

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 961227373-6373-01; I.D. 062797C]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Reductions

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

ACTION: Correction to fishing restrictions.

SUMMARY: This document corrects an error in the trip limit for lingcod taken in the Pacific groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California, published July 7, 1997.

DATES: Effective July 1, 1997 (July 16, 1997, for the "B" platoon).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the document announcing a reduction to the 2-month cumulative trip limit for lingcod, the prohibition against retaining lingcod smaller than 22 inches (56 cm), except for a 100-lb (45-kg) trip limit for trawl-caught lingcod smaller than 22 inches (56 cm), was inadvertently deleted in the regulatory text. Accordingly, the publication on July 7, 1997 (62 FR 36228), which was the subject of FR Doc. 97-17625, is corrected as follows: On page 36230, in the first column, paragraph G.(1) of item 3 is corrected to read, "(1) *Limited entry fishery*. The cumulative trip limit for lingcod is 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) per vessel per 2-month period. The 60-percent monthly limit is 18,000 lb (8,165 kg). No lingcod may be smaller than 22 inches (56 cm) total length, except for a 100-lb (45 kg) trip limit for trawl-caught lingcod smaller than 22 inches (56 cm). Length measurement is explained at paragraph IV.A.(6)".

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

Dated: July 15, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 97-19051 Filed 7-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 678

[I.D. 061797C]

Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Large Coastal Closure Notice

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, 1997.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2330 hours local time July 21 through December 31, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C. Michael Bailey, John Kelly, or Margo Schulze, 301-713-2347; Mark Murray-Brown, 508-281-9260; or Buck Sutter, 813-570-5447.

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-Stevens 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, 1997.

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 first semiannual quota was available for harvest from January 1 through June 30, 1997. Final data indicated that the catch of large coastal shark species from January through April 7, 1997, totaled 958 mt, which was 316 mt more than the established quota. Therefore, the adjusted quota for large coastal shark species for the second 1997 semiannual period was decreased from 642 mt to 326 mt (62 FR 26428, May 14, 1997).

The AA has determined, based on the reported catch and other relevant factors, that the adjusted semiannual quota for the period July 1 through December 31, 1997, for large coastal sharks, in or from the Western North Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, will be attained by July 21, 1997. 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 two small coastal, large coastal and pelagic sharks combined plus two Atlantic sharpnose sharks per person per trip. 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 July 21, 1997, 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: July 16, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 97-19112 Filed 7-16-97; 2:24 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F