### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**50 CFR Part 648**  
[Docket No. 101029427–0609–02]  
**RIN 0648–XA301**

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder 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 North Carolina is transferring a portion of its 2010 and 2011 commercial summer flounder quotas to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Vessels were authorized by Virginia to land summer flounder under safe harbor provisions, thereby requiring a quota transfer to account for an increase in Virginia’s landings that would have otherwise accrued against the North Carolina quota. By this action, NMFS adjusts the quotas and announces the revised commercial quota for each state involved.

**DATES:** Effective March 23, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carly Knoell, Fishery Management Specialist, 978–281–9224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Regulations governing the summer flounder 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 North Carolina through Maine. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state are described in § 648.100.

The final rule implementing Amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, which was published on December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), provided a mechanism for summer flounder quota to be transferred from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), can transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota under § 648.100(d). The Regional Administrator is required to consider the criteria set forth in § 648.100(d)(3) in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations.

North Carolina has agreed to transfer 106,013 lb (48,087 kg) of its 2011 commercial quota and 13,500 lb (6,123 kg) of its 2010 commercial quota to Virginia. This transfer was prompted by summer flounder landings of 18 North Carolina vessels that were granted safe harbor in Virginia due to mechanical problems and/or severe winter storm conditions between December 31, 2010, and March 1, 2011. The Regional Administrator has determined that the criteria set forth in § 648.100(d)(3) have been met. The revised summer flounder quotas for calendar year 2010 are: North Carolina, 3,344,731 lb (1,517,144 kg); and Virginia, 2,935,726 lb (1,331,623 kg). The revised summer flounder quotas for calendar year 2011 are: North Carolina, 4,662,739 lb (2,114,983 kg); and Virginia, 3,809,829 lb (1,728,109 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.
Margo Schulze-Haugen,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660
[Docket No. 100218107–0199–01]
RIN 0648–XA293

Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #1, #2, #3, and #4

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

ACTION: Modification of fishing seasons, gear restrictions, and landing and possession limits; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA Fisheries announces four inseason actions in the ocean salmon fisheries. Inseason action #1 modified the commercial fishery in the area from Cape Falcon, Oregon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon. Inseason action #2 modified the commercial fishery in the area from Humbug Mountain, Oregon to the Oregon/Washington Border. Inseason action #3 modified the recreational fishery in the area from Horse Mountain, California to Point Arena, California. Inseason action #4 modified the recreational fishery in the area from Point Arena, California to the U.S./Mexico Border.

DATES: Inseason actions #1 and #2 were effective on March 15, 2011. Inseason actions #3 and #4 are effective April 2, 2011. Inseason actions #1, #2, #3, and #4 remain in effect until the opening of the 2011 salmon season announced in the 2011 annual management measures or until modified through additional inseason action, which will publish in the Federal Register. Comments will be accepted through April 12, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by RIN 0648–XA293, by any one of the following methods:

- Mail: 7600 Sand Point Way, NE., Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to http://www.regulations.gov without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.
- NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Busby, by phone at 206–526–4323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In the 2010 annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (75 FR 24482, May 5, 2010), NMFS announced the commercial and recreational fisheries in the area from the U.S./Canada Border to the U.S./Mexico Border, beginning May 1, 2010, and 2011 salmon seasons opening earlier than May 1, 2011.

The Regional Administrator (RA) consulted with representatives of the Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and California Department of Fish and Game on March 9, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to Chinook and coho salmon 2010 spawners, escapements, 2011 abundance forecasts, and annual management objectives.

Inseason action #1 delayed the scheduled opening for the commercial salmon fishery from Cape Falcon, Oregon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon, previously scheduled for March 15, 2011, to April 15, 2011. Seven days per week. All salmon except coho. All vessels fishing in the area must land their fish in the State of Oregon. See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3 in 75 FR 24482) and Oregon State regulations for a description of special regulations at the mouth of Tillamook Bay. This action was taken to comply with conservation constraints.

On March 9, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #1 took effect on March 15, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

Inseason action #2 cancelled the commercial fishery from Humbug Mountain, Oregon to the Oregon/California Border previously scheduled to open on March 15, 2011. This action was taken to comply with conservation constraints. On March 9, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #2 took effect on March 15, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

Inseason action #3 established a recreational fishery from Horse Mountain, California to Point Arena (Fort Bragg), opening April 2, 2011. Seven days per week. All salmon except coho, two fish per day (C.1 in 75 FR 24482). Chinook minimum size limit of 24 inches total length. The same gear restrictions as in 2010 (C.2, C.3 in 75 FR 24482). This action was taken to provide access to fish available for harvest within conservation constraints. On March 9, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #3 will take effect April 2, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

Inseason action #4 established a recreational fishery from Point Arena, California to the California/Mexico Border, opening April 2, 2011. Seven days per week. All salmon except coho, two fish per day (C.1 in 75 FR 24482). Chinook minimum size limit of 24 inches total length. The same gear restrictions as in 2010 (C.2, C.3 in 75 FR 24482). This action was taken to provide access to fish available for harvest within conservation constraints. On March 9, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #4 will take effect April 2, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

All other restrictions and regulations remain in effect as announced for the 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and previous inseason actions.

The RA determined that the best available information indicated that the catch and effort data, and projections, supported the above inseason actions recommended by the states. The states manage the fisheries in state waters adjacent to the areas of the U.S. exclusive economic zone in accordance with these Federal actions. As provided by the inseason notice procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice of the described regulatory actions was given, prior to the date the action was effective, by telephone hotline number 206–526–6667 and 800–662–9825, and