

December 4, 2015. Under these circumstances, the increased domestic content requirements for FY2018 and beyond will not apply, regardless of when the first production vehicle is delivered. However, consistent with FTA's policy statement above, parties to the contracts may exercise options under the contract, but recipients will not be permitted to piggyback on the contracts.

Public interest waiver for contract solicitations advertised on or after December 4, 2015 and entered into within 60 days of publication of this notice. To avoid the disruption of ongoing contract solicitations and to facilitate the delivery of transit vehicles to the public, FTA is extending the waiver to contract solicitations advertised on or after December 4, 2015, and entered into within 60 days after the publication date of this Notice. If a solicitation was advertised (*i.e.*, published or distributed to potential bidders in a manner that constitutes constructive notice) after the enactment date of the FAST Act and the parties are unable to execute a contract within 60 days of this Notice, the solicitation must be amended to reflect the applicable domestic content standard that will be in effect when the first production vehicle is scheduled to be delivered. If compliance with this requirement would pose an undue hardship, FTA will evaluate requests for a waiver on a case-by-case basis.

Recipients may apply to FTA for individual public interest waivers for contracts that do not fall within the scope of a general public interest waiver. A request for a public interest waiver should set forth the detailed justification for the proposed waiver, including information about the history of the procurement and the burden on the recipient and/or the industry in complying with the FAST Act. Public interest waivers should be narrowly tailored and FTA will not generally look favorably on waivers that provide for contracts that include the exercise of options for vehicles that will be delivered beyond FY2020. FTA will act expeditiously on public interest waiver requests that provide the information requested.

V. Effective Date

Because the statute is self-effectuating, the changes are effective upon the FAST Act's enactment. FTA will be initiating a subsequent rulemaking updating 49 CFR part 661 to reflect these changes; however, today's Policy Statement and Waiver represents FTA's implementation of the FAST Act provisions during this interim period.

Dated: August 26, 2016.

Ellen Partridge,
Chief Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 120815345-3525-02]

RIN 0648-XE831

Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2016 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for the South Atlantic Other Porgies Complex

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS implements an accountability measure (AM) for the other porgies complex recreational sector in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the South Atlantic for the 2016 fishing year through this temporary rule. In the South Atlantic, the other porgies complex includes jolthead porgy, knobbed porgy, whitebone porgy, scup, and saucereye porgy. NMFS has determined that recreational landings of species in the other porgies complex have reached the recreational annual catch limit (ACL). Therefore, NMFS closes the recreational sector for the other porgies complex in the South Atlantic EEZ on September 3, 2016. This recreational closure is necessary to protect the other porgies complex resource.

DATES: This rule is effective 12:01 a.m., local time, September 3, 2016, until 12:01 a.m., local time, January 1, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Vara, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305, or email: mary.vara@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The snapper-grouper fishery of the South Atlantic includes species in the other porgies complex and is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and is implemented by NMFS under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management

Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

The recreational ACL for the other porgies complex is 106,914 lb (48,495 kg), round weight. In accordance with regulations at 50 CFR 622.193(w)(2)(i), if the recreational ACL is met, or is projected to be met, the NMFS Assistant Administrator (AA) will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for the remainder of the fishing year. Recreational landings in 2016 from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center indicate that the recreational ACL has already been harvested. As a result, the recreational sector for the other porgies complex will be closed effective 12:01 a.m., local time, September 3, 2016.

During the closure, the bag and possession limits for species in the other porgies complex in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero. The recreational sector for the other porgies complex will reopen on January 1, 2017, the beginning of the 2017 recreational fishing year.

Classification

The Regional Administrator for the NMFS Southeast Region has determined this temporary rule is necessary for the conservation and management of the South Atlantic other porgies complex and is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.193(w)(2)(i) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866. These measures are exempt from the procedures of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because the temporary rule is issued without opportunity for prior notice and comment. This action responds to the best scientific information available.

The AA finds that the need to immediately implement this action to close the recreational sector for the other porgies complex constitutes good cause to waive the requirements to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), as such procedures are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures are unnecessary because the rule implementing the AM has already been subject to notice and comment, and all that remains is to notify the public of the closure. Such procedures are contrary to the public interest because there is a need to immediately implement this action to protect the species in the other porgies complex. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require time and would potentially allow the recreational sector to further exceed its ACL.

For the aforementioned reasons, the AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

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

Dated: August 29, 2016.

Emily H. Menashes,

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 635

[Docket No. 160706586–6780–01]

RIN 0648–XE726

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Adjustments to 2016 Northern Albacore Tuna and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas

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

ACTION: Temporary final rule; adjustments to 2016 northern albacore quota and 2016 Atlantic bluefin tuna Reserve category quota.

SUMMARY: NMFS adjusts the northern albacore (NALB) annual baseline quota for 2016 with available underharvest of the 2015 adjusted U.S. NALB quota. NMFS also augments the 2016 Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) Reserve category quota with available underharvest of the 2015 adjusted U.S. BFT quota. This action is necessary to implement binding recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), as required by the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA), and to achieve domestic management objectives under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

DATES: Effective September 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Supporting documents such as the Environmental Assessments and Fishery Management Plans and their Amendments described below may be downloaded from the HMS Web site at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/. These documents also are available upon request from Sarah McLaughlin or Brad McHale at the telephone number below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin or Brad McHale, 978–281–9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA; 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of NALB and BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.27(e) describes the NALB annual quota recommended by ICCAT and the annual NALB quota adjustment process. Section 635.27(a) subdivides the ICCAT-recommended U.S. BFT quota among the various domestic fishing categories, per the allocations established in the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (2006 Consolidated HMS FMP) (71 FR 58058, October 2, 2006), as amended by Amendment 7 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP (Amendment 7) (79 FR 71510, December 2, 2014), and describes the annual BFT quota adjustment process. NMFS is required under ATCA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide U.S. fishing vessels with a reasonable opportunity to harvest the ICCAT-recommended quotas.

The NALB quota implementation and quota adjustment processes, along with the BFT quota adjustment process, were previously analyzed in Amendment 7, which included a Final Environmental Impact Statement, Final Regulatory Impact Review, Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, and Final Social Impact Statement, published in August 2014. ICCAT conducted another BFT stock assessment update in 2014, and, after considering the scientific advice in the stock assessment, adopted a recommendation regarding western Atlantic bluefin tuna management that increases the U.S. bluefin tuna quota for 2015 and 2016 (ICCAT Recommendation 14–05:

“Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic BFT Rebuilding Program”). NMFS published a final rule to implement that baseline annual U.S. BFT quota on August 28, 2015 (“BFT Quota Rule,” 80 FR 52198), and prepared an Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Impact Review, and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for that action.

NALB Annual Quota and Adjustment Process

As described in the final rule implementing Amendment 7, since

1998, ICCAT has adopted recommendations regarding the NALB fishery. A multiyear management measure for northern albacore tuna was first adopted in 2003, setting the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) at 34,500 mt. ICCAT’s Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) assessed the northern albacore tuna stock in 2009 and concluded that the stock continues to be overfished with overfishing occurring, recommending a level of catch of no more than 28,000 mt to meet ICCAT management objectives by 2020. In response, in 2009, ICCAT established the NALB rebuilding program via Recommendation 09–05, effective for 2010 and 2011, setting a 28,000-mt TAC and including several provisions to limit catches by individual ICCAT Contracting Parties (for major and minor harvesters) and reduce the amount of unharvested quota that could be carried forward from one year to the next, from 50 percent to 25 percent of a Contracting Party’s initial catch quota. Subsequent ICCAT NALB Recommendations 11–04 and 13–05 (both entitled “Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program”) maintained the TAC at 28,000 mt for 2012 through 2016 and contained specific recommendations regarding the NALB rebuilding program, including allocation of the annual TAC among the European Union, Chinese Taipei, the United States, and Venezuela. The U.S. quota for 2012 through 2016 has been 527 mt, annually. These recommendations limit Japanese northern albacore tuna catches to 4 percent in weight of its total Atlantic bigeye tuna longline catch, and limits the catches of other ICCAT parties to 200 mt. Recommendation 13–05 also specifies that quota adjustments for a given year’s underharvest or overharvest must be made within 2 years from the subject year (*i.e.*, adjustments based on 2015 catches would be made during or before 2017). The maximum underharvest can be carried forward from one year to the next remains at 25 percent of a Contracting Party’s initial catch quota.

The annual U.S. NALB quota of 527 mt is codified at § 635.27(e) and will remain in effect until changed (for instance, if a new ICCAT NALB TAC recommendation is adopted). Because ICCAT adopted TACs for 2014, 2015, and 2016 in Recommendation 13–05, NMFS currently anticipates that these annual base quotas would be in effect through 2016, but they will remain in place unless and until a new NALB TAC and catch limits are adopted by ICCAT.

Amendment 7 established the process by which NMFS adjusts the U.S. annual