

ice on February 1, 2014, thereby requiring a quota transfer to account for an increase in Virginia's landings that would have otherwise accrued against the North Carolina quota. North Carolina has agreed to transfer 4,833 lb (2,192 kg) of its 2014 commercial quota to New Jersey. This transfer was prompted by summer flounder landings of the F/V *Adrianna*, a North Carolina vessel that was granted safe harbor in New Jersey due to mechanical failure on February 12, 2014, thereby requiring a quota transfer to account for the increase in New Jersey's landings that would have otherwise accrued against the North Carolina quota. The Regional Administrator has determined that the criteria set forth in § 648.102(c)(2)(i) have been met. The revised summer flounder commercial quotas for calendar year 2014 are: North Carolina, 2,973,379 lb (1,348,702 kg); Virginia, 2,575,400 lb (1,168,182 kg); and New Jersey 1,909,656 lb (866,205 kg).

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: March 14, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-06076 Filed 3-14-14; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 130919816-4205-02]

RIN 0648-BD70

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustments to 2014 Annual Catch Limits

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This action adjusts 2014 annual catch limits (ACLs) for the Atlantic herring (herring) fishery to account for catch overages and

underharvest in 2012. NMFS is decreasing three of the four ACLs and increasing one ACL. This results in a reduction to the overall catch available to the herring fleet.

DATES: Effective March 19, 2014, through December 31, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Copies of supporting documents, 2013-2015 Specifications/Framework 2 and Amendment 4 to the Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP), are available from: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950, telephone (978) 465-0492. These documents are also accessible via the Internet at <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Travis Ford, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9233.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The herring harvest in the United States is managed under the Herring FMP developed by the New England Fishery Management Council (Council), and implemented by NMFS. The Herring FMP divides the stock-wide herring ACL among three management areas, one of which has two sub-areas. It divides Area 1 (located in the Gulf of Maine (GOM)) into an inshore section (Area 1A) and an offshore section (Area 1B). Area 2 is located in the coastal waters between Massachusetts and North Carolina, and Area 3 is on Georges Bank (GB). The Herring FMP considers the herring stock complex to be a single stock, but there are inshore (GOM) and offshore (GB) stock components. The GOM and GB stock components segregate during spawning and mix during feeding and migration. Each management area has its own sub-ACL to allow greater control of the fishing mortality on each stock component.

Amendment 4 to the Herring FMP (76 FR 11373, March 2, 2011) revised the Herring FMP to address ACL and accountability measure (AM) requirements. As a way to account for ACL overages in the herring fishery, Amendment 4 established an AM that provided for overage deductions in the year immediately following the catch overage determination. If the catch of herring exceeds any ACL or sub-ACL, NMFS will subsequently deduct the overage from the corresponding ACL/sub-ACL in the year following the catch

overage determination. Amendment 4 also specified that NMFS will announce overage deductions in the **Federal Register** prior to the start of the fishing year, if possible.

We published a final rule for Framework 2 and the 2013-15 specifications on October 4, 2013 (78 FR 61828). Among other measures, Framework 2 allows for the carryover of unharvested catch in the year immediately following the catch determination. Up to 10 percent of each sub-ACL may be carried over, provided catch did not exceed the stock-wide ACL. The carryover provision allows a sub-ACL increase for a management area, but it does not allow a corresponding increase to the stock-wide ACL. The management area sub-ACLs established in the specifications for 2014 are: 31,200 mt for Area 1A, 4,600 mt for Area 1B, 30,000 mt for Area 2, and 42,000 mt for Area 3 (Table 1).

Final Adjustment to the 2014 Annual Catch Limits

In accordance with regulations at § 648.201(a)(3), this action adjusts 2014 sub-ACLs for the herring fishery to account for catch overages and underharvest in 2012. We completed the 2012 catch determination in August 2013, so we will apply the adjustments for any overharvests or carryover in 2012 to the 2014 sub-ACLs. In 2012, the herring fleet underharvested the stockwide ACL of 90,683 mt by 122 mt. However, the fleet overharvested the sub-ACLs in herring management Areas 1B (overage of 1,584 mt); 2 (overage of 336 mt); and 3 (overage of 1,325 mt). In 2014, after deducting each 2012 overage, the sub-ACL for Area 1B will be 3,016 mt (4,600 mt reduced by 1,584 mt); the sub-ACL for Area 2 will be 29,664 mt (30,000 mt reduced by 336); and the sub-ACL for Area 3 will be 40,675 mt (42,000 mt reduced by 1,325 mt) (Table 1).

The herring fleet underharvested the sub-ACL from Area 1A by 3,366 mt (approximately 12 percent of the 2012 Area 1A sub-ACL of 27,668 mt). Since the fleet did not exceed the stock-wide ACL in 2012, we will carry over 10 percent of the 2012 Area 1A sub-ACL to the 2014 Area 1A sub-ACL. After adding the carryover from the 2012 sub-ACL, 2014 Area 1A sub-ACL will be 33,967 mt (increased by 2,767 mt, equal to 10 percent of the 2012 Area 1A sub-ACL of 27,668 mt) (Table 1).

TABLE 1—HERRING MANAGEMENT AREA 2014 HERRING QUOTAS (MT)

Area	2014	2014 adjustment
Area 1A	31,200	33,967
Area 1B	4,600	3,016
Area 2	30,000	29,664
Area 3	42,000	40,675

After deducting the overages and adding the carryover amount to the sub-ACLs, the total catch available to the herring fleet is reduced by 477 mt. The summary of the proposed rule incorrectly stated it was increased. The background section clearly noted, however, the overall catch may not increase as a result of carryover. The methods for determining the final 2012 catch rates and subsequent 2014 adjustments were discussed in detail in the proposed rule and are not repeated here (78 FR 70009, November 22, 2013).

Comments and Responses

NMFS received no comments on this action.

Changes From the Proposed Rule

There are no changes from the proposed rule.

Classification

The Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, determined that this final rule is necessary for the conservation and management of the herring fishery and that it is consistent with the MSA and other applicable law.

The National Environmental Policy Act analyses to support this action were completed in Amendment 4 (76 FR 11373, March 2, 2011) and 2013–2015 Specifications/Framework 2 (78 FR 46897, August 2, 2013).

There is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness for this rule and establish the date of publication in the **Federal Register** as the effective date for this action because delaying the effectiveness of the rule is contrary to the public interest and impracticable. The 2014 herring fishing year began on January 1, 2014. To prevent confusion and potential overharvests, it is in the best interest of the fleet and the herring resource to have the proper sub-ACLs in place immediately. Accordingly, any delay in the rule’s effectiveness would undermine the conservation objectives of the MSA and the Herring FMP, which would be contrary to the public interest.

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

The Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified

to the Chief Council for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (SBA) at the proposed rule stage that this rule, if adopted, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. No comments were received on this certification, and no other information has been received that would change the determination. As a result, a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required, and none was prepared.

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

Dated: March 13, 2014.

Eileen Sobeck,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 100120035-4085-03]

RIN 0648-AY26

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Amendment 14; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This action corrects a mistake in the effective dates in the final rule for Amendment 14 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan.

DATES: Effective March 26, 2014, except for the amendments to § 648.7(b)(3)(ii)–(iii) and § 648.10 which are effective September 1, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aja Szumylo, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978–281–9195.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The final rule for Amendment 14 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and

Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan was published in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 2014 (79 FR 10029). The final measures in that action included: Revising vessel reporting requirements (vessel trip reporting frequency, pre-trip and pre-landing vessel notification requirements, and requirements for vessel monitoring systems); expanding vessel requirements to maximize observer’s ability to sample catch at-sea; minimizing the discarding of unsampled catch; and a measure to allow the Council to set a cap on river herring and shad catch in the Atlantic mackerel fishery.

The final rule set the effective date for amendments to regulations at § 648.7(b)(3)(ii)–(iii) and § 648.10 as April 25, 2014. These regulations establish vessel monitoring system requirements for limited access mackerel and longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit holders. Because of the time and costs associated with purchasing and installing a new VMS unit, NMFS intended to allow these permit holders 6 months to complete purchase units, installation, and become familiar with the new requirements. To allow time for permit holders to comply with this new requirement, this correction adjusts the effective date for these measures to September 1, 2014. This correction does not change the intent or application of the measures described in the proposed and final rule.

Classification

Because it makes only minor, non-substantive changes and does not change operating practices in the fishery, it is unnecessary under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to provide for prior public comment. Because this correction notice does not constitute a substantive rule, it is not subject to the requirement for a 30-day delay in effective date in 5 U.S.C. 553(d).

Because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* are inapplicable.