

at least 75 percent of the total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2000-2001 fishing year (TAC=6,252 mt, 75 percent TAC=4,689 mt). If the Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office, NMFS (RA) projects that less than 75 percent of the TAC for haddock will be harvested by the end of the fishing year NMFS may adjust, through publication of a notification in the **Federal Register**, the trip limit per DAS and/or the maximum trip limit to an amount that is determined to be sufficient to allow harvesting of at least 75 percent of the target TAC, but not to exceed the target TAC. This termination of deferral for Atlantic cod and haddock is necessary to collect accurate data on a real-time basis to ensure that these fisheries are maintained at sustainable levels. Any dealer issued a Northeast (NE) Multispecies permit must submit, through the IVR system, a weekly summary of Atlantic cod and haddock purchased beginning January 28, 2001.

DATES: Effective January 28, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandra Arvilla, (978) 281-9255 or Gregory Power, (978) 281-9304.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To effectively monitor landings of quota-managed species on a timely basis, NMFS issued a final rule (63 FR 52639, October 1, 1998) requiring federally-permitted dealers to submit a weekly summary of purchases of quota-managed species through the IVR system within 3 days of the end of the reporting week. To minimize the burden of dealer reporting requirements, the regulations implementing the use of an IVR system also include authorization (50 CFR 648.7(a)(ii)) for the RA to defer the IVR reporting requirements for any species if landings are not expected to reach levels that would cause the applicable target exploitation rate specified in the FMP for that species to be achieved, resulting in specific management changes. At that time the RA deferred IVR reporting requirements for Atlantic mackerel, butterfish and,

regulated NE Multispecies, which included Atlantic cod and haddock.

In order to effectively monitor Atlantic cod and haddock landings relative to the trigger and TAC, NMFS is requiring any dealer issued a NE Multispecies permit to submit, through the IVR system, a weekly summary of Atlantic cod and haddock purchases beginning January 28, 2001. IVR reports must be submitted within 3 days of the end of the reporting week. If the RA determines that weekly IVR reports of Atlantic cod and haddock purchases are no longer necessary, notification of deferral will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dealers must continue to report through the IVR system, their purchases of the species specified in 50 CFR 648.7(a) for which IVR reporting requirements have not been deferred. Currently, these species are summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, *Illex* squid and *Loligo* squid, spiny dogfish, and Atlantic bluefish. If no purchases of any quota-managed species are made during the reporting week, a negative report, so stating, must be submitted.

As specified in 50 CFR 648.7(a)(1), dealers must continue to report purchases of all species, including those species for which IVR reporting has been deferred, on the detailed written reports.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: December 22, 2000.

Richard W. Surdi,

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. 000119014-0137-02; I.D. 080700C]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Adjustments to the 2000 Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Commercial Quotas

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

ACTION: Commercial quota adjustment for 2000; correction.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes additional adjustments to the 2000 commercial summer flounder and black sea bass quotas. This action complies with the regulations that implement the Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries (FMP), which specifies that summer flounder landings in excess of a given state's individual commercial quota be deducted from that state's quota for the following year. Similarly, for black sea bass, the FMP specifies that landings in excess of a quota for a given quarter be deducted from the quota for the same quarter in the following year. The intent of this action is to account for additional 1999 summer flounder landings reported in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Maryland, and to correct Delaware landings downward and the black sea bass landings data for 1999 Quarters 2, 3, and 4.

DATES: Effective December 29, 2000, through December 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul H. Jones, Fisheries Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9273, fax 978-281-9135, e-mail paul.h.jones@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

At 65 FR 33486, May 24, 2000, NMFS published final specifications for the 2000 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries, which included preliminary 1999 landings and quota adjustments. At 65 FR 50463, August 18, 2000, and corrected at 65 FR 69886, November 21, 2000, NMFS announced adjustments to the 2000 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass commercial quotas based on updated 1999 landings data. Additional adjustments are necessary through this notification due to the receipt of late 1999 summer flounder landings data from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the States of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. In addition, some black sea bass landings reported by the State of Delaware in 1999 were double-counted,

and landings from non-limited access black sea bass vessels that landed south of Cape Hatteras Light, North Carolina, were incorrectly counted, meaning that the final 1999 landings were lower than announced in the August 18, 2000, **Federal Register**.

Summer Flounder

The 1999 quota, preliminary 1999 landings, and the resulting 1999 overages for all states for summer flounder are given in Table 1. The following states recorded landings of summer flounder different from those reported in the August 18, 2000, and November 21, 2000, **Federal Register**: MA, +7,357 lb (3,337 kg); NY, +145 lb (66 kg); NJ, +241 lb (109 kg); DE, -376 lb (171 kg); and MD, +16 lb (7 kg).

The resulting adjusted 2000 commercial quota for each state is given in Table 2, taking into account both the 1999 quota overages published in the

August 18, 2000, and November 21, 2000, **Federal Register** and the additional landings previously noted.

Black Sea Bass

The 1999 quotas (by quarter), preliminary 1999 landings (by quarter) and resulting overages for black sea bass for all quarters are given in Table 5. Changes in landings from those reported in the August 18, 2000, **Federal Register** are as follows: Quarter 1, -3,792 lb (1,720 kg); Quarter 2, -26,088 lb (11,834 kg); Quarter 3, -18,104 lb (8,212 kg); and Quarter 4, -39,377 lb (17,861 kg).

Corrections

In the document published at 65 FR 50643, August 18, 2000 [FR Doc. 00-21100] the following corrections are made.

On page 50464, Tables 1 and 2 are replaced in their entirety as follows.

TABLE 1. SUMMER FLOUNDER PRELIMINARY 1999 LANDINGS AND OVERAGES BY STATE

| State | 1999 Quota | | Preliminary 1999 Landings | | 1999 Overage | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Lb | Kg ¹ | Lb | Kg ¹ | Lb | Kg ¹ |
| ME | 4,450 | 2,018 | 5,778 | 2,621 | 1,328 | 602 |
| NH | 51 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MA | 757,842 | 343,751 | 812,540 | 368,568 | 54,698 | 24,811 |
| RI | 1,742,583 | 790,422 | 1,636,528 | 742,317 | 0 | 0 |
| CT | 238,516 | 108,189 | 245,219 | 111,229 | 6,703 | 3,040 |
| NY | 860,006 | 390,099 | 804,048 | 364,716 | 0 | 0 |
| NJ | 1,853,926 | 840,927 | 1,917,973 | 869,993 | 64,047 | 29,052 |
| DE | (25,739) ² | (11,675) ² | 7,541 | 3,421 | (33,280) ² | (15,096) ² |
| MD | 202,354 | 91,786 | 201,013 | 91,180 | 0 | 0 |
| VA | 2,120,696 | 961,932 | 2,195,832 | 996,012 | 75,136 | 34,081 |
| NC | 2,974,589 | 1,349,274 | 2,800,749 | 1,270,398 | 0 | 0 |
| Total ³ | 10,755,013 | 4,866,746 | 10,627,221 | 4,820,455 | | |

¹Kilograms are as converted from pounds, and the column may not total correctly due to rounding.²Parentheses indicate a negative number.
³Total quota is the sum of all states having allocation. A state with a negative number has an allocation of zero. Total quota and total landings do not equal overage because they reflect positive quota balances in several states.

TABLE 2. SUMMER FLOUNDER PRELIMINARY ADJUSTED 2000 QUOTAS BY STATE

| State | 2000 Initial Quota | | 2000 Adjusted Quota | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Lb | Kg ¹ | Lb | Kg ¹ |
| ME | 5,284 | 2,397 | 3,956 | 1,794 |
| NH | 51 | 23 | 51 | 23 |
| MA | 757,834 | 343,748 | 703,136 | 318,943 |
| RI | 1,742,566 | 790,041 | 1,742,566 | 790,415 |
| CT | 250,788 | 113,756 | 244,085 | 110,715 |
| NY | 849,672 | 385,405 | 849,672 | 385,404 |
| NJ | 1,858,346 | 842,931 | 1,794,299 | 813,894 |
| DE | 1,977 | 897 | (31,303) ² | (14,199) ² |
| MD | 226,568 | 102,770 | 226,568 | 102,771 |
| VA | 2,368,546 | 1,074,354 | 2,293,410 | 1,040,273 |
| NC | 3,049,560 | 1,383,257 | 3,049,560 | 1,383,257 |
| Total ³ | 11,109,214 | 5,039,055 | 10,876,000 | 4,947,489 |

¹Kilograms are as converted from pounds, and the column may not total correctly due to rounding.² Parentheses indicate a negative number.
³Total quota is the sum of all states having allocation. A state with a negative number has an allocation of zero.

On page 50465, Tables 5 and 6 are replaced in their entirety as follows.

TABLE 5. BLACK SEA BASS PRELIMINARY 1999 LANDINGS AND OVERAGES BY QUARTER

| Quarter | 1999 Quota ¹ | | Preliminary 1999 Landings | | 1999 Overage | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | Lb | Kg ² | Lb | Kg ² | Lb | Kg ² |
| 1. (Jan –Mar) | 1,168,860 | 530,186 | 712,196 | 323,052 | | |
| 2. (Apr –Jun) | 885,115 | 401,481 | 1,036,067 | 469,960 | 150,952 | 68,472 |
| 3. (Jul –Sep) | 372,983 | 169,182 | 507,139 | 230,038 | 134,156 | 60,853 |
| 4. (Oct –Dec) | 598,043 | 271,268 | 705,996 | 320,240 | 107,953 | 48,968 |
| Total | 3,025,000 | 1,372,117 | 2,961,398 | 1,343,290 | | |

¹ Reflects quotas as published on August 26, 1999 (64 FR 46596). ² Kilograms are as converted from pounds, and the column may not total correctly due to rounding.

TABLE 6. BLACK SEA BASS PRELIMINARY ADJUSTED 2000 QUOTAS BY QUARTER

| Quarter | 2000 Initial Quota | | 2000 Adjusted Quota | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | Lb | Kg ¹ | Lb | Kg ¹ |
| 1. (Jan –Mar) | 1,168,760 | 530,141 | 1,168,760 | 530,141 |
| 2. (Apr –Jun) | 885,040 | 401,447 | 734,088 | 332,982 |
| 3. (Jul –Sep) | 372,951 | 169,168 | 238,795 | 108,317 |
| 4. (Oct –Dec) | 597,991 | 271,244 | 490,038 | 222,281 |
| Total | 3,024,742 | 1,372,000 | 2,631,681 | 1,193,721 |

¹Kilograms are as converted from pounds, and the column may not total correctly due to rounding.

Classification

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

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

Dated: December 21, 2000.

Clarence Pautzke,

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

[FR Doc. 00–33221 Filed 12–28–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 000927275-0347-02; I.D. 082800F]

RIN 0648-AO31

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Amendment 12

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

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of approval of an amendment to a fishery management plan, and announcement of disapproval of overfished species rebuilding plans.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to remove references to foreign and joint venture fishing in the West Coast groundfish regulations. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared Amendment 12 to the Pacific Coast groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to provide framework procedures for developing overfished species rebuilding plans, for setting guidelines for rebuilding plan contents, and for sending rebuilding plans to NMFS for review and approval/disapproval. This action also announces NOAA approval of Amendment 12, and revocation of NMFS prior approval for the overfished species rebuilding plans for West Coast lingcod, bocaccio, and Pacific ocean perch (POP).

DATES: Effective January 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Amendment 12 to Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP, and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review are available from Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, OR 97201. Send comments regarding the reporting burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection-of-information requirements in this final rule, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to one of the NMFS addresses and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 (ATTN: NOAA Desk Officer). Send comments regarding any ambiguity or unnecessary complexity arising from the language

used in this rule to Donna Darm or Rebecca Lent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvonne deReynier or Becky Renko at: phone, 206-526-6140; fax, 206-526-6736, and email, yvonne.dereynier@noaa.gov or becky.renko@noaa.gov; or Svein Fougner at: phone, 562-980-4000; fax, 562-980-4047; and email, svein.fougner@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is also accessible via the internet at the website of the Office of the Federal Register: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su-docs/aces/aces_140.html.

Background

The Council prepared Amendment 12 to provide a framework within the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP to set guidelines and requirements for overfished species rebuilding plans. This framework integrates the rebuilding plan development process into the Council's current stock assessment and annual specifications processes, to accommodate the complexities of the fishery and to ensure that rebuilding measures for overfished species may begin as soon as possible after the initial determination that a species is overfished. Amendment 12 also declares the West Coast groundfish resource to be fully utilized by domestic harvesting and processing entities.