methods:

1. *Government-wide rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.

2. *Mail:* Mail comments concerning this proposed rule to Dana Schuize, AS–b, National Transportation Safety Board, 490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20594–2000.

3. *Fax:* (202) 314–6319, Attention: Dana Schuize.

4. *Hand Delivery:* 6th Floor, 490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Dana Schuize, Office of Aviation Safety, (202) 314–6323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: After issuing the March 31, 2008, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning unmanned aircraft accidents, the NTSB discovered that a problem existed with the Web site, available at <http://www.regulations.gov>, that the NTSB listed in the Notice as one mechanism by which it would receive public comments. In particular, the NTSB subsequently determined that commenters were unable to submit comments through that Web site. The

NTSB has arranged for this problem to be corrected and verified that commenters may now access the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and submit comments via <http://www.regulations.gov>. As such, the NTSB is allowing the comment period for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to remain open until September 30, 2008. The NTSB notes that it received several comments via facsimile and postal mail; commenters who submitted comments via facsimile or postal mail need not resubmit them.

Dated: August 8, 2008.

Vicky D'Onofrio,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-19104 Filed 8-19-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 0808051050-81056-01]

RIN 0648-XJ42

Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications

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

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes a regulation to implement the annual harvest guideline (HG) for Pacific mackerel in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the Pacific coast for the fishing season of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. This HG has been calculated according to the regulations implementing the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and establishes allowable harvest levels for Pacific mackerel off the Pacific coast.

DATES: Comments must be received by September 19, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this proposed rule identified by 0648-XJ42 by any one of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>

- Mail: Rodney R. McInnis, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802.

- Fax: (562)980-4047, Att: Joshua Lindsay

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Copies of the report *Pacific Mackerel (Scomber japonicus) Stock Assessment for U.S. Management in the 2008-2009 Fishing Year* may be obtained from the Southwest Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joshua Lindsay, Southwest Region, NMFS, (562) 980-4034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CPS FMP, which was implemented by publication of the final rule in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 1999 (64 FR 69888), divides management unit species into two categories: actively managed and monitored. Harvest guidelines (HG) for actively managed species (Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel) are based on formulas applied to current biomass estimates. Biomass estimates are not calculated for species that are only monitored (jack mackerel, northern anchovy, and market squid).

During public meetings each year, the biomass for each actively managed species within the CPS FMP is presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Council's Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the CPS Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). At that time, the biomass, the acceptable biological catch (ABC) and the status of the fisheries are reviewed and discussed. This information is then presented to the Council along with HG recommendations and comments from the Team and Subpanel. Following review by the Council and after hearing public comments, the Council makes its HG recommendation to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The annual HG is published in the **Federal Register** as close as practicable to the start of the fishing season. The Pacific mackerel season

begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year.

For the 2008-2009 Pacific mackerel management season an updated assessment for Pacific mackerel was conducted and then reviewed by the SSC CPS Subcommittee, the CPSMT and the CPSAS during a series of meetings May 13-15, 2008, in Long Beach California. During these meetings the current stock assessment for Pacific mackerel, which included a preliminary biomass estimate and ABC, were presented and reviewed in accordance with the procedures of the FMP. Based on a total stock biomass estimate of 264,732 metric tons (mt) the harvest control rule in the CPS FMP produces an ABC of 51,772 mt for the 2008-2009 management season.

In June, the Council held a public meeting in Foster City, California, during which time the Council reviewed the current stock assessment, biomass numbers and ABC as well as heard statements from the SSC, Team and Subpanel. The SSC endorsed the assessment as the best available science for use in management. Both the Team and Subpanel recommended setting the 2008-2009 HG below ABC and no higher than 40,000 mt.

Following the SSC, Team and Subpanel reports the Council adopted a HG of 40,000 mt for the 2008-2009 fishing year. This HG recommendation is the same as the one recommended and implemented by NMFS for the 2007-2008 fishing season. Establishing a HG for the directed fishery substantially below the ABC was recommended in response to uncertainty associated with changes to assessment modeling parameters and the estimate made in the FMP that the domestic fishery appears to be market limited to roughly 40,000 mt. The Council also adopted the Subpanel recommendation that in the event that the 40,000 mt is attained by the fishery, that Pacific mackerel fishing be closed to directed harvest and only incidental harvest be allowed. The proposed incidental fishery would be constrained to a 45 percent by weight incidental catch rate when Pacific mackerel are landed with other CPS, except that up to one metric ton of Pacific mackerel could be landed per trip without landing any other CPS.

The Council may schedule an inseason review of the Pacific mackerel fishery at the nearest appropriate Council meeting, towards a possible consideration of either releasing a portion of the incidental allotment to the directed fishery or further constraining incidental landings to