

Dated: October 21, 1997.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 97-33041 Filed 12-17-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 961204340-7087-02; I.D. 121297A]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction

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

ACTION: Trip limit reduction.

SUMMARY: NMFS reduces the commercial trip limit of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in or from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the southern zone to 1,500 lb (680 kg) per day. This trip limit reduction is necessary to protect the Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel resource.

DATES: Effective 6:00 a.m., local time, December 16, 1997, through March 31, 1998, unless changed by further notification in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark F. Godcharles, 813-570-5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fishery for coastal migratory pelagic fish (king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, cero, cobia, little tunny, dolphin, and, in the Gulf of Mexico only, bluefish) is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

The Councils recommended and NMFS implemented an adjusted quota and commercial trip limits for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from the southern zone. As set forth at 50 CFR 622.44(b)(2), the adjusted quota is 3.25 million lb (1.47 million kg). In accordance with 50 CFR 622.44(b)(1)(ii)(C), after 75 percent of the adjusted quota of Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from the

southern zone is taken until 100 percent of the adjusted quota is taken, Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ in the southern zone may not be possessed on board or landed from a vessel in a day in amounts exceeding 1,500 lb (680 kg). The southern zone for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel extends from 30°42'45.6" N. lat., which is a line directly east from the Georgia/Florida boundary, to 25°20.4' N. lat., which is a line directly east from the Dade/Monroe County, FL, boundary.

NMFS has determined that 75 percent of the adjusted quota for Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel from the southern zone was taken by December 15, 1997. Accordingly, the 1,500-lb (680-kg) per day commercial trip limit applies to Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel in or from the EEZ in the southern zone effective 6:00 a.m., local time, December 16, 1997, through March 31, 1998, unless changed by further notification in the **Federal Register**.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.44(b)(2) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: December 15, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-33099 Filed 12-15-97; 3:12 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 971015246-7293-02; I.D. 100897D]

RIN 0648-AK44

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries

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

ACTION: Final specifications for the 1998 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries; final rule, technical amendment; notifications of commercial quota harvest.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues the final specifications for the 1998 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. The intent of this document is

to comply with implementing regulations for the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries that require NMFS to publish measures for the upcoming fishing year that will prevent overfishing of these species. NMFS announces that no quota is available in several states for specified 1998 fisheries as follows: the State of Delaware is notified that no commercial summer flounder or Summer period commercial scup quotas are available in 1998; the State of New Hampshire is notified that no Summer period commercial scup quota is available for 1998. NMFS advises vessel and dealer permit holders that no commercial quotas are available for landing those species in those States during the specified time periods.

DATES: The amendments to §§ 648.14(u)(1), 648.100(a), 648.143(a), and § 648.144(a)(1)(i) are effective January 1, 1998. The final specifications for the 1998 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries and notifications of commercial quota harvest are effective January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of supporting documents used by the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees and of the Environmental Assessment (EA), Regulatory Impact Review, and the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) are available from: David R. Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, Federal Building, 300 South New Street, Dover, DE 19904-6790.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Regina L. Spallone, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries (FMP) was developed jointly by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in consultation with the New England and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. The management units specified in the FMP include summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean from the southern border of North Carolina northward to the U.S./Canada border, and scup (*Stenotomus chrysops*) and black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*) in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean from 35°15.3' N. latitude, the latitude of Cape Hatteras Light, NC, northward to the U.S./Canada border. Implementing