

National Environmental Policy Act

This interim final rule falls within the exclusion category 44 CFR part 10.8(d)(2)(ii), which addresses the preparation, revision, and adoption of regulations, directives, and other guidance documents related to actions that qualify for categorical exclusions. Qualifying for this exclusion and because no other extraordinary circumstances have been identified, this interim final rule will not require the preparation of either an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review

We have prepared and reviewed this rule under the provisions of E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review. Under Executive Order 12866, 58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993, a significant regulatory action is subject to an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and the requirements of the Executive Order. The Executive Order defines "significant regulatory action" as one that is likely to result in a rule that may:

(1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities;

(2) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;

(3) materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(4) raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

For the reasons that follow we have concluded that this interim final rule is neither an economically significant nor a significant regulatory action under the Executive Order. The interim final rule will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, the insurance sector, competition, or other sectors of the economy. It will create no serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency. It will not materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof. Nor does it raise novel legal or policy issues arising out

of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

OMB has not reviewed this rule under the principles of Executive Order 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This interim final rule does not contain a collection of information and it is therefore not subject to the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

Executive Order 13132, Federalism

Executive Order 13132, Federalism, dated August 4, 1999, sets forth principles and criteria that agencies must adhere to in formulating and implementing policies that have federalism implications, that is, regulations that have substantial direct effects on the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Federal agencies must closely examine the statutory authority supporting any action that would limit the policymaking discretion of the States, and to the extent practicable, must consult with State and local officials before implementing any such action.

We have reviewed this rule under E.O. 13132 and have concluded that the rule does not have federalism implications as defined by the Executive Order. We have determined that the rule does not significantly affect the rights, roles, and responsibilities of States, and involves no preemption of State law nor does it limit State policymaking discretion.

Executive Order 12778, Civil Justice Reform

This interim final rule meets the applicable standards of section 2(b)(2) of E.O. 12778.

Administrative Procedure Act Statement

In general, FEMA publishes a rule for public comment before issuing a final rule, under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 533 and 44 CFR 1.12. The Administrative Procedure Act, however, provides an exception from that general rule where the agency for good cause finds the procedures for comment and response contrary to the public interest. The public benefit of this rule is the continuation of the WYO arrangement without interruption. Therefore, we believe it is contrary to the public interest to delay the benefits of this rule. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), we find that there is good cause for the interim final rule to be

published without prior public comment and without a full 30-day delayed effective date.

List of Subjects in 44 CFR Part 62

Flood insurance.

■ Accordingly, we amend 44 CFR Part 62 as follows:

PART 62—SALE OF INSURANCE AND ADJUSTMENT OF CLAIMS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 62 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 43 FR 41943, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 329; E.O. 12127 of Mar. 31, 1979, 44 FR 19367, 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 376.

■ 2. In Appendix A to part 62, revise the first sentence of Article V, Section A to read as follows:

Appendix A to part 62—Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Insurance Administration, Financial Assistance/Subsidy Arrangement.

Article V * * *

A. This Arrangement shall be effective for the period October 1, 2002 through December 31, 2003. * * *

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Dated: August 29, 2003.

Michael D. Brown,

Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

[FR Doc. 03–22659 Filed 9–4–03; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

45 CFR Part 1105

RIN 3136–AA22

Repeal of Superseded and Redundant Regulations and Addition of Residual Cross-Reference Provision

AGENCIES: National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

ACTION: Interim rule, with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The NEA and the NEH, acting together as the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities (the "Foundation"), are amending regulations to repeal the Foundation's superseded and redundant old standards of conduct regulations and adding a residual cross-reference provision.

DATES: This interim rule takes effect on September 5, 2003. Comments are

invited and must be received by October 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Karen Elias, Deputy General Counsel, National Endowment for the Arts, Room 518, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506 or Michael McDonald, Deputy General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, Room 529, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Elias, Deputy General Counsel, National Endowment for the Arts, Room 518, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506. Telephone (202) 682-5418. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may contact the NEA's TDD terminal at (202) 682-5496 Voice/T.T. Michael McDonald, Deputy General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, Room 529, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506. Telephone (202) 606-8322; TDD (202) 606-8282 or (866) 372-2930.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On August 7, 1992, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) published in the **Federal Register** new Standards of Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch ("Standards"). The Standards, as corrected and amended, are codified at 5 CFR part 2635 and generally became effective February 3, 1993. Those regulations established uniform standards of ethical conduct that apply to all executive branch personnel.

The Foundation's old standards of conduct at 45 CFR part 1105 were applicable to employees at both the NEA and the NEH until they were superseded by the executive branchwide Standards at 5 CFR part 2635, and OGE's revised executive branch financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634, which became effective in 1992. The Foundation's superseded old conduct regulations and certain redundant provisions thereof are being removed and 45 CFR part 1105 is being revised to contain a cross-reference section to the NEA's new supplemental standards regulations and the NEH's new supplemental standards regulations, which are both being published in the **Federal Register** today in separate rulemaking documents, as well as to 5 CFR parts 2634 and 2635, to 5 CFR part 2640, OGE's financial interest regulations, and to the employee responsibilities and conduct regulations at 5 CFR part 735.

II. Repeal of the Foundation's Superseded and Redundant Employee Responsibilities and Conduct Regulations and Addition of a Residual Cross-Reference Provision

The interim rule removes those provisions in the regulations at 45 CFR part 1105 governing NEA and NEH employees' responsibilities and conduct that were superseded by the OGE Standards and by OGE's executive branch financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634. While the Standards became effective on February 3, 1993, by operation of the prior note following 5 CFR 2635.803 of the regulations and prior appendix A to 5 CFR part 2635 (see January 1, 1997 edition of 5 CFR), the Foundation's regulation concerning prior approval of outside employment remained in effect until February 3, 1994, plus one year longer with respect to the NEH. See 59 FR 4779-4780 (February 2, 1994).

The Foundation is also removing from 45 CFR part 1105 various sections that are unnecessary or redundant, in light of other regulations. Additionally, the Foundation has determined that the NEA and the NEH each are best suited to administer their own respective conduct-related regulations and to develop with OGE's concurrence any supplemental conduct regulations at their respective agencies.

A residual provision is being added to 45 CFR part 1105 to cross-reference the executive branchwide Standards at 5 CFR part 2635, the NEA's new supplemental standards of ethical conduct, the NEH's new supplemental standards of conduct, the executive branchwide regulations on financial disclosure and financial interests at 5 CFR parts 2634 and 2640, and the branchwide employee responsibilities and conduct regulations at 5 CFR part 735.

III. Matters of Regulatory Procedure

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking

As Deputy General Counsel of the NEA and the Deputy General Counsel of NEH, acting together as the Foundation, we have found good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b) and (d)(3) for waiving, as necessary and contrary to public interest, the general notice of proposed rulemaking, the opportunity for advance public comment, and the 30-day delay in effectiveness as to this interim rule. The reason for this determination is that this rulemaking is related to the Foundation's, the NEA's and the NEH's organization, procedure and practice. Nonetheless, this is an interim rulemaking, with provision for a 30-day public comment period. The NEA and

the NEH, acting together as the Foundation, will review all comments received during the comment period and will consider any modifications that appear appropriate in adopting this rule as final.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

As Deputy General Counsel of the NEA and as the Deputy General Counsel of the NEH, acting together as the Foundation, we have determined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. chapter 6) that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it only affects NEA and NEH employees.

Paperwork Reduction Act

As Deputy General Counsel of the NEA and as the Deputy General Counsel of the NEH, acting together as the Foundation, we have determined that the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) does not apply because these regulations do not contain any information collection requirements that require approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

For purposes of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. chapter 25, subchapter II), this rule will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments and will not result in increased expenditures by State, local, and tribal governments, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more (as adjusted for inflation) in any one year.

List of Subjects in 45 CFR Part 1105

Conflict of interests, Government employees.

Dated: August 13, 2003.

Karen Elias,

Deputy General Counsel, National Endowment for the Arts.

Dated: August 13, 2003.

Michael McDonald,

Deputy General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities.

■ For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are revising 45 CFR part 1105 to read as follows:

PART 1105—STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 7301.

§ 1105.1 Cross-reference to employee ethical conduct standards and financial disclosure and financial interests regulations.

■ Employees of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are subject to the executive branchwide standards of ethical conduct at 5 CFR part 2635; the executive branch employees responsibilities and conduct regulations at 5 CFR part 735; the executive branch financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR part 2634, and the executive branch financial interests regulations at 5 CFR part 2640. Employees of the National Endowment for the Arts are also subject to that Agency's regulations at 5 CFR part 6501, which supplement the executive branchwide standards of conduct at 5 CFR part 2635. Employees of the National Endowment for the Humanities are also subject to that Agency's regulations at 5 CFR part 6601, which supplement the executive branchwide standards of conduct at 5 CFR part 2635. [FR Doc. 03-22655 Filed 9-4-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 030828215-3215-01; I.D. 082103A]

RIN 0648-AR47

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Groundfish Fishery Management Measures; Corrections

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

ACTION: Final emergency rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces changes to the closed areas affecting the limited entry fixed gear fleet, the open access non-trawl gear fleet and the recreational fishery in southern California. For the limited entry fixed gear and open access non-trawl gear fleets, south of 34°27' N. lat. to the U.S./Mexico border, the eastern, inshore boundary of the non-trawl rockfish conservation area (non-trawl RCA), an area closed to fishing by those fisheries, will be a boundary line approximating the 30-fm (55-m) depth contour, except in the Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCA) where the inshore boundary will remain at 20-fm

(37-m) [Note: The CCA is a distinct closed area separate from the non-trawl RCA]. The western, seaward boundary of the non-trawl RCA will remain at a line approximating 150-fm (274-m). For the recreational fishery, south of 34°27' N. lat. to the U.S./Mexico border, the seaward boundary of the open area will be marked by a boundary line approximating the 30-fm (55 m) depth contour, except in the CCA where the boundary will remain at 20-fm (37-m). [Note: The CCA is a distinct closed area separate from the non-trawl RCA.] These actions, which are authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), will allow fishermen access to more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting overfished and depleted stocks. NMFS also announces several corrections to the existing RCA boundaries.

DATES: Changes to management measures are effective 0001 hours (local time) September 2, 2003, until the 2004 annual specifications and management measures are effective, unless modified, superseded, or rescinded through a publication in the **Federal Register**. Comments on this rule will be accepted through October 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to D. Robert Lohn, Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or Rod McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. Information relevant to this emergency rule, which includes an Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR), is available for public review during business hours at the offices of the NMFS Northwest Regional Administrator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jamie Goen or Carrie Nordeen (Northwest Region, NMFS), phone: 206-526-6140; fax: 206-526-6736; and e-mail: jamie.goen@noaa.gov or carrie.nordeen@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is available on the Government Printing Office's website at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/ca/docs/aces/aces140.html. Background information and documents are available at the NMFS Northwest Region website at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/lusufsh/gdfsh01.htm> and at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at: <http://www.pcouncil.org>.

Background

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (Groundfish FMP) and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subpart G, regulate fishing for over 80 species of groundfish off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. Annual groundfish specifications and management measures are initially developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council), and are implemented by NMFS. The groundfish specifications include optimum yields (OYs) for groundfish species and species groups. These OYs are the annual harvest targets. Management measures are implemented at the start of the season, and adjusted inseason, to allow the fishery to achieve, but not exceed, the OYs for groundfish. The specifications and management measures for the 2003 fishing year (January 1–December 31, 2003) were initially published in the **Federal Register** as an emergency rule for January 1–February 28, 2003 (68 FR 908, January 7, 2003) and as a proposed rule for March 1–December 31, 2003 (68 FR 936, January 7, 2003). The emergency rule was amended at 68 FR 4719, January 30, 2003, and the final rule for March 1–December 31, 2003 was published in the **Federal Register** on March 7, 2003 (68 FR 11182). The final rule has been subsequently amended at 68 FR 18166 (April 15, 2003), at 68 FR 23901 (May 6, 2003), at 68 FR 23924 (May 6, 2003), at 68 FR 32680 (June 2, 2003), at 68 FR 35575 (June 16, 2003), at 68 FR 40187 (July 7, 2003) and at 68 FR 43473 (July 23, 2003).

At their June 16–20, 2003 meeting in Foster City, CA, the Pacific Council, in consultation with Pacific Coast Treaty Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, recommended changes to current groundfish management measures. Most changes were implemented on July 1, 2003 (68 FR 40187, July 7, 2003), but this change was delayed because of the need for additional analysis prior to implementation. The recommended change being implemented in this document is to move the conservation area boundary line affecting the commercial non-trawl fisheries (limited entry fixed gear and open access non-trawl) and the recreational fishery from 20-fm (37-m) to 30-fm (55-m) south of 34°27' N. lat, except in the CCA where the boundary will remain at 20-fm (37-m). [Note: The CCA is a distinct closed area separate from the non-trawl RCA.] This increases the area in which the fishery can take place, and decreases the