

altering or destruction of documentary evidence, improper influencing of witnesses and other activities that could impede or compromise the investigation.

(ii) These systems are exempt from Privacy Act subsections (d), (e)(4)(G) and (H) and (f) for the following reasons: Notifying an individual at the individual's request of the existence of records in an investigative file pertaining to such individual or to grant access to an investigative file could: interfere with investigative and enforcement proceedings; constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of others; disclose the identity of confidential sources and reveal confidential information supplied by these sources; and disclose investigative techniques and procedures.

(iii) The application of Privacy Act subsection (e)(4)(I) could disclose investigative techniques and procedures and cause sources to refrain from giving such information because of fear of reprisal, or fear of breach of promises of anonymity and confidentiality. This would compromise the ability to conduct investigations. Even though the agency has claimed an exemption from this particular requirement, it still plans to generally identify the categories of records and the sources for these records in this system. However, for the reasons stated in this paragraph, this exemption is still being cited in the event an individual wanted to know a specific source of information.

(iv) These systems of records are exempt from Privacy Act subsection (e)(1) because: It is not possible to detect relevance or necessity of specific information in the early stages of an investigation. Relevance and necessity are questions of judgment and timing. What appears relevant and necessary when collected may ultimately be determined to be unnecessary. It is only after the information is evaluated that the relevance and necessity of such information can be established. In interviewing persons or obtaining other forms of evidence during an investigation, information may be supplied to the investigator which relates to matters incidental to the main purpose of the investigation but which is appropriate in a thorough investigation. Oftentimes, such information cannot readily be segregated.

(2) In addition, the system of records, Loan Guaranty Fee Personnel and Program Participant Records—VA (71VA26), is exempt [pursuant to Privacy Act subsection (k)(5)] from Privacy Act subsections (c)(3), (d), (e)(1),

(e)(4)(G), (H) and (I) and (f), for the following reasons:

(i) The application of Privacy Act subsection (c)(3) would alert subjects of background suitability investigations to the existence of the investigation and reveal that such persons are subjects of that investigation. Since release of such information to subjects of an investigation would provide the subjects with significant information concerning the nature of the investigation, it could result in revealing the identity of a confidential source.

(ii) This system is exempt from Privacy Act subsections (d), (e)(4)(G) and (H) and (f) for the following reasons: To notify an individual at the individual's request of the existence of records in an investigative file pertaining to such an individual or to grant access to an investigative file would disclose the identity of confidential sources and reveal confidential information supplied by these sources.

(iii) The application of Privacy Act subsection (e)(4)(I) could disclose sufficient information to disclose the identity of a confidential source and cause sources to refrain from giving such information because of fear of reprisal, or fear of breach of promises of anonymity and confidentiality. This would compromise the ability to conduct background suitability investigations.

(iv) This system of records is exempt from Privacy Act subsection (e)(1) because: It is not possible to detect relevance and necessity of specific information from a confidential source in the early stages of an investigation. Relevance and necessity are questions of judgment and timing. What appears relevant and necessary when collected may ultimately be determined to be unnecessary. It is only after the information is evaluated that the relevance and necessity of such information can be established regarding suitability for VA approval as a fee appraiser or compliance inspector. In interviewing persons or obtaining other forms of evidence during an investigation for suitability for VA approval, information may be supplied to the investigator which relates to matters incidental to the main purpose of the investigation but which is appropriate in a thorough investigation. Oftentimes, such information cannot readily be segregated and disclosure might jeopardize the identity of a confidential source.

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a; 38 U.S.C. 501, 5701)

§§ 1.513 through 1.584 [Removed]

3. Sections 1.513 through 1.584, the undesignated center heading and the note immediately preceding § 1.550, and the undesignated center heading and note immediately preceding § 1.575 are removed.

PART 2—DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

4. The authority citation for part 2 continues to read as follows:

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 302; 38 U.S.C. 501, 512; 44 U.S.C. 3702, unless otherwise noted.)

5. In § 2.6, paragraph (e)(11) is revised to read as follows:

§ 2.6 Secretary's delegations of authority to certain officials (38 U.S.C. 512).

* * * * *
(e) * * *

(11) The General Counsel, the Deputy General Counsel, and the Assistant General Counsel for Professional Staff Group IV are authorized to make final Departmental decisions on appeals under the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and 38 U.S.C. 5701 and 5705.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 512)

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[FR Doc. 98-22858 Filed 9-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 86

[FRL-6159-4]

Compliance Programs for New Light-Duty Vehicles and Light-Duty Trucks

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is extending the public comment period on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), which proposes new compliance procedures for light-duty vehicles and light duty trucks. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on July 23, 1998 (63 FR 39653). The purpose of this notice is to extend the comment period from September 8, 1998 to September 24, 1998, to allow commenters additional time to respond to the NPRM.

DATES: EPA will accept comments on the NPRM until September 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted in duplicate to the EPA Air

& Radiation Docket # A-96-50, Room 1500-M (Mail Code 6102), 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460. Copies of information relevant to this NPRM are available for inspection in public docket A-96-50 at the above address, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information concerning the NPRM, contact Linda Hormes, Vehicle Programs and Compliance Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000 Traverwood, Ann Arbor MI 48105, Phone (734) 214-4502, E-mail: hormes.linda@epa.gov.

Dated: September 4, 1998.

Robert Perciasepe,

Assistant Administrator, Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 98-24339 Filed 9-9-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 083198D]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold a 2-day public meeting to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone. The full Council meeting will begin after the joint meeting of the Council's Herring Committee and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Herring Section.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. and on Thursday, September 24, 1998, at 8:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tavern on the Harbor, 30 Western Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930; telephone (978) 283-4200. Requests for special accommodations should be addressed to the New England Fishery Management Council, 5 Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906-1036; telephone: (781) 231-0422.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council (781) 231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

The morning session will be a joint meeting of the Council's Herring Committee and ASMFC Herring Section to select proposed management measures for the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Atlantic Herring Fishery. There will also be a discussion and possible recommendation of a control date for the herring fishery and consideration of two requests for foreign-directed fishing and joint venture herring allocations.

The full Council meeting will begin in the afternoon with reports on recent activities from the Council Chairman; Executive Director; the Acting Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS; the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council liaisons; and representatives of the Coast Guard, the ASMFC, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Habitat Committee's report will be presented, after which approval will be requested for the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment documents, including the Council's Habitat Policy, the identification of fishing threats and non-fishing threats to EFH, EFH conservation and enhancement measures, research and information needs, and the EFH strategic plan.

Thursday, September 24, 1998

The meeting will begin with the Herring Committee Report and a request for approval of the Atlantic Herring FMP proposed management measures, following review of public comments and committee and advisory panel recommendations. Additionally, the Council may also approve a control date for the herring fishery and approval of two requests for foreign-directed fishing and joint venture herring allocations. Final approval is also expected for the Northeast Multispecies FMP Amendment 9 submission documents (description of measures, draft proposed rule, and summary of impacts).

Amendment 9 includes new overfishing definitions and the specification of optimum yield (OY), measures to rebuild Atlantic halibut, an increase in the minimum size for winter flounder to 13 inches (33 cm), postponement of the mandatory use of electronic vessel monitoring systems, a prohibition on the use of "streetsweeper" trawl gear, and the ability to approve individual aquaculture projects through the established framework adjustment process. Approval of the Groundfish Committee's recommendations on management strategies for cod to be transmitted as guidance to the Council's

Multispecies Monitoring Committee is also scheduled. The Scallop Committee will ask the Council for final approval of the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP Amendment 7 submission documents (description of measures, draft proposed rule, and summary of impacts). Amendment 7 includes a scallop rebuilding program, a new overfishing definition, the specification of OY, continuation of the Mid-Atlantic closed areas, an annual review and adjustment process, and a system for closing and opening areas to improve yield-per-recruit. The amendment will also include the following additional measures that may be implemented through a framework adjustment to the FMP: Leasing of days-at-sea, provided there is a full set of public hearings; scallop size restrictions, except a minimum individual meat size; and the approval of individual aquaculture projects. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee will present a briefing on the sea scallop overfishing definition and the scientific information that formed the basis for the most recent proposed management measures. The Interspecies Committee Chairman will ask for approval of management measures for the Vessel Permit Consistency Amendment. The amendment would improve consistency among New England and Mid-Atlantic Council FMPs concerning vessel permitting and upgrading (the action would amend the Council's Atlantic Sea Scallop, Northeast Multispecies, and American Lobster FMPs; and the Mid-Atlantic Council's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP, Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish FMP, and Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP). Finally, the Interspecies Committee may also identify further vessel upgrade issues for the Council and ask for development of a response to a letter from the Federal Investment Task Force. The meeting will conclude once the Council has addressed any other outstanding business.

Announcement of an Experimental Fishery Application

The Regional Administrator is considering the authorization of a limited experimental fishery conducted by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) on the NOAA Research Vessel (R/V) Delaware II. The experimental fishery would be conducted to evaluate trawl gear used on NOAA research vessels in resource surveys routinely conducted by the NEFSC. An exempted fishing permit would be issued to exempt the R/V Delaware II from fishery regulations that