

would not have a “significant impact on a substantial number of small entities,” section 605(b).

Because the goal of the RFA is to reduce the cost to small entities of complying with federal regulations, the RFA requires an agency to perform a regulatory flexibility analysis of impacts on small entities only when a rule directly regulates those entities. In other words, the impact must be a direct impact on small entities “whose conduct is circumscribed or mandated” by the proposed rule. *White Eagle Coop. v. Conner*, 553 F.3d 467, 480 (7th Cir. 2009).

The amendments to the Board’s regulations adopted here are intended to update the Board’s class classifications and do not mandate or circumscribe the conduct of small entities. For the purpose of RFA analysis for rail carriers subject to the Board’s jurisdiction, the Board defines a “small business” as only including those rail carriers classified as Class III rail carriers under 49 CFR part 1201, General Instructions section 1–1. See *Small Entity Size Standards Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act*, EP 719 (STB served June 30, 2016) (with the Board Member Begeman dissenting). Here, no substantive changes are being made to the Class III threshold, as the Board is only updating the regulations to reflect the current Class III threshold in 2019 dollars (rounded) as opposed to 1991 dollars. Therefore, the Board certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that these proposed rules, if promulgated, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of RFA.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

The Board’s proposal does not contain a new or amended information collection requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521.

#### Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801–808, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has designated this rule as a non-major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

#### List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 1201

Railroads, Uniform System of Accounts.

*It is ordered:*

1. The Board adopts the final rule set forth in this decision. Notice of the final rule will be published in the **Federal Register**.

2. A copy of this decision will be served upon the Chief Counsel for

Advocacy, Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration.

3. This decision is effective on June 4, 2021.

Decided: March 30, 2021.

By the Board, Board Members Begeman, Fuchs, Oberman, Primus, and Schultz.

**Brendetta Jones**,

*Clearance Clerk.*

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Surface Transportation Board amends title 49, chapter X, part 1201 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

#### PART 1201—RAILROAD COMPANIES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1201 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 11142 and 11164.

■ 2. In subpart A, amend the General Instructions, by revising § 1–1(a) and Note A to § 1–1 to read as follows:

#### Subpart A—Uniform System of Accounts

\* \* \* \* \*

#### General Instructions

1–1 *Classification of carriers.* (a) For purposes of accounting and reporting, carriers are grouped into the following three classes:

*Class I:* Carriers having annual carrier operating revenues of \$900 million or more after applying the railroad revenue deflator formula shown in Note A.

*Class II:* Carriers having annual carrier operating revenues of less than \$900 million but in excess of \$40.4 million after applying the railroad revenue deflator formula shown in Note A.

*Class III:* Carriers having annual carrier operating revenues of \$40.4 million or less after applying the railroad revenue deflator formula shown in Note A.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Note A:** The railroad revenue deflator formula is based on the Railroad Freight Price Index developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The formula is as follows: Current Year’s Revenues × (2019 Average Index/Current Year’s Average Index).

\* \* \* \* \*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No: 210325–0071; RTID 0648–XA993]

#### Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2021 Management Area 3 Sub-Annual Catch Limit Harvested

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

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is closing the directed fishery for Management Area 3. This closure is required because NMFS projects 98 percent of the catch allotted to Management Area 3 has been caught. This action is intended to prevent or limit the overharvest of Atlantic herring in Management Area 3, which would result in additional quota reductions next year.

**DATES:** Effective 00:01 hr local time, April 1, 2021, through 24:00 local time, December 31, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lou Forristall, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9321.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Regional Administrator for the Greater Atlantic Region monitors Atlantic herring fishery catch in each of the management areas based on vessel and dealer reports, state data, and other available information. The regulations at 50 CFR 648.201(a)(1)(i)(B)(2) require that the Regional Administrator prohibits federally permitted vessels from fishing for, possessing, transferring, receiving, landing, or selling more than 2,000 pounds (lb) (907.2 kilograms (kg)) in or from Atlantic herring Management Area 3 when 98 percent of the sub-Annual Catch Limit (ACL) is harvested. Based on dealer reports, state data, and other available information, the Regional Administrator projects that 98 percent of the Management Area 3 sub-ACL was harvested as of April 1, 2021. Therefore, effective 00:01 hr local time April 1, 2021, vessels may not fish for, possess, transfer, receive, land, or sell more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of Atlantic herring per trip or calendar day, in or from Management Area 3, through December 31, 2021. Vessels that have entered port before 00:01 hr local time, April 1, 2021, may land or sell more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of Atlantic herring from Area

3 from that trip. A vessel may transit through Area 3 with more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of Atlantic herring on board, provided all herring was caught outside Area 3 and all fishing gear is stowed and not available for immediate use as defined by 50 CFR 648.2. All herring vessels must land in accordance with state landing restrictions.

Effective 00:01 hr local time, April 1, 2021, through 24:00 hr local time, December 31, 2021, federally permitted dealers may not purchase, possess, have custody or control of, sell, barter, trade or transfer, or attempt to sell, barter, trade, or transfer more than 2,000 lb of herring per vessel per trip or calendar day from Management Area 3 through 24:00 hr local time, December 31, 2021, unless it is from a vessel that enters port before 00:01 local time on April 1, 2021.

#### **Classification**

This action is required by 50 CFR 648.201(a)(1)(i)(B) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

NMFS finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment because it would be contrary to the public interest and impracticable. NMFS also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delayed effectiveness in accordance with 5 U.S.C 553(d)(3). NMFS is required by Federal regulation to implement a 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) herring trip limit for Management Area 3, when 98 percent of the area quota is projected to be harvested. The 2021 herring fishing year opened on January 1, 2021, and Management Area 3 opened to fishing on that day. Data indicating the herring fleet will have landed at least 98 percent of the 2021 sub-ACL allocated to Management Area 3 only recently became available. High-volume catch and landings in this fishery increase total catch relative to the sub-ACL quickly, especially in this fishing year where annual catch limits are unusually low. If implementation of

this closure is delayed to solicit prior public comment, the sub-ACL for Management Area 3 for this fishing year will likely be exceeded, undermining conservation objectives of the Fishery Management Plan. When sub-ACLs are exceeded, the overage must be deducted from a future sub-ACL and would reduce future fishing opportunities. In addition, the public had prior notice and full opportunity to comment on this process when these provisions were put in place.

The public expects these actions to occur in a timely way consistent with the fishery management plan's objectives.

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

Dated: March 31, 2021.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

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