

■ d. Revising newly designated paragraphs (c)(2)(iii), (d)(3)(iii), (f)(1)(i), and (f)(1)(ii).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 21.7139 Conditions that result in reduced rates or no payment.

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(b) *No educational assistance for some incarcerated veterans or servicemembers.* VA will pay no educational assistance to a veteran or servicemember, who—

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(2) * * *

(iii) The monthly rate found in § 21.7136(e) or § 21.7137(c), as appropriate.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(3) * * *

(iii) The monthly rate determined by § 21.7136(e) or § 21.7137(b), as appropriate, plus the monthly rate stated in § 21.7138(c) if the veteran is entitled to supplemental educational assistance.

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(f) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) The rates specified in §§ 21.7136(b)(5) through (b)(8), (c)(5) through (c)(8), (d)(4) through (d)(6), (f)(4) and (h)(2) and 21.7137(a)(5) through (a)(8); and

(ii) Any increase (“kicker”) set by the Secretary of the service department concerned as described in §§ 21.7136(g) and 21.7137(d).

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 173

Shippers—General Requirements for Shipments and Packagings

CFR Correction

In Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 100 to 185, revised as of October 1, 2005, on page 584, § 173.302a is corrected by reinstating the second sentence of paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 173.302a Additional requirements for shipment of nonliquefied (permanent) compressed gases in specification cylinders.

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(d) * * * The maximum filling density of the diborane may not exceed 7 percent. * * *

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 229

[Docket No. 030221039-6332-38; I.D. 110806D]

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; extension of temporary area and gear restrictions.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA), NOAA, announces the extension of temporary restrictions consistent with the requirements of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan’s (ALWTRP) implementing regulations. These restrictions will continue to apply to lobster trap and anchored gillnet fishermen in an area totaling approximately 1,809 nm² (6,204 km²), east of Portland, Maine, for an additional 15 days. The purpose of this action is to provide immediate protection to an aggregation of Northern right whales (right whales).

DATES: This notice extends the restricted period from 0001 hours December 18, 2006, through 2400 hours January 1, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed and final Dynamic Area Management (DAM) rules, Environmental Assessments (EAs), Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) meeting summaries, and progress reports on implementation of the ALWTRP may also be obtained by writing Diane Borggaard, NMFS/Northeast Region, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Borggaard, NMFS/Northeast Region, 978-281-9300 x6503; or Kristy Long, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, 301-713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

Several of the background documents for the ALWTRP and the take reduction planning process can be downloaded from the ALWTRP Web site at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/>.

Background

The ALWTRP was developed pursuant to section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to reduce the incidental mortality and serious injury of three endangered species of whales (right, fin, and humpback) due to incidental interaction with commercial fishing activities. In addition, the measures identified in the ALWTRP would provide conservation benefits to a fourth species (minke), which are neither listed as endangered nor threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ALWTRP, implemented through regulations codified at 50 CFR 229.32, relies on a combination of fishing gear modifications and time/area closures to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled in commercial fishing gear (and potentially suffering serious injury or mortality as a result).

On January 9, 2002, NMFS published the final rule to implement the ALWTRP’s DAM program (67 FR 1133). On August 26, 2003, NMFS amended the regulations by publishing a final rule, which specifically identified gear modifications that may be allowed in a DAM zone (68 FR 51195). The DAM program provides specific authority for NMFS to restrict temporarily on an expedited basis the use of lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishing gear in areas north of 40°00’ N. lat. to protect right whales. Under the DAM program, NMFS may: (1) Require the removal of all lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishing gear for a 15-day period; (2) allow lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet fishing within a DAM zone with gear modifications determined by NMFS to sufficiently reduce the risk of entanglement; and/or (3) issue an alert to fishermen requesting the voluntary removal of all lobster trap/pot and anchored gillnet gear for a 15-day period and asking fishermen not to set any additional gear in the DAM zone during the 15-day period.

A DAM zone is triggered when NMFS receives a reliable report from a qualified individual of three or more right whales sighted within an area (75 nm² (139 km²)) such that right whale density is equal to or greater than 0.04 right whales per nm² (1.85 km²). A qualified individual is an individual ascertained by NMFS to be reasonably able, through training or experience, to