

4. Monday, August 7, 1995, 7.00 p.m., Charleston, SC.

**ADDRESSES:** To send comments, and to request copies of public hearing documents, write to: Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699. The hearings will be held at the following locations:

1. Cocoa Beach—Holiday Inn, 1300 N. Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931; telephone (407) 783-2271;

2. Fort Lauderdale—Sheraton Design Center Hotel, 1825 Griffin Road, Dania, FL 33004; telephone (305) 920-3500;

3. Marathon—Hawk's Cay Resort, MM61, Duck Key, FL 33050; telephone (305) 743-7000; and

4. Charleston—Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407; telephone (803) 571-1000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Coste, (803) 571-4366; Fax: (803) 769-4520.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Increasing interest in fishing opportunities for golden crab has prompted the Council to consider management of this species along the U.S. Atlantic coast from the tip of Key West on the east coast of Florida to the North Carolina/Virginia border. Other deep-water crabs, such as red crab and jonah crab, are included in the FMP for data collection purposes only. No management actions are planned for these species under the initial FMP. Although all three species of crab are harvested in the exclusive economic zone off the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic coast, the Council believes that the species are sufficiently separated from one another to be managed independently. The following types of management measures are under consideration by the Council:

(1) Definition of terms, including: Optimum yield, overfishing, and crustacean trap;

(2) Gear controls, including: Use of traps only and a limit on their size, requirements for trap escape gaps, and degradable escape panels;

(3) Effort limitations, including: Quotas ranging from 100,000 to 5,000,000 lb (45,359 to 2,267,962 kg) live weight, which may differ by subarea, limited access with mechanisms (i.e. fees) for recovering incurred administrative costs, restrictions on the number of traps/pots per vessel ranging from 100 to 1,000 traps/pots per vessel, and, trip limits of 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) live weight or 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) butchered;

(4) Crab size/sex restrictions, including: Minimum size limits of 4 and

3/4 inch (12 cm) carapace width and no retention of females;

(5) Area restrictions, including: Limiting use of traps to depths of 900 ft (274 m) or greater;

(6) Bait restrictions to protect snapper and grouper;

(7) Enforcement provisions, including: Vessel permits, trap identification tags, vessel location transponders, and dealer permits;

(8) Collection of information requirements for science and research purposes, such as use of information from sales reports, and logbook requirements, and;

(9) Framework procedures to provide administrative flexibility to change management measures in a timely manner.

The Council plans to finalize the FMP at the Council meeting in Charleston, SC, from August 21 to 25, 1995. The public will have an opportunity to comment at the full Council session before the options are approved. Once finalized, the FMP will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for review. Also, NMFS will provide a 45-day formal written comment period during the 110-day review period.

The Council hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office by July 18, 1995 (see **ADDRESSES**).

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

Dated: July 12, 1995.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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### **50 CFR Part 661**

[Docket No. 950426116-5116-01; I.D. 071095B]

### **Ocean Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California; Closure**

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

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the recreational salmon fishery in the area from Humbug Mountain, OR, to Horse Mountain, CA, was closed at midnight, July 1, 1995. The Director, Northwest Region, NMFS (Regional Director),

determined that the recreational quota of 10,600 chinook salmon for the area had nearly been reached. This action was necessary to conform to the preseason announcement of the 1995 management measures and was intended to ensure conservation of chinook salmon.

**DATES:** Effective at 2400 hours local time, July 1, 1995, until August 16, 1995. Comments will be accepted through August 3, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Director, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700-Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Director, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 501 W. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. Information relevant to this document has been compiled in aggregate form and is available for public review during business hours at the office of the NMFS Northwest Regional Director.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William L. Robinson, 206-526-6140, or Rodney R. McInnis, 310-980-4030.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Regulations governing the ocean salmon fisheries at 50 CFR 661.21(a)(1) state:

When a quota for the commercial or the recreational fishery, or both, for any salmon species in any portion of the fishery management area is projected by the Regional Director to be reached on or by a certain date, the Secretary will, by notice issued under § 661.23, close the commercial or recreational fishery, or both, for all salmon species in the portion of the fishery management area to which the quota applies as of the date the quota is projected to be reached.

In the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (60 FR 21746, May 3, 1995), NMFS announced that the 1995 recreational fishery in the area between Humbug Mountain, OR, and Horse Mountain, CA, would open on May 17 and continue through July 8 or attainment of the 10,600 chinook salmon quota, whichever occurs first, with the fishery open Wednesday through Saturday only.

The best available information on July 3 indicated that recreational catches in the area totaled 10,137 chinook salmon through Saturday, July 1, the most recent open period. Based on catch and effort rates, NMFS determined that insufficient fish remained in the chinook salmon quota for another day's fishing. Accordingly, in order to avoid exceeding the quota on the next opening, NMFS determined not to reopen the fishery on Wednesday, July 5, its next scheduled opening.

The Regional Director consulted with representatives of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Fish and Game regarding this closure. The States of Oregon and California will manage the recreational fishery in State waters adjacent to this area of the exclusive economic zone in accordance with this Federal action. In accordance with the inseason notice procedures of 50 CFR 661.23, actual notice of this action was given to fishermen prior to 0001 hours local time, July 5, 1995, the next

scheduled opening, by telephone hotline number (206) 526-6667 and (800) 662-9825 and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 KHz. Because of the need for immediate action to conserve chinook salmon, the Secretary of Commerce has determined that good cause exists for this document to be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment. This document does not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

**Classification**

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 661.21 and 661.23 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 12, 1995.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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