

(1) Season: April 2–June 30 and July 31–August 31 for seabirds; April 2–June 20 and July 22–August 31 for all other birds.

(2) Closure: July 1–July 30 for seabirds; June 21–July 21 for all other birds.

(f) *Northwest Arctic Region.*

(1) Season: April 2–June 9 and August 15–August 31 (hunting in general); waterfowl egg gathering May 20–June 9 only; seabird egg gathering May 20–July 12 only; hunting molting/non-nesting waterfowl July 1–July 31 only.

(2) Closure: June 10–August 14, except for the taking of seabird eggs and molting/non-nesting waterfowl as provided in paragraph (f)(1) of this section.

(g) *North Slope Region.*

(1) Southern Unit (Southwestern North Slope regional boundary east to Peard Bay, everything west of the longitude line 158°30' W and south of the latitude line 70°45' N to the west bank of the Ikpikpuk River, and everything south of the latitude line 69°45' N between the west bank of the Ikpikpuk River to the east bank of Sagavinirktok River):

(i) Season: April 2–June 29 and July 30–August 31 for seabirds; April 2–June 19 and July 20–August 31 for all other birds.

(ii) Closure: June 30–July 29 for seabirds; June 20–July 19 for all other birds.

(iii) Special Black Brant Hunting Opening: From June 20–July 5. The open area would consist of the coastline, from mean high water line outward to include open water, from Nokotlek Point east to longitude line 158°30' W. This includes Peard Bay, Kugrua Bay, and Wainwright Inlet, but not the Kuk and Kugrua river drainages.

(2) Northern Unit (At Peard Bay, everything east of the longitude line 158°30' W and north of the latitude line 70°45' N to west bank of the Ikpikpuk River, and everything north of the latitude line 69°45' N between the west bank of the Ikpikpuk River to the east bank of Sagavinirktok River):

(i) Season: April 6–June 6 and July 7–August 31 for king and common eiders; April 2–June 15 and July 16–August 31 for all other birds.

(ii) Closure: June 7–July 6 for king and common eiders; June 16–July 15 for all other birds.

(3) Eastern Unit (East of eastern bank of the Sagavanirktok River):

(i) Season: April 2–June 19 and July 20–August 31.

(ii) Closure: June 20–July 19.

(4) All Units: Yellow-billed loons. Annually, up to 20 yellow-billed loons total for the region may be caught

inadvertently in subsistence fishing nets in the North Slope Region and kept for subsistence use. Individuals must report each yellow-billed loon inadvertently caught while subsistence gill net fishing to the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management by the end of the season.

(h) *Interior Region.*

(1) Season: April 2–June 14 and July 16–August 31; egg gathering May 1–June 14 only.

(2) Closure: June 15–July 15.

(i) *Upper Copper River Region*

(Harvest Area: State of Alaska Game Management Units 11 and 13) (Eligible communities: Gulkana, Chitina, Tazlina, Copper Center, Gakona, Mentasta Lake, Chistochina and Cantwell).

(1) Season: April 15–May 26 and June 27–August 31.

(2) Closure: May 27–June 26.

(3) The Copper River Basin communities listed above also documented traditional use harvesting birds in Unit 12, making them eligible to hunt in this unit using the seasons specified in paragraph (h) of this section.

(j) *Gulf of Alaska Region.*

(1) Prince William Sound Area (Harvest area: Unit 6[D]), (Eligible Chugach communities: Chenega Bay, Tatitlek).

(i) Season: April 2–May 31 and July 1–August 31.

(ii) Closure: June 1–30.

(2) Kachemak Bay Area (Harvest area: Unit 15[C] South of a line connecting the tip of Homer Spit to the mouth of Fox River) (Eligible Chugach Communities: Port Graham, Nanwalek).

(i) Season: April 2–May 31 and July 1–August 31.

(ii) Closure: June 1–30.

(k) *Cook Inlet* (Harvest area: Portions of Unit 16[B] as specified below) (Eligible communities: Tyonek only).

(1) Season: April 2–May 31—That portion of Unit 16(B) south of the Skwentna River and west of the Yentna River, and August 1–31—That portion of Unit 16(B) south of the Beluga River, Beluga Lake, and the Triumvirate Glacier.

(2) Closure: June 1–July 31.

(l) *Southeast Alaska.*

(1) Community of Hoonah (Harvest area: National Forest lands in Icy Strait and Cross Sound, including Middle Pass Rock near the Inian Islands, Table Rock in Cross Sound, and other traditional locations on the coast of Yakobi Island. The land and waters of Glacier Bay National Park remain closed to all subsistence harvesting [50 CFR 100.3]).

(i) Season: Glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15–June 30.

(ii) Closure: July 1–August 31.

(2) Communities of Craig and Hydaburg (Harvest area: Small islands and adjacent shoreline of western Prince of Wales Island from Point Baker to Cape Chacon, but also including Coronation and Warren islands).

(i) Season: Glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15–June 30.

(ii) Closure: July 1–August 31.

(3) Community of Yakutat (Harvest area: Icy Bay [Icy Cape to Pt. Riou], and coastal lands and islands bordering the Gulf of Alaska from Pt. Manby southeast to Dry Bay).

(i) Season: Glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15–June 30.

(ii) Closure: July 1–August 31.

**§§ 92.32 and 92.33 [Removed and Reserved]**

4. Remove and reserve §§ 92.32 and 92.33.

Dated: September 24, 2007.

**David M. Verhey,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

[FR Doc. E7–20243 Filed 10–12–07; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 216**

[Docket No. 070809454–7459–01]

RIN 0648–AV82

**Marine Mammals; Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking**

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

**ACTION:** Advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR); extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On September 13, 2007, NMFS published an ANPR soliciting public comments on revisions to its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 216 governing the issuance of permits for scientific research and enhancement activities involving marine mammals. Written comments were due by November 13, 2007. NMFS has decided to allow additional time for submission of public comments on this action.

**DATES:** The public comment period for this action has been extended for 30 days. Written comments must be received or postmarked by December 13, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any one of the following methods:

- E-mail: [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov) and include in the subject line the following document identifier: Permit Regulations ANPR;

- Via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>;

- Fax: 301-427-2521, Attn: Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division (Permit Regulations ANPR); or

- Mail: Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Attn: Permit Regulations ANPR, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Instructions: All comments received are 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. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Sloan at (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ANPR, published on September 13, 2007 (72 FR 52339), is available upon request and can be found on the NMFS Office of Protected Resources web site: [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/mmpa\\_anpr.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/mmpa_anpr.htm).

Dated: October 9, 2007

**P. Michael Payne,**

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E7-20229 Filed 10-12-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 070808450-7540-01]

RIN 0648-AV83

#### Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Regulatory Amendment to Adopt Fishing Gear Standards for the NE Multispecies Regular B Day-At-Sea (DAS) Program and the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock Special Access Program (SAP)

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes to amend the regulations governing minimum performance standards of fishing gear proposed for use in both the NE multispecies Regular B DAS Program and the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP. Under the current regulations, the only fishing gear allowed for use in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP and the only trawl gear allowed for use in the Regular B DAS Program is a properly configured haddock separator trawl. The purpose of this rule is to ultimately provide greater flexibility to fishermen participating in these programs.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. local time on November 14, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by RIN 0648-AV83, by any one of the following methods:

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

- Fax: (978) 281-9135, Attn: Douglas Potts

- Mail: Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. Please write on the envelope: Comments on Proposed B-DAS Gear Standard (RIN 0648-AV83).

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas Potts, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9341, FAX (978) 281-9135.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) differentiated DAS into three categories: Category A DAS; Category B (regular and reserve) DAS; and Category C DAS. Category B DAS (regular and reserve) were intended to allow effort on stocks that could support additional harvest while avoiding stocks of concern. The final rule implementing Framework Adjustment (FW) 40-A (November 19, 2004, 69 FR 67780) created two programs that allow vessels to use their allocation of Category B DAS, i.e., the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP Program and the Regular B DAS Program.

FW 40-A specified that vessels fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP must use gear that has been demonstrated not to catch significant amounts of cod. Upon implementation of FW 40-A, the only gear authorized for participation in this SAP was a haddock separator trawl, as described in 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iii)(A). The FW 42 final rule (October 23, 2006, 71 FR 62156) modified the requirements for approval of other fishing gear for use in the Regular B DAS Program and the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP, as specified in § 648.85(b)(6)(iv)(j)(2) and (b)(8)(v)(E)(2), respectively. Specifically, this action authorized the Regional Administrator to approve the use of additional fishing gear in the Regular B DAS Program and the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP, provided the gear met performance standards to be proposed by the Council.

On June 21, 2007, the Council approved a motion to recommend that the Regional Administrator approve the following gear performance standards when considering additional gear for the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP, or additional trawl gear for the Regular B DAS Program: New gear must demonstrate a statistically significant reduction in catch of each regulated NE multispecies, and other stocks of concern, of at least 50 percent (by weight, on a trip-by-trip basis); or the