

The IPHC closed all Area 2A non-Indian commercial halibut fisheries, including the incidental catch of halibut during the salmon troll fisheries that opened on August 1. Notice of the closure has been provided on the NMFS hotline at 206-526-6667.

Accordingly, NMFS announces that Pacific halibut caught during the salmon troll fisheries may not be retained, possessed or sold for the remainder of 1997.

Classification

This action is authorized by Section 10 of the annual management measures for Pacific halibut fisheries published on March 18, 1997 (62 FR 12759) and Paragraph C.9. of Table 1 of the annual management measures for the ocean salmon fisheries published in the **Federal Register** on May 5, 1997 (62 FR 24355). This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Because of the need to implement the IPHC closure and prevent the commercial catch of halibut in excess of the quota, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this action to be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment.

Dated: August 6, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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 648

[Docket No. 961210346-7035-02; I.D. 070397G]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Adjustments to the 1997 State Quotas; Commercial Quota Harvested for North Carolina; Correction

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Correction to commercial quota adjustments for the State of Maryland.

SUMMARY: NMFS corrects the rulemaking announcing adjustments to the commercial state quotas for the 1997 summer flounder fishery published July 15, 1997.

DATES: The 1997 commercial state quotas are effective July 9, 1997, through December 31, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina L. Spallone, Fishery Policy Analyst, 508-281-9221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Regulations implementing summer flounder management measures (50 CFR part 648, subparts A and G) require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the Atlantic coastal states from Maine through North Carolina. Section 648.100(d)(2) of the regulations provides that all landings for sale in a state shall be applied against that state's annual commercial quota. Any landings in excess of a state's quota must be deducted from that state's annual quota for the following year.

On March 7, 1997 (62 FR 10473), NMFS published the final specifications for the summer flounder 1997 commercial fishery and deductions for overages in the 1996 quota year. At that time, Maryland's initial landings data for 1996 indicated that the state had underharvested its quota by 1,519 lb (689 kg). Revised data were subsequently provided that altered the landings figures for several states. These data were used as a basis for readjusting the states' commercial quotas (July 15, 1997, 62 FR 37741). In the case of Maryland, revised data indicated an additional 39,835 lb (18,069 kg) of summer flounder were landed in 1996. The underharvest of 1,519 lb (689 kg) should have been subtracted from the additional landings of 39,835 lb (18,069 kg) to derive an actual overharvest for Maryland in 1996 of 38,316 lb (17,380 kg). Instead, the additional landings for

Maryland in 1996 were incorrectly subtracted in their entirety from that state's 1997 quota in the July 15, 1997, rulemaking. This notice announces that the total overage for Maryland in 1996 was actually 38,316 lb (17,380 kg), and corrects the state's 1997 commercial quota accordingly, by adding 1,519 lb (689 kg) to the published quota of 186,735 lb (84,702 kg).

Since Maryland is the only state that moved from an underharvest to an overharvest based on the revised landings data, it was the only state to have an erroneous quota result. All other state-readjusted 1997 quotas as published July 15, 1997, are correct for the landings data received.

Correction of Publication

Accordingly, the publication on July 15, 1997 (62 FR 37741), of the commercial quota adjustments [I.D. 070397G], which were the subject of rule document 97-18462, is corrected as follows:

On page 37743, in Table 2, under the State of Maryland, in the fourth column under "Readjusted 1997 Quota", under the subheading "lb", "186,735" should read "188,254" and in the fifth column, under the subheading "(Kg)", "84,702" should read "85,391".

In the same table, under "Total", in the fourth column, under the subheading "lb", "8,382,277" should read "8,383,796" and in the fifth column, under the subheading "(Kg)", "3,802,137" should read "3,802,826".

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

Dated: August 5, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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