

range. All three of these species occur solely on Federal refuge lands. Collecting and damaging these species are prohibited without a Federal permit. The Service is not otherwise aware of any legal activities currently being conducted by the public that will be affected by this listing and result in a violation of section 9. Illegal boat landing or entry to the island have already been discussed as potentially threatening these three species. Requests for copies of the regulations concerning listed plants and inquiries regarding prohibitions and permits may be addressed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, Endangered Species Permits, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (telephone 503-231-6241; FAX 503-231-6243). Questions regarding whether specific activities will constitute a violation of section 9 should be directed to the Ecoregion Manager of the Service's Pacific Islands Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

National Environmental Policy Act

The Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, as defined under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to Section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the Federal Register on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein is available upon request from the Pacific Islands Ecoregion (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authors

The primary authors of this final rule are Marie M. Bruegmann and Zella E. Ellshoff, Pacific Islands Ecoregion (see **ADDRESSES** section).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Transportation.

Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 17.12(h) is amended by adding the following, in alphabetical order under FLOWERING PLANTS, to the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants, to read as follows:

§ 17.12 Endangered and threatened plants.
* * * * *
(h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Family name	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Scientific name	Common name						
Flowering plants							
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
<i>Amaranthus brownii</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Amaranthaceae.	E	587	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
<i>Pritchardia remota</i>	Loulu	U.S.A. (HI)	Arecaceae	E	587	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
<i>Schiedea verticillata</i>	None	U.S.A. (HI)	Caryophyllaceae	E	587	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*

Dated: August 12, 1996.

John G. Rogers,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 285

[I.D. 081596C]

Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Fishery Closure

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABT) General category quota for the August period will be attained by August 17, 1996. Therefore, the General category fishery for the August period will be closed effective at 11:30 p.m. on August 17, 1996. This action is being taken to prevent overharvest of the adjusted 193 metric tons (mt) subquota for the August period.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The General category closure for the August period is effective 11:30 p.m. local time on August 17, 1996, through August 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Kelly, 301-713-2347, or Mark Murray-Brown, 508-281-9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the

authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of ABT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 285. Section 285.22 subdivides the U.S. quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas among the various domestic fishing categories.

General Category Closure

NMFS is required, under 285.20(b)(1), to monitor the catch and landing statistics and, on the basis of these statistics, to project a date when the catch of ABT will equal the quota and publish a Federal Register announcement to close the applicable fishery.

Implementing regulations for the Atlantic tuna fisheries at 50 CFR 285.22 provide for a quota of 186 mt of large

medium and giant ABT to be harvested from the regulatory area by vessels fishing under the General category quota during the period beginning August 1 and ending August 31. Due to an underage of 7 mt in the June/July subquota, the August subquota was adjusted to 193 mt. Based on reported catch and effort, NMFS projects that this revised quota will be reached by August 17, 1996. Therefore, fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing large medium or giant ABT under the General category quota must cease at 11:30 p.m. local time August 17, 1996. The General category will reopen September 1, 1996 with a quota of 159 mt for the September period, plus any underage from the August period.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 285.20(b) and 50 CFR 285.22 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*

Dated: August 15, 1996.

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

[FR Doc. 96-21242 Filed 8-15-96; 5:01 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 678

[I.D. 072396A]

Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Large Coastal Sharks Closure

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the commercial fishery for large coastal

sharks conducted by vessels with a Federal Atlantic Shark permit in the Western North Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the semiannual quota for the period July 1 through December 31, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2330 hours local time August 31, 1996, through December 31, 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 shark fishery is managed by NMFS according to the fishery management plan (FMP) for Atlantic Sharks 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 semiannual quotas of large coastal sharks to be harvested from Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico waters by commercial fishermen. The second semiannual quota is available for harvest from July 1 through December 31, 1996.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), is required under § 678.25 to monitor the catch and landing statistics and, on the basis of these statistics, to determine when the catch of Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico sharks will equal any quota under § 678.24(b). When shark harvests reach, or are projected to reach, a quota established under § 678.24(b), the AA is further required under § 678.25 to close the fishery.

The AA has determined, based on the reported catch and other relevant

factors, that the semiannual quota for the period July 1 through December 31, 1996, for large coastal sharks, in or from the Western North Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, will be attained by August 31, 1996. During this closure, for vessels issued a permit under § 678.4, retention of large coastal sharks from the management unit is prohibited, unless the vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat, in which case the vessel limit per trip is four large coastal sharks. In addition, the sale, purchase, trade, or barter or attempted sale, purchase, trade, or barter of carcasses and/or fins of large coastal sharks harvested by a person aboard any vessel that has been issued a permit under § 678.4, is prohibited, except for those that were harvested, off-loaded, and sold, traded, or bartered prior to August 31, 1996, and were held in storage by a dealer or processor.

Vessels that have been issued a Federal permit under § 678.4 are reminded that as a condition of permit issuance, the vessel may not retain a large coastal shark during the closure, except as provided by § 678.24(a)(2). Fishing for pelagic and small coastal sharks may continue. The recreational fishery is not affected by this closure.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR part 678 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 15, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer

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

[FR Doc. 96-21238 Filed 8-15-96; 5:01 pm]

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