

remains within the large passenger vessel's security and safety zone unless it is either ordered by, or given permission by the Captain of the Port Puget Sound, his designated representative or the on-scene official patrol to do otherwise.

(j) *Exemption.* Public vessels as defined in paragraph (b) of this section are exempt from complying with paragraphs (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), and (i), of this section.

(k) *Exception.* 33 CFR part 161 contains Vessel Traffic Service regulations. Measures or directions issued by Vessel Traffic Service Puget Sound pursuant to 33 CFR part 161 will take precedence over the regulations in this section.

(l) *Enforcement.* Any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant or petty officer may enforce the rules in this section. In the navigable waters of the United States to which this section applies, when immediate action is required and representatives of the Coast Guard are not present or not present in sufficient force to provide effective enforcement of this section in the vicinity of a large passenger vessel, any Federal Law Enforcement Officer or Washington Law Enforcement Officer may enforce the rules contained in this section pursuant to 33 CFR 6.04–11. In addition, the Captain of the Port may be assisted by other federal, state or local agencies in enforcing this section.

(m) *Waiver.* The Captain of the Port Puget Sound may waive any of the requirements of this section for any vessel or class of vessels upon finding that a vessel or class of vessels, operational conditions or other circumstances are such that application of this section is unnecessary or impractical for the purpose of port security, safety or environmental safety.

Dated: June 20, 2003.

Danny Ellis,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Puget Sound.

[FR Doc. 03–17723 Filed 7–14–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Part 192

[Docket No. RSPA–98–4470]

Pipeline Safety: Meeting of the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Meeting of Gas Technical Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) will convene a meeting of the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC) to discuss and vote on the cost-benefit analysis for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Pipeline Integrity Management for Gas Transmission Pipelines in High Consequence Areas" (68 FR 4278) and discuss and vote on recommended guidance on how to clarify, in the final rule, the process of identifying certain sites as high consequence areas. RSPA/OPS will brief the TPSSC on the Department of Transportation's conceptual framework for a five-year research and development program to ensure the integrity of pipeline facilities as required by Section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. RSPA/OPS staff will also brief the Committee and request their advice on a possible rulemaking to update the gas pipeline operator personnel qualification regulation.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 31, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Advisory Committee members will participate via telephone conference call.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public may attend the meeting in room 4236 at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC.

An opportunity will be provided for the public to make short statements on the topics under discussion. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement should notify Jean Milam, (202) 493–0967, not later than July 18, 2003, on the topic of the statement and the length of the presentation. The presiding officer at the meeting may deny any request to present an oral statement and may limit the time of any presentation.

You may submit written comments by mail or deliver to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation

(DOT), Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You also may submit written comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log onto the following Internet Web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" for instructions on how to file a document electronically. All written comments should reference docket number RSPA–98–4470. Anyone who would like confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard.

You may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; pages 19477–78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl Whetsel, OPS, (202) 366–4431 or Richard Huriaux, OPS, (202) 366–4565, regarding the subject matter of this document.

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Jean Milam at (202) 493–0967.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for this meeting of the TPSSC will include:

1. A vote on the gas integrity management rule cost-benefit analysis.
2. A discussion and vote on recommended guidance on how to clarify, in the final rule, the process of identifying certain sites as high consequence areas.
3. A briefing and request for Committee input on the conceptual framework of our five-year research and development plan.
4. A briefing and request for advice on a possible rule change to the gas pipeline operator qualification regulation.
5. Further discussion and vote on a notice of proposed rulemaking on liquefied natural gas facilities published May 1, 2003 (68 FR 23272).

The TPSSC is a statutorily mandated advisory committee that advises RSPA/OPS on proposed safety standards for gas pipelines. The advisory committee is constituted in accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 5 U.S.C. App. 1). The committee consists of 15 members—five each representing

government, industry, and the public. The TPSSC is tasked with determining reasonableness, cost-effectiveness, and practicability of proposed pipeline regulations.

Federal law requires that RSPA/OPS submit cost-benefit analyses and risk assessment information on proposed safety standards to the advisory committees. The TPSSC evaluates the merits of the data and methods used within the analyses and provides recommendations relating to the cost-benefit analyses.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60102, 60115.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 9, 2003.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 03-17722 Filed 7-14-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 070803B]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Quotas; Public Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold three public hearings to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding two proposed regulations. The first proposed rule, previously published in the **Federal Register** on June 20, 2003, would implement the recommendations from the 2002 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regarding North and South Atlantic swordfish. The second proposed rule, previously published in the **Federal Register** on July 10, 2003, would implement the 2003 fishing year specifications for the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) fishery to set BFT quotas for each of the established fishing categories, to set General category effort controls, to allocate 25 metric tons of BFT to account for incidental catch of BFT by pelagic

longline vessels in the vicinity of the management boundary area, to define the management boundary area and applicable restrictions, and to revise permit requirements to allow General category vessels to participate in registered recreational HMS fishing tournaments and to allow permit applicants a 10-day period to make permit category changes to correct errors. To accommodate people unable to attend a hearing or wishing to provide written comments, NMFS also solicits written comments on these proposed rules.

DATES: The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Tuesday, July 29, 2003—Gloucester, MA 7–9 p.m.
2. Tuesday, July 29, 2003—Madeira Beach, FL 7–9 p.m.
3. Friday, August 1, 2003—Silver Spring, MD 1–3 p.m.

Written comments on the proposed rule regarding swordfish must be received by 5 p.m. on August 4, 2003. Written comments on the proposed rule regarding bluefin tuna must be received on or before August 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The locations for the public hearings are as follows:

1. Sawyer Free Library, 2 Dale Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930
2. City Hall, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708
3. NOAA Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Written comments on the swordfish proposed rule should be sent to: Christopher Rogers, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 301-713-1917. Written comments on the bluefin tuna proposed rule should be sent to: Brad McHale, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), NMFS, One Blackburn Dr. Gloucester, MA 01930. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 978-281-9340. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tyson Kade at 301-713-2347 regarding the proposed rule for swordfish or Brad McHale at 978-281-9260 regarding the proposed rule for bluefin tuna.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed regulations that are the subject

of the hearings are necessary to address requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for the conservation and management of HMS. Complete descriptions of the measures, and the purpose and need for the proposed actions, are contained in the proposed rules and are not repeated here. The swordfish proposed rule published June 20, 2003 (68 FR 36967), and the bluefin tuna proposed rule published July 10, 2003 (68 FR 41103). Copies of the proposed rule may be obtained by writing (*see ADDRESSES*) or by calling the listed contact person (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*).

Public Hearings

The hearings for each proposed rule will be conducted jointly at the identified locations (*see ADDRESSES*). NMFS intends to dedicate half of the hearing time to each rule. The public is reminded that NMFS expects participants at the public hearings to conduct themselves appropriately. At the beginning of each public hearing, a NMFS representative will explain the ground rules (*e.g.*, alcohol is prohibited from the hearing room; 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 NMFS representative will attempt to structure the hearing 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(s). Attendees are expected to respect the ground rules, and, if they do not, they will be asked to leave the hearing.

Special Accommodations

The public hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Tyson Kade (*see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT*) at least 7 days prior to the hearing or meeting.

Dated: July 9, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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