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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 001121328-1041-02; I.D. 052501E]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Summer Period

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

ACTION: Commercial quota harvest.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the scup commercial quota available in the Summer period to the coastal states from Maine to North Carolina has been harvested. Federally permitted commercial vessels may not land scup in these states for the remainder of the 2001 Summer quota period (through October 31, 2001). Regulations governing the scup fishery require publication of this notification to advise the coastal states from Maine through North Carolina that the quota has been harvested and to advise Federal vessel permit holders and Federal dealer permit holders.

DATES: Effective 0001 hrs local time, June 1, 2001, through 2400 hrs local time, October 31, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer L. Anderson, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the scup fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is allocated into three quota periods. The Summer commercial quota (May through October) is distributed to the coastal states from Maine through North Carolina. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the seasonal allocation is described in § 648.120.

The total commercial quota for scup for the 2001 calendar year was set at 4,444,600 lb (2,016,037 kg) (66 FR 12902; March 1, 2001). The Summer period quota was initially set at 1,731,172 lb (785,246 kg). As specified in § 648.120, landings in excess of the commercial quota in the 2000 Summer period were deducted from the Summer period

allocation this year, resulting in a final Summer quota allocation of 1,147,861 lb (520,661 kg).

Section 648.121 requires the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) to monitor the commercial scup quota for each quota period and, based upon dealer reports, state data, and other available information, to determine when the commercial quota has been harvested. NMFS is required to publish notification in the **Federal Register** advising and notifying federally permitted commercial vessels and federally permitted dealers that, effective upon a specific date, the scup commercial quota has been harvested. The Regional Administrator has determined, based upon dealer reports and other available information, that the scup commercial quota for the 2001 Summer period has been harvested.

The regulations at § 648.4(b) provide that Federal scup moratorium permit holders agree as a condition of the permit not to land scup in any state after NMFS has published a notification in the **Federal Register** stating that the commercial quota for the period has been harvested and that no commercial quota for scup is available. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, June 1, 2001, further landings of scup by vessels holding Federal scup moratorium permits are prohibited through October 31, 2001. The Winter II period for commercial scup harvest will open on November 1, 2001. Effective 0001 hours, June 1, 2001, federally permitted dealers are also advised that they may not purchase scup from federally permitted vessels that land in coastal states from Maine through North Carolina for the remainder of the Summer period (through October 31, 2001).

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: May 25, 2001.

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 660

[Docket No. 001030303-1127-02; I.D. 091800E]

RIN 0648-AO41

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Amendment 13

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.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this final rule to implement Amendment 13 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This final rule implements Amendment 13 by establishing an increased utilization program for catcher/processor and mother ships in the at-sea whiting fisheries which carry multiple observers for at least 90 percent of the fishing days during a cumulative trip limit period, by revising the regulatory provisions for the routine management measures process, and by removing regulatory references to limited entry permit endorsements other than the "A" endorsement.

DATES: This rule is effective July 2, 2001, except for § 660.323 (a)(3)(vi) which is effective June 1, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Copies of Amendment 13 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP and the environmental assessment/regulatory impact review (EA/RIR) 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 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, D.C. 20503 (ATTN: NOAA Desk Officer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: