5318A), grants the Director of FinCEN the authority, upon finding that reasonable grounds exist for concluding that a foreign jurisdiction, foreign financial institution, class of transactions, or type of account is of “primary money laundering concern,” to require domestic financial institutions and financial agencies to take certain “special measures” to address the primary money laundering concern. The special measures enumerated under Section 311 are prophylactic safeguards that defend the U.S. financial system from money laundering and terrorist financing. FinCEN may impose one or more of these special measures in order to protect the U.S. financial system from these threats. To that end, special measures one through four, codified at 31 U.S.C. 5318A(b)(1–4), impose additional recordkeeping, information collection, and information reporting requirements on covered U.S. financial institutions. The fifth special measure, codified at 31 U.S.C. 5318A(b)(5), allows the Director to prohibit or impose conditions on the opening or maintaining of correspondent or payable-through accounts for the covered U.S. financial system from money laundering or terrorist financing. FinCEN may impose one or more of these special measures in order to protect the U.S. financial system from these threats. To that end, special measures one through four, codified at 31 U.S.C. 5318A(b)(1–4), impose additional recordkeeping, information collection, and information reporting requirements on covered U.S. financial institutions. The fifth special measure, codified at 31 U.S.C. 5318A(b)(5), allows the Director to prohibit or impose conditions on the opening or maintaining of correspondent or payable-through accounts for the identified institution by U.S. financial institutions.

II. The Finding and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

A. The Finding and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Based upon review and analysis of relevant information, consultations with relevant Federal agencies and departments, and after consideration of the factors enumerated in Section 311, the Director of FinCEN found that reasonable grounds existed for concluding that JSC CredexBank (“Credex”) was a financial institution of primary money laundering concern.1 FinCEN published a notice of proposed rulemaking proposing to impose the first and fifth special measures one through four, codified at 31 U.S.C. 5318A(b)(1–4), impose additional recordkeeping, information collection, and information reporting requirements on covered U.S. financial institutions. The fifth special measure, codified at 31 U.S.C. 5318A(b)(5), allows the Director to prohibit or impose conditions on the opening or maintaining of correspondent or payable-through accounts for the identified institution by U.S. financial institutions.

B. Subsequent Developments

Since FinCEN’s notice of proposed rulemaking regarding Credex, material facts regarding the circumstances of the proposed rulemaking have changed. On May 8, 2015, the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus (“NBRB”), the Belarusian central bank and monetary authority with control over bank supervision and regulation, revoked the banking license of InterPay, the successor of Credex, and delisted InterPay from the list of banks published by the NBRB.3 In late January 2016, InterPay was also listed by the NBRB as being in the process of bankruptcy and liquidation.4 Because of the actions taken by the Belarusian banking authorities and the ongoing liquidation of InterPay’s assets, InterPay no longer operates as a foreign financial institution.

III. Withdrawal of the Proposed Rule

For the reasons set forth above, FinCEN hereby withdraws the May 30, 2012 proposed rule proposing to impose the first and fifth special measure authorized by 31 U.S.C. 5318A(b)(5) regarding Credex/InterPay. FinCEN’s withdrawal of the proposed rule does not acknowledge any remedial measure taken by Credex/InterPay, but results from the fact that Credex/InterPay no longer operates as a foreign financial institution.

Jamal El-Hindi, Deputy Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

RIN 0648–XE502

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Whiting Committee on April 5, 2016, to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden, 1 Thurber Street, Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 734–9600; fax: (401) 734–9700. 

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda

The Committee will evaluate options for limited access qualification criteria for Amendment 22. They will discuss other potential measures that could reduce the risk that catches exceed Annual Catch Limits for ‘choke’ species, including but not limited to Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and northern red hake. The Committee will also discuss other business as necessary.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

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

Dated: March 14, 2016.

Tracey L. Thompson, Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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