

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.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by November 28, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID Number EPA-R03-OAR-2008-0656 by one of the following methods:

A. *www.regulations.gov*. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

B. *E-mail*:
fernandez.cristina@epa.gov.

C. *Mail*: EPA-R03-OAR-2008-0656, Cristina Fernandez, Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch, Mailcode 3AP21, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

D. *Hand Delivery*: At the previously-listed EPA Region III address. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-R03-OAR-2008-0656. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change, and may be made available online at *www.regulations.gov*, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through *www.regulations.gov* or e-mail. The *www.regulations.gov* Web site is an *anonymous access* system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through *www.regulations.gov*, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form

of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses.

Docket: All documents in the electronic docket are listed in the *www.regulations.gov* index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, i.e., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in *www.regulations.gov* or in hard copy during normal business hours at the Air Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Copies of the State submittal are available at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Egan, (215) 814-3167, or by e-mail at *egan.patrick@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For further information, please see the information provided in the direct final action, Approval of Virginia's Revision to move the Richmond and the Hampton Roads 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas from the list of nonattainment areas to the list of maintenance areas that is located in the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register** publication.

Dated: October 20, 2008.

Donald Welsh,

Regional Administrator, Region III.

[FR Doc. E8-25671 Filed 10-28-08; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 271 and 272

[EPA-R06-RCRA-2008; FRL-8727-4]

Texas: Final Authorization of State-Initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: During a review of Texas' regulations, EPA identified a variety of State-initiated changes to Texas' hazardous waste program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended (RCRA), for which the State had not previously sought authorization. EPA proposes to

authorize the State for the program changes. In addition, EPA proposes to codify in the regulations entitled "Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Programs", Texas' authorized hazardous waste program. EPA will incorporate by reference into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) those provisions of the State regulations that are authorized and that EPA will enforce under RCRA. In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is authorizing the changes to the Texas program, and codifying and incorporating by reference the State's hazardous waste program as an immediate final rule. EPA did not make a proposal prior to the immediate final rule because we believe these actions are not controversial and do not expect comments that oppose them. We have explained the reasons for this authorization and incorporation by reference in the preamble to the immediate final rule. Unless we get written comments which oppose this authorization and incorporation by reference during the comment period, the immediate final rule will become effective on the date it establishes, and we will not take further action on this proposal. If we get comments that oppose these actions, we will withdraw the immediate final rule and it will not take effect. We will then respond to public comments in a later final rule based on this proposal. You may not have another opportunity for comment. If you want to comment on this action, you must do so at this time.

DATES: Send written comments by November 28, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Alima Patterson, Region 6, Regional Authorization Coordinator, or Julia Banks, Codification Coordinator, (6PD-O), Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division at the address shown below. You can examine copies of the materials that form the basis for this authorization and incorporation by reference during normal business hours at the following location: EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, phone number (214) 665-8533 or (214) 665-8178. Comments may also be submitted electronically or through hand delivery/courier; please follow the detailed instructions in the **ADDRESSES** section of the immediate final rule which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alima Patterson, (214) 665-8533.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information, please see the immediate final rule published in the

“Rules and Regulations” section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 17, 2008.

Richard E. Greene,

Regional Administrator, EPA Region 6.

[FR Doc. E8-25587 Filed 10-28-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 622 and 640

[Docket No. 070717349-7570-02]

RIN 0648-AV61

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Amendments to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plans for the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this proposed rule that would implement Amendment 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Spiny Lobster Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Caribbean FMP) prepared by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Caribbean Council) and Amendment 8 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Spiny Lobster Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (Gulf and South Atlantic FMP) prepared by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Gulf and South Atlantic Councils). This proposed rule would establish two minimum size restrictions for importation of spiny lobster into the United States -one applicable to spiny lobster imported into any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States other than Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, and a more restrictive minimum size limit that applies to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In addition, this proposed rule would prohibit importation of egg-bearing spiny lobsters and importation of spiny lobster tail meat that is not in whole tail form with the exoskeleton attached. The intended effect of this proposed rule is to enhance the conservation of the spiny lobster resource and improve effectiveness of law enforcement related to such conservation.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 15, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the proposed rule, identified by 0648-AV61, by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Jason Rueter, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.
- Fax: 727-824-5308; Attention: Jason Rueter.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Copies of the combined Amendments 4 and 8, which include a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), an initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA), a regulatory impact review (RIR), and a social impact assessment/fishery impact statement may be obtained from Jason Rueter, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 or may be downloaded from the Southeast Regional Office website at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jason Rueter, telephone 727-824-5305; fax 727-824-5308; e-mail jason.rueter@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The spiny lobster fishery of the Caribbean is managed under the Caribbean FMP prepared by the Caribbean Council and is implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 622. The spiny lobster fishery of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic is managed under the Gulf and South Atlantic FMP prepared by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils and is implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 640. Both regulations are implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Background

Fisheries for spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) exist throughout its range in the Caribbean and tropical western Atlantic. Foreign and U.S. scientists and fisheries managers concur that the spiny lobster stock is fully exploited or over-exploited in much of its range.

Spiny lobster have a long (approximately 1-year) planktonic larval phase during which the larvae can be widely distributed by ocean currents over large geographic areas. Spiny lobster resources off Florida and the U.S. Caribbean are dependent, in part, on recruitment of larvae from areas in the Caribbean basin, outside the U.S. EEZ. Large quantities of spiny lobster are being harvested outside the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) at a size less than the respective continental U.S. and U.S. Caribbean minimum size limits, which are designed to prohibit harvest prior to the average size at sexual maturity. Much of this harvest outside the U.S. EEZ also involves spiny lobster less than the minimum size limits of the various foreign countries where such harvest occurs; however, enforcement has not been effective in curtailing this illegal activity.

Large-scale harvest of sexually immature, i.e. undersized, spiny lobster outside the U.S. EEZ adversely impacts the reproductive capacity of the spiny lobster resources and subsequent recruitment throughout the Caribbean and Florida. A reduction of fishing effort on undersized, sexually immature spiny lobster and a more comprehensive and effective enforcement mechanism would increase spawning stock biomass and increase potential yield from the fisheries. Representatives of the spiny lobster seafood industry have recognized that large-scale harvest of undersized spiny lobster adversely affect the spiny lobster resource throughout large portions of its range including areas subject to U.S. jurisdiction and have asked respective governments to address the illegal harvest and exportation of undersized spiny lobster tails to the United States.

The United States is a major importer of spiny lobster -importing over 194 million lb (88 million kg) over the past 10 years. The United States imports over 90 percent of the spiny lobster harvested in South and Central America and other Caribbean countries. The major exporters to the United States are the Bahamas, Brazil, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

There are two main issues associated with addressing the importation of undersized spiny lobster. First is the importation of spiny lobster that are