

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR Part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 15, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 96-26848 Filed 10-15-96; 4:33 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 951116270-5308-02; I.D. 101096C]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Connecticut

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

ACTION: Commercial quota harvest.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notification announcing that the summer flounder commercial quota available to the State of Connecticut has been harvested.

Vessels issued a commercial Federal fisheries permit for the summer flounder fishery may not land summer flounder in Connecticut for the remainder of calendar year 1996, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer. Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery require publication of this notification to advise the State of Connecticut 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 Connecticut.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 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 648, subparts A and G. 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 is described in § 648.100. Amendment 7 to the FMP (November 24, 1995, 60 FR 57955) revised the fishing mortality rate reduction schedule for summer flounder, and the revised schedule was the basis for

establishing the 1996 quota. The total commercial quota for summer flounder for the 1996 calendar year was adopted to ensure achievement of the appropriate fishing mortality rate of 0.41 for 1996, and 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 Connecticut is 2.25708 percent, or 250,791 lb (113,756 kg).

Section 625.101(b) requires the Regional Administrator, Northeast Region (Regional Administrator) to monitor state commercial quotas and to determine when a state commercial quota is harvested. The Regional Administrator is further required to publish a notification 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. After reviewing dealer reports and other available information, the Regional Administrator has determined that Connecticut no longer has commercial quota available because the State's commercial quota for 1996 has been harvested.

The regulations at § 648.4(b) provide that Federal permit holders agree as a condition of the permit not to land summer flounder in any state that the Regional Administrator has determined no longer has commercial quota available. Therefore, effective October 15, 1996, further landings of summer flounder in Connecticut 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 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 Connecticut for the remainder of the calendar year, or until additional quota becomes available, effective on October 15, 1996.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 15, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 96-26847 Filed 10-15-96; 4:33 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 951116270-530802; I.D. 101196B]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Rhode Island

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 Rhode Island has been harvested. Vessels issued a commercial Federal fisheries permit for the summer flounder fishery may not land summer flounder in Rhode Island for the remainder of calendar year 1996, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer. Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery require publication of this notice to advise the State of Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 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 648. 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 § 648.100. Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder Fishery (November 24, 1995, 60 FR 57955) revised the fishing mortality rate reduction schedule for summer flounder, and the revised schedule was the basis for establishing the 1996 quota. 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 Rhode Island is 15.68298 percent, or 1,742,583 lb (790,422 kg). Section 648.100(d)(2) provides that any overages of the commercial quota landed in any state will be deducted from that state's annual quota for the following year. In the calendar year

1995, a total of 2,365,465 pounds (1,072,956 kg) were landed in Rhode Island. The amount allocated for Rhode Island landings in 1995 was 2,243,224 lb (1,017,509 kg), creating a 122,241 lb (55,446 kg) overage that was deducted from the amount allocated for landings in that state during 1996 (April 5, 1996, 61 FR 15199). The resulting quota for Rhode Island is 1,620,342 lb (734,974 kg).

Section 625.101(b) requires the Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), to monitor state commercial quotas and to determine when a state commercial quota is harvested. The Regional Administrator is further required to publish a document 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 Rhode Island has attained its quota for 1996, the Regional Administrator has determined based on dealer reports and other available information, that the State's commercial quota has been harvested.

The regulations at § 648.4(b) provide that Federal permit holders agree as a condition of the permit not to land summer flounder in any state that the Regional Administrator has determined no longer has commercial quota available. Therefore, effective October 15, 1996 further landings of summer flounder in Rhode Island 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 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 Rhode Island for the remainder of the calendar year, or until additional quota becomes available, effective on October 15, 1996.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 15, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-26846 Filed 10-15-96; 4:33 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 101596F]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inshore Component of Pollock in the Bering Sea Subarea

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the Bering Sea subarea (BS) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the second seasonal allowance of the pollock total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 17, 1996, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 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 subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(iii), the second seasonal allowance of pollock for the inshore component in the BS was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5, 1996) and subsequent reserve apportionment (61 FR 16085, April 11, 1996) as 225,952 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), established a directed fishing allowance of 224,952 mt and set aside the remaining 1,000 mt as bycatch to support directed fishing for other species in the BS. The Regional Director has determined in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), that the second seasonal allowance of pollock TAC for vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the BS soon will be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for

processing by the inshore component in the BS.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e).

Classification

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

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

Dated: October 16, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-26934 Filed 10-16-96; 3:19 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 101596A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Yellowfin Sole by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Modification of a closure. Notice of an inseason adjustment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the currently specified bycatch allowances of Pacific halibut allocated to the yellowfin sole and rockfish trawl fishery categories in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI) are incorrect. Therefore, NMFS is re-specifying the bycatch allowances for these categories, and is opening the directed fishery for yellowfin sole by vessels using trawl gear. These actions are necessary to achieve the optimum yield from the groundfish fisheries. They are intended to promote the goals and objectives of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 16, 1996, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1996. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., October 31, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Attn: Lori Gravel, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, or be delivered to Room 457, Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew N. Smoker, 907-586-7228.