

compliance would be enforced; (2) proposed exceptions to the line section modification requirement with respect to certain gas transmission lines in Class 1 and 2 locations; (3) proposed exceptions with respect to all but certain new offshore gas transmission lines; and (4) proposed that an operator replacing line pipe, valve, fitting, or other line component in a gas transmission line in a Class 1 or 2 location would not need to comply with the requirement to modify the line section until February 2, 1995.

There has been extensive comment as well as a formal recommendation by the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee to reconsider the proposals in Notice 2 (above). However, commenters did not object to delaying enforcement of the requirement to modify line sections in gas transmission lines; instead several commenters urged continuation of the stay of enforcement until after completion of the rulemaking proceedings. Thus, in order to evaluate fully these comments, RSPA has decided to continue a limited stay of enforcement for compliance with the final rule with respect to modification of line sections in onshore gas transmission lines; and with respect to new and existing offshore gas transmission lines. This suspension of enforcement will remain in effect until RSPA completes the evaluation of the comments to Notice 2 and sets out the determination with respect to those comments and establishes new compliance dates in a subsequent rulemaking.

Pipeline operators are cautioned that the requirements of the April 12, 1994, final rule for design and construction to accommodate the passage of smart pigs will be enforced for: Hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines; new onshore gas transmission lines; and the actual replaced line pipe, valve, fitting, or other line component in onshore gas transmission lines.

(49 U.S.C. 60102 et seq.; 49 CFR 1.53)

Issued in Washington, DC on January 30, 1995.

George W. Tenley, Jr.,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 642

[Docket No. 950201032-5032-01; I.D. 011095C]

RIN 0648-AH25

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Additional King Mackerel Quota

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

ACTION: Emergency interim rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes this emergency interim rule to add to the commercial quota for the hook-and-line fishery in the Florida west coast sub-zone of the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel, reopen that fishery under the additional quota, and implement a vessel possession limit of 125 king mackerel per trip during the period that the fishery remains open. This rule responds to an economic and social emergency in the commercial fishery for Gulf group king mackerel off the southwest coast of Florida caused by the unforeseen harvest of most of the quota by the fishery off Florida's northwest coast.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 1995 through May 8, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Copies of documents supporting this action, including an environmental assessment, may be obtained from Mark F. Godcharles, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Copies of a minority report from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council are also available from this address.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fishery for coastal migratory pelagic resources (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 through regulations at 50 CFR part 642 under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery

Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act).

The 1994-95 fishing year quota for the commercial hook-and-line fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the Florida west coast sub-zone was reached and the fishery was closed on December 20, 1994 (59 FR 66276, December 23, 1994). Landings estimates for the west coast sub-zone show disproportionate catches between Florida's northwest and southwest coast fisheries. Most of the 432,500-lb (196,179-kg) west coast sub-zone quota was taken off northwest Florida before the traditional and principal fishery in southwest Florida could take its usual catch. The unusually high northwest Florida king mackerel landings this fishing year represent an almost fourfold increase in production over last year (about 400,000 lbs (181,437 kg) compared to last year's 100,000-lb (45,359 kg) catch), and are attributable to increased fishing effort. Fleet size of major harvesters doubled from 21 to 51 vessels since last fishing year, and uncommon fall weather provided favorable fishing conditions in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico through mid-December 1994. Prolonged warm fall weather also was responsible for a delay in the timing of the usual migration of king mackerel from the northeastern Gulf to overwintering grounds off southwest Florida.

The significantly reduced catch caused by the unforeseen harvest of most of the quota by the fishery off Florida's northwest coast has created a social and economic emergency. Accordingly, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) requested that NMFS implement an emergency interim rule to add 300,000 lbs (136,078 kg) to the commercial quota and reopen the commercial hook-and-line king mackerel fishery in the Florida west coast sub-zone, which encompasses that part of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) from the Alabama/Florida boundary (87°31'06" W. long.) to the Dade/Monroe County, FL, boundary (25°20.4' N. lat.). The commercial hook-and-line fishery will remain open during the period of this emergency or until the date NMFS determines that the revised quota of 732,500 lb (332,256 kg) has been reached or is projected to be reached, whichever comes first. Harvests of king mackerel from the open area are limited to 125 fish per vessel per trip.

The Council and NMFS have concluded that the present fishery situation constitutes a social and economic emergency that is properly addressed by this emergency interim rule. The emergency situation: (1) Results from recent, unforeseen events;