

the member's appointment if that member receives an unfavorable background investigation. In instances in which Council members may need to discuss, at closed meetings, materials classified for national security purposes, the agency or individual (e.g., Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard) providing such classified information will be responsible for ensuring that Council members and other attendees have the appropriate security clearances.

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■ 20. Section 600.250 is added to subpart C to read as follows:

§ 600.250 Council member training.

(a) The Secretary shall provide a training course covering a variety of topics relevant to matters before the Councils and shall make the training course available to all Council members and staff and staff from NMFS regional offices and science centers. To the extent resources allow, the Secretary will make the training available to Council committee and advisory panel members.

(b) Council members appointed after January 12, 2007, shall, within one year of appointment, complete the training course developed by the Secretary. Any Council member who completed such a training course within 24 months of January 12, 2007, is considered to have met the training requirement of this section.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 100120036-0360-02]

RIN 0648-XT99

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Black Sea Bass Fishery; 2010 Black Sea Bass Specifications; Emergency Rule Extension; Correction

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; correction.

SUMMARY: On July 7, 2010, NMFS published in the *Federal Register* a temporary rule to extend the emergency action to increase the 2010 black sea bass specifications. The preamble text of that rule incorrectly identified the

revised commercial quota and recreational harvest limit (RHL) based on the increased 2010 black sea bass total allowable landings (TAL). This document corrects those values to ensure that they are consistent with the revised 2010 black sea bass specifications.

DATES: Effective August 10, 2010, through December 31, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Heil, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9257.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A temporary rule to extend the emergency action to increase the 2010 black sea bass specifications was published in the *Federal Register* on July 7, 2010 (75 FR 38935). On page 38935 of that rule, the commercial quota is incorrectly listed as 1,813,000 lb (822 mt), and the RHL is listed as 1,887,000 lb (856 mt). The corrected values for these specifications are as follows: The commercial quota is 1,758,610 lb (798 mt) and the RHL is 1,830,390 lb (830 mt).

Classification

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Assistant Administrator (AA) for NOAA, Fisheries finds good cause to waive prior notice and opportunity for additional public comment for this action because any delay of this action would be contrary to the public interest. This rule corrects the commercial quota and RHL values published in the *Federal Register* on July 7, 2010 (75 FR 38935), as part of the extension to the emergency rule to increase the 2010 black sea bass specifications. The measures in the extension to the emergency rule, published in the *Federal Register* on July 7, 2010, were intended to be the same as those published in the initial emergency action on February 10, 2010 (75 FR 6586). However, the extension to the emergency rule incorrectly identified the revised commercial quota and RHL values based on the increased 2010 black sea bass TAL. To delay this correction notice would cause confusion over the revised 2010 black sea bass specifications because of the disparity between the revised specifications and the commercial quota and RHL values that were incorrectly identified in the extension to the emergency rule. Immediate publication of the corrected commercial quota and RHL will rectify any confusion on the revised 2010 black sea bass specifications. For the reasons provided above, the AA also finds good cause, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), to waive the 30-day delayed effective period for this correction.

Because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, are inapplicable.

This final rule is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Correction

Accordingly, the final rule FR Doc. 2010-16498, published on July 7, 2010 (75 FR 38935), is corrected as follows:

1. On page 38935, In the second column, in the first full paragraph, in the twentieth line, "1,813,000 lb (822 mt)," is corrected to read "1,758,610 lb (798 mt)," and in the twenty-second line, "1,887,000 lb (856 mt)," is corrected to read "1,830,390 lb (830 mt)."

Dated: September 21, 2010.

Samuel D. Rauch III,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 0910051338-0151-02]

RIN 0648-XZ07

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Reductions and Gear Modifications for the Common Pool Fishery

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason adjustment of landing limits and gear requirements.

SUMMARY: This action decreases the landing limits for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod to 100 lb (45.4 kg) per days-at-sea (DAS) up to 1000 lb (453.6 kg) per trip, Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder to 100 lb (45.4 kg) per trip, and white hake to 100 lb (45.4 kg) per DAS up to 500 lb (226.8 kg) per trip; expands the trawl gear restriction in the U.S./Canada Management Area to include the entire Western U.S./Canada Area; and authorizes the use of the rope separator trawl in the Western U.S./Canada Area for NE multispecies vessels fishing in the common pool for the remainder of

the 2010 fishing year (FY) (through April 30, 2011). This action is authorized under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and by the regulations implementing Amendment 16 and Framework Adjustment 44 (FW 44) to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). It is intended to optimize the harvest of NE regulated multispecies by decreasing the likelihood of harvest exceeding the subcomponent of the annual catch limit (ACL) allocated to the common pool (common pool sub-ACL) for each of these three stocks during FY 2010 (May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011).

DATES: September 27, 2010, through April 30, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Potts, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9341, fax (978) 281-9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing possession and landing limits for vessels fishing under common pool regulations are found at § 648.86. The regulations authorize vessels issued a valid limited access NE multispecies permit and fishing under a NE multispecies day-at-sea (DAS), or fishing under a NE multispecies Small Vessel or Handgear A or B category permit, to fish for and retain NE multispecies under specified conditions. The vessels fishing in the common pool are allocated a sub-ACL equivalent to that portion of the commercial groundfish ACL that is not allocated to the 17 approved NE multispecies sectors for FY 2010. The final rule implementing FW 44 (75 FR 18356, April 9, 2010) established ACLs for FY 2010, which were modified by a subsequent rule (75 FR 29459, May 26, 2010). For FY 2010, the common pool sub-ACLs for these stocks are: 240 mt (529,109 lb) for GOM cod, 20 mt (43,954 lb) for GB yellowtail flounder, and 51 mt (112,436 lb) for white hake.

The regulations at § 648.86(o) authorize the Administrator, Northeast (NE) Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) to increase or decrease the trip limits for vessels in the common pool to optimize the harvest of NE regulated species by preventing over-harvesting or under-harvesting the common pool sub-ACL. The current relevant FY 2010 trip limits are: 200 lb (90.7 kg)/DAS up to 1,000 lb (453.6 kg)/trip for GOM cod; 1,000 lb (453.6 kg)/trip for GB yellowtail flounder; and 2,000 lb (907.2 kg)/DAS up to 10,000 lb (4,535.9 kg)/trip for white hake. Exceeding the common pool sub-ACL prior to April 30, 2011, would trigger accountability measures (AMs) in FY

2011--specifically, differential DAS counting, to prevent future overages.

An inseason action published in the **Federal Register** on May 27, 2010 (75 FR 29678), reduced the common pool trip limits for five stocks: GOM haddock, GB haddock, GOM winter flounder, GB winter flounder, and GB yellowtail flounder. A subsequent action (75 FR 44924, July 30, 2010) reduced the trip limit for GOM cod and imposed a gear restriction in the U.S./Canada Management Area to reduce catch of GB yellowtail flounder. A third action (75 FR 48613, August 11, 2010) imposed a trip limit for witch flounder and removed the trip limit for pollock. A September 2, 2010, inseason action (75 FR 53872) imposed 2:1 differential DAS counting in the Inshore GOM, Offshore GOM, Inshore GB, and Offshore GB Differential DAS Areas to reduce effort on GOM cod, white hake, and witch flounder.

Initial vessel monitoring system (VMS) and dealer reports indicate that approximately 91.4 percent of the GOM cod, 90.2 percent of the GB yellowtail flounder, and 65.5 percent of the white hake common pool sub-ACLs had been harvested as of September 11, 2010. Although there are relatively few common pool vessels landing groundfish, such vessels have been leasing in additional DAS from other vessels, and a substantial portion of the FY remains. Even minimal future fishing activity will likely increase catch of the stocks of concern. Should the common pool sub-ACLs be exceeded prior to April 30, 2011, AMs would be automatically triggered for the common pool fishery in FY 2011.

Based on this information, the Regional Administrator has determined that despite previous inseason actions, additional measures are needed to help ensure that the common pool sub-ACLs are not exceeded before the end of the FY. To that end the Regional Administrator is implementing the trip limit changes in the following table, effective September 27, 2010 through April 30, 2011, as well as restrictions on the use of trawl gear in the entire Western U.S./Canada Area as more fully described below.

Stock	NewTrip Limit
GOM Cod	100 lb (45.4 kg) per DAS, up to 1000 lb (453.6 kg) per trip
GB Yellowtail Flounder	100 lb (45.4 kg) per trip

Stock	NewTrip Limit
White Hake	100 lb (45.4 kg) per DAS, up to 500 lb (226.8 kg) per trip

On July 30, 2010, NMFS implemented a prohibition on the use of trawl gear, except for the haddock separator trawl and the Ruhle trawl, as specified at §§ 648.85(a)(3)(iii) and (b)(6)(iv)(J)(3), respectively, by any limited access NE multispecies common pool vessel that harvests, possesses, or lands fish from, or deploys its net during any part of a trip in, the Western U.S./Canada Area south of 41° 40' N. lat. when fishing under a NE multispecies DAS, to reduce catches and discards of GB yellowtail flounder. This allowed a vessel to continue to fish for other stocks north of 41° 40' N. lat., where NMFS at-sea observer data indicate catch rates of yellowtail flounder are lower. However, due to the small amount of GB yellowtail flounder remaining for the common pool fishery (approximately 2 mt (4,409 lb)) any catch of GB yellowtail flounder in this area could exceed the remaining sub-ACL. Given this concern, expanding the gear restriction to the entire Western U.S./Canada Area is warranted, and is implemented through this action.

The current Western U.S./Canada Area trawl gear restriction inadvertently omitted rope separator trawl gear as an acceptable type of gear that could be allowed to slow the catch and discard rates of GB yellowtail flounder. This omission, which was inconsistent with gear allowed in the adjacent Western GB Multispecies Restricted Gear Area (RGA) as specified at § 648.81(n) is corrected through this action to ensure flexibility in gears allowed, and to be consistent with gear restrictions in the RGA. This action now allows common pool vessels to use the rope separator trawl, as defined at § 648.81(n)(3)(i)(A), when fishing in the Western U.S./Canada Area. A vessel that fishes in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area is still restricted from using a flounder trawl and may only use either a haddock separator trawl or a Ruhle trawl, as the rope separator trawl is not an authorized gear type in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.

The regulations at § 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D) specify that, if the Regional Administrator requires use of a particular gear type in order to reduce catches of stocks of concern, the following gear performance incentives will apply: Possession of flounders (all species combined), monkfish, and skates is limited to 500 lb (226.8 kg) (whole weight) each (i.e., no more than

500 lb (226.8 kg) of all flounders, no more than 500 lb (226.8 kg) of monkfish, and no more than 500 lb (226.8 kg) of skates), and possession of lobsters is prohibited. Therefore, common pool vessels fishing any part of a trip in any part of the U.S./Canada Management Area (Eastern or Western Areas) are restricted to these catch limits for the duration of that trip, and, of the 500 lb (226.8 kg) of flounders, no more than 100 lb (45.4 kg) may be GB yellowtail flounder.

Catch will be closely monitored through dealer-reported landings, VMS catch reports, and other available information. Further inseason adjustments to increase or decrease the trip limits, or to adjust differential DAS measures, may be considered, based on updated catch data and projections. Conversely, if the common pool sub-ACL is projected to be under-harvested by the end of FY 2010, in-season adjustments to increase the trip limit for the remainder of FY2010 will be considered.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B) and (d)(3), there is good cause to waive prior notice and opportunity for public comment, as well as the delayed effectiveness for this action, because notice, comment, and a delayed effectiveness would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The regulations under §§ 648.86(o) and 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D) grant the RA the authority to adjust NE multispecies trip limits and implement gear restrictions in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent over-harvesting or under-harvesting the common pool sub-ACLs. This action will implement more restrictive trip limits for GOM cod, GB yellowtail flounder, and white hake in order to ensure that the common pool sub-ACLs are not overharvested, and that the biological and economic objectives of the FMP are met. It is important to take this action immediately because, based on current data and projections, continuation of the status quo trip limits will result in reaching the respective common pool sub-ACLs prior to the end of the FY. Inseason adjustments in FY 2010 have already reduced the landing limits for GOM cod (July 30, 2010) and GB yellowtail flounder (May 27, 2010), implemented a gear restriction in most of the Western U.S./Canada Area (July 30, 2010), and implemented differential DAS counting in the GOM and GB to minimize the chance of exceeding the

sub-ACL for GOM cod and white hake, as well as other stocks (September 2, 2010). Attainment of any of the common pool sub-ACLs prior to the end of the FY on April 30, 2011, would result in AMs being put in place for the common pool in FY 2011. These restrictions could result in the loss of yield of other valuable species caught by vessels in the common pool. The information that is the basis for this action includes recent catch data that only recently became available. The time necessary to provide for prior notice and comment, and delayed effectiveness for this action, would prevent NMFS from implementing a reduced trip limit and additional gear restrictions in a timely manner. A resulting delay in the curtailment of the catch rate of these three stocks could result in less revenue for the fishing industry and be counter to the objective of achieving optimum yield from the fishery.

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

Dated: September 21, 2010.

Carrie Selberg,

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 660

[Docket No. 0912281446-0111-02]

RIN 0648-XY79

Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific sardine off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. This action is necessary because the directed harvest allocation total for the third seasonal period (September 15 December 31) is projected to be reached by the effective date of this rule. From the effective date of this rule until January 1, 2011, Pacific sardine can only be harvested as part of the live bait fishery or incidental to other fisheries; the incidental harvest of Pacific sardine is limited to 30-percent by weight of all fish per trip. Fishing vessels must be at shore and in the process of offloading at

12:01 am Pacific Daylight Time on date of closure.

DATES: Effective 12:01 am Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) September 24, 2010, through December 31, 2010.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joshua Lindsay, Southwest Region, NMFS, (562) 980-4034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document announces that based on the best available information recently obtained from the fishery and information on past effort, the directed fishing harvest allocation for the third allocation period (September 15 December 31) will be reached and therefore directed fishing for Pacific sardine is being closed until January 1, 2011. Fishing vessels must be at shore and in the process of offloading at the time of closure. From 12:01 am on the date of closure through December 31, 2010, Pacific sardine may be harvested only as part of the live bait fishery or incidental to other fisheries, with the incidental harvest of Pacific sardine limited to 30-percent by weight of all fish caught during a trip.

NMFS manages the Pacific sardine fishery in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the Pacific coast (California, Oregon, and Washington) in accordance with the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Annual specifications published in the **Federal Register** establish the harvest guideline (HG) and allowable harvest levels for each Pacific sardine fishing season (January 1 - December 31). If during any of the seasonal allocation periods the applicable adjusted directed harvest allocation is projected to be taken, only incidental harvest is allowed and, for the remainder of the period, any incidental Pacific sardine landings will be counted against that period's incidental set aside. In the event that an incidental set-aside is projected to be attained, all fisheries will be closed to the retention of Pacific sardine for the remainder of the period via appropriate rulemaking.

Under 50 CFR 660.509, if the total HG or these apportionment levels for Pacific sardine are reached at any time, NMFS is required to close the Pacific sardine fishery via appropriate rulemaking and it is to remain closed until it re-opens either per the allocation scheme or the beginning of the next fishing season. In accordance with § 660.509 the Regional Administrator shall publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the date of the closure of the directed fishery for Pacific sardine.

The above in-season harvest restrictions are not intended to affect the