

specificity as possible, including the definitions used for any establishment type for which TANF benefit access was restricted. If the State's restriction appears to differ from the EBT transaction restriction contained in section 4004 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, please describe those differences.

b. Was the restriction put in place in response to a legislative mandate or by executive action without a specific legislative mandate? If in response to a legislative mandate, what did the legislature require?

c. If your State imposes EBT transaction restrictions relating to liquor stores, casinos, gambling casinos, or other gaming establishments, or retail establishments which provide adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state for entertainment, can you please indicate: which of these locations are subject to restriction, and what is the definition used to describe the restricted location?

d. What specific method and procedures does the State use?

e. What challenges to implementation have been encountered and how did the State address them?

f. Please provide any information available concerning initial and continuing costs.

g. Does the State identify locations where benefit access is to be restricted through a manual process, an automated process or some combination of the two? Please describe the process for identifying these locations.

h. Has your State implemented what you consider an effective method of restricting access to EBT usage at specified locations? Please describe why you think it is effective (e.g. cost effective, achieves desired outcomes)?

i. What concerns have been raised by businesses, electronic benefit vendors, and/or TANF recipients, relating to access, cost, or other issues, in relation to the restrictions? Have particular concerns been raised relating to rural areas of the State? If so, what are those concerns, and how, if at all, have those concerns been addressed?

j. If your State passes through child support to families receiving TANF assistance, how, if at all, do the TANF assistance restrictions affect provision of passed-through child support?

k. Are your State's restrictions limited to TANF assistance, or do they affect any other benefits provided electronically? If the restrictions are limited to TANF assistance, how, if at all, do restrictions on accessing TANF assistance affect access to any other benefits?

l. Are there particular issues not discussed above that have arisen in design or implementation that could be useful for OFA to be aware of in the development of regulations relating to this topic?

4. With regards to States that have not implemented EBT transaction restrictions, have you considered and examined issues relevant to implementation of such restrictions? If so, can you identify issues and considerations that have arisen for you as you considered such requirements?

5. For any State, do you currently have information about the incidence of the use of TANF assistance EBT transactions in liquor stores, gaming establishments, and adult entertainment venues?

Access Fees or Charges

6. With respect to any State, please describe the fees and charges that TANF recipients face when accessing their TANF assistance benefits. If the fees or charges differ based on number of withdrawals or where or how benefits are accessed (such as via an ATM vs. point of sale transaction), please describe the differences in fees under all relevant benefit access mechanisms.

7. Does your State provide any mechanism that allows TANF assistance recipients to access benefits without facing any fees or charges? If so, please describe.

8. How, if at all, does your State make information available to TANF assistance recipients about where to access TANF benefits, the fees and charges associated with accessing benefits under various scenarios, and how benefits can be accessed without any fees or charges?

9. What, if anything, do you think should be done to reduce the costs of accessing TANF benefits?

10. Please describe any access barriers, that you think TANF assistance recipients currently face or could face under the restrictions and what mechanisms, if any, you think could reduce those access barriers while ensuring that TANF benefits are not accessed through EBT transactions at those establishments for which access is restricted under section 4004 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

EBT Vendor Input

11. For companies that provide electronic benefit services to States with respect to TANF assistance, please describe the implementation issues you think States could or would face in implementing the restriction required under section 4004 of the Middle Class

Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Please describe technical issues, cost implications, and access implications as well as mechanisms for addressing problems identified.

We welcome any other comments you have about the TANF EBT provisions contained in Section 4004 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

Dated: April 5, 2012.

Earl Johnson,

Director, Office of Family Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

RIN 0648-XB162

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Public Conference Call Regarding Recreational Yellowfin Tuna Fishery Data Collection

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

ACTION: Notice of public conference call.

SUMMARY: In order to better inform the public and NMFS, a conference call that is open to the public will be held to discuss historical and future data collection in the U.S. recreational yellowfin tuna fishery and the relationship to international yellowfin tuna management (e.g., quota establishment or tracking landings).

DATES: An operator-assisted conference call that is open to the public will be held on April 27, 2012, from 10 a.m. to noon, EDT (phone number 888-593-8429; participant pass code 1629891). During this call, members of the public may ask questions and provide comments, after a brief background presentation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Blankinship at 727-824-5399 or Dianne Stephan at 978-281-9347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Atlantic tunas are managed under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Atlantic Tuna Conventions Act (ATCA), which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to promulgate regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to implement

recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The authority to issue regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and ATCA has been delegated from the Secretary to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. On October 2, 2006, NMFS published in the **Federal Register** (71 FR 58058) final regulations, effective November 1, 2006, implementing the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan, which details the management measures for Atlantic HMS fisheries.

At its 2011 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) actively considered country-specific yellowfin

tuna allocations, as well as the potential landings histories that could be the basis for those allocations. While the final recommendation did not establish any country-specific allocations, some members of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel and the public have expressed an interest in discussing historical and future data collection in the U.S. recreational yellowfin tuna fishery, in case the issue comes up at the 2012 ICCAT meeting.

NMFS is facilitating the public discussion of this topic through this public conference call. The purpose of this call is to discuss historical and future data collection in the U.S. recreational yellowfin tuna fishery and the relationship to international

yellowfin tuna management (e.g., quota establishment or tracking landings). During the call, the background of recreational yellowfin tuna data collection—as well as recent international management developments—will be briefly reviewed. The potential for future data collection will also be discussed. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in the discussion.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: April 20, 2012.

Galen Tromble,

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

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