

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On December 12, 1996, RSPA published a direct final rule, 61 FR 65364-65365, titled "Reporting of Drug and Alcohol Testing Results." In that publication, RSPA stated that if it did not receive adverse comments by February 10, 1997, it would publish a confirmation notice within 15 days. RSPA received no adverse comments. Therefore, this document confirms that the direct final rule cited above will become effective on April 11, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marvin Fell, (202) 366-6205, regarding the subject matter of this document, or the Dockets Unit (202) 366-4453, for copies of this document or other information in the docket.

Issued in Washington, DC February 13, 1997.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 97-4202 Filed 2-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 217**

[I.D. 011696D]

RIN 0648-AH89

Sea Turtle Conservation; Restrictions to Shrimp Trawling Activities; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correction

SUMMARY: This document contains a correction to a final rule that was published on December 19, 1996. This correction specifies the correct longitude of the eastern boundary of the Gulf Shrimp Fishery-Sea Turtle Conservation Area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles A. Oravetz, 813-570-5312, or Barbara A. Schroeder, 301-713-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Need for Correction**

On December 19, 1996 (61 FR 66933), NMFS published a final rule that modified the gear requirements for the participants in the shrimp trawl fishery in the southeastern United States to protect threatened and endangered species of sea turtle from incidental capture and mortality in that fishery.

The final rule, among other things, added a definition to 50 CFR 217.12 for the "Gulf Shrimp Fishery-Sea Turtle Conservation Area (Gulf SFSTCA)". The text of that definition, however, contained a typographical error in the longitude specification of a boundary.

Correction of Publication

Accordingly, the publication on December 19, 1996, of the final rule (I.D. 011696D), which was the subject of FR Doc. 96-66933, is corrected as follows:

§ 217.12 [Corrected]

On page 66944, in the second column, in § 217.12 the definition for "Gulf Shrimp Fishery-Sea Turtle Conservation Area (Gulf SFSTCA)" is corrected to read as follows:

Gulf Shrimp Fishery-Sea Turtle Conservation Area (Gulf SFSTCA) means the offshore waters extending to 10 nautical miles (18.5 km) offshore along the coast of the States of Texas and Louisiana from the South Pass of the Mississippi River (west of 89°08.5' W. long.) to the U.S.-Mexican border.

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Dated: February 13, 1997.

Charles Karnella

Acting Director, Office of Operations, Management and Information, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-4262 Filed 2-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Parts 217 and 222

[Docket No. 960730211-7020-02; I.D. 072296B]

RIN 0648-AJ03

North Atlantic Right Whale Protection; Correction

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

ACTION: Interim final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects the preamble to an interim final rule (I.D. 072296B) published in the *Federal Register* of February 13, 1997, regarding North Atlantic Right Whale Protection. This correction clarifies the exceptions to the requirements of the rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 20, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Margot Bohan, NMFS/FPR, 301-713-2322; Doug Beach, NMFS/Northeast Regional Office, 508-281-9254; or Kathy Wang, NMFS/Southeast Regional Office, 813-570-5312.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Need for Correction**

As published, a comma was inadvertently left out of the paragraph describing the exceptions to the requirements of the rule in the SUMMARY. This error changed the meaning of two of the exceptions by appearing to combine them into one exception.

Correction

Accordingly, the publication of the interim final rule FR Doc. 97-3632, that published on February 13, 1997 (62 FR 6729) is corrected as follows:

On page 6729, in the third column, in the eighth line from the end of the SUMMARY, insert a comma after the word "provided."

Dated: February 18, 1997.

Rolland A. Schmitt,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-4348 Filed 2-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961121323-7027-02; I.D. 111396C]

RIN 0648-AJ05

Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Increase Halibut Quota Share Use Limits in Area 4

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues a final rule to increase halibut quota share (QS) use limits for halibut QS holders in the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) regulatory areas. This action is necessary to increase individual harvest limits of IFQ halibut in the BSAI and is intended to improve the profits for IFQ halibut fishermen operating in the BSAI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the final rule and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/FRFA) for this action may be obtained from Fisheries Management Division, Attn: Lori Gravel, Alaska Region, NMFS, Room 453, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK 99801, or P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Hale, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The fixed gear halibut fishery is managed by the IFQ Program, a limited access system for fixed gear Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) and sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) fisheries in and off Alaska. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act), recommended the IFQ Program, which NMFS implemented in 1995. The IFQ Program was designed to reduce excessive fishing capacity, while maintaining the social and economic character of the fixed gear fishery and the Alaskan coastal communities where many of these fishermen are based. To this end, various constraints were placed on QS and IFQ that limit consolidation of QS and ensure that active fishermen, rather than investment speculators, retain harvesting privileges. Use limits on BSAI sablefish QS are written into the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. This action does not effect any change in sablefish QS use limits. Because the halibut fishery is managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), except for management measures that allocate harvesting privileges among U.S. fishermen, no FMP for halibut exists. The Halibut Act provides NMFS, in consultation with the Council, with authority to implement such allocation measures through a regulatory amendment.

This action increases halibut QS use limit in Area 4 from one-half percent to 1 1/2 percent of the 1996 QS pool and expresses that limit as a set number of QS units: 495,044 halibut QS units. For consistency, regulations at 50 CFR 679.42(f)(1) and (2) also are revised to express halibut use limits for all IFQ regulatory areas as a fixed number of QS units.

More information on this regulatory change may be found in the proposed rule for this action published at 61 FR 63812 on December 2, 1996. NMFS received no comments on this action during the public comment period. One change was made in the action as published in the proposed rule. The number of QS representing the halibut use limit for Areas 2C, 3A, and 3B was incorrect and has been changed to the correct number of QS representing the halibut use limit in these areas.

Classification

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

A supplemental FRFA has been prepared as part of the RIR, which describes the impact this final rule would have on small entities. Approximately 500 halibut QS holders in regulatory areas 4A-4D would benefit from an increase in the Area 4 QS use limit, either as QS buyers or sellers. Area 4E would not be affected by this action, because all the halibut QS in this area is assigned to the CDQ Program. Under this action, 32 QS holders would be allowed to increase their holdings above the current limit to the new limit. Because blocked QS are limited by block and vessel category restrictions, unblocked QS units are more likely to be transferred. The unblocked halibut QS units in regulatory areas 4A-D equal approximately 2.1 million lb (952 mt) of halibut worth more than \$4.6 million in ex-vessel value. This action will have a significant positive impact on a substantial number of small businesses. The action is not likely to lead to a reduction in the gross revenues received by the small business sector of the fleet; rather, it would significantly improve the profitability of operations for fishermen wishing to harvest IFQ halibut in remote areas of the western Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 679

Alaska fisheries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 13, 1997.

C. Karnella,

Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR Part 679 is amended as follows:

PART 679—FISHERIES IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF ALASKA

1. The authority citation for 50 CFR Part 679 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, 1801 *et seq.*

2. In § 679.42, paragraphs (f)(1) through (f)(3) are revised to read as follows:

§ 679.42 Limitations on use of QS and IFQ.

* * * * *

(f) * * *

(1) *IFQ regulatory area 2C.* 599,799 units of halibut QS.

(2) *IFQ regulatory areas 2C, 3A, and 3B.* 1,502,823 units of halibut QS.

(3) *IFQ regulatory areas 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E.* 495,044 units of halibut QS.

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[FR Doc. 97-4157 Filed 2-20-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 021397A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Interim Closure of Flatfish Fisheries in Statistical Area 516 of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Inseason adjustment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that an interim closure of directed fishing for rock sole, flathead sole, and "other flatfish" by vessels using trawl gear is necessary in Statistical Area 516 of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). Red king crab bycatch rates are unexpectedly high in certain areas of Bristol Bay and closure of Statistical Area 516 is necessary to prevent the take of an excessive share of the bycatch limitation Zone 1 red king crab bycatch allowance specified for the rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category.

DATES: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), February 14, 1997, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., March 15, 1997. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., March 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn. Lori Gravel, or be delivered to the fourth floor of the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at