

flag purse seine vessels may be imported into the United States through December 31, 1995.

The Republic of Ecuador also submitted a request for renewal of an affirmative finding. NMFS reviewed information submitted by the Republic of Ecuador in compliance with 50 CFR 216.24(e)(5)(ix) - (xi). That documentation shows that, from May 24, 1994, until June 3, 1994, the Ecuadorian-flag purse seine vessel *Connie F.* fished for yellowfin tuna in the ETP without an observer on board. As a result, Ecuador automatically entered into a 1-year probationary status, beginning on June 3, 1994, as required under 50 CFR § 216.24(e)(5)(x)(B)(1). On December 30, 1994, after consultation with the Department of State, NMFS made an affirmative finding that the Republic of Ecuador had submitted acceptable documentary evidence that its regulatory program complies with the yellowfin tuna import regulations and that Ecuador may continue to export yellowfin tuna harvested in the ETP by Ecuadorian-flag purse seine vessels to the United States, in a probationary status, through December 31, 1995.

Dated: February 17, 1995.

**Gary Matlock,**

*Program Management Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**50 CFR Part 642**

[Docket No. 940710-4292; I.D. 021795C]

**Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic**

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

**ACTION:** Trip limit reduction.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS reduces the commercial trip limit of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel in the southern zone to 500 lb (227 kg) per day in or from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). This trip limit reduction is necessary to protect the Atlantic Spanish mackerel resource.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The 500-lb (227-kg) commercial trip limit is effective February 21, 1995, and remains in effect through March 31, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark F. Godcharles, 813-570-5305.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The fishery for coastal migratory pelagic fish (king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, cero, cobia, little tunny, dolphin, and, in the Gulf of Mexico only, bluefish) is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 642 under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

An adjusted allocation and commercial trip limits were

recommended by the Councils and implemented by NMFS for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from the southern zone. As set forth at 50 CFR 642.27(b), the adjusted allocation is 4.35 million lb (1.97 million kg). In accordance with 50 CFR 642.27(a)(2)(iv), after 100 percent of the adjusted allocation of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel from the southern zone is taken, Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ in the southern zone may not be possessed aboard or landed from a vessel in a day in amounts exceeding 500 lb (227 kg).

NMFS has determined that 100 percent of the adjusted allocation for Atlantic group Spanish mackerel from the southern zone will be taken by February 20, 1995. Accordingly, the 500-lb (227-kg) per day commercial trip limit applies to Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ in the southern zone effective 12:01 a.m., local time, February 21, 1995.

The southern zone of Atlantic group Spanish mackerel extends from the Georgia/Florida boundary (30°42'45.6" N. lat.) southward to the Dade/Monroe County, FL, boundary (25°20.4' N. lat.).

**Classification**

This action is taken under 50 CFR 642.27(a)(2)(iv) and (b) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: February 17, 1995.

**Fred Bilik,**

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

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