DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RIN 0648–XG007
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Pelagic Longline Fishery Management

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

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact analysis and hold scoping meetings; notice of availability of scoping document; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intent to prepare a draft environmental impact analysis to assess the potential effects of alternative measures under the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (2006 Consolidated HMS FMP) for management of the pelagic longline fishery. This notice announces a public process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues relating to the management of Atlantic HMS, with a focus on area-based management measures and weak hook management measures that were implemented to reduce dead discards of bluefin tuna in the pelagic longline fishery. NMFS would use the scoping process and the draft environmental impact analysis to develop a regulatory action applicable to the pelagic longline fishery. The scoping process and draft environmental impact analysis are intended to determine if existing area-based and weak hook management measures are the best means of achieving the current management objectives and providing flexibility to adapt to fishing variability in the future, consistent with the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA), and other relevant Federal laws. NMFS is also announcing the availability of a scoping document describing potential measures for inclusion in a future regulatory action. NMFS will hold scoping meetings to gather public comment on potential management options for area-based and weak hook requirements. The time and location details of the scoping meetings are available in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice. NMFS is requesting comments on the NOI to develop environmental impact assessments. NMFS also requests comments on the management options described in the scoping document concerning bluefin area-based management and weak hook measures that were implemented to minimize bluefin tuna bycatch and/or interactions, and relevant options that would meet the purpose and need for this action.

DATES: Written comments on this NOI and the scoping document must be received on or before May 1, 2018. NMFS also will host an operator-assisted public hearing conference call and webinar March 15, 2018, from 2 to 4 p.m. EDT, providing an opportunity for individuals from all geographic areas to participate in a scoping meeting. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for further details, including public scoping meeting dates and locations.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by “NOAA–NMFS–2018–0035”, by either of the following methods:
- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail; D=NOAA-NMFS-2018-00035, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- Mail: Craig Cockrell, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, or to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to http://www.regulations.gov without change. All Personal Identifying Information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

The public hearing conference call information is phone number 800–988–9546; participant passcode 27079. Participants are strongly encouraged to log/dial in 15 minutes prior to the meeting. NMFS will show a brief presentation via webinar followed by public comment. To join the webinar, go to: https://noaavevents2.webex.com/noaavevents2/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7fc24f346f6df54043131fa6e640d4bd; meeting number: 992 830 164; password: noaa. Participants who have not used WebEx before will be prompted to download and run a plug-in program that will enable them to view the webinar.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Background

Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA; 16 U.S.C. 971 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) governing the harvest of HMS, including bluefin tuna, by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. The pelagic longline fishery for Atlantic HMS primarily targets swordfish, yellowfin tuna, and bigeye tuna in various areas and seasons. In 1997, NMFS determined that the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock was overfished. In addition, the 1998 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Recommendation on western Atlantic bluefin tuna required that Contracting Parties, including the United States, minimize dead discards of bluefin tuna to the extent practicable, and set a country-specific dead discard allowance. Given the status of bluefin tuna and recommendations from ICCAT, at that time, NMFS analyzed a range of different time/area options for locations with high bluefin tuna bycatch in the 1999 FMP for Atlantic tunas, sharks, and swordfish (1999 HMS FMP), and subsequently implemented the Northeastern United States Pelagic Longline Closed Area, which is effective annually from June 1 through June 30, in the final rule implementing the 1999 HMS FMP (64 FR 29090, May 28, 1999) to reduce bluefin tuna dead discards in the pelagic longline fishery. In 2006, NMFS finalized the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP, which was intended to simplify management and better coordinate domestic conservation and management of Atlantic HMS. This Consolidated HMS FMP also carried
The public is reminded that NMFS expects participants at public scoping meetings and on conference calls to conduct themselves appropriately. At the beginning of the scoping meetings and conference call, a representative of NMFS will explain the ground rules (e.g., all comments are to be directed to the Agency; attendees will be called to give their comments in the order in which they registered to speak; each attendee will have an equal amount of time to speak; and attendees should not interrupt one another). The meeting locations will be physically accessible.
to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cra
ig Cockrell at 301–427–8503, at least 7 days prior to the meeting. A NMFS representative will attempt to structure the meeting so that all attending members of the public will be able to comment if they so choose, regardless of the controversial nature of the subject matter. If attendees do not respect the ground rules they will be asked to leave the scoping meeting or conference call.

Because the rulemakings overlap for some gear types, the public scoping meetings being held in Panama City, FL, Manteo, NC, and Manahawkin, NJ will be held in conjunction with public scoping meetings for Amendment 11 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP (shortfin mako shark management measures). The Amendment 11 presentation will likely be given first unless polling of the audience indicates another approach is appropriate. After each presentation, public comment for that issue will be received. Meeting attendees interested in this issue are encouraged to show up at the beginning of the meeting to help determine the order of the presentations. The second presentation will not start any later than 6 p.m.

The process of developing a regulatory action is expected to take approximately two years. In addition to future HMS Advisory Panel input, public comment and future analyses, there are other relevant events anticipated that may impact the development of this regulatory action, including implementation of a quota rule for Atlantic bluefin tuna and North Atlantic albacore, the three-year review of the IBQ program, and the ICCAT annual meeting in November 2018.

Until the draft environmental impact analysis and proposed rule are finalized or until other regulations are put into place, the current regulations remain in effect.


Dated: February 27, 2018.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List: Proposed Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add products and services to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes products previously furnished by such agencies.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before: April 1, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. 1401 S Clark Street, Suite 715, Arlington, Virginia 22202–4149.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit comments contact: Amy B. Jensen, Telephone: (703) 603–7740, Fax: (703) 603–0655, or email CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51–2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

Addition

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in this notice will be required to procure the products and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The following products and services are proposed for addition to the Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Products

NSN(s)—Product Name(s):
7045–00–NIB–0012—Pack, Power, Portable, 12000mAh, Black
7045–00–NIB–0013—Pack, Power, Portable, 6000mAh, Black

Mandatory Source of Supply: North Central Sight Services, Inc., Williamsport, PA

Contracting Activity: General Services Administration, New York, NY

Distribution: A-List

Services

Service Type: Records Management Service

Mandatory for: US Navy, Military Sealift Command, Naval Station Norfolk, 471 East C Street, Norfolk, VA

Mandatory Source of Supply: VersAbility Resources, Inc., Hampton, VA

Contracting Activity: Dept of the Navy, MSC NORFOLK,

Service Type: Base Supply Center

Mandatory for: US Army, Picatinny Arsenal, Phipps Road, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ

Mandatory Source of Supply: Central Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Utica, NY

Contracting Activity: Dept of the Army, W6QK ACC–PICA

Deletions

The following products are proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

Products

NSN(s)—Product Name(s):
8440–00–160–6843—Scarf, Air Force, Men’s, Gray
8440–00–823–7520—Scarf, Air Force, Men’s, Olive Green
8440–01–005–2558—Scarf, Air Force, Men’s, Blue
8440–01–523–5765—Scarf, Air Force, Men’s, Black

Mandatory Source of Supply: ASPIRO, Inc., Green Bay, WI

Contracting Activity: Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support

Deletions

The following products are proposed for deletion from the Procurement List:

Products

NSN(s)—Product Name(s):
6530–00–290–8292—Urinal, Incontinent
6530–00–NIB–0061—Catheter, External, Male, Self-Adhering, Pop-on
6530–00–NIB–0062—Catheter, External, Male, Self-Adhering, Pop-on
6530–00–NIB–0063—Catheter, External, Male, Self-Adhering, Pop-on
6530–00–NIB–0064—Catheter, External, Male, Self-Adhering, Pop-on
6530–00–NIB–0065—Catheter, External, Male, Self-Adhering, Pop-on

Mandatory Source of Supply: The Lighthouse for the Blind, St. Louis

Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs, Strategic Acquisition Center

Mandatory Source of Supply: The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. (Seattle Lighthouse), Seattle, WA

Contracting Activity: General Services Administration, New York, NY

Mandatory Source of Supply: Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped, Johnstown, PA

Contracting Activity: Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support

Amy B. Jensen,
Director, Business Operations.