

Alaska, the fishery for surf clams, and the fishery for Atlantic Groundfish.

Classification

Because this rule eliminates an unnecessary regulation, no useful purpose would be served by providing prior notice and opportunity for comment on this rule. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, for good cause, finds that it is unnecessary to provide such notice and opportunity for comment. Also, because this rule is only administrative in nature and is not a "substantive rule" under 5 U.S.C. 533(d), it will be immediately effective upon publication.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of E.O. 12866.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 251

Administrative practice and procedure, Fisheries, Fishing vessels, Loan programs-business.

Dated: March 27, 1996.

Charles Karnella,

*Acting Program Management Officer,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

For the reasons set out in the preamble, under the authority at 16 U.S.C. 742, 50 CFR part 251 is removed. [FR Doc. 96-7888 Filed 4-2-96; 8:45 am]

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50 CFR Part 641

[Docket No. 94113-4354; I.D. 032896A]

Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Closure of the Commercial Red Snapper Component

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS closes the commercial fishery for red snapper in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS has projected that the annual commercial quota for red snapper will be reached on April 4, 1996. This closure is necessary to protect the red snapper resource.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Closure is effective 12:01 a.m., local time, April 5, 1996, through December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Sadler, 813-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The reef fish fishery of the Gulf of Mexico is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and is implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 641 under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). Those regulations set the commercial quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico at 3.06 million lb (1.39 million kg) for the current fishing year, January 1 through December 31, 1996.

Under 50 CFR 641.26, NMFS is required to close the commercial fishery for a species or species group when the

quota for that species or species group is reached, or is projected to be reached, by publishing a notification to that effect in the Federal Register. Based on current statistics, NMFS has projected that the commercial quota of 3.06 million lb (1.39 million kg) for red snapper will be reached on April 4, 1996. Accordingly, the commercial fishery in the EEZ in the Gulf of Mexico for red snapper is closed effective 12:01 a.m., local time, April 5, 1996, through December 31, 1996, the end of the fishing year. A vessel with a valid reef fish permit having red snapper on board must land and barter, trade, or sell such red snapper prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, April 5, 1996.

During the closure, the bag limit applies to all harvests of red snapper from the EEZ in the Gulf of Mexico. The daily bag limit for red snapper is five per person. From 12:01 a.m., local time, April 5, 1996, through December 31, 1996, the purchase, barter, trade, or sale of red snapper taken from the EEZ is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to trade in red snapper that were harvested, landed, and bartered, traded, or sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, April 5, 1996, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 641.26 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: March 28, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 96-8177 Filed 4-2-96; 8:45 am]

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