

determined that the rule does not unduly burden the judicial system and meets the requirements of sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of the Executive Order. The proposed rule has been reviewed to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, was written to minimize litigation, provides a clear legal standard for affected conduct rather than a general standard, and promotes simplification and burden reduction.

We have reviewed this rule in accordance with the criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act and our Departmental Manual in 516 DM. This rule does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. An environmental impact statement/assessment is not required. The action is categorically excluded under the Department's NEPA procedures (516 DM 2, Appendix 1.10), which apply to policies, directives, regulations, and guidelines of an administrative, legal, technical, or procedural nature; or the environmental effects of which are too broad, speculative, or conjectural to lend themselves to meaningful analysis and will be subject later to the NEPA process, either collectively or case-by-case.

In accordance with the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, "Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments" (59 FR 22951), Executive Order 13175, and 512 DM 2, we have evaluated potential effects on Federally recognized Indian tribes and have determined that there are no potential effects.

On May 18, 2001, the President issued Executive Order 13211 on regulations that significantly affect energy supply, distribution, and use. Executive Order 13211 requires agencies to prepare Statements of Energy Effects when undertaking certain actions. Because this proposal is intended to prevent the accidental or intentional introduction of black carp and the possible subsequent establishment of populations of these fish in the wild, it is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866 and is not expected to significantly affect energy supplies, distribution, and use. Therefore, this action is not a significant energy action and no Statement of Energy Effects is required.

This proposed rule solicits economic, biologic, or other information concerning black carp. The information will be used to determine if the species is a threat, or potential threat, to those interests of the United States delineated above, and thus warrants addition to the list of injurious fish in 50 CFR 16.13.

Public Comments Solicited

Please send comments to Chief, Division of Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 322, Arlington, VA 22030. Comments may be hand delivered or faxed to (703) 358-1800. If you submit comments by e-mail, please submit comments as an ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and encryption. Please include "Attn: [RIN 1018-AG70]" and your name and return address in your e-mail message. Please note that this email address will be closed at the termination of this public comment period.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. In some circumstances, we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us for to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 16

Fish, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Wildlife.

Accordingly, we propose to amend part 16, subchapter B, of Chapter I, Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations as set forth below.

PART 16—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 16 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 18 U.S.C. 42.

2. Amend § 16.13 by revising paragraph (a)(2) to read as follows:

§ 16.13 Importation of live or dead fish, mollusks, and crustaceans, or their eggs.

(a) * * *

(2) The importation, transportation, or acquisition of any live fish or viable eggs of the walking catfish, family Clariidae; live mitten crabs, genus *Eriochei*, or their viable eggs; live mollusks, veligers, or viable eggs of zebra mussels, genus *Dreissena*; and any live black carp (*Mylopharyngodon*

piceus) or their viable eggs, is prohibited except as provided under the terms and conditions set forth in § 16.22.

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Dated: July 18, 2002.

Craig Manson,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[I.D. 071802B]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) Requirements for Species in the U.S. Caribbean; Comprehensive Amendment Addressing SFA Definitions in Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; Scoping Meetings

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

ACTION: Notice of scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Council will convene scoping meetings to solicit additional public comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) that will assess the impacts on the natural and human environment of the various managed fisheries related to the management measures proposed under the draft Comprehensive Amendment Addressing SFA Definitions and Other Required Provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Comprehensive SFA Amendment). The purpose of this document is to solicit additional public comments on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the DSEIS, which will be submitted to NMFS for filing with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for publication of a Notice of Availability for public comment.

DATES: The scoping meetings will be held on August 6 and 7, 2002. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times for the scoping meetings.

ADDRESSES: Scoping meetings will be held in Miami, FL. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific meeting locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Graciela Garcia-Moliner; phone: 787-766-5926; e-mail: Graciela.Garcia-Moliner@noaa.gov or Michael C. Barnette; phone: 727-570-5305; fax: 727-570-5583; e-mail: Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Council is preparing to amend the FMPs for Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates, Queen Conch, Reef Fish Fishery, and Spiny Lobster to: (1) address the consistency with new definitions; (2) address bycatch management measures and bycatch reporting requirements; (3) provide descriptions of the commercial, recreational, and charter fisheries and quantify trends in landings and data specified for each sector; (4) address fishery impact statements to insure they incorporate the likely effects of management measures on fishing communities; and (5) address overfishing provisions specifying objective and measurable criteria for identifying whether a species is overfished, and provide subsequent measures to rebuild overfished stocks.

The DSEIS will describe the proposed management measures in the Comprehensive SFA Amendment and will assess the environmental impacts of these proposed and alternative measures. To ensure compliance with the requirements of the SFA in the various FMPs, the Council intends to evaluate numerous management measures such as permits; commercial reporting requirements, including species-specific and bycatch reporting; limited entry; time/area closures,

including closures for spawning aggregations and habitat protection; size limits; trip limits; gear restrictions; and recreational possession limits. The Council originally published a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a DSEIS, requested written comments, and notified the public of scoping meetings in the **Federal Register** on May 31, 2002 (67 FR 38060).

Once the Council completes the DSEIS, it will submit it to NMFS for filing with the EPA. The EPA will publish a notice of availability of the DSEIS for public comment in the **Federal Register**. The DSEIS will have a 45-day comment period. This procedure is pursuant to regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 CFR parts 1500-1508) and to NOAA's Administrative Order 216-6 regarding NOAA's compliance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations. The Council will consider public comments received on the DSEIS before adopting final management measures for the Comprehensive SFA Amendment. The Council intends to prepare a final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS) in support of the final Comprehensive SFA Amendment. The Council would then submit the final Comprehensive SFA Amendment and supporting FSEIS to NMFS for Secretary of Commerce (Secretarial) review, approval, and implementation under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS will announce availability of the Comprehensive SFA Amendment for public review during the Secretarial review period through a notification published in the **Federal Register**. During Secretarial review, NMFS will

also file the FSEIS with the EPA for a final 30-day public comment period. This comment period will be concurrent with the Secretarial review period and will end prior to final agency action to approve, disapprove, or partially approve the Comprehensive SFA Amendment. All public comment periods on the Comprehensive SFA Amendment, its proposed implementing regulations, and its associated FSEIS will be announced through a notice published in the **Federal Register**. NMFS will consider all public comments received during the 60-day Secretarial review period, whether they are on the Comprehensive SFA Amendment, the FSEIS, or the proposed regulations, prior to final agency action.

The scoping meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following location and dates:

1. *August 6, 2002:* National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL, telephone: 305-361-4285; and

2. *August 7, 2002:* National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL, telephone: 305-361-4285

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Graciela Garcia-Moliner at the Council (*see ADDRESSES*).

Dated: July 24, 2002.

John H. Dunnigan,

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

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