

sponsor a public workshop shortly after the IPHC annual meeting to develop recommendations to NMFS on the opening date and weekly structure of the fishery each year. The daily bag limit is one fish per person, with no size limit.

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(iii) *Washington south coast subarea.* This sport fishery subarea is allocated 12.3 percent of the Washington sport allocation, which equals 2.93 percent of the Area 2A TAC. This subarea is defined as waters south of the Queets River (47°31'42" N. lat.) and north of Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" N. lat.). The structuring objective for this subarea is to maximize the season length, while providing for a limited halibut fishery. The fishery opens on May 1, for 7 days per week and continues until 1,000 lb (.45 mt) are projected to remain in the subarea quota. Immediately following this closure, the area from the Queets River south to 47°00'00" N. lat. and east of 124°40'00" W. long. will reopen for 7 days per week until either the subarea quota is estimated to have been taken and the season is closed by the Commission, or until September 30, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit. Sport fishing for halibut is prohibited in the area south of the Queets River (47°31'42" N. lat.), west of 124°40'00" W. long. and north of 47°10'00" N. lat.

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(v) *Oregon central coast subarea.* If the Area 2A TAC is 388,350 lb (176.2 mt) and above, this subarea extends from Cape Falcon to the Siuslaw River at the Florence north jetty (44°01'08" N. lat.) and is allocated 88.4 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation, which is 18.21 percent of the Area 2A TAC. If the Area 2A TAC is below 388,350 lb (176.2 mt), this sport fishery subarea extends from Cape Falcon to the California border and is allocated 95.4 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation. The structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide one or two periods of fishing opportunity in productive deeper water areas along the coast, principally for charter and larger private boat anglers, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in nearshore waters for small boat anglers. Any poundage remaining in this subarea quota from earlier seasons will be added to the last season in this subarea. This subarea has three seasons as set out in paragraphs (f)(1)(v) (A) through (C) of this section. The Council will recommend opening dates for these seasons annually at its fall public meeting. The daily bag limit for all

seasons is two halibut per person, one with a minimum 32-inch (81.3-cm) size limit and the second with a minimum 50-inch (127.0-cm) size limit.

(A) The first season is an all-depth fishery that begins in May and continues at least 3 days per week (dependent on TAC) until 68 percent of the subarea quota is taken.

(B) The second season opens the day following closure of the first season, only in waters inside the 30-fathom (55 m) curve, and continues every day until 7 percent of the subarea quota is taken, or until early August, whichever is earlier.

(C) The last season begins in early August, with no depth restrictions, and continues at least 2 days per week, until the combined Oregon subarea quotas south of Falcon are estimated to have been taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier.

(vi) *Oregon south coast subarea.* If the Area 2A TAC is 388,350 lb (176.2 mt) and above, this subarea extends from the Siuslaw River at the Florence north jetty (44°01'08" N. lat.) to the California border (42°00'00" N. lat.) and is allocated 7.0 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation, which is 1.44 percent of the Area 2A TAC. If the Area 2A TAC is below 388,350 lb (176.2 mt), this subarea will be included in the Oregon Central sport fishery subarea.

The structuring objective for this subarea is to create a south coast management zone designed to accommodate the needs of both charterboat and private boat anglers in this area where weather and bar crossing conditions very often do not allow scheduled fishing trips. This subarea has three seasons as set out in paragraphs (f)(1)(vi) (A) through (C) of this section. The Council will recommend opening dates for these seasons annually at its fall public meeting. The daily bag limit for all seasons is two halibut per person, one with a minimum 32-inch (81.3-cm) size limit and the second with a minimum 50-inch (127.0 cm) size limit.

(A) The first season is an all-depth fishery that begins in May and continues at least 3 days per week (dependent on TAC) and continues at least 3 days per week until 80 percent of the subarea quota is taken.

(B) The second season opens the day following closure of the first season, only in waters inside the 30-fathom (55 m) curve, and continues every day until the subarea quota is estimated to have been taken, or early August, whichever is earlier.

(C) The last season begins in early August, with no depth restrictions, and continues at least 3 days per week, until

the combined Oregon subarea quotas south of Falcon are estimated to have been taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier.

* * * * *

(g) *Procedures for implementation.* Each year, NMFS will publish a proposed rule with any regulatory modifications necessary to implement the Plan for the following year, with a request for public comments. The comment period will extend until after the Commission's annual meeting, so that the public will have the opportunity to consider the final Area 2A TAC before submitting comments. After the Area 2A TAC is known, and after NMFS reviews public comments, NMFS will implement final rules governing the sport fisheries. The final ratio of halibut to chinook to be allowed as incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery will be published with the annual salmon management measures. Inseason actions in the sport fisheries as stipulated in this Plan will be accomplished by NMFS in accordance with § 301.22(d)(3).

[FR Doc. 96-6631 Filed 3-15-96; 2:54 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-W

50 CFR Part 625

[Docket No. 951116270-5038-02; I.D. 031396C]

Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for North Carolina

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

ACTION: Commercial quota harvest.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notification to announce that the summer flounder commercial quota available to the State of North Carolina has been harvested. Vessels issued a commercial Federal fisheries permit for the summer flounder fishery may not land summer flounder in North Carolina for the remainder of calendar year 1996, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer from another state that has not reached its annual quota. Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery require publication of this notification to advise the State of North Carolina that the quota has been harvested and to advise vessel and dealer permit holders that no commercial quota is available for landing summer flounder in North Carolina.

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]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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.

[FR Doc. 96-6629 Filed 3-14-96; 4:52 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

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