

FR 34472, July 3, 1995) state that the end of the regular season may be announced in the **Federal Register** either before or during the regular season. NMFS is announcing the closure date in advance of the regular season in 1995, because effort is expected to be so intense that there will be inadequate time to monitor landings and make a projection during the season. An early announcement enables fishers to plan more carefully and to decide whether to participate.

NMFS consulted with the Council and its Groundfish Management Team at the June, 1995, Council meeting and, based on the best available estimates of expected catch and effort, determined that 70 percent of the nontrawl allocation would be taken in 6–8 days. The Council recommended the midpoint of the range, 7 days, because even if the highest level of expected fishing effort occurred, the harvest guideline would not be exceeded during the regular season. NMFS concurs with the Council's recommendation, and announces that the regular season, which starts at 12 noon on August 6, 1995, will end just 7 days later, at 12 noon, August 13, 1995. Commencing at 12 noon, August 13, 1995, the following daily trip limits for nontrawl sablefish will resume: 300 lb (136 kg) per day north of 36° N. lat., and 350 lb (159 kg) per day south of 36° N. lat. (Daily trip limits apply to calendar days. Therefore, on August 13, 1995, a daily trip limit may be landed between 12 noon and midnight. At 0001 hours on August 14, 1995, daily trip limits will apply to the full 24 hours.) As in the past, a vessel must begin landing its catch before 12 noon August 13, or the daily trip limit will apply.

Further information regarding the nontrawl sablefish fishery and the closure before the start of the regular season are contained in the proposed and final rules for that action at 60 FR 11062 (March 1, 1995) and 60 FR 34472 (July 3, 1995), respectively.

NMFS Actions

NMFS announces the following changes to the 1995 fishery specifications and management measures published at 60 FR 2331–2344, January 9, 1995, as modified:

1. *Widow Rockfish*. Paragraph IV.B.(1) is revised to read as follows: “(1) *Limited entry fishery*. The cumulative trip limit for widow rockfish is 45,000 lb (20,412 kg) per vessel per month. (Widow rockfish also are called brownies.)”

2. *Trawl-Caught Sablefish*. Paragraph IV.E.(3)(b)(ii)(C) is revised to read as follows: “(C) In any trip, no more than

500 lb (227 kg) may be trawl-caught sablefish smaller than 22 inches (56 cm) total length.”

3. *Nontrawl Sablefish*. Paragraph IV.E.(3)(c) is revised to read as follows: “(c) *Nontrawl trip and size limits*. The daily trip limits in paragraphs (i) and (ii) below, which apply to sablefish of any size, are in effect until 12 noon, August 3, 1995, at which time all fixed gear used to take and retain groundfish must be removed from EEZ waters according to the regulations at 50 CFR 663.23(b)(2). These same daily trip limits will be reimposed at 12 noon, August 13, 1995, the end of the regular season.

(i) *North of 36° N. lat.* The daily trip limit for sablefish taken and retained with nontrawl gear north of 36° N. lat. is 300 lb (136 kg).

(ii) *South of 36° N. lat.* The daily trip limit for sablefish taken and retained with nontrawl gear south of 36° N. lat. is 350 lb (159 kg).

(iii) During the “regular” season, the only trip limit in effect applies to sablefish smaller than 22 inches (56 cm) total length, which may comprise no more than 1,500 lb (680 kg) or 3 percent of all legal sablefish on board, whichever is greater. (See paragraph IV.A.(6) regarding length measurement.)”

Classification

The determination to take this action is based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which the determination is based are available for public inspection at the office of the Director, Northwest Region, NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**) during business hours. Because of the need for immediate action, and because the public had an opportunity to comment on these actions at the Council meeting, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this notice to be published without affording a prior opportunity for public comment or a 30-day delayed effectiveness period. This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 663.23(b)(2) and (c)(1)(i)(A) and (E), and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: July 14, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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50 CFR Part 678

[I.D. 070795B]

Atlantic Shark Fisheries; Quota Adjustment

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

ACTION: Adjustment to the second semi-annual 1995 quota for the Atlantic large coastal shark species group.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the catch of large coastal sharks in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico was 1,602 metric tons (mt) during the first semi-annual 1995 season. Because of the overharvest of this category quota, the second semi-annual 1995 quota is adjusted accordingly. The adjusted quota for the period July 1 through December 31, 1995, is 968 metric tons (mt).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 14, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C. Michael Bailey; 301–713–2347; Kevin B. Foster; 508–281–9260; or Michael E. Justen; 813–570–5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico shark fisheries are managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Sharks prepared by NMFS under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR part 678.

Section 678.23(b)(1)(i) of the regulations provides for two semi-annual quotas of 1,285 mt of large coastal sharks to be harvested from Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico waters by commercial fishermen. The first semi-annual quota was available for harvest from January 1 through June 30, 1995.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, is authorized under § 678.23(c) to adjust the semi-annual quota to reflect actual catches during the preceding semi-annual period. Final data indicate that the catch from January through May 31, 1995, of the large coastal shark species totaled 1,602 mt, which is 317 mt more than the established quota. Therefore, the quota for large coastal shark species for the second 1995 semi-annual period is decreased from 1,285 mt to 968 mt.

Classification

This rule is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.