

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 648**

[Docket No. 011005245-2012-02; I.D. 041802A]

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Total Allowable Catch Harvested for Period 1 in Management Area 1A**

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

**ACTION:** Closure of directed fishery for Management Area 1A.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that 95 percent of the Atlantic herring total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to Management Area 1A (Area 1A) for the first seasonal period of the fishing year 2002 has been harvested. Therefore, federally permitted vessels may not fish for, catch, possess, transfer or land more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of Atlantic herring harvested from Area 1A per trip or calendar day until June 1, 2002, when the second seasonal period TAC becomes available. Regulations governing the Atlantic herring fishery require publication of this notification when 95 percent of the Atlantic herring TAC allocated to first seasonal period in Area 1A has been harvested to advise vessel and dealer permit holders that no TAC is available for the directed fishery for Atlantic herring harvested from Area 1A.

**DATES:** Effective 0001 hrs local time, April 26, 2002, through 2400 hrs local time, May 31, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Myles Raizin, Fishery Policy Analyst, at (978) 281-9104.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Regulations governing the Atlantic herring fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual specification of optimum yield, domestic and foreign fishing, domestic and joint venture processing, and management area TACs. The Atlantic herring specifications for fishing year 2002 were published in the **Federal Register** on January 24, 2002 (67 FR 3442). Framework 1 to the Atlantic Herring FMP was published in the **Federal Register** on January 24, 2002 (67 FR 3445). This action modified the specification of herring quota for Management Area 1A by establishing two quota periods. This action modified the 2002 Area 1A TAC of 60,000 mt by

allocating 6,000 mt (13,224,000 lb) to the January - May period, leaving 54,000 mt for the June-December period.

The regulations at 50 CFR 648.202 require the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) to monitor the Atlantic herring fishery in each of the four management areas designated in the FMP and, based upon dealer reports, state data, and other available information, to determine when the harvest of Atlantic herring is projected to reach 95 percent of the Period 1 TAC (5,700 mt; 12,562,800 lb) allocated to Area 1A. When such a determination is made, NMFS is required to publish notification in the **Federal Register** notifying vessel and dealer permit holders that, effective upon a specific date, vessels may not fish for, catch, possess, transfer or land more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of herring per trip or calendar day from Area 1 until June 1, 2002, when the second seasonal period TAC becomes available.

The Regional Administrator has determined, based upon dealer reports and other available information, that 95 percent of the Atlantic herring TAC allocated to Area 1A for Period 1 of fishing year 2002 has been harvested. Therefore, effective 0001 hrs local time, April 26, 2002, federally permitted vessels may not fish for, catch, possess, transfer or land more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of Atlantic herring harvested from Area 1A per trip or calendar day until the second seasonal period TAC becomes available at 0001 hrs, June 1, 2002. Vessels may transit an area that is limited to the 2,000-lb (907.2-kg) limit with more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of herring on board, providing all fishing gear is stowed and not available for immediate use, as required by § 648.23(b). A vessel may land herring in an area that is limited to the 2,000-lb (907.2-kg) limit specified in § 648.202(a) with more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of herring on board, providing such herring were caught in an area or areas not subject to the 2,000-lb (907.2-kg) limit and providing all fishing gear is stowed and not available for immediate use as required by § 648.23(b). Effective April 26, 2002, federally permitted dealers are also advised that they may not purchase Atlantic herring from federally permitted Atlantic herring vessels that harvest more than 2,000 lb (907.2 kg) of Atlantic herring from Area 1A through June 1, 2002, 0001 hrs local time.

**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: April 18, 2002.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 02-9953 Filed 4-18-02; 3:26 pm]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 660**

[Docket No. 010502110-1110-01; I.D. 040902H]

**Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Adjustment #1-Commercial and Recreational Inseason Adjustments From Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, OR**

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

**ACTION:** Inseason adjustments; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the commercial and recreational fisheries for all salmon except coho, in the areas from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, OR, opened March 20, 2002, and April 1, 2002, respectively, and will continue through dates to be determined in the management measures for year 2002 ocean salmon fisheries in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ). These actions are necessary to conform to the 2001 announcement of management measures, and subsequent recommendations by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, for year 2002 salmon seasons opening earlier than May 1, 2002, and are intended to provide access to the year 2002 chinook salmon optimum yield.

**DATES:** Effective 0001 hours local time (l.t.) March 20, 2002, for the commercial fishery, and 0001 hours l.t. April 1, 2002, for the recreational fishery, until the effective date of the year 2002 management measures, which will be published in the **Federal Register** for the west coast salmon fisheries. Comments will be accepted through May 9, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on these actions must be mailed to D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or faxed to 206-526-6376; or Rod

McInnis, Acting Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4132; or faxed to 562-980-4018. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet. Information relevant to this document is available for public review during business hours at the Office of the Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher Wright, 206-526-6140.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the 2001 annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (66 FR 23185, May 8, 2001), NMFS announced that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) would consider at its March 2002 meeting a recommendation to open commercial and recreational seasons for all salmon except coho prior to May 1, 2002, in areas off Oregon. The data to determine appropriate opening dates for the fisheries prior to May 1 are not available until just before the March Council meeting. However, the fish become available for harvest before the April meeting and the setting of the 2002 seasons at that meeting. These inseason actions opening the recreational and commercial fisheries were necessary to implement the opening of these seasons and allowing fisheries prior to May 1, 2002.

At the March 2002 meeting, the Council made its inseason recommendations to open the recreational and commercial fisheries, for all salmon except coho, from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, OR, on March 20, 2002, and April 1, 2002, respectively. The closing dates for both fisheries will be recommended during the April 2002 meeting when the entire 2002 management measures for the 2002 ocean salmon fisheries are adopted by the Council.

The commercial fishery for all salmon except coho, from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, OR, opened on March 20, 2002. Single-point, single-shank barbless hooks are required. No more than four spreads are allowed per line. The minimum size limit is 26 inches (66.0 cm) total length (19.5 in (49.5 cm) head-off). Chinook not less than 26 inches (66.0 cm) total length (19.5 inches (49.5 cm) head-off) taken during open seasons south of Cape Falcon may be landed north of Cape Falcon only while the season is closed north of Cape Falcon. Oregon State regulations describe a closure at the mouth of the Tillamook Bay.

The recreational fishery for all salmon except coho, from Cape Falcon to

Humbug Mountain, OR, opened on April 1, 2002. The daily possession limit is two fish per day, with no more than six fish retained in 7 consecutive days. The minimum size limit is 20 inches (50.8 cm) total length. All gear must have no more than two single-point, single-shank, barbless hooks. Oregon State regulations describe a closure at the mouth of the Tillamook Bay.

The Regional Administrator consulted with representatives of the Council, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department Fish and Game regarding these adjustments at the March 2002 Council meeting in Sacramento, CA. As provided by the inseason notification procedures at 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice to fishermen of these actions was given prior to 0001 hours l.t., March 20, 2002, and 0001 hours l.t., April 1, 2002, by telephone hotline number 206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825 and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 kHz.

These actions do not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

#### Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds that good cause exists for this notification to be issued without affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), or delaying the effectiveness of this rule for 30 days under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), because such notification and delay would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. As previously noted, actual notice of these actions was provided to fishermen through telephone hotline and radio notification. This action complies with the requirements of the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (66 FR 23185, May 8, 2001) and the West Coast Salmon Plan. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment is impracticable because NMFS and the state agencies have insufficient time to provide for a proposed rule and public comment between the time the fishery catch and effort data are collected to determine the extent of the fisheries and the time the fish are available to the ocean fisheries. Moreover, such prior notice and the opportunity for public comment is contrary to the public interest because it does not allow commercial and recreational fishermen appropriately controlled access to the available fish at the time they are available. The 30-day delay in effectiveness required under

U.S.C. 553(d)(1) is also hereby waived as the inseason actions described in this document open areas previously closed to fishing, and thus relieve restrictions.

These actions are authorized by 50 CFR 660.409 and 660.411 and are exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: April 18, 2002.

**Bruce C. 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 679

[Docket No. 011218304-1304-01; I.D. 041902A]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Species in the Rock Sole/Flathead Sole/“Other Flatfish” Fishery Category by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is closing directed fishing for species in the rock sole/flathead sole/“other flatfish” fishery category by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the second seasonal apportionment of the 2002 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl rock sole/flathead sole “other flatfish” fishery category.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), April 20, 2002, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., June 30, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP