

I. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act

Under the National Technology and Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA) (Pub. L. 104-113), "all Federal agencies and departments shall use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, using such technical standards as a means to carry out policy objectives or activities determined by the agencies and departments."

Certain technical standards developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) have been considered and incorporated by reference in the final rule published on July 25, 2003, which upgraded the requirements of FMVSS No. 205. This final rule extends the compliance date of that final rule to September 1, 2006.

J. Privacy Act

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

K. Executive Order 13045, Economically Significant Rules Disproportionately Affecting Children

This rule is not subject to E.O. 13045 because it is not "economically significant" as defined under E.O. 12866, and does not concern an environmental, health or safety risk that NHTSA has reason to believe may have a disproportionate effect on children.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 571

Imports, Motor vehicle safety, Motor vehicles.

PART 571—FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 571 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, 30166 and 30177; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

■ 2. Section 571.205 is amended by adding a second sentence to S3.1 to read as follows:

§ 571.205 Glazing Materials

* * * * *

S3.1 *Application.* * * * For motor vehicles and glazing equipment manufactured before September 1, 2006,

the manufacturer may, at its option, comply with 49 CFR 571.205 revised as of October 1, 2003 instead of this version.

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Issued on: August 3, 2004.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 04-18209 Filed 8-17-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 040112010-4114-02; I.D. 081204C]

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Implementation of the Yellowtail Flounder Landing Limit for Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas

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

ACTION: Implementation of the Yellowtail Flounder Landing Limit for Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has projected that 70 percent of the total allowable catch (TAC) of Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder that may be harvested from the Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas will be harvested by August 18, 2004. The Regional Administrator, therefore, is implementing a yellowtail flounder trip limit of 1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per day, and 15,000 lb (6,804.1 kg) per trip for NE multispecies vessels fishing in both the Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas, effective August 18, 2004.

DATES: Effective 0001 hrs local time, August 18, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas W. Christel, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9141, fax (978) 281-9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the yellowtail flounder landing limit within the Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas are found at 50 CFR 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(C). The regulations authorize vessels issued a valid limited access NE multispecies

permit and fishing under a NE multispecies day-at-sea (DAS) to fish in the U.S./Canada Management Area, under specific conditions. The TAC allocation for GB yellowtail flounder for the 2004 fishing year was specified at 6,000 mt in the final rule implementing Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (April 27, 2004, 69 FR 22906). Section 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(C)(2) authorizes the Regional Administrator to implement and/or adjust the yellowtail flounder landing limit for NE multispecies vessels fishing in both the Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas to 1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per day, and 15,000 lb (6,804.1 kg) per trip when 70 percent of the GB yellowtail flounder TAC is projected to be harvested.

Based upon Vessel Monitoring System reports and other available information, the Regional Administrator has determined that 70 percent (4,200 mt) of the GB yellowtail flounder TAC of 6,000 mt will be harvested by August 18, 2004. Based on this information, the trip limit of 1,500 lb (680.4 kg) per day, and 15,000 lb (6,804.1 kg) per trip, is implemented effective August 18, 2004, for NE multispecies vessels fishing in both the Western and Eastern U.S./Canada Areas.

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: August 12, 2004.

Alan D. Risenhoover,

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

[FR Doc. 04-18930 Filed 8-13-04; 2:34 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 040521156-4228-02; I.D. 051704E]

RIN 0648-AS10

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Removal of a Harvest Restriction for the Harvest Limit Area Atka Mackerel Fishery in the Aleutian Islands Subarea

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues a final rule that removes a harvest restriction on participants in the harvest limit area (HLA) Atka mackerel fishery in the Aleutian Islands subarea. The regulatory amendment allows participants assigned to an HLA fishery to harvest Atka mackerel outside of the HLA during the first HLA fishery in each of two seasons. This action allows participants to harvest Atka mackerel efficiently, reduces competition with Steller sea lions for prey species within the HLA, and does not increase competition among participants in the groundfish fisheries. This action is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (FMP), and other applicable laws.

DATES: Effective September 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) prepared for this action and the 2000 and 2001 Biological Opinions on the groundfish fisheries may be obtained from NMFS, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Durall, or from the NMFS Alaska Region website at www.fakr.noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melanie Brown, 907-586-7228 or melanie.brown@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area are managed under the FMP. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared the FMP under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.* Regulations implementing the FMP appear at 50 CFR part 679. General regulations governing U.S. fisheries also appear at 50 CFR part 600.

Background

The western distinct population segment (DPS) of Steller sea lions has been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and critical habitat has been designated for this DPS (50 CFR 226.202). In order to protect Steller sea lions from jeopardy of extinction and their critical habitat from adverse modification from the effects of the groundfish fisheries, temporal and spatial harvest restrictions were established in regulations for the groundfish fisheries of Alaska (68 FR 204, January 2, 2003). Atka mackerel is an important prey species for Steller sea

lions. Under the harvest restrictions, the harvest of Atka mackerel in the Aleutian Islands subarea is managed to control the amount of harvest over time and area. The details for managing the Atka mackerel fishery in 2004 are in the annual harvest specifications (69 FR 9242, February 27, 2004).

The regulations at 50 CFR 679.20(a)(8) establish a HLA fishery to control the removal of Atka mackerel in the HLA. The details of the HLA fishery are explained in the proposed rule for Steller sea lion protection measures (67 FR 56692, September 4, 2002). The HLA is the waters of statistical areas 542 and 543 west of 178° W longitude within 20 nautical miles seaward of sites listed in Table 6 of 50 CFR part 679 and located west of 177°57.00' W longitude. This area includes critical habitat for Steller sea lions and additional waters around haulouts that are considered important for Steller sea lion foraging.

To reduce the amount of daily catch in the HLA by about half and to disperse the fishery over two areas, the Atka mackerel trawl fleet is divided into two groups assigned to fish in the HLA in either statistical area 542 or statistical area 543. HLA fisheries are conducted twice in each of two seasons. The current regulations at § 679.7(a)(19) and § 679.20 (a)(8)(iii) prohibit fishing for all groundfish outside the HLA, including Atka mackerel, during the first assigned HLA fishery in a season. The intent of this prohibition is to ensure participants in the HLA fishery do not switch to another groundfish fishery during these time periods and increase competition with participants in those fisheries.

This final rule allows participants in the HLA fishery to fish for Atka mackerel outside of the HLA during the first assigned HLA fishery in a season. The prohibition on fishing for groundfish species other than Atka mackerel during the first assigned HLA fishery is not affected by this final rule. This action provides the potential for additional reduction in the rate of Atka mackerel harvest in the HLA consistent with the objectives of the Steller sea lion protection measures. The final rule also provides the fishing industry with additional locations during the first HLA fisheries to Atka mackerel fishing grounds outside of critical habitat without competing with other groundfish fisheries.

The proposed rule for this action was published in the **Federal Register** on June 2, 2004 (69 FR 31085), with a comment period ending June 17, 2004. No changes were made from the proposed rule in the final rule.

Comments and Responses

One email comment was received regarding the proposed rule. The email contained three separate comments which are summarized and responded to below.

Comment 1: The email address for submitting comments on the proposed rule is ridiculous. It can be easily mistyped which may result in lost comments.

Response: NMFS email addresses for providing public comment on proposed actions contain text that identifies the action on which comments are being accepted. The email address for the proposed rule for this action was AM-HLA-0648-AS10. "AM" stands for Atka mackerel, "HLA" stands for harvest limit area, and "0648-AS10" is the regulatory identification number that was assigned to this action. By using these identifiers in the email address, NMFS can easily sort emails received on a number of actions that are concurrently open for public comment, ensuring public comments are attributed to the correct action. The email commenter will need to carefully type the email address, but the extra effort to type the address will ensure the comment is received and is considered for the correct action.

Comment 2: The commercial fisheries participants seem to not want fish to be available to Steller sea lions. This is abusive to Steller sea lions, and the fishery quotas should be cut.

Response: The action provides additional protection to Steller sea lions by allowing Atka mackerel fishers to harvest Atka mackerel outside of the HLA, an area important for Steller sea lion foraging. The initial request for this action came from commercial fishing industry representatives based on their concern for efficient harvest of Atka mackerel and the additional benefit that potentially could result for Steller sea lions by reducing competition for Atka mackerel in the HLA.

The Atka mackerel total allowable catch (TAC) amounts are set at conservative levels each year during the harvest specifications process, and annual harvest is dispersed over time and space as required by the specifications and fishery regulations. The process of setting the TAC amounts and controlling the spatial and temporal harvest of Atka mackerel meets the requirements of the Steller sea lion protection measures. A reduction of TAC is not needed at this time based on the abundance and condition of the Atka mackerel stock and the fishery's compliance with Steller sea lion protection measures.

Comment 3: The proposed action shows that NOAA is not acting to protect any wildlife at all.

Response: The Atka mackerel fishery is conducted in compliance with the Steller sea lion protection measures. These measures were designed to allow the harvest of Atka mackerel in a manner that does not jeopardize the continued existence or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat for the western distinct population segment of Steller sea lions. This action has the potential to provide additional protection to Steller sea lions by reducing potential competition for prey within the HLA.

Classification

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866.

The Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration during the proposed rule stage that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. No comments were received regarding this certification or the economic impact of the rule. As a result,

a regulatory flexibility analysis was not required and none prepared.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 679

Alaska, Fisheries, Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Dated: August 12, 2004.

Rebecca Lent,

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

■ For reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 679 is amended as follows:

PART 679—FISHERIES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF ALASKA

■ 1. The authority citation for part 679 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, 1801 *et seq.*, and 3631 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1540(f); Pub. L. 105–277, Title II of Division C; Pub L. 106–31, Sec. 3027; and Pub. L.106–554, Sec. 209.

■ 2. In § 679.7, paragraph (a)(19) is revised to read as follows:

§ 679.7 Prohibitions.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(19) *Atka Mackerel HLA Groundfish Prohibition.* For vessels registered for an

Atka mackerel HLA directed fishery under § 679.20(a)(8)(iii), conduct directed fishing for groundfish, other than Atka mackerel, during the time period that the first Atka mackerel HLA directed fishery to which the vessel is assigned under § 679.20(a)(8)(iii)(B) is open.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 679.20, paragraph (a)(8)(iii)(F) is revised to read as follows:

§ 679.20 General limitations.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(8) * * *

(iii) * * *

(F) *Groundfish directed fishery prohibition.* Vessels registering under paragraph (a)(8)(iii)(A) of this section are prohibited from participating in any groundfish directed fishery, other than Atka mackerel, during the opening of the first HLA directed fishery assigned to the vessel in a season, as specified in § 679.7(a)(19).

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[FR Doc. 04–18958 Filed 8–17–04; 8:45 am]

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