

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 648**

RTID 0648–XB686

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfers from NC to CT and ME to RI

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

ACTION: Notification of quota transfer.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the states of North Carolina and Maine are transferring a portion of their 2021 commercial summer flounder quota to the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island, respectively. This adjustment to the 2021 fishing year quota is necessary to comply with the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan quota transfer provisions. This announcement informs the public of the revised 2021 commercial quotas for North Carolina, Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

DATES: Effective December 27, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Hansen, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9225.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found in 50 CFR 648.100 through 648.110. These regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from Maine through North Carolina. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state is described in § 648.102 and final 2021 allocations were published on December 21, 2020 (85 FR 82946).

The final rule implementing Amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP), as published in the *Federal Register* on December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), provided a mechanism for transferring summer flounder commercial quota from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Administrator, can transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota under § 648.102(c)(2). The Regional Administrator is required to consider three criteria in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or

combinations: The transfer or combinations would not preclude the overall annual quota from being fully harvested; the transfer addresses an unforeseen variation or contingency in the fishery; and the transfer is consistent with the objectives of the FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Regional Administrator has determined these three criteria have been met for the transfers approved in this notification.

North Carolina is transferring 40,000 lb (18,144 kg) to Connecticut and Maine is transferring 14,000 lb (6,350 kg) to Rhode Island through mutual agreement of the states. These transfers were requested to ensure Connecticut and Rhode Island would not exceed their 2021 quota. The revised summer flounder quotas for 2021 are: North Carolina, 2,878,480 lb (1,305,657 kg); Connecticut, 669,376 lb (303,624 kg); Maine, 33 lb (15 kg); and, Rhode Island, 1,922,724 lb (872,133 kg).

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 648.162(e)(1)(i) through (iii), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b), and is exempted from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: December 27, 2021.

Karen Abrams,

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

[FR Doc. 2021–28370 Filed 12–27–21; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 660**

[Docket No. 201204–0325]

RIN 0648–BL10

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2021–2022 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: NMFS published a final rule on December 23, 2021, announcing

routine inseason adjustments to management measures in the commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries. In implementing these changes, NMFS inadvertently removed the trip limit for California black rockfish between 42° N latitude and 40°10' N latitude in Table 2 (North) and Table 3 (North). This correction is necessary so that the implementing regulations are accurate.

DATES: This correction is effective January 1, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean E. Matson, (206) 526–6140, email: sean.matson@noaa.gov.

ADDRESSES:

Electronic Access

This rule is accessible via the internet at the Office of the Federal Register website at <https://www.federalregister.gov>. Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS published a final rule on December 23, 2021, announcing routine inseason adjustments to management measures in the commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries. This rule is effective January 1, 2022.

The December 23, 2021, final rule implemented changes to trip limits for sablefish north of 36° N latitude and for lingcod north of 42° N latitude. Additionally, the final rule announced new sub-bag limits and sub-trip limits, in recreational and non-trawl commercial fisheries respectively, for two nearshore species, quillback rockfish and copper rockfish, as well as the shelf species vermillion rockfish.

In implementing these changes, NMFS inadvertently removed the trip limit for California black rockfish between 42° N latitude and 40°10' N latitude in Table 2 (North) and Table 3 (North) of part 660, subpart E and F, respectively. This correction reinstates this trip limit as Line 22 of both tables. No other changes are made via this correction document. This correction is necessary so that the implementing regulations are accurate.

Correction

Effective January 1, 2022, in FR Doc. 2021–27901 at 86 FR 72863 in the issue of December 23, 2021, the following corrections are made:

Table 2 (North) to Part 660 [Corrected]

■ 1. On page 72869, in amendatory instruction 2, Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E—Non-Trawl Rockfish

Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N Lat. is corrected to read as follows:

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table 12/1/2021

	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:						
1	North of 46°16' N. lat. shoreline - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
2	46°16' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. 40 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
3	30 fm line ^{1/} - 40 fm line ^{1/2/}					
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).						
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
4	Minor Slope Rockfish^{3/} & Darkblotched rockfish 8,000 lb/ 2 month					
5	Pacific ocean perch 3,600 lb/ 2 months					
6	Sablefish 2,400 lb /week, not to exceed 4,800 lb /2 months					
7	Longspine thornyhead 10,000 lb/ 2 months					
8	Shortspine thornyhead 2,000 lb/ 2 months					
9	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other 2,500 lb/ 2 months					
10	Flatfish^{4/8/} 10,000 lb/ month					
11	Whiting 10,000 lb/ trip					
12	Minor Shelf Rockfish^{3/} 800 lb / month					
13	Shortbelly Rockfish 200 lb / month					
14	Widow rockfish 4,000 lb/ 2 month					
15	Yellowtail rockfish 3,000 lb/ month					
16	Canary rockfish 3,000 lb/ 2 months					
17	Yelloweye rockfish CLOSED					
18	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish & CA black rockfish^{5/}					
19	North of 42°00' N. lat. 5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{4/}					
20	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. 2,000 lb / 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be quillback rockfish, and of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish					
21	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. 7,000 lb / 2 months					
22	Lingcod^{6/}					
23	North of 42°00' N. lat. 5,000 lb/ 2 months					
24	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. 2,000 lb/2 months					
25	Pacific cod 1,000 lb/ 2 months					
26	Spiny dogfish 200,000 lb / 2 months		150,000 lb / 2 months		100,000 lb / 2 months	
27	Longnose skate Unlimited					
28	Other Fish^{7/} & Cabezon in California Unlimited					
29	Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling Unlimited					
30	Big skate Unlimited					

TABLE 2 (North)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Between 46°16' N. lat. and 40°10' N. lat. and the 30 fm and 40 fm lines, fishing is only allowed with hook-and-line gear except bottom longline and dinglebar gear, as defined in §660.11

3/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

4/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curffin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

5/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip. (46°38.17' N. lat.).

6/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

7/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

8/ LEFG vessels are allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See section 660.230 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F [Corrected]

■ 2. On page 72871, in amendatory instruction 4, Table 3 (North) to Part

660, Subpart F—Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N Lat. is corrected to read as follows:

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40° 10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

12/1/2021

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}:							
1	North of 46° 16' N. lat.	shoreline - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
2	46° 16' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.	40 fm line ^{1/} - 100 fm line ^{1/}					
3		30 fm line ^{1/} - 40 fm line ^{1/2/}					
See §§660.60, 660.330 and 660.333 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
4	Minor Slope Rockfish ^{3/} & Darkblotched rockfish	2,000 lb / months					
5	Pacific ocean perch	100 lb/ month					
6	Sablefish	600 lb/day, or 1 landing /week up to 2,000 lb, not to exceed 4,000 lb / 2 months					
7	Shortpine thornyheads	50 lb/month					
8	Longspine thornyheads	50 lb/month					
9	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other	5,000 lb/ month					
10	Flatfish ^{4/8/}	300 lb/ month					
11	Whiting	800 lb / month					
12	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{3/}	2,000 lb/ 2 months					
13	Widow rockfish	200 lb / month					
14	Shortbelly Rockfish	1,500 lb/ month					
15	Yellowtail rockfish	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
16	Canary rockfish	CLOSED					
17	Yelloweye rockfish	CLOSED					
18	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Oregon black/blue/deacon rockfish & CA black rockfish						
19	North of 42°00' N. lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish ^{5/}					
20	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat. Minor Nearshore Rockfish	2,000 lb / 2 months, of which no more than 75 lb may be quillback rockfish, and of which no more than 75 lb may be copper rockfish					
21	42°00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat. California Black Rockfish	7,000 lb / 2 months					
22	Lingcod ^{6/}						
23	North of 42° 00' N. lat.	2,500 lb/ month					
24	42° 00' N. lat. - 40° 10' N. lat.	1,000 lb / month					
25	Pacific cod	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
26	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months	
27	Longnose skate	Unlimited					
28	Big skate	Unlimited					
29	Other Fish ^{7/} & Cabezon in California	Unlimited					
30	Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling	Unlimited					
31	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)						
32	North	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 500 lb of yellowtail rockfish per month as long as salmon is on board, both within and outside of the RCA. Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 2 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod, on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. The lingcod limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." These limits are within the per month limits described in the table above, and not in addition to those limits. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.					
33	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL (not subject to RCAs)						
34	North	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					

TABLE 3 (North)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Between 46° 16' N. lat. and 40° 10' N. lat. and the 30 fm and 40 fm lines, fishing is only allowed with hook-and-line gear except bottom longline and dinglebar gear, as defined in §660.11

3/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

4/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

5/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

6/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

7/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

8/ Open access vessels are allowed to fish inside groundfish conservation areas using hook and line only. See section 660.330 (d) of the regulations for more information.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Dated: December 27, 2021.

Karen Abrams,
 Acting Director, Office of Sustainable
 Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
 [FR Doc. 2021-28351 Filed 12-29-21; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-C

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 210210-0018]

RTID 0648-XB679

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2022 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason adjustment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS is adjusting the 2022 total allowable catch (TAC) amounts for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) pollock and Pacific cod fishery. This action is necessary because NMFS has determined these TACs are incorrectly specified, and will ensure the GOA pollock and Pacific cod TACs are the appropriate amount based on the best available scientific information for pollock and Pacific cod in the GOA. This action is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska.

DATES: Effective 0001 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 1, 2022, until the effective date of the final 2022 and 2023 harvest specifications for GOA groundfish, unless otherwise modified or superseded through publication of a notification in the **Federal Register**.

Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., January 14, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2020-0140 by any of the following methods:

- **Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:** Go to www.regulations.gov and enter NOAA-NMFS-2020-0140. Click the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Records. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

Instructions: NMFS may not consider comments if they are sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the comment period ends. All comments received are a part of the public record, and NMFS will post the comments for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, 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).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Krista Milani, 907-581-2062.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (86 FR 10184, February 19, 2021) set the 2022 pollock TAC at 99,784 metric tons (mt) in the GOA. In December 2021, the Council recommended a 2022 pollock TAC of 141,117 mt for the GOA, which is greater than the 99,784 mt established by the final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA. The Council’s recommended 2022 TAC, and the area and seasonal apportionments, is based on the Stock

Assessment and Fishery Evaluation report (SAFE), dated November 2021.

The final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (86 FR 10184, February 19, 2021) set the 2022 Pacific cod TAC at 27,961 mt in the GOA. In December 2021, the Council recommended a 2022 Pacific cod TAC of 24,111 mt for the GOA, which is less than the 27,961 mt established by the final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA. The Council’s recommended 2022 TAC, and the area and seasonal apportionments, is based on the SAFE, dated November 2021.

Steller sea lions occur in the same location as the pollock and Pacific cod fisheries and are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Pollock and Pacific cod are principal prey species for Steller sea lions in the GOA. The seasonal apportionment of pollock and Pacific cod harvests are necessary to ensure the groundfish fisheries are not likely to cause jeopardy of extinction or adverse modification of critical habitat for Steller sea lions. The regulations at § 679.20(a)(5)(iv) specify how the pollock TAC will be apportioned and the regulations at § 679.20(a)(6)(ii) and (a)(12)(i) specify how the Pacific cod TAC will be apportioned.

In accordance with § 679.25(a)(1)(iii), (a)(2)(i)(B), and (a)(2)(iv) the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that, based on the best available scientific information for this fishery, the current GOA pollock and Pacific cod TACs are incorrectly specified. Consequently, pursuant to § 679.25(a)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator is adjusting the 2022 GOA pollock TAC to 141,117 mt and the 2022 Pacific cod TAC to 24,111 mt. Therefore, Tables 4 and 6 of the final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (86 FR 10184, February 19, 2021) are revised consistent with this adjustment.

Pursuant to § 679.20(a)(5)(iv), Table 4 of the final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (86 FR 10184, February 19, 2021) is revised for the 2022 TACs of pollock in the Central and Western Regulatory Area of the GOA.

TABLE 4—FINAL 2022 DISTRIBUTION OF POLLOCK IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL REGULATORY AREAS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA; AREA APPORTIONMENTS;¹ AND SEASONAL ALLOWANCES OF ANNUAL TAC

[Values are rounded to the nearest metric ton]

Season ²	Shumigan (area 610)	Chirikof (area 620)	Kodiak (area 630)	Total ³
A (January 20–May 31)	1,132	52,304	8,080	61,516