based upon the amount of shares each
held just prior to the redistribution.
During December of each year, the RA
will determine the amount of revoked
shares, if any, to be redistributed, and
the shares will be distributed at the
beginning of the subsequent fishing
year.
(8) Annual recalculation and
notification of IFQ shares and
allocation. On or about January 1 each
year, IFQ shareholders will be notified,
via the IFQ Web site at http://
ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov, of their IFQ
shares and allocations, for each of the
five share categories, for the upcoming
fishing year. These updated share values
will reflect the results of applicable
share transfers and any redistribution of
shares (subject to cap restrictions)
resulting from permanent revocation of
IFQ shares. Allocation, for each share
category, is calculated by multiplying
IFQ share for that category times the
annual commercial quota or commercial
catch allowance for that share category.
Updated allocation values will reflect
any change in IFQ share for each share
category, any change in the annual
commercial quota or commercial catch
allowance for the applicable categories;
and any debits required as a result of
prior fishing year overages as specified
in paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.
IFQ participants can monitor the status
of their shares and allocation
throughout the year via the IFQ Web
site.
(9) Gulf grouper and tilefish IFQ
program participation for current
grouper and tilefish IFQ account
holders. (i) A current participant in the
Gulf grouper and tilefish IFQ program
must complete and submit the
application for an IFQ Online Account
that is available on the Web site http://
sero.nmfs.noaa.gov, to certify status as a
U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien.
The account holder must also complete
and submit any other information on
this form that may be necessary for the
administration of the IFQ online
account.
(ii) A person with an established IFQ
online account must update and
confirm the account information every
2 years. IFQ online accounts are
updated through the submission of the
application for an IFQ Online Account.
Accounts must be updated prior to the
account validity date (expiration date of
the account) that is displayed on each
account holder’s IFQ online account
page. The RA will provide each
participant who has established an
online account an application
approximately 2 months prior to the
account validity date. A participant who
is not provided an application at least
45 days prior to the account validity
date must contact IFQ Customer Service
at 1–(866) 425–7627 and request an
application. Failure to submit a
completed application prior to the
participant’s account validity date will
lead to the suspension of the
participant’s access to his IFQ online
account until a completed application is
submitted. Participants who certify that
they are either not a U.S. citizens or
permanent resident alien will be
ineligible to receive shares or allocation
through transfer.
[FR Doc. 2011–28667 Filed 11–3–11; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
50 CFR Part 660
[Docket No. 100223162–1268–01]
RIN 0648–X551
Fisheries Off West Coast States;
Modifications of the West Coast
Commercial and Recreational Salmon
Fisheries; Inseason Actions #5
Through #26
AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.
ACTION: Modification of fishing seasons
and landing and possession limits;
request for comments.
SUMMARY: NOAA Fisheries announces
22 inseason actions in the ocean salmon
fisheries. These inseason actions
modified the commercial and
recreational fisheries in the area from
the U.S./Canada Border to the U.S./
Mexico Border.
DATES: The effective dates for the
inseason action are set out in this
document under the heading Inseason
Actions. Inseason actions remain in
effect until the closing date of the 2011
salmon season announced in the 2011
annual management measures or until
modified by additional inseason action.
Comments will be accepted through
November 21, 2011.
ADDRESSES: You may submit comments,
identified by NOAA–NMFS–2011–0171,
by any one of the following methods:
• Electronic Submissions: Submit all
electronic public comments via the
regulations.gov. To submit comments
via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click
the “submit a comment” icon, then
enter NOAA–NMFS–2011–0171 in the
keyword search. Locate the document
you wish to comment on from the
resulting list and click on the “Submit
a Comment” icon on the right of that
line.
• Mail: William W. Stelle, Jr.,
Regional Administrator, Northwest
Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way
NE., Seattle, WA 98115–6349.
• Fax: (206) 526–6736, Attn: Peggy
Mundy.
Instructions: Comments must be
submitted by one of the above methods
to ensure that the comments are
received, documented, and considered
by NMFS. Comments sent by any other
method, to any other address or
individual, or received after the end of
the comment period, may not be
considered. All comments received are
a part of the public record and will
generally be posted for public viewing
on http://www.regulations.gov without
change. All personal identifying
information (e.g., name, address, etc.)
submitted voluntarily by the sender will
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). Attachments to electronic
comments will be accepted in Microsoft
Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe
PDF file formats only.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Peggy Mundy at (206) 526–4323.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Background
In the 2011 annual management
measures for ocean salmon fisheries (76
FR 25246, May 4, 2011), 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, 2011,
and 2012 salmon seasons opening
earlier than May 1, 2012.
NMFS is authorized to implement
inseason management actions to modify
fishing seasons and quotas as necessary
to provide fishing opportunity while
meeting management objectives for the
affected species (50 CFR 660.409).
Prior to taking inseason action, the
Regional Administrator (RA) consults with
the Chairman of the Pacific Fishery
Management Council (Council) and the
appropriate State Directors (50 CFR
660.409(b)(1)).
Management of the salmon fisheries is
generally divided into two geographic
areas: north of Cape Falcon (U.S./
Coax Island Border to Cape Falcon, Oregon)
and south of Cape Falcon (Cape Falcon,
Oregon to the U.S./Mexico Border).
**Inseason Actions**

The table below lists the inseason actions announced in this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inseason action No.</th>
<th>Effective date</th>
<th>Salmon fishery affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>May 28, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to U.S./Mexico border.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>June 21, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>July 15, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>July 18, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from Oregon/California border to Humboldt South Jetty, California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>August 1, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from Oregon/California border to Humboldt South Jetty, California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>August 1, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from Queets River, Washington to Leadbetter Point, Washington (Westport subarea).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>August 1, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Alava, Washington (Neah Bay subarea) and Cape Alava, Washington to Queets River, Washington (La Push subarea).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>July 29, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to U.S./Mexico border.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>August 2, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from Oregon/California border to Humboldt South Jetty, California.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>August 7, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from Queets River, Washington to Leadbetter Point, Washington (Westport subarea) and from Leadbetter Point, Washington to Cape Falcon, Oregon (Columbia River Subarea).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>August 12, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>August 14, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from Queets River, Washington to Leadbetter Point, Washington (Westport subarea) and from Leadbetter Point, Washington to Cape Falcon, Oregon (Columbia River Subarea).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>August 19, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>August 19, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>August 29, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>August 27, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>September 1, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from Cape Falcon, Oregon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>September 3, 2011</td>
<td>Commercial fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>August 31, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Alava, Washington (Neah Bay subarea) and from Cape Alava to Queets River, Washington (La Push subarea).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>September 5, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>September 7, 2011</td>
<td>Recreational fishery from Cape Falcon, Oregon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Inseason Action #6**

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on June 20, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery. The objectives for the May/June commercial salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon were to remain within the quota of 20,600 Chinook salmon and to allow the fishery to remain open through June. In season, if possible, to maximize the value of the commercial harvest (50 CFR 660.409(c)(1)(ix)(B)). Catch rates to date suggested that, without taking inseason action to protract the fishery, the quota would be met prematurely.

Inseason action #6 closed the commercial salmon fishery from the U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon, Oregon at 11:59 p.m., June 21, 2011; and reopened the fishery at 12:01 a.m., June 23, 2011 through June 30, 2011, with an open period landing limit of 30 Chinook salmon per vessel. This action was taken to prevent exceeding the quota on Chinook salmon established preseason and to allow the fishery to meet the management objective of remaining open through June. On June 20, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #6 took effect on June 21, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

**Inseason Action #7**

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on July 14, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook and coho salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon. The objectives for this fishery were to remain within the 10,300 preseason Chinook salmon guideline and the 12,800 marked coho quota and to extend the season into September, if possible. The rate of catch to date suggested that, without inseason action, the Chinook salmon guideline would be harvested well ahead of the coho quota. This would potentially require closure of the commercial fishery well in advance of the...
September 15 objective and, therefore, prevent the commercial fishery from fully accessing the coho quota. Inseason action #7 adjusted the open period landing limit from 50 Chinook and 50 coho per vessel to 30 Chinook and 50 coho per vessel. This action was taken to prevent exceeding the quota on Chinook salmon established preseason and to allow the fishery to meet the management objectives of remaining open throughout the summer and allow access to the coho salmon quota. On July 14, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #7 took effect on July 15, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

**Inseason Actions #8 and #9**

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, ODFW, and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on July 18, 2011 and July 28, 2011. The information considered during these consultations related to catch of Chinook salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery in the California KMZ. This fishery had a July quota of 1,400 Chinook salmon. At the time of the consultation on July 18, 1,462 Chinook were known to have been harvested in this fishery. The management measures established preseason did not allow transfer of quota from the August fishery to the July fishery to accommodate exceeding the July quota. Chinook harvested in excess of the July quota would have to be accounted for by modifying the August quota. At the time of the follow-up consultation on July 28, the estimated harvest in the July fishery was 1,564. Because harvest exceeded the quota for the July fishery, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) was asked to calculate the impact neutral adjustment for the August quota; that adjustment reduced the August quota established preseason from 1,000 Chinook to 880 Chinook.

Inseason action #8 closed the commercial salmon fishery from Oregon/California border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ) at 11:59 p.m. (midnight), July 18, 2011. This action was taken due to projected attainment of the quota for this fishery. On July 18, 2011, the states and the RA consulted on this action. Automatic closure of a fishery due to projected attainment of quota is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(a)(1).

Inseason action #9 adjusted the quota for the August commercial salmon fishery in the California KMZ and modified the season and landing limit to August 1 through August 5 with a daily landing limit of 30 Chinook salmon per vessel. This action was taken to meet the management objectives established preseason, specifically to keep harvest within the established quotas. On July 28, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #9 took effect on August 1, 2011 and remained in effect until superseded by inseason action #13, which took effect on August 2, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

**Inseason Actions #10 and #11**

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on July 28, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the recreational salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. At the time of the consultation, Chinook salmon catch rates were projected to result in unutilized quota if no action was taken to modify the open periods and landing limits.

Inseason action #10 modified the recreational fishery from Queets River to Leadbetter Point (Westport Subarea) from 5 days per week (Sunday through Thursday) to 7 days per week, consistent with the subareas north and south of Westport. Inseason action #11 modified the landing limits in the recreational fishery from U.S./Canada Border to Cape Alava (Neah Bay Subarea) and from Cape Alava to Queets River (La Push Subarea) to allow retention of 2 Chinook salmon per angler per day. These actions were taken to allow the recreational fishery greater access to available Chinook salmon. On July 28, 2011, the states recommended these actions and the RA concurred; inseason actions #10 and #11 took effect on August 1, 2011. Inseason action #10 remained in effect until superseded by inseason action #18 which took effect on August 19, 2011. Inseason action #11 remained in effect until superseded by inseason action #20 which took effect on August 29, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i). Modification of recreational bag limits is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(iii).

**Inseason Action #12**

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, IPHC, WDFW, and ODFW on July 28, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of halibut and Chinook salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason. As discussed above, inseason action #5 closed retention of halibut caught incidental to the commercial salmon fishery, effective May 28, 2011. Updated catch statistics presented by the states determined that a modest amount of halibut quota remained unharvested, amounting to somewhat less than 3,000 pounds of halibut (landed, head-on) or approximately 118 to 148 halibut. Inseason action #12 re-opened incidental halibut retention in the commercial salmon fishery with a landing limit of 1 halibut per vessel for each 7 consecutive days, Friday through Thursday. On July 28, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #12 took effect on July 29, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

**Inseason Action #13**

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, ODFW, and CDFG on August 2, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery in the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ). The quota, landing limit, and duration of this fishery were modified under inseason action #9 to mitigate the impact of exceeding the July quota; the modified August quota was 880 Chinook salmon, the modified season was August 1 through August 5 with a daily landing limit of 30 Chinook salmon per vessel. In the first day of this fishery, estimated landings totaled 325 Chinook salmon, leaving only 555 Chinook. The STT was of the opinion that catch rates were not likely to decrease during this short fishery, and stable or increasing catch rates would result in exceeding the quota. Additional inseason action was necessary to avoid exceeding the quota for the August fishery.

Inseason action #13 closed the commercial salmon fishery from
Oregon/California border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ) at 11:59 p.m. (midnight), August 2, 2011. This action was taken due to projected attainment of the quota for this fishery. On August 2, 2011, the states and the RA consulted on this action. Automatic closure of a fishery due to projected attainment of quota is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(a)(1).

Inseason Action #14

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 3, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the recreational salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. Due to reduced fishing effort as compared with last year, Chinook salmon catch was lower than anticipated preseason. Inseason action #14 modified the daily bag limit in the recreational fishery from Queets River to Leadbetter Point (Westport subarea) and from Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon (Columbia River subarea) to allow retention of 2 Chinook salmon per angler per day. This action was taken to allow recreational fisheries access to available Chinook salmon. On August 3, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #14 took effect on August 7, 2011 and remained in effect until superseded by inseason action #16, which took effect on August 14, 2011. Modification of recreational bag limits is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

Inseason Action #15

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 11, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. The management objectives for the summer commercial fishery were to fully utilize the allowable catch of Chinook and coho salmon while not exceeding the quota, and to provide opportunity for salmon harvest into September. At the time of the consultation on August 11, increased participation in the fishery had resulted in increased landings, with the result that 90 percent of the Chinook guideline had been harvested; therefore, inseason action was necessary to stay within the Chinook salmon guideline set preseason. Inseason action #15 suspended the commercial fishery, north of Cape Falcon, scheduled to be open August 12 through August 16. This action was taken to avoid exceeding the Chinook salmon guideline while managers determined exactly how much allowable Chinook salmon catch remained. On August 11, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #15 took effect on August 12, 2011 and remained in effect until superseded by inseason action #19, which was effective on August 19, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

Inseason Action #16

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 12, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the recreational salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. Recent upsurge in effort and catch per unit effort in the Westport subarea resulted in accelerated harvest that threatened to utilize the available Chinook salmon ahead of the management objective to allow recreational fishing into September. Inseason action #16 modified the daily landing limit for the recreational fishery from Queets River to Leadbetter Point (Westport subarea) and from Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon (Columbia River subarea) to allow retention of two salmon per angler per day, only one of which could be a Chinook salmon. On August 12, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred; inseason action #16 took effect on August 14, 2011. Modification of recreational bag limits is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(ii).

Inseason Actions #17 and #18

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 16, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. The management objectives for the summer commercial fishery were to fully utilize the allowable catch of Chinook and coho salmon while not exceeding the quota, and to provide opportunity for salmon harvest into September. Inseason action #15 suspended the commercial salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon on August 12. Consultation on August 17 indicated 1,070 Chinook salmon remained from the guideline set preseason. Inseason action #19 provided a one-day opening of the commercial salmon fishery from the U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon, August 19, 2011, with a landing limit of 12 Chinook and 50 coho per vessel. On
Inseason Action #20

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 23, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the recreational salmon fishery south of Cape Falcon. The 2011 salmon management measures (76 FR 25246, May 4, 2011) specified that any remainder of the mark selective coho quota from the July-August fishery would be transferred on an impact neutral basis to the September non-selective coho quota. The STT calculated the transfer would add 2,959 coho to the September quota, resulting in an adjusted quota of 5,959 coho for September. The management objective for this fishery is to fully access all available quota.

Inseason action #20 modified the recreational salmon fishery from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon, opening the non-mark-selective coho fishery September 1 through September 10, 2011 or until attainment of the adjusted quota of 5,959 coho, all salmon, two fish per day. On August 25, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i). Modification of recreational bag limits is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(iii).

Inseason Action #21

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 23, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. The management objective for this fishery is to fully access the available coho quota while not exceeding the available Chinook salmon guideline. Inseason action #21 provided a three-day opening of the commercial salmon fishery from the U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon, from August 27 through August 29, 2011, with a landing limit of 12 Chinook and 75 coho per vessel. On August 24, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

Inseason Action #22

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, ODFW, and CDFG on August 25, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of coho salmon to date and coho salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the recreational salmon fishery south of Cape Falcon. The 2011 salmon management measures (76 FR 25246, May 4, 2011) specified that any remainder of the mark selective coho quota from the July-August fishery would be transferred on an impact neutral basis to the September non-selective coho quota. The STT calculated the transfer would add 2,959 coho to the September quota, resulting in an adjusted quota of 5,959 coho for September. The management objective for this fishery is to fully access all available quota.

Inseason action #22 modified the recreational salmon fishery from Cape Falcon to Humbbug Mountain, Oregon, opening the non-mark-selective coho fishery September 1 through September 10, 2011 or until attainment of the adjusted quota of 5,959 coho, all salmon, two fish per day. On August 25, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i). Modification of recreational bag limits is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(iii).

Inseason Action #23

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 31, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the commercial salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. At the time of the consultation a modest quantity of Chinook salmon remained available, as well as a significant amount of the coho quota. The management objective for this fishery was to access fully the available coho quota while not exceeding the available Chinook salmon guideline.

Inseason action #23 provided two four-day openings of the commercial salmon fishery from the U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon, from September 3 through September 6, 2011 and from September 10 through September 13, 2011, with a landing limit of 20 Chinook and 100 coho per vessel. On August 31, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i).

Inseason Action #24 and #25

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW on August 31, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of Chinook and coho salmon to date and Chinook salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the recreational salmon fishery north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. Management objectives are to fully access available coho quota without exceeding the Chinook guideline and to keep the recreational fisheries open through the Labor Day holiday (50 CFR 660.408(b)(3)). Taken as a whole, the north of Cape Falcon recreational fishery had sufficient coho to remain open: one subarea, La Push, had almost exhausted its coho quota. At the time of the consultation, it was estimated that 2,721 Chinook remained available for harvest.

Inseason action #24 transferred unutilized coho quota from the Neah Bay subarea to the La Push subarea on an impact neutral basis. The STT calculated that removing 1,000 coho from Neah Bay would achieve an effective transfer of 850 coho to La Push.

Inseason action #25 superseded inseason action #20 to allow retention of one Chinook salmon per day per angler in the recreational fishery north of Cape Falcon, effective September 5, 2011. On August 31, 2011, the states recommended these actions and the RA concurred. Inseason action #24 took effect immediately. Inseason action #25 took effect September 5, 2011. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i). Modification of recreational bag limits is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(iii).

Inseason Action #26

The RA consulted with representatives of the Council, ODFW, and CDFG on September 6, 2011. The information considered during this consultation related to catch of coho salmon to date and coho salmon catch rates compared to quotas and other management measures established preseason for the recreational salmon fishery south of Cape Falcon. At the time of the consultation, catch data for September 1 through 5 indicated that catch per unit effort was greatly exceeding expectations and exceeding the quota would likely occur due to the time needed to notify the public of further inseason action. Inseason action was necessary to limit the amount by which the quota would be exceeded.
Inseason action #26 modified the recreational salmon fishery from Cape Falcon to Humboldt Mountain, Oregon. The non-mark-selective coho fishery was closed at 11:59 p.m. (midnight), September 7, 2011; the all salmon except coho fishery resumed on September 8, 2011. On September 6, 2011, the states recommended this action and the RA concurred. Modification of quota and/or fishing seasons is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(i). Modification of recreational bag limits is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1)(ii).

All other restrictions and regulations remain in effect as announced for the 2011 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 by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF–FM and 2182 kHz.

Classification
The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds that good cause exists for this notification to be issued without having prior notice and opportunity for public comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) because such notification would be impracticable. As previously noted, actual notice of the regulatory actions was provided to fishers through telephone hotline and radio notification. These actions comply with the requirements of the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (76 FR 25246, May 4, 2011), the West Coast Salmon Plan, and regulations implementing the West Coast Salmon Plan 50 CFR 660.409 and 660.411. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment was impracticable because NMFS and the state agencies had insufficient time to provide for prior notice and the opportunity for public comment between the time the fishery catch and effort data were collected to determine the extent of the fishery, and the time the fishery modifications had to be implemented in order to ensure that fisheries are managed based on the best available scientific information, thus allowing fishers access to the available fish at the time the fish were available while ensuring that quotas are not exceeded. The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), as a delay in effectiveness of these actions would allow fishing at levels inconsistent with the goals of the Salmon Fishery Management Plan and the current management measures. These actions are authorized by 50 CFR 660.409 and 660.411 and are exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: November 1, 2011.

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

[FR Doc. 2011–28663 Filed 11–3–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
50 CFR Part 679
[Docket No. 1008199383–1652–02]
RIN 0648–BA18
Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Limited Access Privilege Program

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues regulations implementing Amendment 93 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP). These regulations amend the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Amendment 80 Program to modify the criteria for forming and participating in a harvesting cooperative. This action is necessary to encourage greater participation in harvesting cooperatives, which enable members to more efficiently target species, avoid areas with undesirable bycatch, and improve the quality of products produced. This action is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the FMP, and other applicable law.

DATES: This final rule is effective on December 5, 2011, except for the provisions at § 679.9(b)(3)(ii) and (iii), which are effective November 4, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of Amendment 93, the final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Regulatory Impact Review (RIR); Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA); and Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) prepared for this action are available from the NMFS Alaska Region Web site at http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov. The proposed rule to implement Amendment 93 also may be accessed at this Web site.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gwen Herrewig, (907) 586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska are managed under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Amendment 80 to the FMP implemented the Amendment 80 Program. Regulations implementing Amendment 80 were published on September 14, 2007 (72 FR 52668). These regulations are located at 50 CFR part 679.

Background
The Amendment 80 Program is commonly known as a limited access privilege program. Eligible fishery participants may receive exclusive access to specific fishery resources if certain conditions are met. Under the Amendment 80 Program, NMFS issues a quota share (QS) permit to a person holding the catch history of an original qualifying non-American Fisheries Act (AFA) trawl catcher/processor that met specific criteria designated by Congress under the Capacity Reduction Program (CRP) (Pub. L. 108–447). NMFS determined that 28 vessels met the criteria specified in the CRP. These vessels comprise the originally qualifying Amendment 80 vessels. NMFS determined the amount of QS issued based on the catch history of six Amendment 80 species (Aka mackerel, Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch, flathead sole, Pacific cod, rock sole, and yellowfin sole) in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area, from 1998 through 2004, derived from the 28 originally qualifying non-AFA trawl catcher/processors.

Generally, the Amendment 80 Program is intended to facilitate the formation of fishing cooperatives, which have been shown to improve fishery management. Amendment 80 participants who join a fishing cooperative receive cooperative quota, which are exclusive harvest privileges for a portion of these fishery resources.