

there are exceptional circumstances. After consultation with the Director of OMB, the Department, through CMS, published a notice in the December 30, 2004 **Federal Register** (69 FR 78442) establishing a general 3-year timeline for publishing Medicare final rules after the publication of a proposed or interim final rule.

II. Notice of Continuation

The Medicare program (title XVIII of the Act) is the primary payer of health care for approximately 50 million enrolled beneficiaries. Providers and suppliers furnishing Medicare items and services must comply with the Medicare requirements set forth in the Act and in CMS regulations. The requirements are meant to ensure compliance with applicable statutes, promote the furnishing of high quality care, and to protect the Medicare Trust Funds against fraud and improper payments.

On March 23, 2010, the Affordable Care Act was enacted. Section 6402(a) of the Affordable Care Act established a new section 1128J(d) of the Act. Section 1128J(d)(1) of the Act requires a person who has received an overpayment to report and return the overpayment to the Secretary, the State, an intermediary, a carrier, or a contractor, as appropriate, at the correct address, and to notify the Secretary, State, intermediary, carrier or contractor to whom the overpayment was returned in writing of the reason for the overpayment. Section 1128J(d)(2) of the Act requires that an overpayment be reported and returned by the later of— (A) the date which is 60 days after the date on which the overpayment was identified; or (B) the date any corresponding cost report is due, if applicable. Section 1128J(d)(3) of the Act specifies that any overpayment retained by a person after the deadline for reporting and returning an overpayment is an obligation (as defined in 31 U.S.C. 3729(b)(3)) for purposes of 31 U.S.C. 3729.

In the February 16, 2012 **Federal Register** (77 FR 9179), we published a proposed rule that would implement the provisions of section 1128J(d) of the Act as to Medicare Parts A and B. This notice extends by 1 year the timeline for publication of a final rule concerning policies and procedures for reporting and returning overpayments to the Medicare program for providers and suppliers of services under Parts A and B of title XVIII as outlined in the February 16, 2012 proposed rule. However we continue to remind all stakeholders that even without a final regulation they are subject to the statutory requirements found in section

1128J(d) of the Act and could face potential False Claims Act liability, Civil Monetary Penalties Law liability, and exclusion from Federal health care programs for failure to report and return an overpayment.

Based on both public comments received and internal stakeholder feedback, we have determined that there are significant policy and operational issues that need to be resolved in order to address all of the issues raised by comments to the proposed rule and to ensure appropriate coordination with other government agencies. Specifically, the development of the final rule requires collaboration among both the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') Office of the Inspector General and the Department of Justice.

Our decision to extend the timeline for issuing a final regulation related to the reporting and returning of Medicare overpayments should not be viewed as a diminution of the Department's commitment to timely and effective rulemaking in this area. Our goal remains to publish a final rule that provides clear requirements for persons to report and return Medicare overpayments. At this time, we believe we can best achieve this balance by issuing this continuation notice.

This notice extends the timeline for publication of the final rule for this rulemaking for 1 year—until February 16, 2016.

III. Collection of Information

This document does not impose information collection requirements, that is, reporting, recordkeeping or third-party disclosure requirements. Consequently, there is no need for review by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

IV. Regulatory Impact Statement

This document extends the timeline for publication of the Medicare Program; Reporting and Returning of Overpayments final rule; and therefore, there are no regulatory impact implications associated with this notice.

Authority: Section 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395hh).

Dated: February 9, 2015.

C'Reda Weeden,

*Executive Secretary to the Department,
Department of Health and Human Services.*
[FR Doc. 2015-03072 Filed 2-13-15; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 2

[GN Docket No. 13-185; FCC 14-31]

Commercial Operations in the 1695–1710 MHz, 1755–1780 MHz, and 2155–2180 MHz Bands

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rules; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved, for a period of three years a non-substantive change to a currently approved information collection requirements contained in the regulations in the “Commercial Operations in the 1695–1710 MHz, 1755–1780 MHz, and 2155–2180 MHz.” The information collection requirement was approved on December 23, 2014 by OMB.

DATES: The amendments to 47 CFR 2.1033(c)(19)(i) through (ii), published at 79 FR 32410, June 4, 2014, is effective February 17, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information contact Nancy Brooks on (202) 418-2454 or email Nancy.Brooks@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document announces that on December 23, 2014, OMB approved, for a period of three years a non-substantive change to a currently approved information collection requirement contained in 47 CFR 2.1033(c)(19)(i) through (ii). The Commission publishes this document to announce the effective date of this rule section. See, Amendment of the Commission's rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 1695–1710 MHz, 1755–1780 MHz, and 2155–2180 MHz, GN Docket No. 13-85; FCC 14-31, 79 FR 32410, June 4, 2014.

Synopsis

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3507), the Commission is notifying the public that it received OMB approval on December 23, 2014, for the information collection requirement contained in 47 CFR 2.1033(c)(19)(i) through (ii). Under 5 CFR part 1320, an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a current, valid OMB Control Number.

No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act that does not

display a valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number is 3060-0057.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-03119 Filed 2-13-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 130925836-4174-02]

RIN 0648-XD715

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the A season allowance of the 2015 Pacific cod total allowable catch apportioned to vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), February 12, 2015, through 1200 hours, A.l.t., June 10, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Obren Davis, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679. Regulations governing sideboard protections for GOA groundfish fisheries appear at subpart B of 50 CFR part 680.

The A season allowance of the 2015 Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) apportioned to vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is 5,230 metric tons (mt), as established by the final 2014 and 2015 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (79 FR 12890, March 6, 2014) and inseason adjustment (80 FR 192, January 5, 2015).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has determined that the A season allowance of the 2015 Pacific cod TAC apportioned to vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 5,220 mt and is setting aside the remaining 10 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA. After the

effective date of this closure the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay the directed fishing closure of Pacific cod for vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of February 10, 2015.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 10, 2015.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2015-03143 Filed 2-11-15; 4:15 pm]

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