**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that it is establishing a new control date of March 11, 2011, to control future access to the commercial wreckfish sector of the snapper-grouper fishery operating in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the South Atlantic. If changes to the management regime are developed and implemented under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), a control date could be used to limit the number of participants in this commercial sector. This announcement is intended, in part, to promote awareness of the potential eligibility criteria for future access so as to discourage speculative entry into this sector while the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and NMFS consider whether and how access to the commercial wreckfish sector should be controlled.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before 5 p.m., local time, September 2, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2011–0152, by the following method:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all comments electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

To submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking portal [http://www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), select “submit a comment,” enter the following docket number into the “Search” box: NOAA–NMFS–2011–0152. To view posted comments during the comment period, enter “NOAA–NMFS–2011–0152” in the keyword search and click on “search.” NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Iverson, Public Information Officer, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; toll free 1–866–SAFMC–10 or 843–571–4366; kim.iverson@safmc.net.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Previously, the Council established a control date of March 28, 1990, for the commercial wreckfish sector of the snapper-grouper fishery. Subsequent to that action, an individual transferable quota program was implemented for wreckfish in 1992. The Council is currently developing Amendments 20A and 20B to the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan (FMP) regarding wreckfish. Therefore, at its March 2011 meeting, the Council recommended a new control date of March 11, 2011, for the commercial wreckfish sector. The Council manages wreckfish under the FMP for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. The new control date would apply to current wreckfish ITQ shareholders as well as persons who are contemplating entering the commercial wreckfish sector in the EEZ of the South Atlantic region. If adopted, a new control date would be established for the commercial wreckfish sector. The Council requested that this control date be published in the Federal Register, in part, to notify fishermen that if they enter this sector after March 11, 2011, they may not be assured of future access if the Council and/or NMFS decide to limit entry or impose other management measures. Establishment of the new control date would allow the Council to limit the level of participation in the subject sector using the March 11, 2011, date as part of a management strategy. Control dates are intended to discourage speculative entry into a sector that fishery, as new entrants entering after the control date are forewarned that they are not guaranteed future participation.

Establishment of this new control date does not commit the Council or NMFS...
to any particular management regime or criteria for entry into the commercial wreckfish sector. Fishermen are not guaranteed future participation in the sector regardless of their level of participation before or after the control date. The Council may recommend a different control date or it may recommend a management regime that does not involve a control date. Other criteria, such as documentation of landings or fishing effort, may be used to determine eligibility for participation in a limited access fishery. The Council and/or NMFS also may choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the subject sector, in which case the control date may be rescinded.

Any action by the Council will be taken pursuant to the requirements for fishery management plan and amendment development established under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This notification also gives the public notice that interested participants should locate and preserve records that substantiate and verify their participation in the commercial wreckfish sector in the South Atlantic EEZ.

This rule has been determined to be not significant under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 28, 2011.

Eric C. Schwaab,
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–19667 Filed 8–2–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 665

[Docket No. 110711384–1398–01]

RIN 0648–XA470

Western Pacific Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries; 2011–12 Main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 Bottomfish Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures

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

ACTION: Proposed specification; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to specify a quota (annual catch target, ACT) of 325,000 lb (147,418 kg) of Deep 7 bottomfish in the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) for the 2011–12 fishing year, based on a proposed annual catch limit (ACL) of 346,000 lb (156,943 kg). When the fishery is projected to reach the quota, NMFS would close, as an accountability measure, the commercial and non-commercial fisheries for MHI Deep 7 bottomfish for the remainder of the fishing year. The proposed specifications and fishery closure support the long-term sustainability of Hawaii bottomfish.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 18, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this proposed specification, identified by RIN 0648–XA470, may be sent to either of the following addresses:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal http://www.regulations.gov; or
- Mail: Mail written comments to Michael D. Tosatto, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Pacific Islands Region (PIR), 1601 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814–4700.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted to one of the two addresses to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on http://www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared that describes the impact on the human environment that would result from this proposed action. Based on the EA, NMFS prepared a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the proposed action. Copies of the EA and FONSI are available from http://www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jarad Makaiau, NMFS PIR Sustainable Fisheries, 808–944–2108.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The bottomfish fishery in Federal waters around Hawaii is managed under the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Hawaiian Archipelago (Hawaii FEP), developed by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and implemented by NMFS under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Amendment 3 to the Hawaii FEP established a process for the Council and NMFS to specify annual catch limits and accountability measures; that process is codified at 50 CFR 665.4 (76 FR 37285, June 27, 2011). The regulations require NMFS to specify an ACL for MHI Deep 7 bottomfish each fishing year, based on a recommendation from the Council. The Deep 7 bottomfish are onaga (Etidis coruscans), ehu (E. carbunculus), gindai (Pristipomoides zonatus), kalepale (P. sieboldii), opakapaka (P. filamentosus), lehi (Aphareus rutilans), and hapuupu (Epinephelus quernus).

The Council’s recommendation of an ACL of 346,000 lb (156,943 kg) considers the most recent bottomfish stock assessment, risk of overfishing, past fishery performance, recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and input from the public. The proposed ACL is based on a 2010 stock assessment that indicated that the MHI Deep 7 bottomfish were not overfished and not subject to overfishing. The proposed ACL is associated with less than a 41 percent probability of overfishing the Deep 7 bottomfish in the MHI.

Management uncertainty, influenced by unreported recreational landings, accuracy of commercial catch reporting, weather influences on the fishing activity and productivity, monitoring and forecasting capabilities, and mortality of recreational catch discards associated with high-grading, could cause the fishery to exceed the ACL. Accordingly, the Council recommended a quota (annual catch target, ACT) of 325,000 lb (147,418 kg), about six percent (21,000 lb or 9,525 kg) lower than the ACL, to provide a sufficient buffer to ensure that the fishery does not exceed the ACL.

If the quota (ACT) is projected to be reached before August 31 (the end of the fishing year), NMFS will close the non-commercial and commercial fisheries for Deep 7 bottomfish in Federal waters through August 31. When NMFS closes Federal waters to fishing for Deep 7 bottomfish, State of Hawaii law allows the State to adopt a complementary closure of the Deep 7 fishery in State waters. During a closure for Deep 7 bottomfish, no person may fish for, possess, or sell any of these fish in the MHI, except as otherwise authorized by law. Specifically, fishing for, and the resultant possession or sale of, Deep 7...