

TABLE 1 TO SUBPART VVV—APPLICABILITY OF 40 CFR PART 63 GENERAL PROVISIONS TO SUBPART VVV—Continued

General provisions reference	Applicable to subpart VVV	Explanation
§ 63.14 .....	Yes .....	INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.
§ 63.15 .....	Yes .....	AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY.

[FR Doc. 99-27799 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]  
 BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**47 CFR Part 0**

[FCC 99-176]

**Interception and Recording of Telephone Conversations by Commission Personnel**

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document amends the rules with respect to the interception and recording of telephone conversations by agency personnel. The rules are being amended because the current GSA regulations have been repealed. The amended rules no longer make reference to the GSA regulations and the rule amendments clarify that the Inspector General has authority to intercept or monitor telephone conversations without obtaining a written authorization from the General Counsel.

**DATES:** Effective October 26, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Diskin, Office of General Counsel, (202) 418-1720.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Adopted:* July 13, 1999.  
*Released:* July 16, 1999.

1. Sections 0.41(l) and 0.251(f) of our rules, 47 CFR 0.41(l) and 0.251(f) govern the duties and responsibilities of the Office of General Counsel with respect to the interception and recording of telephone conversations by agency personnel. The rules currently in effect refer to and reflect General Service Administration (GSA) regulations regarding the interception of telephone conversations. These GSA regulations have been repealed. Because GSA regulations no longer contain any specific provisions regarding the manner in which government agencies monitor the interception and recording of telephone conversations by agency personnel, we are amending our rule to delete reference to these regulations. The authority of the Office of the

General Counsel to issue any necessary written determinations with respect to these matters remains generally unchanged. However, because the Office of the Inspector General may deem it necessary to intercept or monitor telephone conversations in the conduct of audits or investigations, the rule amendments clarify that the Inspector General has such authority to do so without obtaining a written authorization from the Office of General Counsel.

2. Because these rule changes involve rules of agency organization, procedure or practice, prior notice and public comment procedures are not required. See 5 U.S.C. 553 (b)(3)(A).

3. Pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), 5(c), and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i) and (j), 155(c) and 303(r), it is *hereby ordered* that Part 0 of the Commission's Rules is amended and effective October 26, 1999.

**List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 0**

Organization and functions (Government agencies), Privacy. Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**  
*Secretary.*

**Rule Changes**

Part 0 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended to read as follows:

**PART 0—COMMISSION ORGANIZATION**

1. The authority citation for Part 0 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** Sec. 5, 48 Stat. 1068, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 155, 225 unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 0.41(k) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 0.41 Functions of the Office.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(k) To issue determinations on matters regarding the interception and recording of telephone conversations by Commission personnel. Nothing in this paragraph, however, shall affect the authority of the Inspector General to intercept or record telephone

conversations as necessary in the conduct of investigations or audits.

\* \* \* \* \*

3. Section 0.251(f) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 0.251 Authority delegated.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) The General Counsel is delegated authority to issue written determinations on matters regarding the interception of telephone conversations. Nothing in this paragraph, however, shall affect the authority of the Inspector General to intercept or record telephone conversations as necessary in the conduct of investigations or audits.

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 99-27427 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]  
 BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 622**

[I.D. 102099B]

**Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 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:** Notice of closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS closes the commercial fishery for red snapper in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS projects that the initial portion of the annual commercial quota for red snapper will be reached on November 5, 1999. This closure is necessary to protect the red snapper resource.

**DATES:** Effective noon, local time, November 5, 1999, until noon, local time, February 1, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Roy E. Crabtree, 727-570-5305.

**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 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act by regulations at 50 CFR part 622. Those regulations set the commercial quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico at 4.65 million lb (2.11 million kg) for the current fishing year, January 1 through December 31, 1999. Those regulations split the red snapper commercial fishing season into two time periods, the first commencing at noon on February 1, with two-thirds of the annual quota (3.06 million lb (1.39 million kg)) available, and the second commencing at noon on September 1, with the remainder of the annual quota available. During the fall commercial season, the red snapper commercial fishery opens at noon on the first of each month and closes at noon on the 10th of each month, until the applicable commercial quotas are reached.

Under 50 CFR 622.43(a), 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 filing a notification to that effect with the **Federal Register**. Based on current statistics, NMFS projects that the available commercial quota of 4.65 million lb (2.11 million kg) for red snapper will be reached on November 5, 1999. Accordingly, the commercial fishery in the EEZ in the Gulf of Mexico for red snapper will remain closed from noon on November 5, 1999, until noon, local time, on February 1, 2000. The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit having red snapper aboard must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such red snapper prior to noon, local time, November 5, 1999.

During the closure, the bag and possession limits specified in 50 CFR 622.39(b) apply to all harvest or possession of red snapper in or from the EEZ in the Gulf of Mexico, and the sale or purchase of red snapper taken from the EEZ is prohibited. In addition, the bag and possession limits for red snapper apply on board a vessel for which a commercial permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued, without regard to where such red snapper were harvested. However, the bag and possession limits for red snapper apply only when the recreational quota for red snapper has not been reached and the bag and possession limit has not been reduced to zero. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of red snapper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior

to noon, local time, November 5, 1999, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

#### Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.43(a) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: October 21, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-27922 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 981014259-8312-02; I.D. 101999A]

#### Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for New York

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

**ACTION:** Commercial quota harvest.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the summer flounder commercial quota available to the State of New York has been harvested. Vessels issued a commercial Federal fisheries permit for the summer flounder fishery may not land summer flounder in New York for the remainder of calendar year 1999, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer. Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery require the publication of this notification to advise the State of New York that the quota has been harvested and to advise vessel permit holders and dealer permit holders that no commercial quota is available for landing summer flounder in New York.

**DATES:** Effective from 0001 hours, November 1, 1999, through 2400 hours, December 31, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul H. Jones, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9273.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned on a percentage basis among the coastal states from North Carolina through Maine. The process to

set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state is described in § 648.100.

The initial total commercial quota for summer flounder for the 1999 calendar year was set equal to 11,110,300 lb (5,039,547 kg) (64 FR 9088, February 24, 1999). The percent allocated to vessels landing summer flounder in New York is 7.64699 percent, or 790,948 lb (358,768 kg).

Section 648.100(e)(4) stipulates that any overages of commercial quota landed in any state be deducted from that state's annual quota for the following year. In the calendar year 1998, a total of 823,093 lb (373,349 kg) were landed in New York, creating a 59,674 lb (27,068 kg) overage that was deducted from the amount allocated for landings in the State during 1999 (64 FR 46596, August 26, 1999). The resulting 1999 quota for New York is 790,006 lb (358,341 kg).

Section 648.101(b) requires the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), to monitor state commercial quotas and to determine when a state's commercial quota is harvested. The Regional Administrator is further required to publish notification in the **Federal Register** advising a state and notifying Federal vessel and dealer permit holders that, effective upon a specific date, the state's commercial quota has been harvested and that no commercial quota is available for landing summer flounder in that state. The Regional Administrator has determined, based upon dealer reports and other available information, that the State of New York will have attained its quota for 1999 as of November 1, 1999.

The regulations at § 648.4(b) provide that Federal permit holders agree as a condition of the permit not to land summer flounder in any state that the Regional Administrator has determined no longer has commercial quota available. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, November 1, 1999, further landings of summer flounder in New York by vessels holding commercial Federal fisheries permits are prohibited for the remainder of the 1999 calendar year, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer and is announced in the **Federal Register**. Effective the same date, federally permitted dealers are also advised that they may not purchase summer flounder from federally permitted vessels that land in New York for the remainder of the calendar year, or until additional quota becomes available through a transfer.