DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71
RIN 2120–AA66

Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q–35, Western United States

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: This action makes an editorial change to the legal description of United States Area Navigation Route Q–35 to reverse the order of points listed in the route description in FAA Order 7400.9. This action is simply to comply with the standard format for describing routes. The existing alignment of the airway is not affected by this action.

DATES: Effective date 0901 UTC, March 31, 2016. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order 7400.9 and publication of conforming amendments.

ADDRESSES: FAA Order 7400.9Z, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. For further information, you can contact the Airspace Policy Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783. The Order is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of FAA Order 7400.9Z at NARA, call (202) 741–6030, or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

FAA Order 7400.9Z, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective September 15.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jason Stahl, Airspace Policy Group, Office of Airspace Services, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267–8783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for This Rulemaking

The FAA’s authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency’s authority.

This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it is merely an editorial change of the legal description of Q–35 to comply with existing administrative format procedures.

History

Airway and route legal descriptions are published in FAA Order 7400.9Z, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points. Current format guidelines for these legal descriptions require that the order of points in a description be listed from “west-to-east” or from “south-to-north,” as applicable. The description for Q–35 lists the points from “north-to-south.” This rule simply reverses the order of the points listed in Order 7400.9Z to a “south-to-north” format for standardization.

United States Area Navigation Routes are published in paragraph 2006 of FAA Order 7400.9Z, dated August 6, 2015, and effective September 15, 2015, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The United States Area Navigation Route listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document amends FAA Order 7400.9Z, airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 6, 2015, and effective September 15, 2015. FAA Order 7400.9Z is publicly available as listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document. FAA Order 7400.9Z lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Rule

This action amends Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 71 by reversing the order of points listed in the legal description of United States Area Navigation Route Q–35 as published in FAA Order 7400.9Z, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points. This is only an editorial change revising the order ‘south to north’ instead of “north to south” to comply with the standard route description format. The change does not alter the current alignment of Q–35 and the airway track is correct on aeronautical charts.

Since this action merely involves an editorial change in the legal description of United States Area Navigation Route Q–35 to standardize the format, and does not involve a change in the dimensions or operating requirements of the affected route, notice and public procedure under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) are unnecessary.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a Regulatory Evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that only affects air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this rule, when promulgated, does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

The FAA has determined that this action qualifies for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, paragraph 5–6.5a. This airspace action is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts, and no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant preparation of an environmental assessment.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

Adoption of the Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

§ 71.1. Authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 continues to read as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

15 CFR Part 902

50 CFR Part 902

[Doct No. 150982807–5999–02]

RIN 0648–BE99

International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Vessel Register Required Information, International Maritime Organization Numbering Scheme

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS is issuing regulations to implement a resolution adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) that requires U.S. vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species with a capacity equal to or greater than 100 gross register tons (GRT) to have an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number. The IMO number will be included with information the United States sends to the IATTC for vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IATTC Convention Area, and will enable more effective tracking of vessels that may be engaging in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

DATES: This final rule is effective February 13, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection of information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted to Chris Fanning, NMFS West Coast Region and by email to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov. Copies of the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) and other supporting documents are available via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov, docket NOAA–NMFS–2015–0129 or by contacting the Regional Administrator, William W. Stelle, Jr., NMFS West Coast Regional Office, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Bldg 1, Seattle, WA 98115–0070, or by email to RegionalAdministrator.WCRHMS@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Fanning, NMFS, West Coast Region, 562–980–4198.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background on the Proposed and Final Rulemaking

On October 27, 2015, NMFS published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (80 FR 65683) that would revise and add regulations at 50 CFR part 300, subpart C. The purpose of the proposed rule was to implement the new regional vessel register requirements in IATTC Resolution C–14–01 (Resolution (Amended) on a Regional Vessel Register). It was available for public comment through November 27, 2015. No comments were received.

As a Contracting Party to the 1949 Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and a member of the IATTC, the United States is legally bound to implement decisions of the IATTC. The Tuna Conventions Act (TCA) (16 U.S.C. 951–962), as amended on November 5, 2015, by Title II of Public Law 114–81, directs the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State and, with respect to enforcement measures, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, to promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States’ international obligations under the IATTC Convention, including recommendations and decisions adopted by the IATTC. The Secretary’s authority to promulgate such regulations has been delegated to NMFS. The proposed rule included background information on the TCA and the IATTC, the international obligations of the United States under the TCA, and the basis for the proposed regulations, and therefore, is not repeated here. There have been no changes from the proposed rule in this final rule.

For each of the subject fishing vessels, this final rule requires that the owner of the fishing vessel ensure that an IMO number has been issued for the vessel or apply to NMFS for an exemption from the requirement. In the event that a fishing vessel owner is unable to ensure that an IMO number is issued for the fishing vessel after following the instructions given by the designated manager of the IMO ship identification number scheme, the fishing vessel owner may request an exemption from the requirement from the West Coast Regional Administrator. Upon receipt of a request for an exemption, the West Coast Regional Administrator will assist the fishing vessel owner in requesting an IMO number. If the West Coast Regional Administrator determines that the fishing vessel owner has followed all appropriate procedures but is unable to obtain an IMO number for the fishing vessel, he or she will issue an exemption from the requirements for the vessel and its owner and notify the owner of the exemption. NMFS notes that IHS Maritime, the company that provides fishing vessels with an IMO number, is a private third party. Because of this, it is conceivable that an eligible vessel may not be able to complete the necessary steps and supply the required information, resulting in a denied vessel number request.

To minimize the burden on affected U.S. businesses, NMFS is not requiring that vessel owners report the IMO numbers associated with their vessel to NMFS. NMFS will collect that information from IHS Maritime directly and via data available from the United States Coast Guard.

Classification

The NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this final rule is consistent with the TCA and other applicable laws.