

request should describe the basis for the claim and state the amount sought. The request should also include:

- (i) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile machine number, if available, of the claimant;
- (ii) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile machine number, if available, of the agency employee who denied the claim;
- (iii) A copy of the denial of the claim; and
- (iv) Any other information which the claimant believes the Board should consider.

(2) *Claim forwarded by agency on behalf of claimant.* If an agency has denied a claim for travel or relocation expenses, it may, at the claimant's request, forward the claim to the Board. The agency shall include the information required by § 6104.3.

(b) *Notice of docketing.* A request for review will be docketed by the Office of the Clerk of the Board, and a written notice of docketing will be sent promptly to the claimant and the agency contact. The notice of docketing will identify the judge to whom the claim has been assigned.

(c) *Service of copy.* The claimant shall send to the agency employee identified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section copies of all material provided to the Board. If an agency forwarded a claim to the Board, it shall, at the same time, send to the claimant a copy of all material sent to the Board.

#### **§ 6104.3 Response to claim [Rule 403].**

(a) When a claim has been filed with the Board by a claimant, within 30 calendar days after docketing by the Board, the agency shall submit to the Board:

- (1) A simple, concise, and direct statement of its response to the claim;
- (2) Citations to applicable statutes, regulations, and cases; and
- (3) Any additional information deemed necessary to the Board's review of the claim.

(b) A copy of these submissions shall also be sent to the claimant.

#### **§ 6104.4 Reply to agency response [Rule 404].**

If the claimant wishes to reply to the agency response, it must inform the Board within 10 calendar days after receiving the response. If the claim has been forwarded by the agency, the claimant shall have 10 calendar days from the time the claim is docketed by the Board to request the opportunity to reply. The judge will establish the time frame for submission of the reply.

#### **§ 6104.5 Proceedings [Rule 405].**

(a) *Conferences.* The judge will not engage in ex parte communications involving the underlying facts or merits of the claim. The judge may hold a conference with the claimant and the agency contact, at any time, for any purpose. The judge may provide the participants a memorandum reflecting the results of a conference.

(b) *Additional submissions.* The judge may require the submission of additional information at any time.

#### **§ 6104.6 Decisions [Rule 406].**

The judge will issue a written decision based upon the record, which includes submissions by the claimant and the agency, and information provided during conferences.

#### **§ 6104.7 Reconsideration of Board decision [Rule 407].**

(a) A request for reconsideration may be made by the claimant or the agency. Such requests must be received by the Board within 15 calendar days after the date the decision was issued. The request for reconsideration should state the reasons why the Board should consider the request.

(b) Requests for reconsideration are not favored. Mere disagreement with a decision or re-argument of points already made are not sufficient grounds for reconsidering the decision.

#### **§ 6104.8 Payment of successful claims [Rule 408].**

The agency shall pay amounts the Board determines are due the claimant.

Dated: July 18, 1996.

Stephen M. Daniels,  
Chairman, GSA Board of Contract Appeals.  
[FR Doc. 96-18655 Filed 7-25-96; 8:45 am]

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### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

#### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **50 CFR Part 678**

[I.D. 071596G]

#### **Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Quota Adjustment**

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

**ACTION:** Quota adjustment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the catch of large coastal sharks in the

Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico was 1,402 metric tons (mt) during the first semiannual 1996 season. Because of the overharvest of this category quota, the second semiannual 1996 quota is adjusted accordingly.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 16, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** C. Michael Bailey; 301-713-2347; Mark Murray-Brown; 508-281-9260; or John M. Ward; 813-570-5335.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico shark fisheries are managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Sharks prepared by NMFS under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR part 678.

Section 678.24(b) of the regulations provides for two semi-annual quotas of 1,285 mt of large coastal sharks to be harvested from Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico waters by commercial fishermen. The first semiannual quota was available for harvest from January 1 through June 30, 1996.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, is authorized under § 678.23(c) to adjust the semiannual quota to reflect actual catches during the preceding semiannual period.

With this action NMFS announces the size of the quota of Atlantic large coastal sharks group during the second semiannual 1996 quota period. Final data indicate that the catch from January through May 17, 1996, of large coastal shark species totaled 1,402 mt, which is 117 mt more than the established quota. Therefore, the adjusted quota for large coastal shark species for the second 1996 semiannual period is decreased from 1,285 mt to 1,168 mt. The adjusted quota of 1,168 mt is available for the period July 1 through December 31, 1996.

#### **Classification**

This rule is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: July 16, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,  
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-19048 Filed 7-23-96; 3:59 pm]

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**50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 072296A]

**Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Regulatory Area**

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

**ACTION:** Inseason adjustment; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues an inseason adjustment prohibiting retention of rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* by vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent overfishing of Pacific ocean perch (POP).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 22, 1996, until 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 1996. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., August 6, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn. Lori Gravel, or be delivered to the fourth floor of the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive

economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the GOA (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act). Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The Magnuson Act requires that conservation and management measures prevent overfishing. The 1996 overfishing level for POP in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 4,870 metric tons (mt), the acceptable biological catch as 3,860 mt., and the total allowable catch level as 3,333 mt. As of July 13, 1996, 4,530 mt of POP have been caught.

NMFS closed directed fishing for POP on July 11, 1996 (61 FR 37225, July 17, 1996) and prohibited retention of POP on July 15, 1996, (61 FR 37700, July 19, 1996). Substantial trawl fishing effort will be directed at remaining amounts of groundfish in the GOA during 1996. These fisheries can have significant bycatch of POP.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 679.25(a)(1)(i) and (a)(2)(iii), that closing the season by prohibiting retention of rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* by vessels using trawl gear is necessary to prevent overfishing of POP, and is the least restrictive measure to achieve that

purpose. Without this prohibition of retention, significant incidental catch of POP would occur by trawl vessels targeting rockfish and seeking to maximize retainable amounts of rockfish under the maximum retainable bycatch amounts § 679.20(e).

Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* by vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(b)(2).

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds for good cause that providing prior notice and public comment or delaying the effective date of this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Immediate effectiveness is necessary to prevent overfishing of POP in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. Under § 679.25(c)(1)(ii), interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this action to the above address by August 6, 1996.

**Classification**

This action is taken under § 679.20 and is exempt from OMB review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 22, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 96-18983 Filed 7-22-96; 4:27 pm]

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