

basis of their weight and denomination category rates (which is the weight equivalent of face value). If not presented separately by denomination category, bent and partial coins will not be accepted for redemption.

Denomination categories and rates are: Cents, @ \$1.4585 per pound; Nickels, @ \$4.5359 per pound; Dimes, Quarters, Halves, and Eisenhower Dollars @ \$20.00 per pound; and Anthony Dollars @ \$56.00 per pound. Copper plated zinc cents shall be redeemed at the face value equivalent of copper one cent coins.

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3. Revise 100.12(b) to read as follows:

§ 100.12 Exchange of fused and mixed coins.

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(b) The United States Mint will not accept fused or mixed coins for redemption.

Philip N. Diehl,

Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 011499B]

RIN 0648-AL73

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Atlantic Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish Fisheries; and Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of amendments to three fishery management plans; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Amendment 8 to the FMP for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squids, and Butterfish Fisheries; and Amendment 12 to the FMP for the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries, for review by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) and is requesting

comments from the public. These amendments are intended to meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of October 1996 (SFA).

DATES: Comments on the amendments must be received on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Jon C. Rittgers, Acting Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-3799. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on the Mid-Atlantic SFA Amendments."

Copies of the proposed amendments, the Environmental Assessments (EA), the regulatory impact reviews (RIR), and other supporting documents are available from Daniel Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904-6790.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina L. Spallone, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Council has submitted three amendments that are intended to bring the aforementioned FMPs into compliance with the SFA requirements. The SFA revised significantly several of the national standards and added three new standards regarding impacts on fishing communities (national standard 8), minimizing bycatch (national standard 9), and promoting safety at sea (national standard 10). In addition, the SFA requires the Councils to identify and to describe essential fish habitat (EFH) for the species managed.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that each regional fishery management council submit any fishery management plan or amendment it prepares to the Secretary for review. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that the Secretary, upon receiving the plan or amendment for review, immediately make a preliminary evaluation of whether the amendment is sufficient to warrant continued review and publish notification that the plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comments in determining whether to approve the plan or amendment.

The amendments to the FMPs, if approved, would revise overfishing definitions, describe and identify EFH, implement a framework adjustment process for amending management measures for these fisheries in the future, limit the size of domestic

harvesting vessels permitted in the Atlantic mackerel fishery, and implement an operator permit requirement for the surfclam and ocean quahog fishery.

A proposed rule that would implement the amendments has been submitted for Secretarial review and approval. NMFS expects to publish and request public comment on proposed regulations to implement the amendments in the near future. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period on the amendments in order to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendments to the FMPs. All comments received by March 29, 1999, whether specifically directed to the amendments or the proposed rule, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendments.

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

Dated: January 21, 1999.

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 660

[I.D. 011999B]

RIN: 0648-AK83

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Amendment 13

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of amendment to fishery management plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 13 to The West Coast Salmon Plan (Salmon FMP) for Secretarial review. Amendment 13 changes the management goals for the Oregon coastal natural (OCN) coho salmon (coho). The FMP amendment implements the fisheries management provisions of the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative (OCSRI).

DATES: Comments on Amendment 13 must be received on or before March 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments on Amendment 13, or supporting documents should be sent to William W. Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or to William T. Hogarth, Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

Copies of Amendment 13, the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Regulatory Impact Review (RIR)/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), the Amendment 13 Issues Attachment, and the ODFW/NMFS risk assessment are available from Lawrence D. Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson at 206-526-6140, Svein Fougner at 562-980-4040, or the Pacific Fishery Management Council at 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any fishery management plan (FMP) or FMP amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving an FMP or amendment, immediately publish a notice that the FMP or

amendment is available for public review and comment. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the FMP or FMP amendment.

Amendment 13 would change the management goals for the OCN coho. The major provisions of this amendment are not codified because, in order to streamline the regulations the salmon escapement goals were previously removed from the codified regulations and remain only in the FMP. Therefore, the modification of the OCN escapement goals requires only a minor modification of the regulations to change the language that explains that the coho allocation provisions south of Cape Falcon apply only when coho abundance allows a directed harvest of coho. The existing language is tied to the existing level of harvest allowed on OCN coho. NMFS will publish a proposed rule that would change the language to be more generic and accurate under Amendment 13.

The FMP amendment implements the fisheries management provisions of the OCSRI. In a Memorandum of Agreement with the Governor of Oregon, NMFS pledged to work with the State of Oregon to encourage the Council to adopt the OCSRI. The OCSRI fisheries management provisions are just one part of a broad-based coastal recovery plan. Amendment 13 is a major step toward full implementation. The amendment would provide a more conservative management of OCN coho, *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, by

disaggregating the OCN stock into four components, restricting total harvest exploitation rates on each component to a maximum of 35 percent, and linking increases in harvest rates for each component from the current low rates (10-13 percent) to increases in marine survival and to proven reproductive success of the present brood year.

NMFS welcomes comments on the proposed FMP amendment through the end of the comment period. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the proposed amendment. A proposed rule to implement Amendment 13 to the Salmon FMP has been submitted for Secretarial review and approval. NMFS expects to publish and request public review and comment on this rule in the near future. Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period on the amendment to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendment. All comments received by the end of the comment period for the amendments, whether specifically directed to the amendment or to the proposed rule, will be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendment.

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

Dated: January 22, 1999.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-1878 Filed 1-26-99; 8:45 am]

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