

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

[Docket No. 020430101-2101-01; I.D. 070202C]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Adjustment 2-Closure of the Commercial Fishery from U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR

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

ACTION: Closure; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the commercial fishery for all salmon except coho in the area from U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR was closed on June 7, 2002, at 2359 hours local time (l.t.). The Northwest Regional Administrator, NMFS (Regional Administrator), determined that the quota of 50,000 chinook salmon had been reached. This action was necessary to conform to the 2002 management goals.

DATES: Closure in the area from U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR, effective 2359 hours local time (l.t.), June 7, 2002, until 0001 hours l.t., July 1, 2002. Comments will be accepted through August 2, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments on these actions must be mailed or faxed to D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070, facsimile 206-526-6376; or

Rod McInnis, Acting Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4132, facsimile 562-980-4018.

Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. Information relevant to this document is available for public review during business hours at the Office of the Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Wright, 206-526-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Regional Administrator closed the commercial fishery in the area from U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR, effective Friday, June 7, 2002, at 2359 hours l.t. Information provided on June 5 estimated that the quota of 50,000

chinook salmon would be reached by June 7. Automatic season closures based on quotas are authorized by regulations at 50 CFR 660.409(a)(1).

In the 2002 annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (67 FR 30616, May 7, 2002), NMFS announced that the commercial fishery for all salmon except coho in the area from U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR would open May 1 and run through the earlier of June 30 or a 50,000-chinook quota.

On June 5, 2002, the Regional Administrator consulted with representatives of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife by conference call. Information related to catch to date, the chinook catch rate, and effort data indicated that it was likely that the quota would be reached by June 7. As a result, the States of Oregon and Washington recommended, and the Regional Administrator concurred, that the commercial fishery in the area from U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR close effective at midnight on Friday, June 7, 2002. All other restrictions that apply to this fishery remain in effect as announced in the 2002 annual management measures and subsequent inseason actions.

The Regional Administrator determined that the best available information indicated that the catch and effort data, and projections, supported the above inseason action recommended by the states. The states manage the fisheries in state waters adjacent to the areas of the U.S. exclusive economic zone in accordance with this Federal action. As provided by the inseason notice procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice to fishers of the above described action was given prior to the effective date by telephone hotline number 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.

This action does not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds that good cause exists for this notification to be issued without affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), or delaying the effectiveness of this rule for 30 days under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), because such notification and delay would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. As previously noted, actual notice of this action was provided to

fishermen through telephone hotline and radio notification. This action complies with the requirements of the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (67 FR 30616, May 7, 2002) and the West Coast Salmon Plan. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment is impracticable because NMFS and the state agencies have insufficient time to allow for prior notice and the opportunity for public comment between the time the fishery catch and effort data are collected to determine the extent of the fisheries, and the time the fishery closure must be implemented to avoid exceeding the quota. Moreover, such prior notice and the opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because not closing the fishery upon attainment of the quota would allow the quota to be exceeded, resulting in fewer spawning fish and reduced yield of the stocks. The 30-day delay in effectiveness required under U.S.C. 553(d)(3) is also hereby waived due to the immediate need to stop a fishery upon attainment of a quota.

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

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

Dated: July 12, 2002.

Virginia M. Fay,

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

[FR Doc. 02-18150 Filed 7-17-02; 8:45 am]

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

[Docket No. 020430101-2101-01; I.D. 070902D]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Adjustment 3-Adjustment of the Commercial Fishery from the U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR

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

ACTION: Adjustment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the commercial fishery for all salmon except coho in the area from the U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR was modified to close at midnight, July 8,

2002, with a vessel trip limit of 250 chinook salmon for the 8-day open period. The Northwest Regional Administrator, NMFS (Regional Administrator), determined that available catch and effort data indicated that these management measures should be implemented to fully access the chinook and coho quotas. This action was necessary to conform to the 2002 management goals.

DATES: The inseason adjustment in the area from the U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR, is effective 0001 hours local time (l.t.), July 1, 2002, through 2359 hours l.t. July 8, 2002, after which the fishery will remain closed until opened through an additional inseason action or until the effective date of the year 2003 management measures, which will be published in the **Federal Register** for the west coast salmon fisheries. Comments will be accepted through August 2, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments on these actions must be mailed to D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or faxed to 206-526-6376; or Rod McInnis, Acting Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4132; or faxed to 562-980-4018. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. Information relevant to this document is available for public review during business hours at the Office of the Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Wright, 206-526-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Regional Administrator modified the season for the commercial fishery in the area from the U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR, to open on July 1 and close at midnight, July 8, 2002, with a vessel trip limit of 250 chinook salmon for the 8-day open period. Information provided to NMFS on June 26 regarding the available catch and effort data indicated that these management measures should be implemented to fully access the chinook and coho quotas. Modification of fishing seasons are authorized by regulations at 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

In the 2002 annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (67 FR 30616, May 7, 2002), NMFS announced that the commercial fishery for all salmon except coho in the area from the U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR would open July 1 and run through the earlier of September 8 or a

32,500-chinook quota, except for a selective fishery for marked coho scheduled at the end of the season with a 5000 marked coho quota.

On June 26, 2002, the Regional Administrator consulted with representatives of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) by conference call. Information related to catch to date, the chinook catch rate, and effort data indicated that it was likely that the chinook quota would be reached prematurely, potentially foreclosing opportunity of fishers to conduct the selective fishery for marked coho later in the season. There was also concern about placing an oversupply of chinook salmon on the market in a short time period, thus reducing the price of salmon and economic value of the fishery. As a result, the states of WA and OR recommended, and the Regional Administrator concurred, that the commercial fishery in the area from the U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR would open on July 1 and close at midnight, July 8, 2002, with the provision that no vessel may possess, land, or deliver more than 250 chinook for the entire 8 day open period. All other restrictions that apply to this fishery remain in effect as announced in the 2002 annual management measures. The State of Oregon added a landing restriction for this fishery in their regulations requiring that fishers fishing within this area, and intending to land salmon south of Cape Falcon, notify the ODFW before they leave the area at the following phone number (541) 867-0300, Ext. 252.

The Regional Administrator determined that the best available information indicated that the catch and effort data, and projections, supported the above inseason action recommended by the states. The states manage the fisheries in state waters adjacent to the areas of the U.S. exclusive economic zone in accordance with this Federal action. As provided by the inseason notice procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice to fishers of the above described action was given prior to the effective date by telephone hotline number 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.

This action does not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds that good

cause exists for this notification to be issued without affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), because such notification and delay would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. As previously noted, actual notice of this action was provided to fishermen through telephone hotline and radio notification. This action complies with the requirements of the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (67 FR 30616, May 7, 2002) and the West Coast Salmon Plan. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment was impracticable because NMFS and the state agencies have insufficient time to provide for prior notice and the opportunity for public comment between the time the fishery catch and effort data are collected to determine the extent of the fisheries and the time and trip limits to which the fishery must be adjusted to reduce the tempo of the fishery. Such prior notice and the opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because it does not allow commercial fishermen appropriately controlled access to the available fish at the time they are available.

Moreover, the AA finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). A delay in effectiveness of this action would not allow commercial fishermen appropriately controlled access to the available fish at the time they are available.

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

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

Dated: July 12, 2002.

Virginia M. Fay,
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 679

[Docket No. 011218304-1304-01; I.D. 071502A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and