

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 648****[Docket No. 231215–0305; RTID 0648–XE011]****Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From North Carolina to New Jersey**

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

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; quota transfer.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the State of North Carolina is transferring a portion of its 2024 commercial summer flounder quota to the State of New Jersey. This adjustment to the 2024 fishing year quota is necessary to comply with the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) quota transfer provisions. This announcement informs the public of the revised 2024 commercial quotas for North Carolina and New Jersey.

**DATES:** Effective June 3, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Deighan, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9184.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found in 50 CFR 648.100 through 648.111. 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 the final 2024 allocations were published on December 21, 2023 (88 FR 88266).

The final rule implementing amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder 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: (1) the transfers or

combinations would not preclude the overall annual quota from being fully harvested; (2) the transfers address an unforeseen variation or contingency in the fishery; and (3) the transfers are consistent with the objectives of the FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Regional Administrator has determined these three criteria have been met for the transfer approved in this notification.

North Carolina is transferring 20,000 pounds (lb; 9,072 kilograms (kg)) to New Jersey through a mutual agreement between the states. This transfer was requested to repay landings made by an out-of-state permitted vessel under a safe harbor agreement. The revised summer flounder quotas for 2024 are: North Carolina, 2,371,124 lb (1,075,524 kg); and New Jersey, 1,492,958 lb (677,194 kg).

**Classification**

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 648.102(c)(2)(i) through (iv), 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: May 30, 2024.

**Karen H. Abrams,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 680****[Docket No. 240529–0147]****RIN 0648–BM81****Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues regulations to implement amendments 54 and 55 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) King and Tanner Crabs (Crab FMP). This final rule revises two provisions of the Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program) to do the following: change

active crab fishery participation requirements for crab quota share (QS) established for catcher vessel crew (CVC) and catcher/processor crew (CPC), also called C Shares; expand individual processing quota (IPQ) exemptions for custom processing from processor use caps; and remove the processor facility use cap. These actions are intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Crab FMP, and other applicable laws.

**DATES:** This rule is effective July 5, 2024, except for the addition of a definition for “Fishing trip” in 50 CFR 680.2 at instruction 2 and the amendments to 50 CFR 680.40 at instruction 5 and 50 CFR 680.43 at instruction 8, which are effective May 31, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of amendments 54 and 55 to the Crab FMP, the Regulatory Impact Reviews (RIRs), and the Categorical Exclusion prepared for this action are available from <https://www.regulations.gov> or from the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://fisheries.noaa.gov/region/alaska>. Application for Annual Crab IFQ Permit forms are available from <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/bering-sea-and-aleutian-islands-crab-rationalization-applications-and-reporting-forms>. NMFS determined that this final action amending the Crab FMP is categorically excluded from requirements to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), RIR, Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA), and Social Impact Assessment that were previously prepared for the CR Program are available from the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/alaska>.

Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this final rule may be submitted to NMFS Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668, Attn: Gretchen Harrington; and to <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under Review” or by using the search function.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew Olson, 907–586–7228, [andrew.olson@noaa.gov](mailto:andrew.olson@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS published a Notice of Availability for amendments 54 and 55 to the Crab FMP in the **Federal Register** on February 27,