

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

[Docket No. 970429101-7101-01; I.D. 103097A]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Adjustment From Sisters Rocks to Mack Arch, OR

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

ACTION: Inseason adjustment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the commercial salmon fishery in the area from Sisters Rocks to Mack Arch, OR, opened for 7 days per week beginning August 13, 1997. This adjustment was intended to provide commercial fishermen with additional opportunity to harvest chinook salmon without exceeding the ocean share allocated to the commercial fishery in this area.

DATES: Effective 0001 hours local time, August 13, through 2400 hours local time, August 31, 1997. Comments will be accepted through November 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Regional

Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070. Information relevant to this action is available for public review during business hours at the office of the Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Robinson, 206-526-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (62 FR 24355, May 5, 1997), NMFS announced that the commercial fishery in the area from Sisters Rocks to Mack Arch, OR, would open August 1 and continue through the earlier of August 31 or attainment of the 3,000 chinook salmon quota. The season was scheduled to follow a cycle of 2 days open/2 days closed for the purpose of dampening catch rates and extending the fishing season.

The best available information on August 11 indicated that a sufficient number of chinook salmon remained in the quota to rescind the catch dampening measure. Hence, effective 0001 hours local time, August 13, the commercial salmon fishery in this area opened 7 days per week. This fishery operated through August 31.

Modification of fishing seasons is authorized by regulations at 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i). All other restrictions that applied to this fishery remained in effect as announced in the annual management measures.

The Regional Administrator consulted with representatives of the Pacific

Fishery Management Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding this adjustment. The State of Oregon managed the commercial fishery in state waters adjacent to this area of the exclusive economic zone in accordance with this Federal action. As provided by the inseason notice procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice to fishermen of this action was given prior to 0001 hours local time, August 13, 1997 by telephone hotline numbers (206) 526-6667 and (800) 662-9825, and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 kHz. Because of the need for immediate action to take advantage of the opportunity to harvest the available quota, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this notice to be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment. This action does not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409 and 660.411 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: November 6, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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