

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Svein Fougner, 310-980-4034; or Alvin Z. Katekaru, 808-973-2985.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 5, 1996, a harvest guideline of 186,000 spiny and slipper lobsters was published in the Federal Register (61 FR 35145) as the allowable harvest permitted in the NWHI for the 1996 fishing season, which began on July 1. Through July 21, 150,000 spiny and slipper lobsters have been harvested by commercial fishing vessels, mostly at Necker Island. The average daily harvest has been more than 7,800 lobsters. Further harvesting of lobsters is therefore prohibited after 2400 hours (local time) July 26, 1996, when the harvest guideline is projected to be reached, and further landings of lobster taken in Permit Area I are prohibited after 2400 hours (local time) July 30, 1996.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 660.50 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 26, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 960126016-6121-04; I.D. 072396C]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Adjustments From the U.S.-Canadian Border to Cape Falcon, OR

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

ACTION: Inseason adjustments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the non-treaty commercial and recreational salmon fisheries in the area from the U.S.-Canadian border to Cape Falcon, OR, will open under the contingency seasons announced in the annual management measures. NMFS announces that the overall treaty Indian ocean quota for coho salmon is modified to 25,000 fish. These actions are necessary to implement ocean salmon fisheries established in the annual management measures.

DATES: Opening of the non-treaty commercial and recreational salmon fisheries under the contingency seasons is effective July 22, 1996, through September 30, 1996. Modification of the treaty Indian coho quota is effective August 1, 1996, through September 30, 1996. Comments will be accepted through August 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Director, Northwest Region, NMFS (Regional Director), NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070. Information relevant to this action has been compiled in aggregate form and is available for public review during business hours at the office of the Regional Director.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (61 FR 20175, May 6, 1996), NMFS announced that the 1996 non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries north of Cape Falcon, OR, are closed unless the conditions allowing the contingency seasons are met. Specifically, if the Canadian harvest of coho salmon off the west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) is determined to be 1.3 million coho or less, contingency seasons recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council would be implemented. At a Canadian harvest level between 1.1 million and 1.3 million coho off WCVI, the non-treaty ocean total allowable catch (TAC) would be zero chinook and 75,000 coho (18,800 coho to the commercial fishery and 56,200 coho to the recreational fishery). At a Canadian harvest level of less than 1.1 million coho off WCVI, the non-treaty coho TAC could be increased upon the recommendation of the States of Washington and Oregon and the treaty Indian tribes. The contingency seasons and any adjustments to the non-treaty coho TAC would be implemented by the Regional Director using the inseason management authority and process.

On July 19, 1996, agreement was reached between the United States and Canada that the Canadian harvest of coho salmon off WCVI would be less than 1 million fish. This harvest level allows the implementation of the contingency seasons and the consideration of increasing the non-treaty coho TAC. U.S. fishery managers agreed that any additional harvest opportunity on coho salmon would be provided to the inside fisheries instead of the ocean fisheries. Therefore, the

non-treaty coho ocean TAC will remain at 75,000 coho, and the contingency seasons will open as described in Tables 1 and 2 of the annual management measures (61 FR 20181, May 6, 1996).

The annual management measures for the treaty Indian troll fisheries initially set the coho quota at 12,500 fish. In accordance with the provisions in the annual management measures for a Canadian harvest level between 1.1 million and 1.3 million coho off WCVI, the Regional Director is raising the treaty Indian coho quota to 25,000 fish.

The Regional Director consulted with representatives of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Game, Pacific Fishery Management Council, and treaty Indian tribes regarding this action. The States of Washington and Oregon will open the non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries in state waters as provided in the annual management measures for the contingency seasons. The treaty Indian tribes will manage the treaty troll fisheries in accordance with the revised coho quota. As provided by the inseason action procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice to fishermen of the opening of the non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries was given prior to July 22, 1996 (opening date of recreational seasons in two subareas between Leadbetter Point, WA, and Cape Falcon, OR), by telephone hotline number 206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825 and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 kHz. Because of the need for immediate action to open these fisheries in a timely manner, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this action to be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment. This action does not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409 and 660.411 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 26, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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