

revised regulation by one year from today. If Massachusetts fails to submit the required revisions within one year of this conditional approval, then this conditional approval will be converted to a disapproval.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before May 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to David Conroy, Unit Manager, Air Quality Planning, Office of Ecosystem Protection (mail code CAQ), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA New England Regional Office, One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114–2023. Copies of the State submittal and EPA's technical support document are available for public inspection during normal business hours, by appointment at the Office of Ecosystem Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA New England Regional Office, One Congress Street, 11th floor, Boston, MA and the Division of Air Quality Control, Department of Environmental Protection, One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey S. Butensky, Environmental Planner, (617) 918–1665; butensky.jeff@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the Final Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is conditionally approving the State's SIP submittal as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this action rule, no further activity is contemplated. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

For additional information, see the direct final rule which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 21, 2003.

Robert W. Varney,

Regional Administrator, EPA New England.
[FR Doc. 03–8360 Filed 4–7–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

46 CFR Part 540

[Docket No. 02–15]

Passenger Vessel Financial Responsibility

AGENCY: Federal Maritime Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of time; submission of oral comments; public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Commission has determined to extend the comment period in this matter, and to provide interested persons with the opportunity to make oral presentations to individual Commissioners and at a public hearing before the full Commission.

DATES: Comments are now due on May 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments and inquiries concerning this proposed rule to: Bryant L. VanBrakle, Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Room 1046, Washington, DC 20573–0001. (202) 523–5725. E-mail: secretary@fmc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy W. Larson, Acting General Counsel, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Room 1018, Washington, DC 20573–0001. (202) 523–5740. E-mail: generalcounsel@fmc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to rule 53(a) of the Commission's rules of practice and procedure, 46 CFR 502.53(a)(2002), in notice-and-comment rulemakings the Commission may permit interested persons to make oral presentations in addition to filing written comments. The Commission has determined to permit interested persons to make such presentations to individual Commissioners in this proceeding, and additionally to hold a public hearing before the full Commission.

At the discretion of individual Commissioners, interested persons request one-on-one meetings at which they may make presentations describing their views on the proposed rule. Any meeting or meetings shall be completed before the close of the comment period. The summary or transcript of oral presentations will be included in the record and must be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission within 5 days of the meeting. Interested persons wishing to make an oral presentation should contact the Office of the Secretary to secure contact names and numbers for individual Commissioners.

The Commission has also determined to hold a public hearing, at which

interested parties may make presentations and field questions from the Commissioners. The date and time of the hearing will be set forth in a subsequent order.

Finally, the deadline for filing comments is extended to May 30, 2003.

By the Commission. *

Bryant L. VanBrakle,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–8611 Filed 4–4–03; 9:29 am]

BILLING CODE 6730–01–M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 03–815; MB Docket No. 03–78, RM–10684]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Bend and Prineville, OR

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document sets forth a proposal to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 73.202(b). The Commission requests comment on a petition filed by Combined Communications, Inc., licensee of Station KTWS–FM, Channel 253C3, Bend, Oregon. Petitioner proposes to upgrade the allotment for Channel 253C3 at Bend, Oregon, to Channel 253C1, and to modify the license of KTWS–FM accordingly. In order to facilitate that change, petitioner further proposes to substitute Channel 271C3 for Channel 255C3, a vacant allotment at Prineville, Oregon, and to change the reference coordinates for that allotment. Channel 271C3 can be allotted to Prineville in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 13.6 km (8.4 miles) east of Prineville. The coordinates for Channel 271C3 at Prineville are 44–20–36 North Latitude and 120–44–06 West Longitude. If that change is made in the Table of Allotments, Channel 253C1 can be allotted to Bend in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 2.6 km (1.6 miles)

* Commissioner Brennan, concurring in part and dissenting in part: A public hearing is far better public policy, in my view, than closed-door meetings with interested parties, when one is considering a substantial rule change. While I support the decision to extend the comment period and to hold a public hearing, I dissent as to the matter of one-on-one presentations, the need for which is obviated by a public hearing.

northwest of Bend. The coordinates for Channel 253C1 at Bend are 44–04–41 North Latitude and 121–19–57 West Longitude. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** *infra*.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before May 12, 2003, and reply comments on or before May 27, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve counsel for the petitioner as follows: J. Dominic Monahan, Luvaas, Cobb, Richards & Fraser, P.C., 777 High Street, Suite 300, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah A. Dupont, Media Bureau (202) 418–7072.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MB Docket No. 03–78, adopted March 19, 2003 and released March 21, 2003. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center (Room CY–A257), 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202)863–2893.

The Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding. Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio, Radio broadcasting.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR Part 73 as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for Part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334 and 336.

§ 73.202 [Amended]

2. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Oregon, is amended by removing Channel 253C3 and by adding Channel 253C1 at Bend; and by removing Channel 255C3 and by adding Channel 271C3 at Prineville.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 03–8407 Filed 4–7–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 600

[I.D. 032803C]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Notification of a proposal for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject EFP application contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Regional Administrator proposes to issue an EFP that would allow one vessel to conduct fishing operations that are otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The EFP would allow for exemptions from the requirement to count DAS under this EFP against his NE multispecies DAS allocation; the fishing restrictions imposed by the GOM rolling closure areas; and the minimum fish size requirements for the temporary retention of undersized fish for data collection purposes. The EFP would allow these exemptions for not more

than 20 days of sea trials. All experimental work would be monitored by a UNH Cooperative Extension technician.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments on this document must be received on or before April 23, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on UNH Cooperative Extension Shallow Gillnet Selectivity EFP Proposal." Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281–9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Hooker, Fishery Management Specialist, phone 978–281–9220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The UNH Cooperative Extension submitted an application for an EFP on January 24, 2003, with final revisions received on March 21, 2003. The experimental fishing application requests authorization to allow the collection of data on the performance of two gillnet designs that are intended to utilize differences in behavior and closeness to the seabed between flatfish and cod. It is hypothesized that the shallower nets will have better species and size selectivity than either regular roundfish gillnets, tie-down gillnets, and foam-core flatfish gillnets, thereby reducing discards of GOM cod and allowing fishermen to continue to fish for flatfish without exceeding the cod possession limits. The time period for this experiment would be May 1–August 31, 2003. The location of the experiment would be bounded by the New England shoreline, west of 69° W. long., and north of 42° N. lat. The experiment would use a total of 40 gillnets, 300 ft (91.44 m) in length with 7-inch (17.7 cm) mesh. The control group nets would be 25 meshes deep while the experimental group nets would be 12 and 8 meshes deep.

The applicant has requested an exemption from 20 NE multispecies DAS to conduct the experiment. The applicant has also requested an exemption from GOM rolling closures III and IV. The applicant has also requested that the vessel be allowed to land any legal-sized fish for which he is permitted, for commercial sale within GOM possession limits. There would be some bycatch of sub-legal sized fish