

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## 50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 000622191-2104-02; I.D. 041700D]

RIN 0648-AO35

**Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; Measures to Reduce the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in the Hawaii Pelagic Longline Fishery; Correction**

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

**ACTION:** Correction to announcement of effectiveness of a collection-of-information requirement.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains a correction to a document that announced the effective date of a collection-of-information requirement that was published on September 10, 2002.

**DATES:** Effective October 10, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alvin Z. Katekaru, Pacific Islands Area Office, NMFS, 808-973-2937.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The document announcing the effectiveness of a collection-of-information requirement for participants in the Hawaii-based longline limited access fishery, whereby in the event an endangered short-tailed albatross is accidentally hooked or entangled during fishing operations, NMFS or the U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must be notified immediately, was published in the **Federal Register** on September 10, 2002 (67 FR 57346). The document contained an incorrect effective date.

**Correction**

In the rule FR Doc. 02-22924, in the issue of Tuesday, September 10, 2002 (67 FR 57346), on page 57346, at the end of the last paragraph in the third column, change "September 30, 2002" to "October 10, 2002".

Dated: September 27, 2002.

**Rebecca Lent,**

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## 50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 020628163-2221-02; 061302B]

RIN 0648-AP43

**Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues a regulation to implement the annual harvest guideline for Pacific mackerel in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the Pacific coast. The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its implementing regulations require NMFS to set an annual harvest guideline for Pacific mackerel based on the formula in the FMP. The intended effect of this action is to conserve Pacific mackerel off the Pacific coast.

**DATES:** Effective November 4, 2002, until the 2003 annual specifications are effective, unless modified, superseded, or rescinded through a publication in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** The report Stock Assessment of Pacific Mackerel with Recommendations for the 2002-2003 Management Season may be obtained from Rodney R. McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James J. Morgan, Southwest Region, NMFS, (562) 980-4036.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FMP, which was implemented by publication of a final rule in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 1999 (64 FR 69888), divides management unit species into the categories of actively managed and monitored. Harvest guidelines of actively managed species (Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel) are based on formulas applied to current biomass estimates. Biomass estimates are not calculated for species that are only monitored (jack mackerel, northern anchovy, and market squid).

At a public meeting each year, the biomass for each actively managed species is reviewed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) CPS Management Team

(Team). The biomass, harvest guideline, and status of the fisheries are then reviewed at a public meeting of the Council's CPS Advisory Subpanel (Subpanel). This information is also reviewed by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The Council reviews reports from the Team, Subpanel, and SSC, and then, after providing time for public comment, makes its recommendation to NMFS. The annual harvest guideline and season structure is published by NMFS in the **Federal Register** as soon as practicable before the beginning of the appropriate fishing season. The Pacific mackerel season begins on July 1 of each year and ends on June 30 the following year.

A public meeting of the Team took place at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California, on May 29, 2002 (67 FR 34434, May 14, 2002), where the biomass estimate and harvest guideline were reviewed. Based on the Team's review, a proposed rule was published on July 11, 2002 (67 FR 45952), soliciting public comment on a harvest guideline of 12,456 metric tons (mt) based on a biomass estimate of 77,516 mt. Public comment was also requested on how the season might be structured to minimize the impact of a low mackerel harvest on the harvest of other CPS. The public comment period ended on July 26, 2002. No comments were received.

The SSC and Subpanel meetings occurred in conjunction with the June 17-21, 2002, Council meeting in Foster City, California. During the Subpanel meeting, the Team calculated a revised biomass estimate by updating estimates of fishing mortality obtained since the Team meeting on May 29, 2002. A revised biomass of 77,892 mt and a revised harvest guideline of 12,535 mt was presented to the Subpanel.

The Subpanel reviewed the experience of the fishing industry during the 2001/2002 fishing season to develop a strategy for the 2002/2003 fishing season. With the goal of minimizing bycatch, which would likely occur if the Pacific mackerel season were closed and mackerel were mixed in schools of Pacific sardine, the Subpanel recommended a directed fishery of 9,500 mt, with 3,035 mt held in reserve. This would allow for an incidental harvest of mackerel in the sardine fishery. When 9,500 mt was landed, 40 percent by weight of Pacific mackerel could be landed in loads of any CPS until the reserve of 3,035 mt was attained.

At its meeting on June 21, 2002, the Council received reports from its Team, SSC, and Subpanel. Following public