

# Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## NORTHEAST DAIRY COMPACT COMMISSION

### 7 CFR Chapter XIII

#### Notice of Meeting

**AGENCY:** Northeast Dairy Compact Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Compact Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting to consider whether to initiate the notice and comment procedure for rulemaking related to re-establishment of a Compact Over-Order Price Regulation. The current price regulation expires on December 31, 1997. The Commission will also consider certain matters relating to office administration and implementation of its current over-order price regulation.

**DATES:** The meeting is scheduled for August 28, 1997 commencing at 10:00 a.m. to adjournment.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held in Room 301-303 at the New Hampshire Legislative Office Building located on 33 North State Street in Concord, NH (exit 14 off Interstate 93).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel Smith, Executive Director, Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, 43 State Street, PO Box 1058, Montpelier, VT 05601. Telephone (802) 229-1941.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that the Northeast Dairy Compact Commission will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The Commission will consider whether to initiate the notice and comment procedure under Section 11 of the Compact, including the conduct of a public hearing, for rulemaking related to re-establishment of a Compact Over-Order Price regulation. The current price regulation expires December 31, 1997. The Commission will also consider certain administrative matters, a technical change to the bylaws, and issues relating to administration and

enforcement of the present Compact Over-Order Price regulation.

(Authority: (a) Article V, Section 11 of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, and all other applicable Articles and Sections, as approved by 7 U.S.C. 7256, and as thereby set forth in S.J. Res. 28(1)(b) of the 104th Congress; Finding of Compelling Public Interest by United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, August 8, 1996 and March 20, 1997. (b) Bylaws of the Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, adopted November 21, 1996.)

**Daniel Smith,**

*Executive Director.*

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**BILLING CODE** 1650-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 15 CFR Part 922

[Docket No. 970626156-7156-01]

**RIN 0648-AK01**

#### Operation of Motorized Personal Watercraft in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

**AGENCY:** Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

**ACTION:** Notice of inquiry; request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD) is soliciting any information from interested parties that would assist in evaluating the operation of motorized personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis, wet bikes, surf jets, etc.), also referred to as "thrill craft," in the area of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS or Sanctuary). This information will be used by NOAA in assessing the present and potential use and impacts of motorized personal watercraft in the Sanctuary and the need, if any, for appropriate regulation to protect Sanctuary resources or reduce user conflict in the Sanctuary.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by October 6, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Ed Ueber, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Fort Mason, Building #201, San Francisco, California, 94123, or Elizabeth Moore, Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1305 East West Highway, SSMC4, N/ORM2, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. Comments will be available for public inspection at the same addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ed Ueber at (415) 561-6622 or Elizabeth Moore at (301) 713-3141 ext. 170.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In recognition of the national significance of the unique marine environment centered around the Farallon Islands, California, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS or Sanctuary) was designated in January 1981. Final regulations to implement that designation (15 CFR Part 922 Subpart H) were issued on January 26, 1981. The GFNMS regulations at 15 CFR 922.82 prohibit a relatively narrow range of activities and thus makes it unlawful for any person to conduct them or cause them to be conducted. Operation of motorized personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis, wet bikes, surf jets, etc.), also referred to as "thrill craft," in the Sanctuary is currently neither directly regulated nor prohibited by Sanctuary regulations, although it is within NOAA's purview to do so.

SRD received a petition on April 18, 1996, from the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, California (EAC) to ban the use of motorized personal watercraft in the GFNMS. EAC believes that "the use of motorized personal watercraft . . . is completely incompatible with the existence of a marine sanctuary," and gives such reasons as the danger of such craft to biological resources, and users of the Sanctuary. SRD has also received 195 letters from members of the public in response to media publicity about the petition. Sixty-four percent are against any regulation of motorized personal watercraft, with the majority of these letters from owners of motorized personal watercraft. Thirty-three percent of the letters support a ban; of these, nine were from environmental organizations, two were from civic groups, and two were from kayaking groups. Three percent of the letters expressed no clear position.