

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 165**

[COTP Southeast Alaska; 00-016]

RIN 2115-AA97

Safety Zone; Wrangell Narrows, Petersburg, AK**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone around the barge SWINIMOSH which will be conducting blasting/dredging operations along the navigable waters of Wrangell Narrows Shipping Channel, Petersburg, Alaska. This safety zone will require periodic complete channel closures to all vessel traffic transiting the channel as necessary for the barge SWINIMOSH to conduct operations. This safety zone is needed to protect maritime vessels transiting the area from the potential hazards associated with the blasting/dredging operations conducted by the barge SWINIMOSH.

DATES: This temporary final rule becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. November 2, 2000 and terminates at 12:01 a.m. December 16, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Documents as indicated in this preamble are available for inspection or copying at U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office, 2760 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A, Juneau, Alaska between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (907) 463-2450.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Cecil McNutt Jr., Chief Port Operations Department, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Juneau, (907) 463-2470.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Regulatory History**

A notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) was not published for this regulation. In keeping with requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(B), the Coast Guard finds a good cause exists for not publishing a NPRM. Application for the blasting operations was not received by the Marine Safety Office Juneau until October 9, 2000. The operations are scheduled to commence November 2, 2000; thus time to publish a NPRM is inadequate for this regulation. In keeping with requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553 (d)(3), the Coast Guard also finds that good cause exists for making this regulation effective less than 30 days after

publication in the **Federal Register**. Publication of a NPRM and delay of the effective date would be contrary to the public interest because immediate action is necessary to protect the safety of the maritime vessel traffic in the vicinity of the blasting operation.

Background and Purpose

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through its contractor Western Marine Construction, Inc will be conducting blasting/dredging operations on portions of Wrangell Narrows Shipping Channel for the Wrangell Narrows Project (ACOE project number DACW85-00-C-0015). This dredging project is necessary to maintain safe navigation within the Wrangell Narrows Shipping Channel. A 500-yard safety zone around the barge SWINIMOSH along with periodic complete channel closures is needed to protect the safety of the maritime vessel traffic from the potential hazards associated with blasting/dredging operations.

The blasting operations will begin 12:01 a.m. 02 November 2000, and will last until 12:01 a.m. 16 December 2000. This safety zone is necessary to protect the maritime public from the potential hazards associated with the blasting/dredging operations.

Regulatory Evaluation

This temporary rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of the Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under sections 6(a)(3) of that Order. It has been exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under that Order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this proposal to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10(e) of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard must consider whether this rule will have a significant impact on a substantial number of small businesses and not-for-profit organizations that are not dominant in their respective fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000. For the same reasons set forth in the above Regulatory Evaluation, the Coast Guard certifies under Section 605 (b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) that this temporary final rule

will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Assistance for Small Entities

In accordance with Sec. 213 (a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-121), the Coast Guard wants to assist small entities in understanding this rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process. If your small business or organization is affected by this rule and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the office listed in **ADDRESSES** in this preamble.

Collection of Information

This rule contains no information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this temporary final rule under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 13132 and has determined that this temporary final rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this temporary final rule and concluded that, under figure 2-1, paragraph (34)(g), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this temporary final rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket for inspection or copying where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) and E.O. 12875, Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership, (58 FR 58093; October 28, 1993) govern the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An unfunded mandate is a regulation that requires a State, local, or tribal government or the private sector to incur direct costs without the Federal Government's having first provided the funds to pay those costs. This rule will not impose an unfunded mandate.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR Part 165 as follows:

PART 165—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g), 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

2. A new temporary § 165.T17–SEAK–016 is added to read as follows:

§ 165.T17–SEAK–016 Wrangell Narrows Channel, Petersburg, Alaska–Safety Zone.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a temporary safety zone: The waters within a 500 yard radius of the barge SWINIMOSH while engaged in blasting/dredging operations to include periodic complete channel closures in Wrangell Narrows Shipping Channel, Petersburg AK from Point Lockwood Rock, Lighted Marker #1 (LL #22845), 56°34.0' N, 132°58.1' W to Rock Point, Lighted Marker #40 (LL #23070), 56°40.3' N, 132°56.1' W.

(b) *Effective dates.* This regulation becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. November 2, 2000 and terminates at 12:01 a.m. December 16, 2000.

(c) *Regulations.* In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry into, transit through, or anchoring within this safety zone is prohibited except as authorized by the Captain of the Port–Southeast Alaska. The attending tug WALDO will be standing by on channel 16 and 13 for traffic advisory. All approaching vessel traffic must contact the tug WALDO prior to transiting the channel.

Dated: 17 October 2000.

R.C. Lorigan,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Southeast Alaska.

[FR Doc. 00–28056 Filed 11–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 000426114-0114-01; I.D. 101700E]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Period 2

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Closure; commercial quota for period 2.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the spiny dogfish commercial quota available in Period 2 to the coastal states from Maine through Florida has been harvested. Therefore, the spiny dogfish fishery will remain closed and commercial vessels may not land spiny dogfish from Maine through Florida through April 24, 2001. Regulations governing the spiny dogfish fishery require publication of this notification to advise the coastal states from Maine through Florida that the quota has been harvested and to advise vessel permit holders and dealer permit holders that no commercial quota is available for landing spiny dogfish in these states.

DATES: Effective November 1, 2000, 0001 hrs, local time, through April 24, 2001, 2400 hrs, local time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David M. Gouveia, Fishery Policy Analyst, at (978) 281-9280.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the spiny dogfish fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648.

The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota, which is allocated into two quota periods based upon percentages of the annual quota. The period 1 commercial quota (May through October) is distributed to the coastal states from Maine through Florida as described in § 648.230.

The initial total commercial quota for spiny dogfish for the 2000 fishing year was set equal to 4,000,000 lb (1,814 mt) (65 FR 25887, May 4, 2000). The commercial quota is allocated into two periods (May 1 through October 31, and November 1 through April 30), with trip limits intended to preclude directed fishing. Quota period 1 was allocated 2,316,000 lb (1,050 mt) and quota period 2 was allocated 1,684,000 lb (764 mt) of the commercial quota, respectively.

Section 648.231 requires the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) to monitor the commercial spiny dogfish quota for each quota period and, based upon dealer reports, state data, and other available information, to determine when the commercial quota has been harvested. NMFS is required to publish a notification in the Federal Register advising and notifying commercial vessels and dealer permit holders that, effective upon a specific date, the spiny dogfish commercial quota has been

harvested and no commercial quota is available for landing spiny dogfish for the remainder of a given quota period.

Based on dealer reports and other available information, the Regional Administrator closed quota period 1 on August 1, 2000 (65 FR 46877, August 1, 2000). However, due to state management actions that were inconsistent with the Federal quota, spiny dogfish landings have already exceeded the annual quota for the entire 2000 fishing year. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is announcing that the 2000 commercial period 2 quota for spiny dogfish has been harvested and the commercial spiny dogfish fishery will remain closed for the remainder of the fishing year.

Section 648.4(b) provides that Federal spiny dogfish permit holders agree, as a condition of the permit, not to land spiny dogfish in any state after NMFS has published notification in the **Federal Register** that the commercial quota for the period has been harvested and that no commercial quota for the spiny dogfish fishery is available. The Regional Administrator has determined that period 2 for spiny dogfish no longer has commercial quota available. Therefore, effective 0001 hrs local time, November 1, 2000, landings of spiny dogfish in coastal states from Maine through Florida by vessels holding commercial Federal fisheries permits are prohibited through April 24, 2001, 2400 hrs local time. The fishing year 2001 quota period 1 for commercial spiny dogfish harvest will open on May 1, 2001. Effective November 1, 2000, federally permitted dealers are also advised that they may not purchase spiny dogfish from federally permitted spiny dogfish permit holders that land in coastal states from Maine through Florida for quota period 2 (through April 24, 2001).

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: October 26, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 00–28054 Filed 11–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S