

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 15, 1996, through December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucy Helvenston, 508-281-9347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found at 50 CFR part 625. The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the states from North Carolina through Maine. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state are described in § 625.20.

The total commercial quota for summer flounder for the 1996 calendar year is set equal to 11,111,298 lb (5,040,000 kg) (January 4, 1996, 61 FR 291). The percent allocated to vessels landing summer flounder in North Carolina is 27.44584 percent, or 3,049,589 lb (1,383,270 kg).

Section 625.21(c) requires the Regional Director, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Director), to monitor state commercial quotas and to determine when a state commercial quota is harvested. The Regional Director is further required to publish a notice in the Federal Register advising a state and notifying Federal vessel and dealer permit holders that, effective upon a specific date, the state's commercial quota has been harvested and no commercial quota is available for landing summer flounder in that state. Because the available information indicates that the State of North Carolina has attained its quota for 1996, the Regional Director has determined, based on dealer reports and other available information, that the State's commercial quota has been harvested.

The regulations at § 625.4(a)(3) provide that Federal permit holders agree as a condition of the permit, not to land summer flounder in any state that the Regional Director has determined no longer has commercial quota available. Therefore, effective 0001 hours on March 15, 1996, further landings of summer flounder in North Carolina by vessels holding commercial Federal fisheries permits are prohibited for the remainder of the 1996 calendar year, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer from another state that has not reached its annual quota, and is announced in the Federal Register. Federally permitted dealers are also advised that they may not purchase summer flounder from federally permitted vessels that land in North Carolina for the remainder of the calendar year, or until additional quota becomes available through another state.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 625 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12286.

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

Dated: March 15, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-6700 Filed 3-15-96; 2:22 pm]

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50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 031496A]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Inshore Component Pollock in the Aleutian Islands Subarea

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

ACTION: Modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the Aleutian Islands subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to fully utilize the total allowable catch (TAC) amount specified for pollock in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 15, 1996, until 12 noon, A.l.t., March 16, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR parts 620 and 675.

The directed fishery for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the Aleutian Islands subarea was closed on March 10, 1996 (March 13, 1996, 61 FR 10287), in order to provide amounts anticipated to be needed for incidental catch in other fisheries. NMFS has determined that as of March 2, 1996, 3,200 metric tons (mt) of pollock remain unharvested.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the 1996 TAC amount for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the Aleutian Islands subarea has not been reached.

Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening the directed fishery for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the Aleutian Islands subarea for a 24-hour period from 12 noon, A.l.t., March 15, 1996, until 12 noon, A.l.t., March 16, 1996. NMFS is taking this action to allow a controlled fishery to occur, thereby preventing the underharvest of the pollock TAC allocated to the inshore component as authorized by 675.20(e)(2)(iii).

All other closures remain in full force and effect.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 675.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: March 14, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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50 CFR Part 642

[Docket No. 950725189-5260-02; I.D. 031496B]

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction

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

ACTION: Trip limit reduction.

SUMMARY: NMFS reduces the commercial trip limit of king mackerel in the Florida east coast sub-zone to 25 per day in or from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This trip limit reduction is necessary to protect the overfished Gulf king mackerel resource. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** The 25-fish commercial trip limit is effective March 15, 1996, and remains in effect through March 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark F. Godcharles, 813-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fishery for coastal migratory pelagic fish (king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, cero, cobia, little tunny, dolphin, and, in the

Gulf of Mexico only, bluefish) is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 642 under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Based on the Councils' recommended total allowable catch and the allocation ratios in the FMP, NMFS implemented a commercial quota for the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel in the Florida east coast sub-zone at 865,000 lb (392,357 kg). In accordance with 50 CFR 642.28(a), from the date that 75 percent of the sub-zone's commercial quota has been harvested, provided that the date occurs before March 1, until a closure of

the Florida east coast sub-zone has been effected, king mackerel in or from the EEZ may be possessed on board or landed from a permitted vessel in amounts not exceeding 25 per day. The 25-fish trip limit remains in effect through March 31, 1996, when the boundary of the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel shifts from the east coast to the west coast of Florida, unless 100 percent of the commercial quota is reached before March 31, in which case the commercial fishery for king mackerel in the Florida east coast sub-zone is closed by publication of a notification in the Federal Register.

NMFS has determined that 75 percent of the commercial quota for Gulf group king mackerel from the Florida east coast sub-zone was reached by March 1, 1996. Accordingly, a 25-fish trip limit applies to king mackerel in or from the EEZ in the Florida east coast sub-zone

effective 12:01 a.m., local time, March 15, 1996.

The Florida east coast sub-zone extends from the Dade/Monroe County, FL boundary (25°20.4' N. lat.) to the Volusia/Flagler County, FL boundary (29°25' N. lat.) from November 1 through March 31.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 642.28(c) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: March 14, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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