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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 1995, the Agency identified a number of provisions in its regulations and standards that were inconsistent, duplicative, outdated, or in need of being rewritten in plain language. In 1998, as part of the process of correcting such provisions, OSHA made several substantive revisions to its health and safety standards that reduced the regulatory obligations of employers while maintaining the safety and health protection afforded to employees (63 FR 33450, June 18, 1998). During and after this rulemaking, the Agency identified several other regulatory provisions in its safety and health standards involving notification of use, frequency of exposure monitoring and medical surveillance, and similar provisions that it believes are unnecessary or ineffective in protecting employee safety and health. OSHA proposed to make substantive revisions to a number of the health standard provisions identified in this process on October 31, 2002 (67 FR 66494). The period for filing public comment on the proposal was to end on December 30, 2002. Interested parties, including the AFL-CIO, have requested an extension of the deadline for submitting comments based on the need for additional time to provide a thorough review and response to the substantive provisions proposed for revision in the notice. OSHA, therefore, is extending the deadline for submitting comments from December 30, 2002, until January 30, 2003.

#### Authority

John L. Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, directed the preparation of this document. It is issued under section 6(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655), Secretary of Labor's Order No. 3-2000 (65 FR 50017) and 29 CFR part 1911.

Signed in Washington, DC on January 2, 2003.

**John L. Henshaw,**

*Assistant Secretary of Labor.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 010203A]

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna; Commercial Shark Management Measures

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS will conduct four public hearings to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public regarding proposed regulations to reduce dead discards of Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery and emergency regulations in the Atlantic shark fisheries that implemented commercial quotas for 2003 and suspended the commercial minimum size limit. NMFS previously published the proposed rule regarding incidental catch requirements of BFT on December 24, 2002. NMFS previously published the emergency rule regarding Atlantic sharks on December 27, 2002.

**DATES:** Written comments on the proposed rule regarding BFT must be received by 5 p.m. on February 7, 2003. Written comments on the emergency rule regarding Atlantic sharks must be received by 5 p.m. on February 14, 2003. The public hearings will be held from January 22 to January 30, 2003. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held in Barnegat Light, NJ; Manteo, NC; Treasure Island, FL; and Fairhaven, MA. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brad McHale or Dianne Stephan at 978-281-9260 regarding the proposed rule on BFT and Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347 regarding the emergency rule on commercial shark management measures.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS proposes to amend regulations governing the BFT fishery to reduce discards of BFT in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. The intent of these actions is to minimize dead discards of BFT and improve management of the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery, while complying with the National Standards of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and allowing harvest of BFT consistent with recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The December 24, 2002, proposed rule (67 FR 78404) contains the background information for this measure and that information is not repeated here.

NMFS issued an emergency rule, effective December 31, 2002, that set the 2003 commercial quotas for large and small coastal sharks, suspended the commercial minimum size limit, and allowed regulations on season-specific quota adjustments and counting dead discards and state landings after a Federal closure against the commercial quotas to go into effect. These regulations are necessary to ensure that the regulations in force are based on the best available science. The December 27, 2002, emergency rule (67 FR 78990) contains the background information for these measures and that information is not repeated here.

#### Hearing and Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations

The hearings for the proposed and emergency rules will be conducted jointly at the identified locations. NMFS intends to dedicate half of the hearing time to each rule. The public hearing schedule is as follows:

*Wednesday, January 22, 2003 - Barnegat Light, NJ, 7 - 9 p.m.*

Barnegat Light Fire House  
10th Boulevard Street  
Long Island Beach  
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

*Monday, January 27, 2003 - Manteo, NC, 7 - 9 p.m.*

North Carolina Aquarium  
Airport Road  
Manteo, NC 27954

*Tuesday, January 28, 2003 - Treasure Island, FL, 7 - 9 p.m.*

Garden Room  
City of Treasure Island Community Center  
1 Park Place at 106th Avenue  
Treasure Island, FL 33706