FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73
[GN Docket No. 12–268; MB Docket No. 16–306; DA 17–154]

Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Finalize Catalog of Reimbursement Expenses

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final action; requirements and procedures.

SUMMARY: In this document the Incentive Auction Task Force and the Media Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) adopts: Updates to the categories of eligible equipment and services, as well as updated baseline costs, in the catalog of eligible reimbursement expenses (Catalog); an economic methodology for adjusting the Catalog’s baseline costs annually such that they remain accurate, by using the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Producer Price Index, WPUPF4D series; and revisions to the online Reimbursement Form to incorporate the updates to the Catalog, which will be embedded in the Reimbursement Form, as well as other features, including checkboxes for entities to indicate if they are seeking upgrades or partial payment requests, which are designed to make it more user-friendly.


ADDRESSES: Copies of any comments on the Paperwork Reduction Act information collection requirements contained herein should be submitted to Cathy Williams, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554, or by email to PRA@fcc.gov and Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pamela Gallant, 202–418–0614, or Raphael Sznajder, 202–418–1648, of the Media Bureau, Video Division.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: With the assistance of a third-party contractor, Widelity, Inc., and based on the record to date, the Media Bureau has developed, updated, and now adopted an updated catalog of eligible reimbursement expenses (Catalog) for reimbursement-eligible entities to use for reference during the post-incentive auction transition. The Catalog is not exhaustive, but rather a tool to facilitate the process for reimbursement-eligible entities to claim reimbursement on the Reimbursement Form. This Public Notice (available at: DA 17–154), adopts not only the proposed updated categories and prices for the reimbursement expenses listed, but also adopts an economic methodology to update the prices in the Catalog throughout the three-year reimbursement period so that they accurately reflect the current market for the equipment and services listed in the Catalog. The Catalog that the Incentive Auction Task Force and the Media Bureau adopt will be embedded in the on-line Reimbursement Form (FCC Form 2100, Schedule 399) which will be used by entities seeking reimbursement to file estimated costs and reimbursement claims for the costs they actually incur. The Reimbursement Form is a web-based electronic form containing previously approved information collections (under existing OMB control number 3060–1178). The Commission previously sought, and, on March 17, 2016, obtained OMB approval for the information collection requirements contained in the Reimbursement Form, which became effective on March 24, 2016, for a period of three years. (See Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, 81 FR 15649, Vol. 81, No. 57 (Mar. 24, 2016)). Because the Catalog will be embedded within the Reimbursement Form, available via the Commission’s Licensing and Management System (LMS), we now resubmit the Reimbursement Form to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of the incremental changes resulting from the Catalog’s updates, as well as other minor modifications made to the Reimbursement Form that are designed to make it more user-friendly and assist filers in describing their claims. For example, we have added check boxes that allow entities to easily indicate if they are seeking optional equipment upgrades or requesting partial payment of particular expenses. The public will now have an opportunity to comment on these modifications to the data collections in the Reimbursement Form. This is a summary of the FCC’s document GN Docket No. 12–268; MB Docket No. 16–306; DA 17–154 (released Feb. 9, 2017). The full text of this document is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room CY–A257), 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554.
is implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

On December 29, 2016, NMFS published the final rule for Regulatory Amendment 16 (81 FR 95893). The final rule for Regulatory Amendment 16 revised the seasonal prohibition on the use of black sea bass pot gear in the South Atlantic and added an additional gear marking requirement for black sea bass pot gear. The purpose of that final rule was to reduce the adverse socioeconomic impacts from the previous seasonal black sea bass pot gear prohibition while continuing to protect Endangered Species Act listed North Atlantic right whales in the South Atlantic. That final rule also required additional gear markings to help identify black sea bass pot gear in the South Atlantic. This technical amendment to that final rule clarifies that black sea bass pot commercial trip limits are meant to be in effect year-round.

Background

On June 1, 2012, NMFS published the final rule for Amendment 18A to the FMP (77 FR 32408). Among the measures in Amendment 18A was the establishment of a year-round commercial trip limit of 1,000 lb (454 kg), gutted weight; 1,180 lb (535 kg), round weight. On September 23, 2013, NMFS published the final rule for Regulatory Amendment 19 to the FMP (78 FR 58249). Regulatory Amendment 19 established an annual prohibition on the use of black sea bass pot gear from November through April. On November 7, 2014, NMFS published the final rule for Regulatory Amendment 14 to the FMP (79 FR 66316). One of the measures implemented through Regulatory Amendment 14 was the establishment of a 300 lb (136-kg), gutted weight; 354 lb (161 kg), round weight, commercial trip limit for the black sea bass hook-and-line component in the South Atlantic from January 1 through April 30, each year. In addition, NMFS changed the commercial trip limit for the black sea bass pot component from year-round to May 1 through October 31, each year. The intent of referencing the May through October dates for the black sea bass pot commercial trip limit was because at that time, May through October was the only time period that pots could be fished. The final rule for Regulatory Amendment 14 simply clarified the seasonal differences in commercial trip limits among the different black sea bass gear components (pots and hook-and-line) in the commercial sector.

The final rule for Regulatory Amendment 16 revised the black sea bass pot seasonal prohibition. As of December 29, 2016, sea bass pots are allowed to be fished year-round in specific areas in the South Atlantic. During the development of the rulemaking to implement Regulatory Amendment 16, NMFS inadvertently did not revise the relevant regulatory text to correctly reference that the commercial trip limits for black sea bass are meant to be in effect year-round. However, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s stated intent in Regulatory Amendment 16 was to retain the 1,000 lb (454 kg), gutted weight; 1,180 lb (535 kg), round weight, year-round commercial trip limit for the black sea bass pot sector originally implemented in 2012.

Correction

Currently, the regulations at § 622.191(a)(8)(ii) contain a reference that the 1,000 lb (454 kg), gutted weight; 1,180 lb (535 kg), round weight, commercial trip limit is only applicable from May 1 through October 31. The May 1 through October 31 condition was added to clarify the seasonal differences in commercial trip limits among the hook-and-line and black sea bass pot components in the commercial sector. As currently written, the regulations at § 622.191(a)(8)(ii) incorrectly have no commercial trip limit in place from November 1 through April 30. As had been described in Regulatory Amendment 16, the intent by NMFS and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council was for the commercial trip limit for sea bass pots to be in effect year-round.

This technical amendment corrects the text within § 622.191(a)(8)(ii) to accurately state that the black sea bass sea bass pot trip limit is in effect year-round.

Classification

The Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, has determined this final rule is necessary for the conservation and management of South Atlantic black sea bass and is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds that the need to immediately implement this regulatory clarification constitutes good cause to waive the requirements to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), because prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this final rule is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest, because the rules establishing the commercial trip limits and the seasonal closures have already been subject to notice and comment and not immediately correcting the regulatory text would result in confusion and uncertainty for the affected entities.

For the aforementioned reasons, the AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

These measures are thus exempt from the procedures of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because prior notice and comment have been waived under the APA.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 622

Black sea bass, Commercial trip limits, Fisheries, Fishing, South Atlantic.


Alan D. Risenhoover,
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is amended as follows:

PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

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

2. In §622.191, revise paragraph (a)(8)(ii) to read as follows:

§622.191 Commercial trip limits.
(a) * * * *
(ii) Sea bass pot component. Until the applicable quota specified in §622.190(a)(5) is reached—1,000 lb (454 kg), gutted weight; 1,180 lb (535 kg), round weight.

[F.R. Doc. 2017-03291 Filed 2-17-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P