

Component name	Component No. cost segment notes	LDC 49—Comp forwarding system (938) 98.1 Set equal to 938 Set W = 0.9992	FY07 Distribution of PARS related costs \$ in 000s	FY07 PARS tallies distribution	Distribution based on PARS tallies \$ in 000s	Change in distribution by adopting proposal nine \$ in 000s
Enhanced Carrier Route.	126	1	567	219.81	145	(422)
Regular	127	10	6,688	16238.00	10,712	4,023
Total Standard Mail	135	11	7,256			
Package Services:						
Parcel Post	136	1	516			(516)
Bound Printed Matter	137	2	1,014			(1,014)
Media Mail	139	0	236			(236)
Total Package Services	141	3	1,766			
U.S. Postal Service	142	4	2,499	1076.50	710	(1,789)
Free Mail	147	0	96	222.77		(96)
International Mail	161	0	89		147	57
Total All Mail	162	99	63,336			
Special Services:						
Registry	163	0	64			(64)
Certified	164	0				
Insurance	165	0				
COD	166	0				
Money Orders	168	0				
Stamped Cards	159	0				
Stamped Envelopes	169	0				
Special Handling	170	0				
Post Office Box	171	0				
Other	172	1	351			(351)
Total Special Services	173	1	414			
Total Attributable	198	100	63,750	96637.71	63,750	(0)
Other Costs	199					
Total Costs	200					
			Deprec	\$59,476		
			Maintenance Labor	\$ 3,627		
			Parts & Supplies	\$ 698		
				\$63,801		
			Variability	0.99920		
			Total Vol. Var. Costs	\$63,750		

III. Ordering Paragraphs

[Order No. 99]

It is Ordered:

1. Docket No. RM2008-3 is established for the purpose of considering the Request of the United States Postal Service for Commission Order Amending the established Costing Methodologies for Purposes of Preparing the FY 2008 Annual Compliance Report, filed August 11, 2008.

2. An informal technical conference to explore and clarify proposals is scheduled for August 27, 2008 at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

3. Interested persons may file initial comments on or before September 8, 2008.

4. Reply comments may be filed on or before September 15, 2008.

5. William C. Miller is designated as the Public Representative representing the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

6. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

[Order No. 102]

1. The Motion of the United States Postal Service to Supplement the List of

Its Proposed Costing Changes for Purposes of Preparing the FY 2008 Annual Compliance Report, filed August 18, 2008, is granted.

2. The proposal described in this Order will be considered under the current procedural schedule in Docket No. RM2008-2.

3. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 3652.

By the Commission.

Judith M. Grady,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E8-20694 Filed 9-5-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Chapter VI

Office of Postsecondary Education; Notice of Negotiated Rulemaking for Programs Authorized Under Title IV and Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of invitation for public comment and establishment of negotiated rulemaking committees.

SUMMARY: We announce our intention to establish negotiated rulemaking committees to prepare proposed regulations under Title IV and, possibly, Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The committees will include representatives of organizations or groups with interests that are significantly affected by the subject matter of the proposed regulations. We also announce six public hearings, at which interested parties may suggest issues that should be considered for action by the negotiating committees. In addition, for anyone unable to attend a public hearing, we announce that the Department will accept written comments.

DATES: The dates, times, and locations of the public hearings are listed under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. We must receive written comments suggesting issues that should be considered for action by the

negotiating committees on or before October 8, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments to Wendy Macias, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 8017, Washington, DC 20006, or by fax to Wendy Macias at (202) 502-7874. You may also e-mail your comments to HEOA08@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the public hearings, see <http://www.ed.gov/HEOA> or contact: Mary Miller, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 8066, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 502-7824. You may also e-mail your questions about the public hearings to: Mary.Miller@ed.gov.

For information about negotiated rulemaking in general, see *The Negotiated Rulemaking Process for Title IV Regulations, Frequently Asked Questions* at <http://www.ed.gov/HEOA>. For further information contact: Wendy Macias, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., room 8017, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone (202) 502-7526. You may also e-mail your questions about negotiated rulemaking to: Wendy.Macias@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the person responsible for information about the public hearings.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We intend to develop proposed regulations to implement the changes made to the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), Public Law 110-315. Section 492 of the HEA, as amended by the HEOA, requires that, before publishing any proposed regulations to implement programs authorized under Title IV of the HEA, the Secretary obtain public involvement in the development of the proposed regulations. After obtaining advice and recommendations from the public, the Secretary uses a negotiated rulemaking process to develop the proposed regulations. In addition, section 201(2) of the HEOA added a provision to section 207(c) of the HEA that requires the Secretary to submit to a negotiated rulemaking process any regulations the Secretary chooses to develop under amended section 207(b)(2) of the HEA, regarding the prohibition on a teacher preparation program from which the State has withdrawn approval or terminated financial support from accepting or

enrolling any student who receives Title IV aid.

We intend to develop proposed regulations by following the negotiated rulemaking procedures in section 492 of the HEA. We anticipate using the negotiated rulemaking procedures in section 492 of the HEA to develop any regulations for the new teacher preparation program provision in section 207(b)(2) of the HEA, although the Secretary is not required to do so. After a complete review of the HEOA and the public comments presented at the public hearings and through written submission, we will publish a subsequent notice (or notices) announcing the specific subject areas for which we intend to establish negotiated rulemaking committees, and a request for nominations for individual negotiators for those committees who represent the interests significantly affected by the proposed regulations.

We anticipate that we will announce our intent to establish most of the negotiated rulemaking committees by the end of this year, with negotiations beginning in February 2009. For subject areas for which implementation must occur more quickly, the schedule will be expedited.

For general information on the implementation of the HEOA, see <http://www.ed.gov/HEOA>.

Public Hearings

We will hold six public hearings for interested parties to discuss the agenda for the negotiated rulemaking sessions. The public hearings will be held on:

- September 19, 2008 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas;
 - September 29, 2008 at the University of Rhode Island, in Providence, Rhode Island;
 - October 2, 2008 at Pepperdine University, in Malibu, California;
 - October 6, 2008 at Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina;
 - October 8, 2008 at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC; and
 - October 15, 2008 at Cuyahoga Community College, in Cleveland, Ohio.
- The public hearings will be held from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., local time, with the exception of the hearing at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, which will be held from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., local time. Further information on the public hearing sites, including addresses and directions, is available at <http://www.ed.gov/HEOA>.

Individuals desiring to present comments at the public hearings are encouraged to do so. It is likely that each participant choosing to make a

statement will be limited to five minutes. Individuals interested in making oral statements will be able to register to make a statement beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the public hearing (9:30 a.m. on the day of the public hearing for the hearing at Texas Christian University) at the Department's on-site registration table on a first-come, first-served basis. If additional time slots remain, individuals may be given additional time to speak. If no time slots remain, the Department has reserved one additional hour at the end of the day for individuals who were not able to register to speak. The amount of time available will depend upon the number of individuals who register to speak. Speakers may also submit written comments. In addition, for anyone unable to attend a public hearing, the Department will accept written comments through October 8, 2008. (See the **ADDRESSES** sections of this notice for submission information.)

The public hearing sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals needing an auxiliary aid or service to participate in a meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in alternative format), should notify the contact person for information about hearings listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in this notice in advance of the scheduled meeting date. Although we will attempt to meet any request we receive, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>. To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office toll free at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1098a; Pub. L. 110-315, § 201(2).

Dated: September 3, 2008.

Cheryl A. Oldham,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. E8-20776 Filed 9-5-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 665

[Docket No. 070720390-81114-02]

RIN 0648-AV28

Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries; Management Measures for the Northern Mariana Islands

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would establish Federal permitting and reporting requirements for all commercial bottomfish vessels fishing in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The proposed rule would also close certain EEZ waters around the CNMI to bottomfish fishing by vessels over 40 ft (12.2 m) long. Vessel monitoring system units would be installed on these vessels, and the operators of these vessels would be required to submit Federal sales reports in addition to catch reports. This proposed rule is intended to ensure adequate collection of information about the CNMI commercial bottomfish fishery, provide for sustained community participation, and maintain a consistent supply of locally-caught bottomfish to CNMI markets and seafood consumers. Combined, these measures are intended to prevent the depletion of bottomfish stocks in the CNMI, and to sustain the fisheries that depend on them.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received by October 23, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the amendment, identified by 0648-AV28, may be sent to either of the following addresses:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal www.regulations.gov; or
- Mail: William L. Robinson, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Pacific

Islands Region (PIR), 1601 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (if you wish to remain anonymous, enter "NA" in the required name and organization fields). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Copies of the Fishery Management Plan for Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (Bottomfish FMP) and proposed Amendment 10 are available from the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813, tel 808-522-8220, fax 808-522-8226, or www.wpcouncil.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Harman, NMFS PIR, 808-944-2271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This **Federal Register** document is also accessible at the Office of the **Federal Register** web site www.gpoaccess.gov/fr.

The bottomfish fishery around the Northern Mariana Islands is managed under the Bottomfish FMP, which was developed by the Council, and approved and implemented by NMFS. The Council has submitted Bottomfish FMP Amendment 10 to NMFS for review under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). This proposed rule would implement the management provisions recommended in Amendment 10, if the amendment is approved by the Secretary of Commerce.

CNMI nearshore areas have been fished for years by bottomfish fishermen who engage in a mix of subsistence, recreational, and small-scale commercial fishing. These fishermen typically operate small vessels (less than 25 ft (7.6 m)), and tend to fish more in the summer months when weather and sea conditions are calmer. Most of these small vessels target shallow-water bottomfish, but some also target deep-water species. The catch from these small vessels is destined for local markets and consumers in the CNMI, and is usually not exported.

In addition to small vessels, several larger vessels (over 40 ft (12.2 m) in

length) also target deep-water bottomfish at offshore seamounts and banks. In 2006, for example, there were six large vessels targeting bottomfish around the CNMI. Landings from these large vessels are offloaded on Saipan and in other CNMI commercial ports, and are often exported by air to Japan. Thus, the catch from these large vessels does not enter local markets as a food supply for CNMI residents. If these vessels were to target bottomfish in nearshore waters around CNMI, the resulting fishing pressure could be excessive on bottomfish stocks at nearshore banks, potentially threatening both the fish stocks and the fisheries that have historically been dependent on these resources.

The CNMI is relatively close to Guam, and it is possible for large bottomfish vessels based in Guam to travel to fishing grounds in the CNMI. NMFS recently implemented a final rule that prohibits large vessels (i.e., greater than 50 ft (15.2 m)) from bottomfish fishing within 50 nm (80.5 km) around Guam (71 FR 64474; November 2, 2006). Without similar closed areas around the CNMI, operators of these large Guam-based vessels may choose to fish for bottomfish within U.S. EEZ waters around the CNMI. This could result in excessive fishing pressure on bottomfish stocks at nearshore banks, potentially threatening both the fish stocks and the fisheries that have historically been dependent on these resources.

In addition to the possibility of Guam-based vessels entering the CNMI bottomfish fishery, the Council is concerned about several other issues regarding bottomfish fishing in the CNMI. First, existing data collection programs in the CNMI are insufficient to monitor catches and determine the impacts of the fishery on the bottomfish stocks being harvested, or to determine the species composition and amount of discarded catch. Second, large bottomfish vessels need to harvest relatively large catches to cover operational costs, and these large catches could deplete nearshore stocks. Stock depletion would threaten the sustainability of the CNMI bottomfish fishery, and if catch rates were significantly reduced, small vessels would not be able to continue operating. Finally, because the catches from large vessels are typically exported, traditional patterns of supply and consumption of bottomfish in the local community would be disrupted.

In response to these concerns, the Council developed Amendment 10 with the following objectives: (1) ensure that adequate information is routinely collected for the CNMI offshore