

season end date in the **Federal Register** prior to the start of the recreational fishing year on April 1. On and after the effective date of the recreational closure notification, the bag and possession limit for black sea bass in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.* in state or Federal waters.

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(f) * * *

(2) *Recreational sector.* (i) If recreational landings, as estimated by the SRD, reach or are projected to reach the applicable recreational ACL specified in paragraph (f)(2)(iv) of this section the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to close the recreational sector for vermilion snapper for the remainder of the fishing year. On and after the effective date of such notification, the bag and possession limit for vermilion snapper in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is zero. This bag and possession limit also applies in the South Atlantic on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters.

(ii) If the combined vermilion snapper commercial and recreational landings exceed the combined vermilion snapper ACLs specified in paragraphs (f)(1) and (f)(2)(iv) of this section, and vermilion snapper are overfished, based on the most recent Status of U.S. Fisheries Report to Congress, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the following fishing year to reduce the recreational ACL for that following year by the amount of the recreational overage in the prior fishing year.

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[FR Doc. 2014-26501 Filed 11-6-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 130903775-4276-02]

RIN 0648-XD603

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery; Notification of Butterfish Quota Transfer

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS transfers quota to the 2014 butterfish domestic annual harvest allocation from the butterfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery in order to prevent an overage of the directed butterfish fishery. This action complies with the 2014 specifications and management measures for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan.

DATES: Effective November 3, 2014, through December 31, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aja Szumylo, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9195.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the butterfish fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual specification of the overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), domestic harvest and processing (DAH and DAP), and butterfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery. The 2014 butterfish DAH for the directed butterfish fishery was set as 3,200 mt, and the butterfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery was set at 3,844 mt (79 FR 18834, April 4, 2014). The regulations allow NMFS to transfer up to 50 percent of any unused butterfish allocation from the butterfish mortality cap allocation to the butterfish domestic annual harvest (DAH) if harvest of butterfish in the directed butterfish fishery is likely to exceed the DAH, and provided the transfer of butterfish from the butterfish mortality cap allocation does not increase the likelihood of closing the longfin squid fishery due to the harvest of the butterfish mortality cap. When such a determination is made, NMFS is required to publish a notification in the **Federal Register** to adjust the butterfish DAH and butterfish mortality cap.

NMFS has determined that only 12 percent of the butterfish mortality cap has been harvested as of October 30, 2014, that 86 percent of the butterfish DAH has been harvested, and that the butterfish mortality cap will not be exceeded if 50 percent of the allocation is transferred to the butterfish DAH. Therefore, effective immediately, 1,900 mt will be transferred from the butterfish mortality cap to the butterfish DAH in order to prevent a DAH overage, and to allow for the continued operation of the directed butterfish fishery. The adjusted butterfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery is 1,984 mt, and the adjusted butterfish DAH is 5,100 mt. The three-phase management system for butterfish still applies to the directed butterfish fishery, meaning that, during November and December, the fishery will move to phase 2 (*i.e.*, the possession limit for the directed fishery will be reduced to 5,000 mt for vessels fishing with greater than 3 inch (76 mm) mesh) when the butterfish harvest reaches 82 percent of the DAH (4,182 mt). Similarly, the closure threshold for the butterfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery would still apply, meaning that the directed longfin squid fishery would be closed if butterfish discards reach 1,885 mt (95 percent of the 1,984 mt butterfish mortality cap).

Classification

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

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment because it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This action increases the butterfish DAH by 1,900 mt (from 3,200 mt to 5,100 mt) through December 31, 2014. The regulations at § 648.24(c)(5) allow for a transfer of allocation from the butterfish mortality cap to the butterfish DAH to allow for efficient utilization of the butterfish resource. The butterfish fishing year extends from January 1 to December 31. Data indicate that, as of October 30, 2014, 86 percent of the butterfish DAH has been harvested. For the month of October, vessels participating in the directed butterfish fishery have been able to harvest an average of 51,000 lb (19 mt) per day, or close to 350,000 lb (131 mt) per week. The longfin squid fishery has harvested butterfish discards, which count against the butterfish mortality cap, at a very slow rate this year. As of October 30, 2014, only 12 percent of the butterfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery has been harvested,

meaning that just over 1 percent of the butterfish mortality cap has been harvested each month. At this rate, NMFS has projected that less than 15 percent of the current (3,884 mt) butterfish mortality cap will be harvested by December 31, 2014. If implementation of this quota transfer is delayed to solicit public comment, the increase may not be effective prior to the end of the 2014 fishing year and butterfish that is currently allocated to the longfin squid fishery may go unutilized, thereby undermining the intended economic benefits associated with this action. Transferring the allocation allows the directed butterfish fishery to continue to target butterfish while the fish are available. NMFS further finds, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), good cause to waive the 30-day delayed effectiveness period for the reasons stated above.

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

Dated: November 3, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-26413 Filed 11-3-14; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 140214138-4482-02]

RIN 0648-XD584

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; quota transfer.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the State of Florida is transferring a portion of its 2014 commercial bluefish quota to the State of New York. By this action, NMFS adjusts the quotas and announces the revised commercial quota for each state involved.

DATES: Effective November 3, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carly Bari, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the bluefish fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual

specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from Florida through Maine. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state are described in § 648.162.

The final rule implementing Amendment 1 to the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan, which was published in the **Federal Register** on July 26, 2000 (65 FR 45844), provided a mechanism for bluefish quota to be transferred from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the Administrator, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), can transfer or combine bluefish commercial quota under § 648.162(e). The Regional Administrator is required to consider the criteria in § 648.162(e)(1) in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations.

Florida has agreed to transfer 250,000 lb (113,398 kg) of its 2014 commercial quota to New York. This transfer was prompted by the diligent efforts of state officials in New York not to exceed the commercial bluefish quota. The Regional Administrator has determined that the criteria set forth in § 648.162(e)(1) have been met. The revised bluefish quotas for calendar year 2014 are: Florida, 500,309 lb (226,936 kg); and New York, 1,024,579 lb (464,741 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: November 3, 2014.

Emily H. Menashes,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-26412 Filed 11-3-14; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 131115973-4885-02]

RIN 0648-BD74

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Amendment 96 to the Gulf of Alaska Fishery Management Plan; Management of Community Quota Entities

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes regulations to implement Amendment 96 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) and an amendment to the Pacific halibut commercial fishery regulations for waters in and off Alaska. Amendment 96 to the FMP and the regulatory amendment modify the Individual Fishing Quota Program for the Fixed-Gear Commercial Fisheries for Pacific Halibut and Sablefish in Waters in and off Alaska (IFQ Program). This action will remove a regulation that prohibits a Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Community Quota Entity (CQE) from transferring and holding small blocks of halibut and sablefish quota share (QS). This action will allow CQEs to acquire additional QS and facilitate CQE community resident participation in the IFQ Program. This action promotes the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the FMP, and other applicable law.

DATES: Effective December 8, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of this rule, the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR)/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) (collectively, Analysis), and the proposed rule prepared for Amendment 96 and the regulatory amendment may be obtained from <http://www.regulations.gov> or from the NMFS Alaska Region Web site at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov>. An electronic copy of the 2010 Review of the CQE Program under the Halibut and Sablefish IFQ Program prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is available from the Council Web site at www.npfmc.org/community-quota-entity-program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Murphy, (907) 586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Authority

NMFS issues regulations to implement Amendment 96 to the FMP and revise the halibut and sablefish provisions of the CQE Program. The Council recommended and NMFS approved the FMP in 1978 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). Regulations implementing the FMP and general regulations governing sablefish appear at 50 CFR part 679. Fishing for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) is managed by