Public Meeting

NARA itends to hold a public meeting with interested persons on June 19, 1992, in the National Archives Theater at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review the provisions of the proposed rule to ensure that the provisions are clear and that the final rule meets both NARA's and users' needs. NARA plans to conduct the meeting in a question-and-answer format to facilitate the exchange of views. Prepared statements are not required and NARA prefers that any prepared statements be submitted in writing to the address shown in the preamble. Questons about the public meeting should be addressed to John Constance at 202–501–5110. Attendees are requested to submit written comments by the deadline shown in the DATES section of this preamble to ensure their consideration in development of the final rule.

This rule is not a major rule for the purposes of Executive Order 12291 of February 17, 1981. As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, it is hereby certified that this proposed rule will not have a significant impact on small business entities.

List of Subjects in 36 CFR Part 1254

Archives and records; Confidential business information; Freedom of information; Micrographics.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, NARA proposes to amend part 12354 of chapter XII of title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 1254—AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS AND DONATED HISTORICAL MATERIALS

1. The authority citation for part 1254 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 2101–2118; 5 U.S.C 552; and E.O. 12600, 52 FR 23781, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 235.

2. Section 1254.26 is amended by removing the words "and audio and video reproduction devices" from the introductory text of paragraph (e) and adding a new paragraph (h) to read as follows:

§ 1254.26 Additional rules for use of certain research rooms in the National Archives and the Washington National Records Center buildings.

* * * * *

(h) In addition to the procedures in paragraphs (c) through (g) of this section, the following procedures apply to the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Research Room (hereinafter, "the research room") in the National Archives Building:

(1) Use of the viewing equipment in the research room is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. However, if demand exceeds the capacity of the available equipment, use of the equipment by a researcher will be limited to a 4-hour period.

(2) One audio or video recording device and necessary cables for connecting the device to NARA viewing equipment may be brought into the unrestricted viewing and copying area in the research room, provided it is inspected an tagged by the research room attendant prior to admittance. NARA will not be responsible for assisting with "hook-up" to NARA viewing equipment or for providing compatibility between the personal device and NARA viewing equipment. NARA will provide the researcher information on the types of NARA equipment being used in the research room. The researcher may not leave the device in the room unattended.

(3) Researchers may bring into the unrestricted area of the research room one audio or video recording tape or cassette at a time. The research room attendant will mark the recording media "NARA-approved personal property" for identification purposes. Such media shall be inspected upon exit from the research room, as well as upon exit from the National Archives Building.

(4) A NARA-furnished video copying station and 90-minute blank video casette may be reserved, for a fee, on a first-come, first-served basis for a 90-minute period of time. If no other individual is waiting to use the station, an additional time period may be reserved at the end of the current period. Personal recording devices may not be connected to NARA equipment at the video copying station. Only NARA-provided tapes may be used at the video copyig station.

(5) The NARA or personal recording device and media may be used to make a personal-use copy of unrestricted archival materials in the reference collection in the research room.

(6) Each researcher will be provided a copy of the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Research Room rules and a warning notice on potential copyright claims in unrestricted titles. The researcher must sign a statement acknowledging receipt of the rules and notice. The individual making and/or using the copy is responsible for obtaining any needed permission or release from a copyright owner for other use of the copy.

(7) No personal recording device or media is permitted in the restricted viewing area in the research room.

Dated: May 7, 1992.

Don W. Wilson,

Archivist of the United States.

[FR Doc. 92–12425 Filed 5–27–92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7515-01-M

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 80

[AMS-FRL-4120-7]

Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives; Standards for Reformulated and Conventional Gasoline

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Proposed rule; relocation and rescheduling of public hearing and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the rescheduling and relocation of a previously announced public hearing and the extension of the comment period. As indicated in the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives; Standards for Reformulated and Conventional Gasoline" published on April 16, 1992 (57 FR 13416), EPA planned to hold a hearing on May 18, 1992 in Washington DC, if anyone requested the hearing by May 1, 1992. Such a hearing has been requested. In response to a request from a commenter, the hearing has been rescheduled to June 9 and 10, 1992 and moved to Chicago, Illinois.

The discussion of the comment period as published in the supplemental notice was in error. The comment period on the supplemental notice is extended to July 10, 1992 to allow interested parties to comment on any specific provisions contained therein which were not in the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for the rule published July 9, 1991 (56 FR 31176), or to submit information to supplement or rebut information presented at the hearing. The comment period for the NPRM is also extended until that date.

DATES: Comments on the NPRM and the supplemental notice described above will be accepted until July 10, 1992.

EPA will conduct a public hearing on the Supplemental Notice on June 9 and 10, 1992. The public hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on June 9 and continue until 5 p.m. that day; it will resume at 8:30 a.m. on June 10 and continue until such time as all testimony has been presented.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit written comments (in duplicate if

possible) to Public Docket No. A–91–02 at the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460.

The public hearing will be held at the Holiday Inn—City Center, 300 East Ohio, Chicago, Illinois 60611; 312/787–6100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joanne I. Goldhand, SDSB–12; U.S. EPA, Regulation Development and Support Division, 2565 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, 313/668–4504.

To obtain documents and make arrangements to testify, contact Marie Tolonen, 313/668–4295.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information on this matter, please refer to EPA's April 16, 1992 **Federal Register** supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking at 57 FR 13416.

Dated: May 14, 1992.

Michael Shapiro,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

[FR Doc. 92–12298 Filed 5–27–92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 215

[Docket No. 920526–2126]

Marine Mammals; Subsistence Taking of Northern Fur Seals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, (NMFS) NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed subsistence harvest estimate, request for comments.

SUMMARY: Regulations governing the subsistence taking of northern fur seals require NMFS to publish a summary of the previous year's fur seal harvest and a projection of the number of seals expected to be taken in the current year to meet the subsistence needs of the Aleut residents of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. This notice summarizes the 1991 harvest and estimates the number of seals that may be taken in 1992. Following the expiration of a 30-day public comment period, a final notice of harvest levels will be published.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 29, 1992.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Dr. Nancy Foster, Director, Office of Protected Resources (F/PR), 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Steve Zimmerman, (907) 586–7235 or Mr. Michael Payne, (301) 713–2332.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The subsistence harvest of northern fur seals *(Callorhinus ursinus)* on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, is governed by regulations found in 50 CFR Part 215 subpart D—Taking for Subsistence Purposes. These regulations were published under the authority of the Fur Seal Act, 15 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) 16 U.S.C. 1316 *et seq.* (see 51 FR 24828, July 9, 1986). The purpose of these regulations is to limit the take of fur seals to a level providing for the legitimate subsistence needs of the Pribilovians using humane harvesting methods, and to restrict taking by sex, age, and season for herd management purposes.

The purpose of the annual notice is to provide subsistence estimates for the current year's harvest for St. Paul and St. George Islands, The estimates are given as a range, the lower end of which can be exceeded if NMFS is given notice and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (Assistant Administrator), determines that the subsistence needs of the Pribilovians have not been satisfied. Conversely, the harvest can be terminated before the lower range of the estimate is reached if it is determined that the subsistence needs of the Pribilovians have been met or the harvest has been conducted in a wasteful manner.

The northern fur seal *(Callorhinus ursinus)* population is considered depleted under the MMPA (50 CFR 216.15(c)). The subsistence harvest has been regulated to minimize negative effects on the population by limiting the harvest to a 40-day harvest season (June 30-August 8) and limiting the age and sex of seals harvested to subadult males. The August 8 deadline was chosen to avoid an unacceptable taking of female fur seals. In early August, immature female seals begin arriving at the rookeries in large numbers and the immature females and males, which are not easily distinguished, become intermixed.

Current regulations at 50 CFR 215.32(f)(2) allow the Assistant Administrator to extend the harvest beyond August 8 under certain circumstances. However, on June 3, 1991, NMFS published a proposed rule to remove this harvest extension option for seal conservation reasons (56 FR 25066). It is anticipated that this rule will be finalized prior to the beginning of the 1992 harvest. The Pribilof Aleuts should not plan on this extension option being available in 1992.

Summary of Data on the 1991 Harvest Season

As required by 50 CFR 215.32(b), this notice summarizes the 1991 harvest and estimates the number of seals needed for subsistence in 1992. Subsistence harvesting of northern fur seals was conducted on St. George Island on 7 days between June 30, 1991, and August 7, 1991, and on St. Paul Island on 20 days between July 1, 1991, and August 7, 1991. During the 1991 season a total of 281 seals were harvested on St. George Island and 1645 seals were harvested on St. Paul Island (Table 1).

Since 1986 the number of northern fur seals harvested on St. Paul Island has fluctuated from a low of 1,077 (1990) to a high of 1,710 (1987) (Table 1). The annual number of seals harvested on St. George Island since 1986 has ranged from a low of 92 (1987) to a high of 281 (1991).

TABLE 1.—SUBSISTENCE HARVEST LEVELS FOR NORTHERN FUR SEALS ON THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS, 1985–1991

	YEAR						
	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
St. Paul	3,384	1,299	1,710	1,145	1,340	1,077	1,645
St. George	329	124	92	113	181	164	281
Total	3,713	1,423	1,802	1,258	1,521	1,241	1,926

Estimated Number of Seals Needed for Subsistence in 1992

The subsistence harvest estimates are intended as estimates of need, not quotas. The annual estimation of the number of seals required to meet the subsistence needs of the Pribilovians has been inexact when compared to the number of seals actually taken.

NMFS has determined that one acceptable method for estimating current-year needs is to use the previous year's harvest levels as a baseline (56 FR 36735, August 1, 1991). However, NMFS has stressed (56 FR 36735, August 1, 1991) that past harvest levels are not necessarily the controlling factor in determining current estimates of subsistence need. They are considered a baseline which can be adjusted, provided that substantiated evidence of increased or decreased subsistence need is presented to NMFS.

If NMFS uses the 1991 harvest levels as a baseline to estimate need in 1992, this year's subsistence need estimate should be comparable to the levels of take in 1991: St. George—281 seals; St. Paul—1645 seals (Table 1).

NMFS acknowledged that a method to determine more accurately the subsistence needs of the Pribilovians should be developed (56 FR 36735, August 1, 1991). In response to these and other concerns, NMFS conducted a workshop on the present fur seal management regime on November 5, 1991 (Workshop), to discuss, among other issues related to the fur seal harvest, a better method for estimating the subsistence needs of Pribilof Island residents. Representatives from NMFS, the Pribilof Islands, conservation groups, and experts on Alaska Native subsistence use of marine mammals participated in this workshop.

Workshop participants agreed that the subsistence harvest of fur seals by Pribilof Island residents has both nutritional and cultural components, some of which cannot be precisely quantified but affect the number of seals the Pribilof Aleuts require annually. It was agreed at the Workshop that the household surveys used by the Traditional Council on each island to determine the number of seals needed each year would continue so that any change in need would be documented. Documentation by household of these surveys would be used to estimate the number of seals required to meet the subsistence needs of the Pribilof Island residents.

As noted, the Pribilof Aleuts have customarily estimated their subsistence need for fur seals by means of house-to-house surveys. The representatives of the Traditional Councils on St. Paul and St. George telephone or visit the households on their respective island to ascertain the number of seals that each household will need for the coming year. The Traditional Councils compile the information and base their annual subsistence need estimate on results obtained. On January 15, 1992, NMFS asked the Traditional Councils to make their estimates and submit this information to NMFS.

On February 21, 1992, the Aleut community of St. Paul (the St. Paul Traditional Council) notified NMFS that, based on responses from 156 households, it estimated a minimum subsistence need of approximately 1,700 seals for the island residents during 1991. However, not all residents could be surveyed. Therefore, the Council believes there may be a potential need (based on the number of households that could not be contacted) for an additional 300 seals.

As provided by St. Paul, the estimated number of fur seals needed for subsistence in 1992 is comparable to the upper (total) number taken in 1991, although since 1985 that high a level has been reached in only 1987 (see Table 1). It may be reasonable to expect that approximately 1,700 seals may be required in 1992 to satisfy the minimum subsistence needs of the St. Paul community. However, a request for an additional 300 fur seals implies that either the number of subsistence users on St. Paul Island has increased, or the amount of meat required per capita has increased. Neither of these changes on St. Paul Island, which could result in an increased demand for fur seal meat, has been demonstrated.

During the Workshop, one Pribilof representative advocated that the islanders rejuvenate cultural ethics and activities. He stated that this should include a decreased dependence on pre-packaged, store-purchased food items. This would create an increased need for seal meat in upcoming years. NMFS agrees that such increased cultural values on the Pribilof Islands may increase the need for fur seal meat. However, such a change, resulting in an increased per capita demand for fur seal meat on the Pribilof Islands has not been substantiated.

Based on the evidence presented to NMFS to date, especially 1991 harvest levels and 1992 survey results, NMFS proposes that the harvest estimate for northern fur seals on St. Paul Island in 1992 be set at 1,645 (the number of seals actually taken in 1991)—2,000. If the Aleut residents of St. Paul reach the lower end of this estimate and feel that subsistence needs have not been satisfied, they may request additional seals up to a total of 2,000 animals. However, the Assistant Administrator has determined that any request for additional seals must include, in writing, the information which the St. Paul community considered in determining that subsistence need for seal meat has not been fulfilled.

According to the Pribilof Aleuts on each island, when the lower end of the subsistence harvest estimate is approaching, they typically repeat the house-to-house survey to ascertain whether or not subsistence needs have been satisfied and if not, the number of additional seals needed. This being the case, a copy of the results of these house-to-house surveys, rather than just a summary of the survey results, should be submitted to the Assistant Administrator. If the Pribilovians substantiate an additional need for seals in this survey, and there has been no indication of waste, the Assistant Administrator may authorize the take of additional seals.

NMFS acknowledges that requiring the household survey results in any request for additional seals will require the managers of the seal harvest to plan ahead and keep an accurate count of the number of requests they receive for seal meat. NMFS does not believe that this is an unreasonable or difficult request. NMFS also believes that the harvest managers should take any steps they feel are reasonable to protect the privacy of the Aleut residents of St. Paul when presenting survey results to NMFS.

On February 5, 1992, the Aleut community of St. George (the St. George Traditional Council) notified NMFS that, based on a survey of 36 of the 41 households on the island, it estimated a minimum of 365 seals would be required for subsistence needs during 1992. Based on the 6 household that could not be contacted, the Council stated that there may be a potential need for an additional 135 seals.

The lower end of the 1992 request for seals from St. George Island represents an estimated need that is considerably greater than any year of the harvest since 1985. Residents on St. George Island have stated (56 FR 25066, June 3, 1991) that the meat taken from seals during their harvest (during most years) is depleted prior to the start of the harvest during the following year, and the lower end of the number of seals requested during 1992 is stated to more accurately represent the subsistence need of the residents of St. George Island (based on discussion during the Workshop). The upper bound of the

harvest estimate by the resident of St. George Island (500 seals) does not represent an increase over the upper range of subsistence need estimated by NMFS in 1991 (56 FR 36735, August 1, 1991).

Based on all the information NMFS has to consider at this time, the proposed estimate of subsistence need on St. George Island in 1992 is 281 (the number of seals actually taken in 1991)—500 animals. If the Aleut residents of St. George reach the lower end of this harvest estimate and have unmet subsistence needs, they may request an additional number of seals up to a harvest total of 500. The Assistant Administrator has determined that the residents of St. George, like the St. Paul residents, must substantiate an additional need for seals by submitting in writing the information upon which they base their decision that subsistence needs are unfulfilled.

As described earlier, a house-to-house survey has typically been conducted on St. George to make this determination. Those survey results, not just a summary of them, should be submitted to the Assistant Administrator in writing, just as described above for St. Paul. If St. George submits this information to substantiate an additional need for seals, and there has been no indication of waste, the Assistant Administrator may authorize the taking of additional seals. The same requirements which pertain to the managers of the St. Paul harvest apply as well to the managers of the St. George harvest.

The harvest estimates for either Island may be revised following consideration of comments received on the proposed estimates.

The regulations which require a suspension of the fur seal harvest once the lower end of the estimated harvest levels is reached by either community are found at 50 CFR 215.32(e)(1)(iii). This suspension is to last no more than 48 hours, but may last longer if notice to the Assistant Administrator is not immediately forthcoming. At the end of the 48 hour suspension, the Assistant Administrator will provide a revised estimate of the number of seals necessary to satisfy the Pribilovian's subsistence needs. In making that determination the Assistant Administrator will consider the harvest data collected by NMFS, and other evidence concerning subsistence need submitted by the Pribilovians.

If the Pribilof Aleuts decide to submit information indicating that subsistence needs (for either island) have not been met, they should supply that information in writing as described earlier in this notice. In order to assure that the required harvest suspension lasts no longer than 48 hours, the Pribilof Aleuts should submit this information as quickly as possible, optimally at the same time notice is given that the lower end of the harvest estimate has been reached.

If additional information is not submitted by the Pribilof Aleuts, the Assistant Administrator will consider only the information in the record at the time of the suspension. It is very likely, under these circumstances, that the revised subsistence estimate will remain the same as the original estimate. If that is the case, no additional takings would be authorized.

Discussion

Since 1985, detailed information has been compiled on the subsistence harvest and use of seal meat on St. Paul Island. A comparison of the 1991 harvest data with summary information from previous years on St. Paul Island is provided in Table 2. Although the killing of female seals is prohibited, a small number were taken accidentally through 1987, and one female was taken in 1991. No comparable information is available for St. George Island, where less than 15 percent of the total number of fur seals harvested for Pribilof subsistence have been taken.

TABLE 2.—DATA COLLECTED DURING THE NORTHERN FUR SEAL HARVEST ON ST. PAUL ISLAND, 1985–1991

	Year						
	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Females taken	5	9	6	0	0	0	1
Harvest days	15	20	20	12	16	16	20
Percent use	43	47	41	44	38	40	40
Pounds meat (×1000)	93.4	31.7	38.8	26.5	26.6	21.8	36.2

Traditionally, Aleut nutritional requirements for fur seal meat were met from animals taken in the commercial harvest. At the time that the commercial harvest ended, little was known of the amount of seal meat or the number of seals needed to meet the dietary requirements of the Pribilovians. Regulations promulgated to govern the subsistence only harvest on the Pribilofs specified that seals could be taken if the taking is "(a) For subsistence uses, and (b) Not accomplished in a wasteful manner". 50 CFR 215.31.

The principle standard for determining whether or not the harvest is being conducted in a wasteful manner is based upon the parts taken from the fur seal during butchering. The parts required to be taken are "all hearts, livers, flippers, breasts, shoulders, and other readily utilizable tissues and organs, a limited number of backbones, and some, but not necessarily all, rib sections". 51 FR 24832, July 9, 1986. NMFS recognizes that exceptional circumstances, such as disease or contamination, may justify the failure to take certain parts from an individual animal.

The primary method used for monitoring compliance with this standard is through direct observation by NMFS employees. NMFS intends to continue to have observers monitor the entire harvest on St. Paul and a portion of the harvest on St. George. Observers have indicated that the 1991 harvest was conducted in a non-wasteful manner (affidavit of Bradley M. Hanson in *Humane Society of the United States* v. *Mosbacher*, Civ. Doc. No. 91–1915, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, August 2, 1991).

A secondary method for monitoring compliance with this standard is by calculating the percent-use of some animals harvested. Percent-use is the average percentage of meat removed from the carcass, by weight.

When the commercial fur seal harvest on the Pribilof Islands was phased out in 1984, regulations were drafted to govern the subsequent subsistence seal harvest. Those regulations, at 50 CFR 215.31 et seq., require NMFS representatives to monitor the harvest and compile certain information each day of the harvesting activity. The information that must be collected includes the number of seals taken each day and "the extent of utilization of the fur seals taken".

In an attempt to comply with these requirements, NMFS representatives at the first subsistence harvests in 1985 and 1986 took measurements to determine the weight of seal meat taken for food and the approximate average percentage of each seal carcass that was taken for human consumption. These studies indicated that, on average, the maximum percentage of a fur seal that potentially could be used for food is approximately 53.3 percent; this includes some parts not traditionally eaten by the Pribilof Aleuts. The same studies showed that when fur seals are butchered in such a way that only the most prized portions are taken, about 30 percent of the carcass is used. In the past, NMFS has encouraged the highest possible levels of utilization and has expressed concern when the percent-use has fallen below certain levels. However, NMFS has never specified a minimum level of percent-use that is acceptable.

NMFS uses a sampling method in order to determine percent-use. In 1991, 20 percent (or 321) of the fur seals harvested on St. Paul were weighed in order to determine percent-use. Percent-use figures on St. George have not been collected because less than 15 percent of the total number of seals have been harvested there. Field conditions make it difficult to record percent-use accurately. In addition, there may be considerable variation from animal to animal that may affect the percent-use results even if the same butchering techniques are used and the same body parts taken from all animals sampled.

From 1986 to 1991, percent-use has ranged from 38–47 percent (mean=42 percent). Workshop participants discussed numerous factors which might be responsible for the variability observed in percent use given that specific body parts are required to be taken. The data collected to determine percent-use have not been analyzed to determine the within- or between-year variation and, therefore, whether there is a significant difference between 38 and 47 percent or the intervening values, or whether the distribution of individual percent-use values has changed over time. These analyses need to be conducted before percent use can be considered a valid index of wasteful use.

Potential inadequacies and difficulties associated with using percent-use as a standard for determining waste were discussed at the Workshop. However, at present, it is one approach used to help determine whether the harvest is being conducted in a wasteful manner. The regulations at 50 CFR 215.2, prohibit "taking of fur seals beyond those needed for subsistence uses or which results in the waste of a substantial portion of the fur seal."

As discussed above, it was agreed at the Workshop that the variability in these measurements and the reasons for such variability (as it relates to the current monitoring program) should be re-examined to determine whether, or not, percent-use values actually indicate "waste" in the subsistence harvest. Data on the percent-use that has been made of the fur seals from 1986–1991 is presently being re-analyzed by NMFS. If that analysis indicates that percent-use is not a valid index of wasteful use, it will be abandoned and the resources currently utilized to obtain percent-use measures redirected to observational parts based monitoring.

NMFS recently received a letter from the Bering Strait Economic Council (the Council) about the proposed use of fur seal skins from the subsistence harvest on the Pribilofs for the making of native Alaskan handicrafts. In that letter, the Council stated that it was working with the Shishmaref Tannery (operated by the Shishmaref Traditional Council) and the TDX corporation on St. Paul "to find a way that the IRA Councils of both entities would utilize the seal skins from the subsistence seal catch of the (sic) St. Paul Island each year."

NMFS notes that the estimated harvest levels must be based upon subsistence need and should not be commercially motivated.

References

Zimmerman, S. T. and J. D. Letcher. 1986. The 1985 subsistence harvest of northern fur seals, *Callorhinus ursinus*, on St. Paul Island, Alaska. Mar. Fish. Rev. 48: 10–14.

Dated: May 21, 1992.

Samuel W. McKeen,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 92–12331 Filed 5–27–92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–M

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50 CFR Part 217 and 227

Threatened Fish and Wildlife; Threatened Marine Reptiles; Revisions to Enhance and Facilitate Compliance With Sea Turtle Conservation Requirements Applicable to Shrimp Trawlers; Restrictions Applicable to Shrimp Trawlers and Other Fisheries

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: On April 30, 1992 (57 FR 18446), NMFS issued a proposed rule that would amend the regulations protecting sea turtles (50 CFR parts 217 and 227, subpart D).

NMFS has scheduled eight public hearings on this proposed rule.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted until July 29, 1992. Public hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. June 22, 1992, at 7 p.m.—11 p.m., Port Aransas, TX;
2. June 23, 1992, at 7 p.m.—11 p.m., Pasadena, TX;
3. June 24, 1992, at 2 p.m.—6 p.m., Thibodaux, LA;
4. June 25, 1992, at 7 p.m.—11 p.m., Mobile, AL;
5. June 30, 1992, at 7 p.m.—11 p.m., Tampa, FL;
6. July 8, 1992, at 7 p.m.—11 p.m., Morehead City, NC;
7. July 9, 1992, at 7 p.m.—11 p.m., Charleston, SC;
8. July 10, 1992, at 7 p.m.—11 p.m., Brunswick, GA.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Dr. Nancy Foster, Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1335 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The hearings will be held at the following locations:

1. Port Aransas Civic Center, 710 West Avenue A, Port Aransas, TX.
2. San Jacinto College, Slocomb Auditorium, 8060 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, TX.
3. Thibodeaux Civic Center, 310 North Canal Boulevard, Thibodaux, LA.
4. Mobile Civic Center, 401 Civic Center Drive, Mobile, AL.
5. University of South Florida, Bayboro Campus, Campus Activities Center, 140 7th Avenue South (Corner of 2nd Street & 6th Avenue South), St. Petersburg, FL.
6. Crystal Coast Civic Center, 3505 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC.
7. South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept., 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC.
8. National Guard Armory, 3100 Norwich Street, Brunswick, GA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles A. Oravetz, Chief, Protected Species Program, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 813–893–3366, or Phil Williams, NMFS National Sea Turtle Coordinator, 301–713–2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and regulations implemented thereunder, it is unlawful to take sea turtles. The incidental taking of turtles during scientific research and