

this rule was proposed that it would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. No comments were received regarding this certification. As a result, a regulatory flexibility analysis was not prepared.

The President has directed Federal agencies to use plain language in their communications with the public, including regulations. To comply with this directive, we seek public comment on any ambiguity or unnecessary complexity arising from the language used in this final rule. Comments should be sent to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 622

Fisheries, Fishing, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Virgin Islands.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is amended as follows:

PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

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

2. In § 622.39, paragraph (c)(1)(iii) is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.39 Bag and possession limits.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) * * *

(iii) Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel—15.

* * * * *

3. In § 622.42, paragraphs (c)(1)(ii) and (c)(2)(ii) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.42 Quotas.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) Atlantic migratory group. The quota for the Atlantic migratory group of king mackerel is 3.71 million lb (1.68 million kg). No more than 0.40 million lb (0.18 million kg) may be harvested by purse seines.

* * * * *

(2) * * *

(ii) Atlantic migratory group. The quota for the Atlantic migratory group of

Spanish mackerel is 3.87 million lb (1.76 million kg).

* * * * *

4. In § 622.44, paragraph (a)(1)(iii), paragraphs (b)(1)(ii)(A) and (B), and the first sentence of paragraph (b)(2) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.44 Commercial trip limits.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(iii) In the area between 28°47.8' N. lat. and 25°20.47' N. lat., which is a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/ Monroe County, FL, boundary, king mackerel in or from the EEZ may not be possessed on board or landed from a vessel in a day in amounts exceeding 75 fish from April 1 through October 31.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) * * *

(A) From April 1 through November 30, in amounts exceeding 3,500 lb (1,588 kg).

(B) From December 1 until 75 percent of the adjusted quota is taken, in amounts as follows:

(1) Mondays through Fridays—unlimited.

(2) Saturdays and Sundays—not exceeding 1,500 lb (680 kg).

* * * * *

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, the adjusted quota is 3.62 million lb (1.64 million kg).

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 000229053-0190-02; I.D. 120699A]

RIN 0648-AK96

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 17

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to implement Amendment 17 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef

Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). Amendment 17 and this final rule extend the current commercial reef fish vessel permit moratorium, which is effective through December 31, 2000, for 5 years through December 31, 2005. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide a stable environment in the fishery necessary for evaluation and development of a more comprehensive controlled access system for the entire commercial reef fish fishery.

DATES: This rule is effective August 2, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Barnette, 727-570-5305; fax: 727-570-5583; e-mail: Michael.Barnette@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The reef fish fishery is managed under the FMP as prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) and approved and implemented by NMFS, under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

On December 17, 1999, NMFS announced the availability of Amendment 17 and requested comments on the amendment (64 FR 70678). NMFS approved Amendment 17 on March 16, 2000, and published a proposed rule to implement the 5-year extension of the current commercial reef fish vessel permit moratorium, which would otherwise expire on January 1, 2001, in Amendment 17 and requested comments on it (65 FR 14518, March 17, 2000). The background and rationale for the measure in the amendment and proposed rule are contained in the preamble to the proposed rule and are not repeated here.

Comments and Responses

One comment from the Department of the Interior (DOI) was received on Amendment 17. The DOI requested an extension of the comment period due to the inability to respond with comments in the allotted time. However, the 60-day comment period for the amendment is set by section 304 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and cannot be extended.

No comments were received on the proposed rule.

Classification

The Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, determined that Amendment 17 is necessary for the conservation and management of the reef fish fishery and that it is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

The Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration when this rule was proposed that it would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. No comments were received regarding this certification. As a result, a regulatory flexibility analysis was not prepared.

The President has directed Federal agencies to use plain language in their communications with the public, including regulations. To comply with this directive, we seek public comment on any ambiguity or unnecessary complexity arising from the language used in this final rule. Comments should be sent to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 622

Fisheries, Fishing, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Virgin Islands.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is amended as follows:

PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

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

2. In § 622.4, paragraph (m) introductory text is revised to read as follows:

§ 622.4 Permits and fees.

* * * * *

(m) *Moratorium on commercial vessel permits for Gulf reef fish.* The provisions of this paragraph (m) are applicable through December 31, 2005.

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[FR Doc. 00-16771 Filed 6-30-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 000119014-0137-02; I.D. No. 112399C]

RIN 0648-AM48

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; 2000 Specifications; Correction

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

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the **DATES** section of the 2000 specifications that was published on May 24, 2000.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In the final rule implementing the 2000 annual specifications for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass, the regulations were inadvertently made effective for the same time frame as the quotas (i.e., for the calendar year). The regulations were meant to remain effective until revised. This correction clarifies that the regulations are final, not temporary, regulations.

Correction

In FR Doc. 00-12993, published in the **Federal Register** issue of May 24, 2000, on page 33486, in column 2, correct the **DATES** caption to read as follows:

DATES: Effective 0001 hours, May 24, 2000, except that the quotas identified in the preamble are effective 0001 hours, May 24, 2000, through 2400 hours, December 31, 2000.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: June 27, 2000.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-16772 Filed 6-30-00; 8:45 am]

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