

EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0148, by one of the following methods:

(1) *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the on-line instructions.

(2) *Email*: [r9\\_airplanning@epa.gov](mailto:r9_airplanning@epa.gov).

(3) *Mail or deliver*: Anita Lee (Air-2), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.

For more detailed instructions concerning how to submit comments on this proposed rule, and for more information on our proposed rule, please see the notice of proposed rulemaking and notice of reconsideration of final rule, published in the **Federal Register** on March 26, 2013 (78 FR 18280).

#### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Nitrogen Dioxide.

**Authority**: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Dated: March 28, 2013.

**Deborah Jordan**,

*Air Division Director, Region 9.*

[FR Doc. 2013-07869 Filed 4-3-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE** 6560-50-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 600

[Docket No. 121227743-3275-01]

RIN 0648-BC86

#### Fisheries of the United States; Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 Implementing Regulations

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

**ACTION**: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comments.

**SUMMARY**: NMFS issues this advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to provide background information and request public comment on potential issues related to the implementation of the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012.

**DATES**: Written comments regarding the issues in this ANPR must be received by 5 p.m., local time, on July 3, 2013.

**ADDRESSES**: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2013-0004, by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission*: Submit all electronic public comments via the

Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0004, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- *Mail*: Submit written comments to Kim Marshall, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

- *Fax*: 301-713-1193; Attn: Kim Marshall.

**Instructions**: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. 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, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**: Kim Marshall, Fishery Policy Analyst, National Marine Fisheries Service, 301-427-8556.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 (BCA), Public Law 112-183, 16 U.S.C. 1827a, was signed into law on October 5, 2012. The BCA defines "billfish" as any of the following: (1) Blue marlin; (2) striped marlin; (3) black marlin; (4) sailfish; (5) shortbill spearfish; (6) white marlin; (7) roundscale spearfish; (8) Mediterranean spearfish; or (9) longbill spearfish. It exempts swordfish from the definition of billfish.

Section 4(a) of the BCA prohibits any person from offering billfish or billfish products for sale, selling them, or having custody, control, or possession of them for purposes of offering them for sale. It treats a violation of the BCA as an act prohibited by section 307 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA; 16 U.S.C. 1857). Individuals, including recreational fishermen may possess, but not sell billfish or billfish products or have custody, control, or possession for the purposes of offering them for sale, subject to limits imposed by existing state and federal regulations.

Section 4(c) of the BCA exempts billfish caught by U.S. fishing vessels and landed in Hawaii or Pacific Insular

Areas (as defined under the MSA) from the general prohibitions on sale and custody with the intent to sell in section 4(a). It also exempts billfish landed by foreign vessels in the Pacific Insular Areas and exported to markets outside the U.S. or retained within Hawaii and the Pacific Insular Areas for local consumption.

In passing the BCA, Congress recognized the conservation challenges facing billfish populations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Congress found that, despite careful management of domestic billfish fisheries, global billfish populations have declined significantly because of overfishing primarily through retention of bycatch by non-U.S. fishing fleets. See 16 U.S.C. 1827a note. In 2011, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature classified blue and white marlin as vulnerable to extinction and striped marlin as near threatened. The over harvest and export of billfish from foreign nations threatens the survival of billfish populations and the sustainability of the U.S. recreational billfish fishery. A report on trade of billfish published by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) in June, 2007 found that the legal sale of billfish caught in the Pacific Ocean may create a market that allows billfish caught in the Atlantic Ocean to enter illegitimately into U.S. markets.

Existing federal regulations require the release of all Atlantic billfish caught by commercial fishing operations in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), prohibit the possession of billfish onboard commercial fishing vessels inside the U.S. EEZ, and prohibit the sale of Atlantic billfish. 50 CFR 635.21(a) and (e)(2), 635.31(b). The BCA increases the protection for Atlantic billfish by prohibiting the import and sale of all billfish in the U.S., no matter where harvested, unless exempted pursuant to section 4(c) of the BCA.

The only U.S. commercial fishery for billfish occurs in Hawaii and surrounding Pacific island areas. Section 4(c)(1) of the BCA exempts billfish caught by U.S. vessels and landed in Hawaii or Pacific Insular Areas from the general prohibition on sale of billfish. Under existing regulations, seafood dealers and processors are required to use the Billfish Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to document that billfish possessed or offered for sale were not harvested from the Atlantic Ocean. See 50 CFR 635.31(b). NMFS is considering adapting the billfish COE requirements to implement the BCA by requiring that seafood dealers and processors document that billfish offered for sale

qualifies for exemption from the general prohibition on the sale of billfish.

The U.S. West Coast Highly Migratory Fishery Management Plan (Plan) includes the striped marlin as a management unit species and prohibits sale of the species. As stated in the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Plan, striped marlin is considered to have far greater value as a recreational rather than commercial target species. The Plan is not the only measure addressing striped marlin. California has prohibited sale and importation of Pacific striped marlin since 1937, and with a limited exception for black marlin, marlin meat, whether fresh, smoked, canned, or preserved by any means, may not be bought or sold, or possessed or transported for the purpose of sale in the state.

### Public Comments

NMFS is considering issuing regulations to implement the BCA. Rulemaking is needed to provide notice to the regulated community, increase public understanding of the elements of the billfish prohibitions, facilitate enforcement, and ensure consistent implementation of the BCA nationally. Through this ANPR, NMFS seeks the public's views on the potential scope of any future regulations to implement the BCA, including the scope of the exemption in section 4(c) of the BCA and the possible use of a modified version of the current billfish COE to document that billfish offered for sale qualifies for exemption from the general prohibition on sale. Also, what, if any, restrictions can NMFS impose on the transportation and sale of billfish caught by U.S. vessels and landed in Hawaii or the Pacific Insular Areas?

To help determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify significant issues related to this action, NMFS is soliciting written comments on this ANPR. The public is encouraged to submit comments related to the specific ideas mentioned in this ANPR, as well as any additional ideas to improve implementation of the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1827a.

Dated: March 29, 2013.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, performing the functions and duties of the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2013-07866 Filed 4-3-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 130212129-3284-01]

RIN 0648-BC98

### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Snapper Management Measures

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes to implement management measures described in a framework action to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP) prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). If implemented, this rule would increase the commercial and recreational quotas for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) reef fish fishery for the 2013 fishing year. This proposed rule is intended to help achieve optimum yield (OY) for the Gulf red snapper resource without increasing the risk of red snapper experiencing overfishing.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before April 19, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on the proposed rule, identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2013-0055" by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/) #!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0055, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Cynthia Meyer, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will

be publicly accessible. 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, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Electronic copies of the framework action, which includes an environmental assessment and a regulatory impact review, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/GrouperSnapperandReefFish.htm>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cynthia Meyer, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, telephone 727-824-5305; email: [Cynthia.Meyer@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Meyer@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS and the Council manage the Gulf reef fish fishery under the FMP. The Council prepared the FMP and NMFS implements the FMP through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

### Background

The Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review (SEDAR) update assessment for Gulf red snapper, conducted in August 2009 (SEDAR 9), determined that overfishing had ended for the red snapper stock, and that the acceptable biological catch (ABC) may be increased. The stock, however, is still overfished and is under a rebuilding plan through 2032. The next SEDAR benchmark stock assessment currently scheduled for Gulf red snapper will be conducted in 2013.

The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met in November 2012, to review the updated landings data and recommended a new ABC for the 2013 fishing year. For 2013, the SSC recommended an ABC of 8.46 million lb (3.83 million kg). The Council met in February 2013, and voted to implement this new ABC through the 2013 Gulf red snapper framework action.

### Management Measures Contained in This Proposed Rule

This rule would set the 2013 commercial and recreational quotas for red snapper based on the ABC recommended by the SSC and on the current commercial and recreational allocations (51-percent commercial and 49-percent recreational). Therefore, the 2013 commercial quota would be set at 4.315 million lb (1.957 million kg), round weight, and the 2013 recreational