

Hydrologic unit name	Hydrologic unit No.	Counties and tribal lands contained in hydrologic unit and within the range of ESU <sup>1,2</sup>	Dams (reservoirs)
Mattole .....	18010107	Humboldt (CA), Mendocino (CA).	Scott Dam (Lake Pillsbury).
South Fork Eel .....	18010106	Mendocino (CA), Humboldt (CA)— <i>Laytonville Rancheria; Sherwood Valley Rancheria.</i>	
Lower Eel .....	18010105	Mendocino (CA), Humboldt (CA), Trinity (CA).	
Middle Fork Eel .....	18010104	Mendocino (CA), Trinity (CA), Glenn (CA), Lake (CA)— <i>Round Valley Reservation.</i>	
Upper Eel .....	18010103	Mendocino (CA), Glenn (CA), Lake (CA) .....	
Mad-Redwood .....	18010102	Humboldt (CA), Trinity (CA)— <i>Big Lagoon Rancheria; Blue Lake Rancheria.</i>	
Smith .....	18010101	Del Norte (CA), Curry (OR)— <i>Elk Valley Rancheria; Smith River Rancheria.</i>	
South Fork Trinity .....	18010212	Humboldt (CA), Trinity (CA).	
Trinity .....	18010211	Humboldt (CA), Trinity (CA)— <i>Hoopa Valley Reservation.</i>	
Salmon .....	18010210	Siskiyou (CA).	
Lower Klamath .....	18010209	Del Norte (CA), Humboldt (CA), Siskiyou (CA)— <i>Karuk Reservation; Resighini Rancheria; Yurok Reservation.</i>	Lewiston Dam (Lewiston Reservoir).
Scott .....	18010208	Siskiyou (CA)— <i>Quartz Valley Reservation.</i>	
Shasta .....	18010207	Siskiyou (CA) .....	
Upper Klamath .....	18010206	Siskiyou (CA), Jackson (OR) .....	
Chetco .....	17100312	Curry (OR), Del Norte (CA).	
Illinois .....	17100311	Curry (OR), Josephine (OR), Del Norte (CA) .....	
Lower Rogue .....	17100310	Curry (OR), Josephine (OR), Jackson (OR).	
Applegate .....	17100309	Josephine (OR), Jackson (OR), Siskiyou (CA) .....	
Middle Rogue .....	17100308	Josephine (OR), Jackson (OR) .....	
Upper Rogue .....	17100307	Jackson (OR), Klamath (OR), Douglas (OR) .....	
Sixes .....	17100306	Curry (OR).	Dwinnell Dam (Dwinnell Reservoir). Irongate Dam (Irongate Reservoir).  Selmac Lake Dam (Lake Selmac).  Applegate Dam (Applegate Reservoir). Emigrant Lake Dam (Emigrant Lake). Agate Lake Dam (Agate Lake); Fish Lake Dam (Fish Lake); Willow Lake Dam (Willow Lake); Lost Creek Dam (Lost Creek Reservoir).

<sup>1</sup> Some counties have very limited overlap with estuarine, riverine, or riparian habitats identified as critical habitat for this ESU. Consult USGS hydrologic unit maps (available from USGS) to determine specific county and basin boundaries.

<sup>2</sup> Tribal lands are specifically excluded from critical habitat for this ESU.

[FR Doc. 99-11187 Filed 5-4-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Parts 600 and 660

[Docket No. 981231333-8333-01; I.D. 042299A]

#### Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustments

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

**ACTION:** Fishing restrictions; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces changes to the restrictions to the Pacific Coast groundfish limited entry fisheries for Dover sole and trawl-caught sablefish in the April-May cumulative limit period, and for *Sebastes* complex species (including bocaccio, canary rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish) and for widow rockfish in the June-July, and August-September cumulative limit periods. NMFS announces changes to the

restrictions on open access landings of groundfish by vessels fishing with exempted trawl gear. NMFS also announces the season start and end dates, and the tier limits for the 1999 limited entry, regular sablefish fishery. These restrictions are intended to extend the fisheries as long as possible during the year while keeping landings within the 1999 optimum yields (OYs) for these species and allocations.

**DATES:** Effective from 0001 hours local time (l.t.) May 1, 1999, for changes to limited entry Dover sole and trawl-caught sablefish limits, for changes to open access exempted trawl groundfish limits, and for the announcement of the limited entry, fixed gear regular sablefish fishery; effective from 0001 hours l.t. June 1, 1999, for changes to limited entry widow rockfish, *Sebastes* complex, yellowtail rockfish, canary rockfish, and bocaccio. For vessels operating in the B platoon, effective from 0001 hours l.t. May 16, 1999, for changes to limited entry Dover sole and trawl-caught sablefish limits; effective from 0001 hours l.t. June 16, 1999, for changes to limited entry widow rockfish, *Sebastes* complex, yellowtail rockfish, canary rockfish, and bocaccio.

These changes are in effect, unless modified, superseded or rescinded, until the effective date of the 2000 annual specifications and management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery, which will be published in the **Federal Register**. Comments will be accepted through May 20, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to William Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region (Regional Administrator), NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or William Hogarth, Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Katherine King or Yvonne deReynier, Northwest Region, NMFS, 206-526-6140.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following changes to current management measures were recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), in consultation with the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, at its April 5 through 9, 1999, meeting in Sacramento, CA.

**Dover Sole and Trawl-Caught Sablefish Trip Limit Increases—Effective May 1, 1999**

As described in the 1999 annual specifications and management measures (64 FR 1316, January 8, 1999), the Council introduced a new cumulative trip limit regime for 1999 that divides the fishing year into three different phases based on 3-month, 2-month, and 1-month periods, with specified limits for the different time periods for each species in each phase. The limits were set to keep landings within OYs for managed species, and to distribute varying percentages of the landings of each species between the different cumulative limit periods.

The first fishing phase in 1999 was a single 3-month cumulative limit period from January 1 through March 31, 1999. The Dover sole vessel cumulative trip limit for that period was 70,000 lb (31,752 kg), and the fleet was expected to take 35 percent of the 1999 Dover sole landed catch OY of 8,955 mt, or 3,134 mt, during that period. The best available information at the April Council meeting indicates that 2,570 mt of Dover sole had been landed through March 27, 1999. To give the fleet access to Dover sole not taken in the January 1 through March 31 cumulative limit period, the Council recommended increasing the Dover sole cumulative limit for the April 1 through May 31 cumulative limit period from 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) to 25,000 lb (11,340 kg). This change would be effective for only the April 1 through May 31 cumulative limit period; the June 1 through July 31, and the August 1 through September 30 cumulative trip limits for Dover sole will return to 20,000 lb (9,072 kg), unless altered by future inseason actions.

The trawl-caught sablefish cumulative trip limit for the January 1 through March 31 period was 13,000 lb (5,897 kg), and the fleet was expected to take 20 percent of the 1999 limited entry trawl-caught sablefish allocation of 3,475 mt, or 695 mt, during that period. The best available information at the April Council meeting indicates that 504 mt of sablefish had been landed by limited entry trawl vessels through March 27, 1999. To give the fleet access to sablefish not taken in the January 1 through March 31 cumulative limit period, the Council recommended increasing the trawl-caught sablefish cumulative limit for the April 1 through May 31 cumulative limit period from 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) to 12,000 lb (5,443 kg). This change would also be effective for only the April 1 through May 31 cumulative limit period; the June 1

through July 31 and August 1 through September 30 cumulative trip limits for trawl-caught sablefish will return to 10,000 lb (4,536 kg), unless altered by future inseason actions. These lower limits for Dover sole and sablefish are expected to be more appropriate for the summer months, when Dover sole and sablefish are more aggregated with thornyheads. Shortspine thornyheads are relatively low in abundance, so trip limits for other species in the Dover sole/thornyheads/trawl-caught sablefish complex are higher in the months when those species are less inter-mixed.

**Changes to Open Access Groundfish Landings Restrictions for Vessels Fishing With Exempted Trawl Gear—Effective May 1, 1999**

On April 7, 1999, NMFS published an inseason action for groundfish trip limit changes that were effective April 1 (64 FR 16862). Among other changes, that document implemented a March 1999 Council recommendation to restrict open access landings of groundfish by vessels engaged in fishing for pink shrimp with exempted trawl gear such that the amount of groundfish in any one landing could not exceed the amount of pink shrimp in that landing. At its April meeting, the Council recommended placing a similar restriction on vessels targeting other species (spot and ridgeback prawns, California halibut, and sea cucumber) with exempted trawl gear. These changes are intended to discourage fishers from targeting groundfish with exempted trawl gear. The Council recommended an exception to this restriction for spiny dogfish, such that the amount of spiny dogfish in a landing made by vessels using exempted trawl gear and targeting spot or ridgeback prawns, California halibut, or sea cucumber could exceed the amount of the target species in that landing. Spiny dogfish are abundant off the Pacific coast and fishers targeting spot or ridgeback prawns occasionally find that their prawn-targeting tows have inadvertently captured a net full of spiny dogfish. Spiny dogfish landings would continue to be constrained by the overall groundfish 300 lb (136 kg) per trip limit.

**Widow Rockfish Trip Limit Decrease—Effective June 1, 1999**

The widow rockfish vessel cumulative trip limit for the January 1 through March 31 period was 70,000 lb (31,753 kg), and the limited entry fleet was expected to take 35 percent of its 1999 widow rockfish allocation of 3,777 mt, or 1,322 mt, during that period. The best available information at the April

Council meeting indicated that 1,362 mt of widow rockfish had been landed coastwide through March 27, 1999. Although this amount is close to the 1,322 mt target for that period, the Council's Groundfish Management Team commented that the pace of the fishery indicated that widow rockfish cumulative limits for the summer cumulative limit periods were set too high, and that the expected rates of landings could result in the fishery reaching the widow rockfish allocation before the end of the year. For these reasons, the Council recommended decreasing the widow rockfish cumulative limit for the June 1 through July 31 and for the August 1 through September 30 cumulative limit periods from 16,000 lb (7,257 kg) to 11,000 lb (4,990 kg).

**Sebastes Complex and Component Species Trip Limit Changes—Effective June 1, 1999**

The distribution of landings of different species in the 1999 cumulative trip limit regime was designed in part to correspond with the times when particular species are most available for harvest without bycatch. For Dover sole and trawl-caught sablefish, trip limits were higher in the winter months; but for *Sebastes* complex species, trip limits were higher in the summer months. Overall *Sebastes* complex landings, and landings of particular component species within the *Sebastes* complex north of Cape Mendocino, have been lower than expected for the January 1 through March 31 cumulative trip limit period, probably due to bad weather. To give the fleet access to fish not taken in the first fishing phase, yet continue *Sebastes* complex landing emphasis in the summer months, the Council recommended increasing several *Sebastes* limits north of Cape Mendocino for the June 1 through July 31 and for the August 1 through September 30 cumulative trip limit periods. Conversely, *Sebastes* complex landings south of Cape Mendocino have been proceeding much faster than had been expected, resulting in Council recommendations to decrease *Sebastes* limits south of Cape Mendocino for those same periods.

The overall *Sebastes* complex vessel cumulative trip limit north of Cape Mendocino for the January 1 through March 31 period was 24,000 lb (10,866 kg), within which no more than 15,000 lb (6,804 kg) could be yellowtail rockfish and no more than 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) could be canary rockfish. The fleet was expected to take 20 percent of the 1999 *Sebastes* complex Vancouver-Columbia areas limited entry target

harvest of 4,033 mt, or 807 mt, during the January 1 through March 31 cumulative limit period. The limited entry fleet was also expected to take 20 percent of its 1999 yellowtail rockfish Vancouver-Columbia areas target harvest of 2,080 mt, or 416 mt, during the January 1 through March 31 cumulative limit period, and the fleet was expected to take 20 percent of the 1999 canary rockfish Vancouver-Columbia areas limited entry allocation of 618 mt, or 124 mt, during that same period. The best available information at the April Council meeting indicates that 432 mt of *Sebastes* complex species had been landed from the Vancouver-Columbia areas through March 27, 1999, and that 269 mt of yellowtail rockfish and 33 mt of canary rockfish had been landed from the Vancouver-Columbia areas for that period. The Council recommended increasing cumulative limits for the June 1 through July 31 and for the August 1 through September 30 cumulative limit periods as follows: *Sebastes* complex north of Cape Mendocino from 25,000 lb (11,340 kg) to 30,000 lb (13,608 kg); yellowtail rockfish north of Cape Mendocino from 13,000 lb (5,897 kg) to 16,000 lb (7,257 kg); and canary rockfish north of Cape Mendocino from 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) to 14,000 lb (6,350 kg).

The overall *Sebastes* complex vessel cumulative trip limit south of Cape Mendocino for the January 1 through March 31 period was 13,000 lb (5,897 kg), within which no more than 750 lb (340 kg) per month could be bocaccio, and within which no more than 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) could be canary rockfish [The canary rockfish cumulative limit for the January 1 through March 31 period was a coastwide limit]. The fleet was expected to take 31 percent of the 1999 *Sebastes* complex Eureka-Monterey-Conception areas limited entry allocation of 941 mt, or 292 mt, during the January 1 through March 31 cumulative limit period. The best available information at the April Council meeting indicates that 665 mt of *Sebastes* complex species had been landed from the Eureka-Monterey-Conception areas through March 27, 1999.

At its November 1998 meeting, the Council anticipated that bocaccio would be considered overfished upon approval of Amendment 11 to the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP). The 1999 bocaccio Eureka-Monterey-Conception areas limited entry allocation is 101 mt and 1999 bocaccio

cumulative limits were set low to discourage targeting. In March 1999, NMFS notified the Council that bocaccio is considered overfished, and that the Council must implement a bocaccio rebuilding plan for 2000. During its April 1999 meeting, the Council reviewed a petition from several environmental organizations asking for emergency inseason action to further reduce bocaccio catch and landings. Bocaccio landings in 1999 are already below 1998 landings for a comparative time period, and the best available information at the April 1999 Council meeting indicates that 17 mt of bocaccio had been landed from the Eureka-Monterey-Conception areas through March 27, 1999. The Council noted that it would be lowering the overall *Sebastes* complex limits south of Cape Mendocino for the June 1 through July 31 and for the August 1 through September 30 cumulative limit periods, expecting that bocaccio bycatch also would be reduced by this action. Additionally, the Council recommended reducing the current cumulative limit for bocaccio south of Cape Mendocino from 750 lb (340 kg) per month to 1,000 lb (454 kg) per 2-month period, with a 500 lb (227 kg) per trip limit.

To ensure that the fleet does not exceed the limited entry allocations for *Sebastes* complex species, and to provide protection for an overfished species, the Council recommended decreasing cumulative limits south of Cape Mendocino for the June 1 through July 31 and for the August 1 through September 30 cumulative limit periods as follows: *Sebastes* complex south of Cape Mendocino from 6,500 lb (2,948 kg) to 3,500 lb (1,588 kg); canary rockfish south of Cape Mendocino limited to not exceed the overall *Sebastes* complex limit, resulting in a canary rockfish cumulative limit decrease from 6,500 (2,948 kg) to 3,500 lb (1,588 kg) south of Cape Mendocino; and, bocaccio would be managed under a new cumulative limit of 1,000 lb (454 kg) per 2-month period with a 500 lb (227 kg) per trip limit. Limited Entry, Fixed Gear, Regular Sablefish Fishery.

At its April 1999 meeting, the Council considered season structure options for the 1999 limited entry, nontrawl (fixed gear) regular sablefish fishery. For 1999, the Council recommended that the regular season begin on August 16, 1999, at noon (l.t.) and last for 9 days, ending at noon on August 25, 1999. There will be no limited entry, daily trip limit fishery for sablefish taken with

fixed gear during the regular season. During the regular season, each vessel with a limited entry permit with a sablefish endorsement that is registered for use with that vessel may land up to the cumulative trip limit for the tier to which the permit is assigned. The Council recommended the following tier limits: Tier 1, 84,800 lb (40,823 kg); Tier 2, 38,300 lb (17,373 kg); Tier 3, 22,000 lb (9,979 kg). These tier limits are expected to keep the overall fleet landings from exceeding the 2138.6 mt of sablefish available to this fishery.

The pre-season and post-season closures described for this fishery at 50 CFR § 660.323(a)(2) will be in effect. The pre-season closure will begin on August 14, 1999 at noon l.t., last for 48 hours, and end when the regular season begins on August 16, 1999, at noon l.t. During the pre-season closure, sablefish taken with fixed gear in the limited entry or open access fisheries north of 36° N. lat. may not be retained or landed. Also during the pre-season closure, all fixed gear used to take and retain groundfish must be out of the water. The post-season closure will begin when the regular season ends on August 25, 1999, at noon l.t., last for 30 hours, and end on August 26, 1999, at 1800 hours l.t. No sablefish taken with fixed gear north of 36° N. lat. may be retained during the post-season closure. Sablefish taken and retained during the regular season may be possessed and landed during the post-season closure, and gear may remain in the water during the post-season closure. However, during the post-season closure, fishers may not set or pull from the water fixed gear used to take and retain groundfish.

#### NMFS Action

For the reasons stated, NMFS concurs with the Council's recommendations and announces the following changes to the 1999 annual management measures (64 FR 1316, January 8, 1999, as amended). The annual management measures are modified as follows:

1. In section IV, under B. *Limited Entry Fishery*, table 2 under paragraph B.(1), paragraphs B.(2)(b) and (i) and table 3 under paragraph B.(2)(b)(i), paragraph B.(6)(c) and table 6 under B.(6)(c), and paragraph B.(6)(d)(i) are revised to read as follows:

#### B. *Limited Entry Fishery*

\* \* \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

TABLE 2.—WIDOW ROCKFISH

Fishing phase	Cumulative trip limit periods	Cumulative trip limit (in pounds)	Length of cumulative trip limit period (months)
I .....	Jan 1–Mar 31 .....	70,000 .....	3
II .....	Apr 1–May 31 .....	31,752 kg ....	2
		16,000 .....	
	June 1–July 31 .....	7,257 kg .....	2
	Aug 1–Sept 30 .....	11,000 .....	2
		11,000 .....	
		4,990 kg .....	
III .....	Oct 1–31 .....	30,000 .....	1
	Nov 1–30 .....	30,000 .....	1
	Dec 1–31 .....	30,000 .....	1
		13,608 kg ....	

(2) \* \* \*

(b) *Trip limits for the Sebastes complex.* Harvest of all *Sebastes* complex species, including those species with their own cumulative limits (yellowtail rockfish, canary rockfish, bocaccio), count toward the

overall applicable *Sebastes* cumulative limits for the areas north and south of Cape Mendocino.

(i) Crossover provisions for operating on both sides of Cape Mendocino during a cumulative trip limit period are found in Section IV, paragraph (A)(12), with

special provisions for chilipepper rockfish, splitnose rockfish, and the *Sebastes* complex. The cumulative trip limits for the *Sebastes* complex and its component species are as follows, unless otherwise announced in the **Federal Register**:

TABLE 3.—SEBASTES COMPLEX AND ITS COMPONENT SPECIES

Phase	Cumulative trip limit pe- riods	Cumulative trip limits (in pounds)						Length of cu- mulative trip limit period (months)
		Sebastes complex (north and south of Cape Mendocino)		Yellowtail rockfish <sup>1</sup> (north of Cape Mendocino)	Canary rockfish <sup>1</sup> (coastwide)		Bocac- cio <sup>1</sup> (south of Cape Mendocino)	
		North	South		North	South		
I .....	Jan 1–Mar 31 .....	24,000 ..... (10,886 kg)	13,000 ..... (5,897 kg) ..	15,000 ..... (6,804 kg) ..	9,000 ..... (4,082 kg) ..	9,000 ..... (4,082 kg) ..	750 per month. (340 kg) .....	3
II .....	Apr 1–May 31 .....	25,000 ..... (11,340 kg)	6,500 ..... (2,948 kg) ..	13,000 ..... (5,897 kg) ..	9,000 ..... (4,082 kg) ..	6,500 ..... (2,948 kg) ..	750 per month. (340 kg) .....	2
III .....	June 1–July 31 .....	30,000 ..... (13,608 kg)	3,500 ..... (1,588 kg) ..	16,000 ..... (7,257 kg) ..	14,000 ..... (6,350 kg) ..	3,500 ..... (1,588 kg) ..	<sup>2</sup> 1,000 ..... (454 kg) .....	2
	Aug 1–Sept 30 .....	30,000 ..... (13,608 kg)	3,500 ..... (1,588 kg) ..	16,000 ..... (7,257 kg) ..	14,000 ..... (6,350 kg) ..	3,500 ..... (1,588 kg) ..	<sup>2</sup> 1,000 ..... (454 kg) .....	2
	Oct 1–31 .....	10,000 ..... (4,536 kg) ..	5,000 ..... (2,268 kg) ..	5,000 ..... (2,268 kg) ..	3,000 ..... (1,361 kg) ..	3,000 ..... (1,361 kg) ..	500 ..... (227 kg) .....	1
	Nov 1–30 .....	10,000 ..... (4,536 kg) ..	5,000 ..... (2,268 kg) ..	5,000 ..... (2,268 kg) ..	3,000 ..... (1,361 kg) ..	3,000 ..... (1,361 kg) ..	500 ..... (227 kg) .....	1
	Nov 1–30 .....	10,000 ..... (4,536 kg) ..	5,000 ..... (2,268 kg) ..	5,000 ..... (2,268 kg) ..	3,000 ..... (1,361 kg) ..	3,000 ..... (1,361 kg) ..	500 ..... (227 kg) .....	1

<sup>1</sup> Also counts toward the overall *Sebastes* complex limit.

<sup>2</sup> No more than 500 lb (227 kg) of bocaccio may be landed per trip, which counts towards the cumulative trip limits for bocaccio and the *Sebastes* complex south of Cape Mendocino.

\* \* \* \* \*

(6) \* \* \*

(c) *Limited entry trip and size limits for the DTS complex.* “DTS complex” means Dover sole (*Microstomus pacificus*), thornyheads (*Sebastolobus* spp.), and trawl-caught sablefish

(*Anoplopoma fimbria*). Sablefish are also called blackcod. Thornyheads are also called idiots, channel rockfish, or hardheads, and include two species: Shortspine thornyheads (*S. alascanus*) and longspine thornyheads (*S. altivelis*). These provisions apply to Dover sole and thornyheads caught with any

limited entry gear and to sablefish caught with limited entry trawl gear. The cumulative trip limits for the DTS complex are as follows, unless otherwise announced in the **Federal Register**:

TABLE 6.—DTS COMPLEX  
[Coastwide]

Phase	Cumulative trip limit periods	Cumulative trip limits (in pounds)				Length of cumulative trip limit period (months)
		Dover sole cumulative trip limit	Longspine thornyhead cumulative trip limit	Shortspine thornyhead cumulative trip limit	Trawl-caught sablefish* cumulative trip limit	
I .....	Jan 1–Mar 31 .....	70,000 ..... (31,752 kg) ..	12,000 ..... (5,443 kg) ....	3,000 ..... (1,361 kg) ....	13,000 ..... (5,897 kg) ....	3
II .....	Apr 1–May 31 .....	25,000 ..... (11,340 kg) ..	8,000 ..... (3,629 kg) ....	2,000 ..... (907 kg) .....	12,000 ..... (5,443 kg) ....	2
	June 1–July 31 .....	20,000 ..... (9,072 kg) ....	8,000 ..... (3,629 kg) ....	2,000 ..... (907 kg) .....	10,000 ..... (4,536 kg) ....	2 months
	Aug 1–Sept 30 .....	20,000 ..... (9,072 kg) ....	8,000 ..... (3,629 kg) ....	2,000 ..... (907 kg) .....	10,000 ..... (4,536 kg) ....	2 months
III .....	Oct 1–31 .....	22,000 ..... (9,979 kg) ....	4,000 ..... (1,814 kg) ....	1,000 ..... (454 kg) .....	6,000 ..... (2,722 kg) ....	1
	Nov 1–30 .....	22,000 ..... (9,979 kg) ....	4,000 ..... (1,814 kg) ....	1,000 ..... (454 kg) .....	6,000 ..... (2,722 kg) ....	1 month
	Dec 1–31 .....	22,000 ..... (9,979 kg) ....	4,000 ..... (1,814 kg) ....	1,000 ..... (454 kg) .....	6,000 ..... (2,722 kg) ....	1 month

\* At any time of year unless otherwise announced, no more than 500 lb (227 kg) per trip may be trawl-caught sablefish smaller than 22 inches (56 cm) total length. (See paragraph IV.A.(6) regarding length measurement.) The increases to the Dover sole and trawl-caught sablefish trip limits for the April 1 through May 31 period are not effective until May 1, 1999.

(d) \* \* \*

(i) *Regular season.* The regular season will begin at 12 noon l.t. on August 16, 1999, and end at noon on August 25, 1999. Pre-season and post-season closures described at 50 CFR § 660.323(a)(2) are in effect. The pre-season closure will begin at 12 noon l.t. on August 14, 1999, and end when the regular season begins, at 12 noon l.t. on August 16, 1999. The post-season closure will begin when the regular season ends at noon l.t. on August 25, 1999, and end at 1800 hours l.t. on August 26, 1999. During the regular season, each vessel with a limited entry permit with a sablefish endorsement that is registered for use with that vessel may land up to the cumulative trip limit for the tier to which the permit is assigned. For 1999, the following tier limits are in effect: Tier 1, 84,800 lb (40,823 kg); Tier 2, 38,300 lb (17,373 kg); Tier 3, 22,000 lb (9,979 kg).

\* \* \* \* \*

2. In section IV, under C. *Trip Limits in the Open Access Fishery*, paragraph C. (6) is revised to read as follows:

C. Trip Limits in the Open Access Fishery

\* \* \* \* \*

(6) *Groundfish taken with exempted trawl gear by vessels engaged in fishing for spot and ridgeback prawns, California halibut, and sea cucumbers—*

(a) *Trip limits.* No more than 300 lb (136 kg) of groundfish may be taken per vessel per fishing trip. Limits and closures in paragraphs IV.C(1) through IV.C(5) also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb (136 kg) groundfish limit. In any landing by vessels engaged in fishing for spot and ridgeback prawns, California halibut, or sea

cucumbers with exempted trawl gear, the amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb (136 kg) per trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish (paragraph IV.C.2) and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception (paragraph IV.C.1(a)) may not be multiplied by the number of days of the fishing trip. The groundfish “per trip” limit may not be multiplied by the number of days in the fishing trip, although this was allowed in 1998.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Classification

These actions are authorized by the regulations implementing the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The determination to take these actions is based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which the determinations are based are available for public inspection at the office of the Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS (see ADDRESSES) during business hours. Because of the need to implement these changes by May 1, consistent with the states of Washington, Oregon, and California, and because the public had an opportunity to comment on the action at the April 1999 Council meeting, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this document to be published without affording a prior opportunity for public comment or a 30-day delayed effectiveness period. These actions are taken under the authority of 50 CFR

660.323(b)(1), and are exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: April 28, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99–11158 Filed 4–29–99; 4:52 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 990318076–9109–02; I.D. 030599A]

RIN 0648–AL72

#### Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 27

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

**ACTION:** Final rule and 1999 target total allowable catch (TAC) levels.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues final regulations to implement Framework Adjustment 27 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Framework Adjustment 27 is necessary to address overfishing of several stocks, in particular Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, and to achieve the rebuilding goals of the FMP for the 1999 multispecies fishing year. This final rule implements management measures that establish GOM Rolling Closures of greater size