

expressly include “intellectual property” as a category of intangible property, nor does it include items such as data and software that are often considered to be intellectual and/or personal property. The only other provision of the PAMM governing a type of intellectual property is section 5(g), which provides that recipients may copyright work that is obtained or developed with LSC funds as long as the Corporation “reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use” such copyrighted work.

Question 13: Should LSC revise the PAMM’s definition of “personal property” to include intellectual property? Should LSC create a new provision that governs exclusively rights in intellectual property created using LSC grant funding? Should general rights in data produced under LSC grants be addressed separately from any new provisions governing the acquisition of intellectual property?

Question 14: Do other funders impose rights-in-data requirements that LSC should be aware of when revising the PAMM, such as the retention of a royalty-free, nonexclusive license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use products developed by the recipient using those funds? If so, what are those requirements?

F. Revising Procedures and Requirements for Procurements; Including Procurements of Services Within the Scope of Part 1630 and the PAMM

LSC is considering revising the procedures and requirements applicable to grantee procurements paid for in whole or in part with LSC funds. Unlike the Uniform Guidance and its relevant predecessors, OMB Circulars A–87 and A–122, neither part 1630 nor the PAMM describes the minimum standards that LSC recipients’ procurement policies should have. Program Letter 98–4, which established the procedures that recipients must use to seek prior approval of certain leases and procurements of personal and real property, requires a recipient to give LSC minimal information about the process by which the recipient selected a contractor, including whether the recipient solicited bids or awarded a contract on a sole source basis. The annual grant assurances applicable to Basic Field Grant awards do not require recipients to certify that they have procurement policies that meet prescribed minimum standards. By contrast, recipients of Technology Initiative Grant (TIG) awards must comply with the procurement

requirements set forth in the annual grant assurances applicable to the TIG program. As a result, recipients of special grants from LSC are subject to more robust procurement requirements than recipients of only Basic Field Grants are. LSC believes that revising part 1630 and the PAMM to incorporate minimum standards for recipient procurement policies is necessary to ensure that recipients have adequate procurement policies and that all LSC-funded grant programs are subject to the same requirements.

Question 15: Should LSC model its revised procurement standards on the standards contained in the Uniform Guidance? What standards do other funders require recipients’ procurement policies to meet?

LSC is also considering including contracts for services within the scope of part 1630 and the PAMM. Neither part 1630 nor the PAMM currently requires prior approval or specific procurement procedures for services contracts, either alone or accompanying a purchase of personal property. For example, contracts with information technology providers often include both equipment (personal property) and services. Recipients currently may separate services from personal property in order to demonstrate that the cost of the personal property falls below the PAMM’s threshold for prior approval, even if the total contract cost, including services, exceeds the threshold. Recipients may also enter into contracts for services costing significant amounts of LSC funds, even though there is no requirement that LSC approve the recipient’s selection of a contractor and formation of the contract. By contrast, TIG recipients must follow procurement procedures, but not obtain prior approval, for all procurements of any kind over \$5,000.

Question 16: What procedures and requirements should LSC adopt to govern services contracts? How can LSC incorporate such procedures and requirements in a way that promotes clarity, efficiency, and accountability, while also minimizing any potential burden to grantees?

G. Adopting the PAMM as a Codified Rule

LSC is considering codifying the PAMM into a rule published in the Code of Federal Regulations. Although the PAMM technically is not a rule, it has several characteristics in common with legislative rules. For example, the PAMM was adopted after notice and an opportunity for public comment. LSC also assesses recipients’ compliance with the provisions of the PAMM.

Management believes that the codification of the PAMM may further promote and preserve the effectiveness and consistency of LSC’s property acquisition, use, and disposal policies and procedures.

Question 17: Would codification of the PAMM as a rule create potential burdens to grantees or otherwise unduly disrupt grantees’ current property acquisition and management practices?

H. Other Questions

Question 18: Are there any significant conflicts between the Corporation’s requirements in Part 1630 and the PAMM and rules implemented by other public and private funders? If so, what steps should LSC take to address such conflicts, whether through rulemaking or otherwise?

Question 19: Are there any aspects of Part 1630 and the PAMM not identified in this ANPRM that the Corporation should address in this rulemaking?

Dated: October 5, 2015.

Stefanie K. Davis,

Assistant General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2015–25735 Filed 10–8–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7050–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 300

[Docket No. 150618531–5876–01]

RIN 0648–BF17

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Implementation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation System

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to revise the regulations governing international trade documentation and tracking programs for Atlantic bluefin tuna to implement recommendations adopted at recent meetings of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The proposed rule would transition the current ICCAT paper-based bluefin tuna catch documentation program (BCD program), used in the United States by highly migratory species (HMS) international trade permit (ITP) holders, to use of the

ICCAT electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation system (eBCD system).

DATES: Written comments must be received by November 9, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by “NOAA-NMFS–2015–0116”, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0116>, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Margo Schulze-Haugen, NMFS/SF1, 1315 East-West Highway, National Marine Fisheries Service, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

NMFS will also conduct a public conference call and webinar to solicit public comments on this proposed rule on October 13, 2015. For specific information, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

Copies of the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (Consolidated HMS FMP) and other relevant documents are available from the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management Division Web site at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Soltanoff at (301) 427–8503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Atlantic bluefin tuna are managed under the dual authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*, and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA), 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* Under ATCA, the Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to implement ICCAT recommendations. The implementing regulations for international trade documentation and tracking programs for HMS are at 50 CFR part 300.

Background

In response to the need to detect fraud and deter illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) shipments, as well as to improve tracking of bluefin tuna catch and commerce, ICCAT has adopted recommendations establishing an eBCD system. The eBCD system builds on the previously established ICCAT statistical document program and the paper-based BCD program. In this rulemaking, NMFS is proposing to implement recent ICCAT recommendations through minor administrative regulatory adjustments to transition the current paper-based BCD program to the ICCAT eBCD system.

ICCAT Recommendation 92–01 first established a statistical document program for Atlantic bluefin tuna, which was implemented in the United States in 1995 (60 FR 14381; March 17, 1995). ICCAT required that all bluefin tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or at the first entry into a regional economic organization, be accompanied by an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document that included information such as product type, species, amount, and flag nation of the harvesting vessel. Contracting parties collected the final statistical documents and submitted summarized data to ICCAT for use in fishery management. Initially, the ICCAT bluefin tuna statistical document program covered imports and exports of frozen product only. The program was later expanded to cover fresh product and re-export of product. In addition to Atlantic bluefin tuna, the program also included Pacific and southern bluefin tuna to avoid mislabeling of Atlantic bluefin tuna for import or export without documentation.

The current paper-based BCD program was adopted by ICCAT in 2007 (Recommendation 07–10, currently Recommendation 11–20) and implemented in the United States in 2008 (73 FR 31380; June 2, 2008). The BCD program expanded the bluefin tuna statistical document program to incorporate consignment tracking beginning with documentation of catch, through farming operations and trade, to the final importer. The BCD program requires paper bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs) to accompany all bluefin tuna imports, exports, and re-exports, and requires validation of the documents by the exporting or re-exporting country, unless it meets an exemption for tagged product. Under U.S. domestic regulations, Atlantic bluefin tuna harvested for commercial purposes by U.S. vessels must be tagged. Thus, the United States has been able to

take advantage of the validation exemption as applicable. In addition, under existing domestic regulations, the United States requires an international trade permit (ITP) for anyone in the United States to import, export, or re-export bluefin tuna.

In 2010, ICCAT adopted Recommendation 10–11 to develop an eBCD system, which would build on and ultimately replace the paper-based BCD program. Deadlines were set for system implementation in subsequent recommendations but ultimately proved too ambitious given system development and financing issues. Most recently, ICCAT Recommendation 13–17 established a timeline for full implementation of the eBCD system by March 1, 2015. However, in 2014, ICCAT conducted an international test of the eBCD system and noted ongoing technical difficulties and delays in the development of certain core functionalities. Based on these results, ICCAT made the decision, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Recommendation 13–17, that the eBCD system would not be ready for full implementation by the March 1, 2015 deadline and that paper BCDs could continue to be used until the system could be fully implemented. This decision does not preclude ICCAT Contracting Parties from voluntarily using the eBCD system, which is currently available both for testing and use on a voluntary basis.

NMFS anticipates that the ICCAT eBCD system will be fully developed and operational in 2016 with implementation by ICCAT Contracting Parties potentially required as early as March 1, 2016. NMFS anticipates more precise dates and timing requirements to be established by ICCAT at its annual meeting in November 2015. The eBCD system was designed to collect largely the same information that is currently collected under the paper-based BCD program. Therefore, in this rulemaking, NMFS is proposing minor adjustments to current regulations implementing the paper-based BCD program to implement the electronic system and to require its use for future bluefin tuna catch documentation.

Request for Comments

Comments on this proposed rule may be submitted via <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by mail. Written comments must be received by November 9, 2015. Please see the **ADDRESSES** section for more information about submitting comments.

Public Conference Call and Webinar

NMFS will hold a public hearing via conference call and webinar to provide

an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed management measures.

TABLE 1—DATE AND TIME OF PUBLIC CONFERENCE CALL AND WEBINAR

Date	Time	Location	Address
October 13, 2015	2:30–4:30 p.m. Eastern Time	Public Conference Call & Webinar.	To participate in conference call, call: (800) 593–7191. Passcode: 9589317. To participate in webinar, go to: https://noaaevents3.webex.com/noaaevents3/on-stage/g.php?d=999829506&t=a . Meeting Number: 999 829 506. Meeting Password: NOAA.

Requests for auxiliary aids should be directed to Carrie Soltanoff at (301) 427–8503 at least 7 days prior to the conference call and webinar. The public is reminded that NMFS expects participants on phone conferences to conduct themselves appropriately. At the beginning of the meeting, a representative of NMFS will explain the ground rules (e.g., attendees will be called to give their comments in the order in which they registered to speak; each attendee will have an equal amount of time to speak; attendees may not interrupt one another; etc.). The NMFS representative will structure the meeting so that all participating members of the public will be able to comment, if they so choose, regardless of the controversial nature of the subject(s). Attendees are expected to respect the ground rules, and those that do not will be asked to leave the meeting.

Classifications

The NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this proposed rule is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP and its amendments, ATCA, and other applicable law, subject to further consideration after public comment.

This proposed rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

In addition, NMFS has determined that this proposed rule would not affect the coastal zone of any state, and a negative determination pursuant to 15 CFR 930.35 is not required. Therefore, pursuant to 15 CFR 930.33(a)(2), coordination with appropriate state agencies under section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act is not required.

This action has been preliminarily determined to be categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment in accordance with NAO 216–6, subject to further consideration after public

comment. A draft memorandum for the file has been prepared explaining that a categorical exclusion applies because the rule would implement minor adjustments to the regulations and would not have a significant effect, individually or cumulatively, on the human environment. This action is also not expected to directly affect fishing effort, quotas, fishing gear, authorized species, interactions with threatened or endangered species, or other relevant parameters. A final determination will be made prior to publication of the final rule for this action.

This proposed rule contains a collection-of-information requirement subject to review and approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act. ICCAT Recommendation 13–17, as anticipated to be amended at the 2015 ICCAT annual meeting, requires transition of the paper-based BCD program to an eBCD system. To comply with this Recommendation, NMFS will require bluefin tuna dealers with HMS ITPs to use the eBCD system as early as March 1, 2016. An amendment to OMB Control Number 0648–0040 (Dealer Reporting Family of Forms) will be subsequently submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval.

The Chief Council for Regulation of the Department of Commerce has certified to the Chief Council for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration that this proposed rule, if adopted, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

This proposed rule is necessary to implement recommendations of ICCAT, as required by the ATCA, and to achieve domestic management objectives under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Under ATCA, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out ICCAT recommendations.

NMFS is preparing this proposed rule to implement recommendations that pertain to an eBCD system. In response

to the need to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, as well as to improve tracking of bluefin tuna catch and commerce, ICCAT adopted Recommendations 10–11 and 13–17 establishing an eBCD system. NMFS anticipates that the eBCD system will be fully developed by 2016 with implementation potentially required as early as March 1, 2016. NMFS anticipates more precise dates and timing requirements to be established by ICCAT at its annual meeting in November 2015.

Current international fisheries regulations for HMS address many of the elements adopted under ICCAT recommendations for the paper-based BCD program. See 50 CFR 300.180–189. The ICCAT eBCD system largely maintains the elements and requirements of the paper-based BCD program but in an electronic format. Thus, the proposed action proposes minor regulatory adjustments to bring domestic regulations in line with the ICCAT recommendations to transition to the electronic program. The proposed action would affect approximately 259 HMS ITP holders. All 259 ITP holders are considered to be small under the Small Business Administration’s size standards. The proposed action would not significantly alter current regulations, but would require use of an electronic system where paper is currently used. Because the current regulations require that ITP holders use paper BCDs, and the eBCD system is anticipated to collect the same information that is currently collected under the paper-based BCD program, the proposed action is not expected to result in significant operational changes or adverse socioeconomic impacts on ITP holders. The public reporting burden for paper BCDs is estimated at .08 hours (5 minutes) per form and the electronic BCDs would have an equivalent reporting burden. The burden associated with this requirement will be analyzed in the Paperwork

Reduction Act submission prepared for a revision or change to OMB 0648–0040 (Dealer Reporting Family of Forms).

The eBCD system would require ITP holders to use a computer with internet access. This is not a new cost, however, as ITP holders are already required to use a computer and the internet to access the electronic dealer reporting system, as analyzed in the 2012 final rule (77 FR 47303; August 8, 2012).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 300

Administrative practice and procedure, Exports, Fish, Fisheries, Fishing, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Treaties.

Dated: October 2, 2015

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 300, subpart M, is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 300—INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 300, subpart M, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 951–961 and 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 300.181, revise the definitions for “BCD tag” and “Consignment document” and add definitions for “eBCD” and “eBCD system” in alphabetical order to read as follows:

§ 300.181 Definitions.

* * * * *

BCD tag means a numbered tag affixed to a bluefin tuna issued by any country in conjunction with a catch statistics information program and recorded on a BCD or eBCD.

* * * * *

Consignment document means either an ICCAT eBCD or a catch document issued by a nation to comply with the ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program; or an ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC, or CCSBT statistical document or a statistical document issued by a nation to comply with such statistical document programs.

* * * * *

eBCD means an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) generated by the ICCAT eBCD system to track bluefin tuna catch and trade as specified in ICCAT recommendations.

eBCD system, for purposes of the subpart, is the ICCAT electronic system for creating, editing, and transmitting ICCAT catch and trade documentation for bluefin tuna as specified in ICCAT

recommendations and required in these regulations.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 300.185, revise paragraphs (a)(2)(ii) through (vii), remove paragraphs (a)(2)(viii) and (ix), and revise paragraphs (a)(3), (b)(2) and (3), (c)(2)(i) and (iii), and (c)(3).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 300.185 Documentation, reporting and recordkeeping requirements for consignment documents and re-export certificates.

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(ii) Bluefin tuna:

(A) Imports which were re-exported from another nation must also be accompanied by an original, completed, approved, validated, species-specific re-export certificate. For Atlantic bluefin tuna, this requirement must be satisfied by electronic receipt and completion of a re-export certificate in the ICCAT eBCD system, following instructions provided by NMFS.

(B) Bluefin tuna, imported into the Customs territory of the United States or entered for consumption into the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession, from a country requiring a BCD tag on all such bluefin tuna available for sale, must be accompanied by the appropriate BCD tag issued by that country, and said BCD tag must remain on any bluefin tuna until it reaches its final import destination. If the final import destination is the United States, which includes U.S. insular possessions, the BCD tag must remain on the bluefin tuna until it is cut into portions. If the bluefin tuna portions are subsequently packaged for domestic commercial use or re-export, the BCD tag number and the issuing country must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of the package.

(iii) Fish or fish products regulated under this subpart other than bluefin tuna and shark fins.

(A) Imports that were previously re-exported and were subdivided or consolidated with another consignment before re-export, must also be accompanied by an original, completed, approved, validated, species-specific re-export certificate.

(B) All other imports that have been previously re-exported from another nation should have the intermediate importers certification of the original statistical document completed.

(iv) Consignment documents must be validated as specified in § 300.187 by an authorized government official of the flag country whose vessel caught the fish (regardless of where the fish are

first landed). Re-export certificates must be validated by an authorized government official of the re-exporting country. For electronically generated Atlantic bluefin tuna catch documents, validation must be electronic using the ICCAT eBCD system.

(v) A permit holder may not accept an import without the completed consignment document or re-export certificate as described in paragraphs (a)(2)(i) through (a)(2)(iv) of this section.

(vi) For fish or fish products, except shark fins, regulated under this subpart that are entered for consumption, the permit holder must provide correct and complete information, as requested by NMFS, on the original consignment document that accompanied the consignment. For Atlantic bluefin tuna, this information must be provided electronically in the ICCAT eBCD system following instructions provided by NMFS.

(vii) Customs forms can be obtained by contacting the local CBP port office; contact information is available at www.cbp.gov. For a U.S. insular possession, contact the local customs office for any forms required for entry.

(3) *Reporting requirements.* For fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, except shark fins, that are entered for consumption and whose final destination is within the United States, which includes U.S. insular possessions, a permit holder must submit to NMFS the original consignment document that accompanied the fish product as completed under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, to be received by NMFS along with the biweekly report as required under § 300.183(a). A copy of the original completed consignment document must be submitted by the permit holder, to be received by NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, within 24 hours of the time the fish product was entered for consumption into the Customs territory of the United States, or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession. For Atlantic bluefin tuna, this requirement must be satisfied electronically by entering the specified information into the ICCAT eBCD system as directed in paragraph (a)(2)(vi) of this section.

(b) * * *

(2) *Documentation requirements.* A permit holder must complete an original, approved, numbered, species-specific consignment document issued to that permit holder by NMFS for each export referenced under paragraph (b)(1) of this section. For Atlantic bluefin tuna, this requirement must be satisfied by electronic completion of an export certificate in the ICCAT eBCD system,

following instructions provided by NMFS. Such an individually numbered document is not transferable and may be used only once by the permit holder to which it was issued to report on a specific export consignment. A permit holder must provide on the consignment document the correct information and exporter certification. The consignment document must be validated, as specified in § 300.187, by NMFS, or another official authorized by NMFS. A list of such officials may be obtained by contacting NMFS. A permit holder requesting U.S. validation for exports should notify NMFS as soon as possible after arrival of the vessel to avoid delays in inspection and validation of the export consignment.

(3) *Reporting requirements.* A permit holder must ensure that the original, approved, consignment document as completed under paragraph (b)(2) of this section accompanies the export of such products to their export destination. A copy of the consignment document must be received by NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, within 24 hours of the time the fish product was exported from the United States or a U.S. insular possession. For Atlantic bluefin tuna, this requirement must be satisfied electronically by entering the specified information into the ICCAT eBCD system as directed in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(c) * * *

(2) *Documentation requirements.* (i) If a permit holder re-exports a consignment of bluefin tuna, or subdivides or consolidates a consignment of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart, other than shark fins, that was previously entered for consumption as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the permit holder must complete an original, approved, individually numbered, species-specific re-export certificate issued to that permit holder by NMFS for each such re-export consignment. Such an individually numbered document is not transferable and may be used only once by the permit holder to which it was issued to report on a specific re-export consignment. A permit holder must provide on the re-export certificate the correct information and re-exporter certification. The permit holder must also attach the original consignment document that accompanied the import consignment or a copy of that document, and must note on the top of both the consignment documents and the re-export certificates the entry number assigned by CBP authorities at the time of filing the entry summary. For Atlantic bluefin tuna, these

requirements must be satisfied by electronic completion of a re-export certificate in the ICCAT eBCD system, following instructions provided by NMFS.

* * * * *

(iii) Re-export certificates must be validated, as specified in § 300.187, by NMFS or another official authorized by NMFS. A list of such officials may be obtained by contacting NMFS. A permit holder requesting validation for re-exports should notify NMFS as soon as possible to avoid delays in inspection and validation of the re-export shipment. Electronic re-export certificates created for Atlantic bluefin tuna using the ICCAT eBCD system will be validated electronically.

(3) *Reporting requirements.* For each re-export, a permit holder must submit the original of the completed re-export certificate (if applicable) and the original or a copy of the original consignment document completed as specified under paragraph (c)(2) of this section, to accompany the consignment of such products to their re-export destination. A copy of the completed consignment document and re-export certificate (if applicable) must be submitted to NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, and received by NMFS within 24 hours of the time the consignment was re-exported from the United States. For Atlantic bluefin tuna, this requirement must be satisfied electronically by entering the specified information into the ICCAT eBCD system as directed in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

* * * * *

■ 4. In § 300.186, revise paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 300.186 Completed and approved documents.

(a) *NMFS-approved forms.* A NMFS-approved consignment document or re-export certificate may be obtained from NMFS to accompany exports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart from the Customs territory of the United States or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession.

* * * * *

■ 5. In § 300.187, revise paragraphs (f) introductory text and (f)(2) to read as follows:

§ 300.187 Validation requirements.

* * * * *

(f) *BCD tags.* The requirements of this paragraph apply to Pacific bluefin tuna. Requirements for tagging Atlantic bluefin tuna are specified in § 635.5.

* * * * *

(2) *Transfer.* BCD tags for use on Pacific bluefin tuna issued under this section are not transferable and are usable only by the permit holder to whom they are issued.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 2015-25814 Filed 10-8-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 680

RIN 0648-BE98

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of fishery management plan amendment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 44 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs (FMP) for review by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary). Amendment 44 would modify required right of first refusal (ROFR) contract terms that provide eligible crab community entities with the opportunity to purchase certain processor quota shares and other associated assets when they are proposed for sale. Specifically, Amendment 44 would: extend the amount of time allowed for eligible crab community entities to exercise and perform under a ROFR contract; remove or modify provisions that currently allow a ROFR to lapse under specific conditions; provide flexibility for eligible crab community entities and processor quota shareholders to apply a ROFR to mutually-agreed upon assets; and add new reporting requirements for holders of processor quota shares subject to a ROFR. Amendment 44 is necessary to enhance the ability of eligible crab communities to maintain their historical processing interests in the crab fisheries. This action is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the FMP, and other applicable laws.