

Dated: March 4, 1998.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 98-10662 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 980318066-8066-01; I.D. 022698A]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 25; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects two portions of the regulatory text in the final rule for Framework Adjustment 25 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Northeast Multispecies Fishery (FMP) published Tuesday, March 31, 1998.

DATES: Effective May 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Tokarcik, 978-281-9326.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background

The interim final rule for the Atlantic sea scallop fishery and the final rule to implement measures contained in Framework Adjustment 25 to the FMP were published on Tuesday, March 31, 1998 (63 FR 15324 and 63 FR 15326, respectively). Both rules added a provision to the same paragraph designation of the prohibitions section of 50 CFR part 648. Because the Atlantic Sea scallop interim final rule became effective on April 3, 1998, and Framework Adjustment 25 to the FMP is not effective until May 1, 1998, this document is correcting Framework Adjustment 25 by changing its paragraph designation of (a)(110) to paragraph (a)(112) for its addition to § 648.14. The regulatory text as published for the Atlantic sea scallop interim final rule remains unchanged.

Also, Framework Adjustment 25 inadvertently included the time frame May 10 through May 30 as a period of time in which gillnet vessels would be prohibited from fishing in the Mid-coast Closure Area. This document is correcting § 648.87(a)(1)(i) by removing the reference to May 10 through May 30.

Correction

Accordingly, the publication on March 31, 1998, of the final regulations to implement Framework Adjustment 25 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP (I.D. 022698A), which was the subject of FR Doc. 98-8288, is corrected as follows:

1. On page 15330, in the first column, amendatory instruction 3, line 5, correct "(a)(110)" to read "(a)(112)", and in line 15 to the regulatory text to § 648.14, correct "(110)" to read "(112)".

2. On page 15333, in the second column, in line 2 to the regulatory text to § 648.87(a)(1)(i), remove "May 10 through May 30".

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

Dated: April 15, 1998.

Rolland A. Schmitt,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-10731 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 041498A]

Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish Fisheries by Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for groundfish by vessels using hook-and-line gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), except for sablefish or demersal shelf rockfish. This action is necessary because the first seasonal bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to hook-and-line gear targeting groundfish other than sablefish or demersal shelf rockfish in the GOA has been caught.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), April 18, 1998, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., May 18, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The prohibited species bycatch mortality allowance of Pacific halibut for groundfish other than demersal shelf rockfish, which is defined at § 679.21(d)(4)(iii)(C), was established by the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (63 FR 12027, March 12, 1998) for the first season, the period January 1, 1998, through May 17, 1998, as 250 mt.

In accordance with § 679.21(d)(7)(ii), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the first seasonal apportionment of the 1998 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance specified for the hook-and-line groundfish fisheries other than sablefish or demersal shelf rockfish in the GOA has been caught. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for groundfish other than sablefish or demersal shelf rockfish by vessels using hook-and-line gear in the GOA.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts may be found at § 679.20(e) and (f).

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to prevent overharvesting the first seasonal apportionment of the 1998 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance specified for the groundfish fisheries other than sablefish or demersal shelf rockfish by vessels using hook-and-line gear in the GOA. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The first seasonal bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to hook-and-line gear targeting groundfish other than sablefish or demersal shelf rockfish in the GOA has been caught. Further delay would only result in overharvest which would disrupt the FMP's objective of apportioning Pacific halibut bycatch allowances throughout the year. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action can not be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.21 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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