

clearing the 1910–1930 MHz band of incumbent microwave stations. On May 29, 2014, DISH, the sole licensee in the 1915–1920 MHz band, reimbursed UTAM for these costs.

6. Based on the reimbursements paid by Sprint and DISH, as well as the membership and device fees that had been paid by UPCS device manufacturers, UTAM determined that it could satisfy all of its financial obligations associated with clearing the entire 1910–1930 MHz band. Accordingly, it prepared a plan of dissolution and cessation of all corporate activities. It also asked the Commission to suspend enforcement of § 15.307 pending administrative action to eliminate the rule in its entirety.

7. The Commission found that there was good cause to eliminate the rule in its entirety. UTAM no longer needed the reimbursement funds that § 15.307 was designed to provide, continued application of the rule would impose an unnecessary financial burden on UPCS device manufacturers who may seek to develop new and innovative products, and it would no longer be possible to comply with the rule once UTAM dissolved. The Commission further determined that it could take action to eliminate the rule without notice and comment rulemaking procedures, pursuant to section 553(b)(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act. Among other things, section 553(b)(B) establishes an exception to the notice-and-comment requirement for cases in which the Commission finds good cause for concluding that notice and comment are “unnecessary.” The Commission found that because § 15.307 no longer had any purpose now that the relocation reimbursement obligations have been satisfied and UTAM would be disbanding, the provisions of section 553(b)(B) were applicable to this situation.

8. The Commission removed and reserved § 15.307, effective upon publication of the *Order* in the **Federal Register**. Until that time, and effective immediately, the Commission stayed the effectiveness of the rule. The Commission took these actions under the delegated authority granted to the Office of Engineering and Technology. Thus, upon release of the *Order*, it was no longer necessary for applicants for equipment certification of UPCS devices to obtain and submit to the Commission certification of membership in UTAM pursuant to § 15.307 of our rules.

Congressional Review Act

9. Because the *Order* was adopted without notice and comment, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not

apply, *see* 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.* The Commission will not send a copy of the *Order* pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, *see* 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A), because the rules are of a particular applicability.

Paperwork Reduction Analysis

10. This document does not contain any new or modified information collections subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104–13.

Ordering Clauses

11. Pursuant to sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i) and 303(r), the *Order* is hereby *adopted* and part 15 of the Commission’s rules is *amended* as set forth in the Final Rules effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 15

Communications equipment, Radio, Reporting, and Recordkeeping.
Federal Communications Commission.
Julius P. Knapp,
Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR part 15 as follows:

PART 15—RADIO FREQUENCY DEVICES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 15 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 302a, 303, 304, 307, 336, and 544a.

§ 15.307 [Removed and Reserved]

■ 2. Section 15.307 is removed and reserved.

[FR Doc. 2014–26429 Filed 11–6–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 300

RIN 0648–XD548

Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders

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

ACTION: Temporary orders; inseason orders.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes Fraser River salmon inseason orders to regulate treaty and non-treaty (all citizen) commercial salmon fisheries in U.S. waters. The orders were issued by the Fraser River Panel (Panel) of the Pacific Salmon Commission (Commission) and subsequently approved and issued by NMFS during the 2014 salmon fisheries within the U.S. Fraser River Panel Area. These orders established fishing dates, times, and areas for the gear types of U.S. treaty Indian and all citizen commercial fisheries during the period the Panel exercised jurisdiction over these fisheries.

DATES: The effective dates for the inseason orders are set out in this document under the heading Inseason Orders.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Mundy at 206–526–4323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada concerning Pacific Salmon was signed at Ottawa on January 28, 1985, and subsequently was given effect in the United States by the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act (Act) at 16 U.S.C. 3631–3644.

Under authority of the Act, Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 300, subpart F, provide a framework for the implementation of certain regulations of the Commission and inseason orders of the Commission’s Fraser River Panel for U.S. sockeye salmon fisheries in the Fraser River Panel Area.

The regulations close the U.S. portion of the Fraser River Panel Area to U.S. sockeye tribal and non-tribal commercial fishing unless opened by Panel orders that are given effect by inseason regulations published by NMFS. During the fishing season, NMFS may issue regulations that establish fishing times and areas consistent with the Commission agreements and inseason orders of the Panel. Such orders must be consistent with domestic legal obligations and are issued by the Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, NMFS. Official notification of these inseason actions is provided by two telephone hotline numbers described at 50 CFR 300.97(b)(1) and in 79 FR 24580 (May 1, 2014). The inseason orders are published in the **Federal Register** as soon as practicable after they are issued. Due to the frequency with which inseason orders are issued, publication of individual orders is impractical.

Inseason Orders

The following inseason orders were adopted by the Panel and issued for U.S.

fisheries by NMFS during the 2014 fishing season. Each of the following inseason actions was effective upon announcement on telephone hotline numbers as specified at 50 CFR 300.97(b)(1) and in 79 FR 24580 (May 1, 2014); those dates and times are listed herein. The times listed are local times, and the areas designated are Puget Sound Management and Catch Reporting Areas as defined in the Washington State Administrative Code at Chapter 220–22.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–01: Issued 2:10 p.m., July 29, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Open to drift gillnets 12 p.m. (noon), Thursday, July 31, 2014, to 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 2, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–02: Issued 12:45 p.m., August 1, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 2, 2014, to 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 6, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–03: Issued 12:15 p.m., August 5, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 6, 2014, to 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 9, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Thursday, August 7, 2014 through 9 a.m., Saturday, August 9, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, August 9, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, August 9, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, August 10, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–04: Issued 12:55 p.m., August 8, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 9, 2014, to 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 13, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m. Sunday, August 10, 2014 through 9 a.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Area 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

Area 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday, August 11, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–05: Issued 12:20 p.m., August 12, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 13, 2014, to 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m. Wednesday, August 13, 2014 through 9 a.m., Thursday, August 14, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Friday, August 15, 2014 through 9 a.m., Saturday, August 16, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, August 14, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Thursday, August 14, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday, August 13, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–06: Issued 2:30 p.m., August 15, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 16, 2014, to 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Saturday, August 16, 2014 through 9 a.m., Monday, August 18, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Tuesday, August 19, 2014 through 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday, August 18, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Monday, August 18, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday, August 18, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–07: Issued 1:35 p.m., August 19, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 20, 2014 through 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 23, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 20, 2014 through 9 a.m., Thursday, August 21, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, August 21, 2014 and Friday, August 22, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Thursday, August 21, 2014 and Friday, August 22, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday, August 20, 2014, Thursday, August 21, 2014, and Friday, August 22, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–08: Issued 1:30 p.m., August 22, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 23, 2014 through 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Saturday, August 23, 2014 through 9 a.m., Monday, August 25, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday, August 25, 2014 and Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Monday, August 25, 2014 and Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily from Saturday, August 23, 2014 through Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–09: Issued 1:45 p.m., August 26, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, August 27, 2014 through 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 30, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Wednesday 27, 2014 through 9 a.m., Saturday, August 30, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily from Wednesday, August 27, 2014 through Friday, August 29, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–10: Issued 1:30 p.m., August 29, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, August 30, 2014 through 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 3, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Saturday, August 30, 2014 through 9 a.m., Sunday, August 31, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 12:01 a.m. (midnight), Tuesday, September 2, 2014 through 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 3, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, August 31, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Monday, September 1, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily from Saturday, August 30, 2014 through Tuesday, September 2, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–11: Issued 1:30 p.m., September 2, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 3, 2014 through 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 6, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 3, 2014 through 9 a.m., Friday, September 5, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, September 5, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:05 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Friday, September 5, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily from Wednesday, September 3, 2014 through Friday, September 5, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–12: Issued 1:30 p.m., September 5, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 6, 2014 through 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Sunday, September 7, 2014 through 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, September 6, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:10 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 6, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily from Saturday, September 6, 2014 through Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–13: Issued 1:15 p.m., September 9, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Extend for drift gillnets from 12 p.m. (noon), Wednesday, September 10, 2014 through 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2014 through 9 a.m., Saturday, September 13, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:20 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily from Wednesday, September 10, 2014 through Friday, September 12, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–14: Issued 1:30 p.m., September 12, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Saturday, September 13, 2014 until 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 20, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to reefnets from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily from Saturday, September 13, 2014 through Saturday, September 20, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–15: Issued 4:30 p.m., September 18, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Area 7A: Open to net fishing from 5 a.m., Monday, September 22, 2014 until 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 24, 2014.

All Citizen Fishery

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m., Saturday, September 20, 2014.

Area 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m., Sunday, September 21, 2014.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:25 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 20, 2014.

Area 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:30 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Sunday, September 21, 2014.

Treaty Indian and All Citizen Fisheries

Areas 6 and 7: Relinquish regulatory control effective 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 20, 2014.

Area 7A: Retain regulatory control through 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 27, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–16: Issued 2 p.m., September 22, 2014

Treaty Indian Fishery

Area 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m., Wednesday, September 24, 2014 through 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 27.

All Citizen Fishery

Area 7A: Open to purse seines from 5 a.m. until 9 p.m., Wednesday, September 24, 2014.

Area 7A: Open to gillnets from 8:35 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Wednesday, September 24, 2014.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2014–17: Issued 2 p.m., September 25, 2014

Treaty Indian and All Citizen Fisheries

Area 7A, excluding the Apex: Relinquish regulatory control as scheduled effective 11:59 p.m. (midnight), Saturday, September 27, 2014.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries NOAA (AA), finds that good cause exists for the inseason orders to be issued without affording the public prior notice and opportunity for comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such prior notice and opportunity for comments is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment is impracticable because NMFS has insufficient time to allow for prior notice and opportunity for public comment between the time the stock abundance information is available to determine how much fishing can be allowed and the time the fishery must open and close in order to harvest the appropriate amount of fish while they are available.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date, required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), of the inseason orders. A delay in the effective date of the inseason orders would not allow fishers appropriately controlled access to the available fish at that time they are available.

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 300.97, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 3636(b).

Dated: October 29, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2014-26113 Filed 11-6-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 130403320-4891-02]

RIN 0648-BD07

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 14

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues regulations to implement Regulatory Amendment 14 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP) (Regulatory Amendment 14), as prepared and submitted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). This rule changes the fishing years for greater amberjack and black sea bass, revises the commercial trip limits for gag grouper (gag) and black sea bass, and revises the recreational accountability measures (AMs) for black sea bass and vermilion snapper. The purpose of Regulatory Amendment 14 and this rule is to help achieve optimum yield (OY) and enhance socio-economic opportunities within the snapper-grouper fishery in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

DATES: This rule is effective December 8, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of the regulatory amendment, which includes an environmental assessment and an initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA), may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web site at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am14/index.html.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nikhil Mehta, telephone: 727-824-5305, or email: nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The snapper-grouper fishery of the South Atlantic is managed under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the Council and is implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

On April 25, 2014, NMFS published a proposed rule for Regulatory Amendment 14 and requested public comment (79 FR 22936). The proposed rule and Regulatory Amendment 14 outline the rationale for the actions contained in this final rule. A summary of the actions implemented by Regulatory Amendment 14 and this final rule is provided below.

Management Measures Contained in This Final Rule

This final rule changes the fishing years for greater amberjack and black sea bass, revises the commercial trip limits for gag and black sea bass, and revises the recreational AMs for black sea bass and vermilion snapper. All weights described in this final rule are given in gutted weight.

Greater Amberjack Fishing Year

This final rule changes the greater amberjack fishing year of May 1 through April 30 to a fishing year of March 1 through the end of February. This fishing year change allows the commercial sector access to greater amberjack during the Lenten season, when there is an increase in demand for the species, and thus enhances the economic yield from greater amberjack harvest.

Black Sea Bass Fishing Year

This final rule changes the commercial and recreational fishing years for black sea bass from June 1 through May 31, to January 1 through December 31 for the commercial sector and April 1 through March 31 for the recreational sector. Starting the commercial fishing year on January 1 during the black sea bass pot gear closure could provide, to the extent practicable, positive socio-economic benefits to the commercial black sea bass fishers who use hook-and-line gear because they would be able to fish for black sea bass when the catch per unit effort is higher, the fish are closer to shore, and there is generally a higher price per pound for black sea bass. The action also aligns the beginning of the commercial harvest seasons for black sea bass and vermilion snapper, which are commonly caught together with hook-and-line gear, and is expected to

decrease the amount of regulatory discards in the snapper-grouper fishery. In addition, changing the commercial fishing year to January 1 for the black sea bass commercial sector allows commercial fishers to harvest black sea bass with hook-and-line gear during January to April when many other snapper-grouper species such as shallow-water groupers are closed to harvest.

Changing the black sea bass recreational fishing year start date from June 1 to April 1 is expected to allow recreational fishermen throughout the Council's area of jurisdiction to have more opportunity to harvest black sea bass and vermilion snapper when harvest for both species is open, thus reducing regulatory discards of black sea bass during April and May.

Black Sea Bass Commercial Trip Limit

Currently, the trip limit for the black sea bass commercial sector for hook-and-line gear and black sea bass pots is 1,000 lb (454 kg). This final rule establishes a trip limit of 300 lb (136 kg), for the hook-and-line component of the commercial sector from January 1 through April 30 when fishing with black sea bass pots is prohibited. The hook-and-line trip limit for the remainder of the fishing year remains at 1,000 lb (454 kg). The trip limit for fishers using black sea bass pots would continue to be 1,000 lb (454 kg). A 300 lb (136 kg), black sea bass trip limit for the hook-and-line sector during the period January 1 to April 30 allows fishermen to retain marketable quantities of black sea bass when targeting vermilion snapper, thereby addressing bycatch and discard mortality issues. The 300-lb (136-kg) trip limit for black sea bass could help to extend the length of the commercial vermilion snapper fishing season, because fishers have the opportunity to harvest both black sea bass and vermilion snapper instead of just targeting vermilion snapper. The Council determined that a January 1 fishing year start date for the black sea bass commercial sector, in conjunction with a trip limit of 300 lb (136 kg) for the hook-and-line component, would allow commercial harvest of black sea bass and vermilion snapper to occur at the same time and enhance the socio-economic benefits to those utilizing the black sea bass resource.

Gag Commercial Trip Limit

This final rule revises the gag commercial trip limit from the current 1,000 lb (454 kg), to include a trip limit reduction to 500 lb (227 kg), when 75 percent of the gag commercial quota is