§ 180.479 [Amended]
■ 35. In § 180.479, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a)(2).

§ 180.484 [Amended]
■ 36. In § 180.484, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.495 [Amended]
■ 37. In § 180.495, remove the entry for “Coriander, leaves” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.507 [Amended]
■ 38. In § 180.507, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a)(1).

§ 180.515 [Amended]
■ 39. In § 180.515, remove the entries for “Caneberry subgroup 13A,” “Cotton, hulls,” “Cotton, meal,” “Cotton, refined oil” and “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.517 [Amended]
■ 40. In § 180.517, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.541 [Removed]
■ 41. Remove § 180.541.

§ 180.555 [Amended]
■ 42. In § 180.555, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.570 [Amended]
■ 43. In § 180.570, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a)(2).

§ 180.577 [Amended]
■ 44. In § 180.577, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.602 [Amended]
■ 45. In § 180.602, remove the entry for “Hop, dried cones” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.605 [Amended]
■ 46. In § 180.605, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a).

§ 180.625 [Amended]
■ 47. In § 180.625, remove the entry for “Rice, straw” from the table in paragraph (a).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
50 CFR Parts 223 and 224
RIN 0648–XD267
Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; 90-Day Finding on a Petition To Identify the Central North Pacific Population of Humpback Whale as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and Delist the DPS Under the Endangered Species Act; Extension of Public Comment Period

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

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: We, NMFS, announce the extension of the public comment period on our June 26, 2014, 90-day finding on a petition to designate the Central North Pacific population of humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae) as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and delist the DPS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As part of that finding, we solicited scientific and commercial information about the status of this population and announced a 30-day comment period to end on July 28, 2014. Today, we extend the public comment period to August 27, 2014. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted, as they will be fully considered in the agency’s final determination.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of comments is extended from July 28, 2014 until August 27, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by FDMS Docket Number NOAA–NMFS–2014–0051, by any of the following methods:
• Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2014-0051, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
• Mail: Address written comments to Jon Kurland, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668.

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). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the petition online at the NMFS Alaska Region Web site: http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/whales/humpback/.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Background
On June 26, 2014, we published a proposed rule (79 FR 36281) announcing a positive 90-day finding on a petition to designate the Central North Pacific population of humpback whale as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and delist the DPS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In that notice we also solicited comments and information from the public to inform the continued development of our humpback whale status review to determine whether the Central North Pacific humpback whale population constitutes a DPS under the ESA, and if so, the risk of extinction to this DPS.

We have received requests to extend the public comment period by 30 days.
to be consistent with previous 60-day comment periods for other listing and delisting actions under the ESA. Given the complexity of the issues raised in the petition, this extension would provide the public with additional time to gather relevant information and adequately comment on the validity of the petitioned action in a meaningful and constructive manner. We considered these requests and concluded that a 30-day extension should allow sufficient time for responders to submit comments without significantly delaying the completion of the status review. We are therefore extending the close of the public comment period from July 28, 2014, to August 27, 2014. Although we have extended the public comment period, we are unable to extend the deadline for completing the status review. As such, we urge members of the public to submit their comments as soon as possible to allow us more time to review and incorporate the submitted information where appropriate.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Dated: July 7, 2014.

Perry F. Gayaldo,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, might 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 and address), 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). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Graham, NMFS PIRO, 808–725–5032.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background on the U.S. WCPO Purse Seine and Longline Fisheries

Participation by U.S. flagged purse seine and longline vessels in the WCPO fisheries is contingent on fishing authorizations granted under several statutes. The U.S. WCPO purse seine fishery is regulated in part under the authority of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973–973r; SPTA) through implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 300, subpart D. The terms of the treaty between the United States and 16 Members of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America and its annexes, schedules, and implementing agreements, as amended; hereafter called “the Treaty”) are implemented by the SPTA and the regulations cited above. The Treaty provides access to and generally governs U.S. fishing vessels operating in the Treaty Area, which comprises much of the WCPO, including all or portions of the exclusive economic zones of the 16 Pacific Island Parties to the Treaty (PIPs) through a licensing system. License applications are first submitted to NMFS, which are approved or disapproved according to procedures established at 50 CFR 300.32. NMFS forwards approved applications to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA, located in the Solomon Islands), which issues the licenses and acts as the Treaty administrator on behalf of the PIPs.

In addition to being governed by the Treaty and the SPTA, the U.S. WCPO purse seine fishery is subject to the authority of the WCPO Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.). The WCPO Implementation Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention) and the decisions of the Commission, which was established under the Convention. The area of competence of the Commission, or the Convention Area, includes the majority of the Treaty Area. As a Party to the Convention and a Member of the Commission, the United States is obligated to implement the decisions of the Commission. The decisions of the Commission can be found on its Web site (http://www.wcpfc.int/). Pursuant to the Convention and the decisions of the Commission, a U.S. fishing vessel must have a high seas fishing permit (see below) with a valid WCPO Area