

requirements of Executive Order 13175 do not apply to this rulemaking.

Regulatory Flexibility Act: Small Business

The Department of State certifies that this rulemaking will not have an impact on a substantial number of small entities. A regulatory flexibility analysis is not required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*).

Executive Order 12866, 14192, and 13563

OIRA has designated this rule as “not significant” under Executive Order 12866. The benefits of the rule outweigh any costs to the public, which are minimal. This rulemaking is required under NDAA FY26. This rule is exempt from the provisions of Executive Order 14192, since it has been designated “not significant”.

Executive Order 12988

The Department of State has reviewed this rule in light of Executive Order 12988 to eliminate ambiguity, minimize litigation, establish clear legal standards, and reduce burden.

Executive Orders 12372 and 13132

This rule will not have substantial direct effect on the states, on the relationships between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 13132, it is determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to require consultations or warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. Executive Order 12372, regarding intergovernmental consultation on federal programs and activities, does not apply to this regulation.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rulemaking is related to an information collection for the Form DS-4316, “Eligibility Questionnaire for HAVANA Act Patients,” OMB Control Number 1405-0250. Question 4 on the DS-4316 is being updated to reflect the statutory change.

List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 135

Government employees, Federal retirees, Health care.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department of State amends part 135 to subchapter N of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, to read as follows:

PART 135—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAVANA ACT OF 2021

■ 1. The authority citation for part 135 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2651a; 22 U.S.C. 2680b.

§ 135.1 and 135.2 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend §§ 135.1 and 135.2, by removing the date “January 1, 2016” wherever it appears, and adding, in its place, the date “September 11, 2001”.

■ 3. Amend § 135.3 by:

■ a. In paragraphs (a) through (c), removing the date “January 1, 2016” wherever it appears and adding, in its place, the date “September 11, 2001”; and

■ b. Revising paragraphs (f) and (g).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 135.3 Eligibility for payments by the Department of State.

* * * * *

(f) The Under Secretary of State for Management may approve payments under this section. The Department will notify individuals of the decision in writing.

(g) An appeal of a decision made by the Under Secretary of State for Management may be directed to the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources in writing not later than 60 calendar days after the date of the decision by the Under Secretary for Management. The Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources is the final appeal authority. In the event that this official is unavailable or the position is vacant, the Secretary of State or Deputy Secretary of State may act as final appeal authority. The Department will notify individuals of the decision on the appeal in writing. Individuals who received a decision from the Under Secretary for Management that was dated on or before March 16, 2026, have until March 16, 2026, to file an appeal of such decision.

Darren W. Hultman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Personnel and Training, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026-05113 Filed 3-13-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 216

[RTID 0648-XF601]

Notification of Comparability Findings for New Caledonia, Grenada, and Ireland Under the Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

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

ACTION: Notification; publication of comparability finding determinations.

DATES: These comparability findings are valid and in effect from March 16, 2026 through December 31, 2029, or for such other period as NMFS may specify.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Ellgen, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, NMFS, (302) 827-7568, mmpa.loff@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) precludes the import into the United States of fish and fish products taken in foreign commercial fisheries that cause serious injury and mortality of marine mammals in excess of U.S. standards. Regulations issued to implement the MMPA import provisions require exporting nations to receive a finding that they maintain a regulatory program with respect to incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations that includes, or effectively achieves, results comparable to the U.S. program.

On September 2, 2025, NMFS announced its 2025 MMPA comparability finding determinations in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 42395) and posted the determinations on its website. Nations whose fisheries were denied comparability findings were prohibited from importing fish and fish products from those fisheries into the United States beginning January 1, 2026. Nations may reapply for a comparability finding for the affected fisheries at any time.

New Caledonia, Grenada, and Ireland were denied comparability findings for some or all of their fisheries, and have reapplied for comparability findings. NMFS determined that they have addressed the issues for which they were denied comparability findings and with this notice announces that the denied fisheries (New Caledonia: Fishery ID 1880; Grenada: Fishery IDs

1251, 1252, 1253, 1258, and 12603; and Ireland: Fishery IDs 1388 and 1386) have received comparability findings and the corresponding import prohibitions are removed effective March 16, 2026. These comparability finding reports can be found at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international-affairs/2025-marine-mammal-protection-act-comparability-finding-determinations>.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-05115 Filed 3-13-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 260209-0039; RTID 0648-XF608]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; 2026 Scup Winter I Commercial Quota Harvested

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the 2026 scup Winter I commercial quota has been harvested. Vessels issued a commercial Federal fisheries permit for the scup fishery may not land scup for the remainder of the Winter I quota period. Regulations governing the scup fishery require publication of this notification to advise vessel and dealer permit holders that no Federal commercial quota is available for landing scup through the end of Winter I (April 30, 2026).

DATES: Effective 0001 hours March 16, 2026, through April 30, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Rigdon, (978) 281-9336, or Matthew.Rigdon@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the scup fishery

are found at 50 CFR 648.120 through 648.131. The regulations at § 648.123(a) require that, when NMFS projects that 100 percent of the commercial quota for a quota period has been harvested, the Regional Administrator must close the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to scup fishing by commercially permitted vessels for the remainder of that period. No vessel may fish for, possess, or land scup that is harvested in or from the EEZ after the announced closure date.

The 2026 Winter I commercial quota for scup is 7,984,470 pounds (3,621,695 kilograms) (91 FR 7896, February 19, 2026). The NMFS Regional Administrator for the Greater Atlantic Region monitors commercial landings and determines when the commercial quota has been harvested. NMFS is required to publish notification in the **Federal Register** advising and notifying commercial vessels and dealer permit holders that, effective upon a specific date, the Winter I commercial quota has been harvested, and no commercial quota is available for landing scup through the remainder of the Winter I quota period (January 1–April 30). Based on dealer reports and other available information, the Regional Administrator has determined that the available Winter I quota has been harvested.

The regulations at § 648.14(o) prohibit all vessels from fishing for, possessing, or landing scup that is harvested in or from the EEZ. They further prohibit federally permitted vessels from landing scup for sale that were harvested from either State waters or the EEZ. In addition, all persons are prohibited from purchasing or otherwise receiving scup harvested from the EEZ for a commercial purpose after the effective date of the **Federal Register** notification stating that the commercial quota is no longer available. Therefore, effective 0001 hours on March 16, 2026, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land scup in or from the EEZ, federally permitted vessels may not land scup for sale, and dealers may not purchase or otherwise receive scup harvested from the EEZ through April 30, 2026.

Pursuant to § 648.123(a)(2)(iv), during a fishing year in which the Winter I quota period is closed prior to April 15, a State may apply to the Regional Administrator for authorization to count

scup landed for sale in that State from April 15 through April 30 by State-only permitted vessels fishing exclusively in waters under the jurisdiction of that State against the Summer period quota. Requests to the Regional Administrator to count scup landings in a State from April 15 through April 30 against the Summer period quota must be made by letter signed by the principal State official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her designee, and must be received by the Regional Administrator no later than April 15. Within 10 working days following receipt of the letter, the Regional Administrator shall notify the appropriate State official of the disposition of the request.

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, finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment because it would be contrary to the public interest. This action closes the commercial scup fishery until April 30, 2026, pursuant to current regulations. The regulations at 50 CFR 648.123(a) require such action to ensure that scup vessels do not exceed quotas allocated to each quota period. If implementation of this closure was delayed to solicit prior public comment, the quota for this fishing year would be exceeded, which would require a reduction to the 2027 Winter I quota, thereby reducing future fishing opportunities and undermining the conservation objectives of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Assistant Administrator further finds, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), good cause to waive the 30-day delayed effectiveness period for the reason stated above.

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

Dated: March 12, 2026.

David R. Blankinship,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-05073 Filed 3-12-26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P