

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. Martin Jaffe, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Need for the Correction

The final rule implementing measures contained in Framework 38 to the FMP was published in the **Federal Register** on July 9, 2003 (68 FR 40810), and became effective on the date of publication. The North Latitude coordinate for Point GRF5 (44° 58.5') in the table, GOM Grate Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery Exemption Area, contained in § 648.80(a)(16), was incorrect in the final rule document. A final rule; correcting amendment was published in the **Federal Register** on July 25, 2003 (68 FR 43974). That document corrected the North Latitude coordinate for Point GRF5, which is 43° 58.8'. However, in the correction document published July 25, 2003, the headings contained in the table in § 648.80(a)(16) were incorrect.

Therefore, because the final rule published on July 25, 2003, which was the subject of FR Doc. 03-18894, contained incorrect table headings in § 648.80(a)(16), on page 43974, in the first column of the table the column heading "Point N." is removed and in its place "Point" is added. In the second column of the table the column heading "Lat.W." is removed and in its place "N. Lat." is added. In the third column the heading "Long." is removed and in its place "W. Long." is added.

This document corrects the table under § 648.80(a)(16) as follows:

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 648

Fishing, Fisheries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

■ For the reasons stated in the preamble, 50 CFR part 648 is correctly amended to read as follows:

PART 648—FISHERIES OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 648 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 2. In § 648.80, the table contained in paragraph (a)(16) is corrected to read as follows:

§ 648.80 Multispecies regulated mesh areas and restrictions on gear and methods of fishing.

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(a) * * *

(16) * * *

GOM GRATE RAISED FOOTROPE TRAWL WHITING FISHERY EXEMPTION AREA

(July 1 through November 30)

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GRF1	43° 15'	70° 35.4'
GRF2	43° 15'	70° 00'
GRF3	43° 25.2'	70° 00'
GRF4	43° 41.8'	69° 20'
GRF5	43° 58.8'	69° 20'

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Dated: August 4, 2003.

Rebecca Lent,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 03-20286 Filed 8-7-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D. 080103A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; "Other Rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catch of "other rockfish" in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the allocation of the "other rockfish" 2003 total allowable catch (TAC) in this area has been achieved.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 6, 2003, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2003.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Gulf of Alaska (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 appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The allocation of the "other rockfish" TAC in the Central Regulatory Area was established as 550 metric tons by the final 2003 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (68 FR 9924, March 3, 2003).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the allocation of the "other rockfish" TAC in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(b).

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is contrary to the public interest. This requirement is contrary to the public interest as it would delay the prohibition of retention, lead to exceeding the TAC of "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA, and therefore reduce the public's ability to use and enjoy the fishery resource.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: August 5, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 03-20278 Filed 8-5-03; 3:10 pm]

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