

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementing regulations at 50 CFR 622.34 describe the Texas closure and provide for adjustments to the beginning and ending dates by the Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, under specified criteria.

The beginning and ending dates of the Texas closure are based on biological sampling by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). This sampling is used to project when brown shrimp in Texas bays and estuaries will reach a mean size of 90 mm, and begin strong emigrations out of the bays and estuaries during maximum duration ebb tides. Sampling during the spring of 2000 indicates that brown shrimp will be leaving the Texas estuaries earlier than normal. Thus, to provide adequate protection of small brown shrimp emigrating from the Texas estuaries, NMFS has determined that an adjustment to the closure date is necessary. During the closure, the EEZ off Texas is closed to all trawl fishing, except for vessels trawling for royal red shrimp beyond the 100-fathom (183-m) depth contour. State waters off Texas will also be closed commencing at 30 minutes after sunset on May 11, 2000.

The termination date of the Texas closure is based on continued sampling by TPWD to develop projections of when brown shrimp will reach a mean size of 112 mm, and when maximum duration ebb tides will occur. If there is a need to adjust the July 15 date for the termination of the closure, notification of the revised termination date will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 622.26(b) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: May 8, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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 648

[Docket No. 000407096-0096-01; 040300C]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 33 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: On April 24, 2000, NMFS published a final rule implementing Framework Adjustment 33 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The final rule implementing Framework Adjustment 33 contained errors. The effective date of the increase in the haddock landing limit specified in § 648.86(a)(1)(i) and (ii), and the paragraph numbering of the new paragraph (e) in § 648.89, Recreational and charter/party restrictions, are corrected in this document. In addition, the amendatory instruction for the revision to § 648.23 indicated that paragraph (b)(4) would be revised rather than only the introductory text to paragraph (b)(4). Also, three metric conversions (pounds to kilograms) for haddock contained in the preamble are incorrect. This document corrects these errors.

DATES: Sections 648.23(b)(4) introductory text, and 648.86(a)(1)(i) and (ii) are effective May 1, 2000. Section 648.89(e) contains information collection requirements and is not effective until approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). When OMB approval is received, NMFS will announce the effective date of § 648.89(e) in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard A. Pearson, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the final rule published April 24, 2000, at 65 FR 21658, the preamble indicated that the haddock daily landing limit during the May 1–September 30 period was increased to 3,000 lb/DAS (1,360.8 kg/DAS), or part of a DAS, with a maximum possession limit of 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) per trip. The preamble also indicated that the daily landing limit will increase on October 1, 2000, to 5,000 lb/DAS (2,268 kg/DAS), with a maximum possession limit of 50,000 lb

(22,680 kg) per trip. However, § 648.86(a)(1)(i) of the final rule inadvertently indicated that the 3,000 lb/DAS (1,360.8 kg/DAS) landing limit would be in effect through August 31, rather than September 30, and that the increase in the landing limit reflected in § 648.86(a)(1)(ii) would occur on September 1, 2000, rather than on October 1, 2000. This document corrects the effective date of the haddock increase contained in § 648.86(a)(1)(i) and (ii) to be consistent with the preamble language. In addition, in the paragraph entitled “Haddock Measures” and in the haddock discussion contained in the Classification section three of the metric conversions for haddock are incorrect. This document corrects those errors.

In § 648.23, amendatory instruction 4 indicated that paragraph (b)(4) was revised. However, the intent was to revise only the introductory text of § 648.23(b)(4). This document corrects the amendatory instruction.

Also, we added a new paragraph (e) to § 648.89. However, the subparagraphs of new paragraph (e)(3) were incorrectly designated. This document corrects that error.

1. On page 21661, in the first column under “Haddock Measures”, in the first sentence, in the eighth line of this paragraph, remove “period to 3,000 lb/DAS (1,360.7 kg/” and add, in its place, “period to 3,000 lb/DAS (1,360.8 kg/”.

2. On page 21663, in the third column, first full paragraph, in the fourth sentence, in the 24th through 26th lines, remove “limit to 3,000 lbs/DAS (2,268 kg/DAS), with a maximum possession limit of 30,000 lb (13,680 kg) per trip.” and add, in its place, “limit to 3,000 lb/DAS (1,360.8 kg/DAS), with a maximum possession limit of 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) per trip.”

§ 648.23 [Corrected]

3. On page 21665, in column one, amendatory instruction no. 4 is corrected to read as follows:

“4. In § 648.23, paragraph (b)(4) introductory text is revised to read as follows:”

§ 648.86 [Corrected]

4. On page 21666, in § 648.86(a)(1)(i), in the first sentence, remove “August 31,” and add, in its place, “September 30,”.

5. On page 21666, in § 648.86(a)(1)(ii), in the first sentence, remove “September 1” and add, in its place, “October 1”.

§ 648.89 [Corrected]

6. On page 21667, in § 648.89(e)(3), in the second and third columns, the

paragraphs designated as (A), (B), and (C), and (D) are correctly designated as (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv).

Dated: May 8, 2000.

Penelope D. Dalton,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 970703166-8209-04; I.D. 060997A]

RIN 0648-AH65

Fisheries of the Exclusive Zone Economic Zone Off Alaska; License Limitation Program; Correction

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

ACTION: Correcting amendments.

SUMMARY: NMFS is correcting a final rule implementing the License Limitation Program (LLP) established for the groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands area (BSAI), the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), and the crab fisheries in the BSAI, which was published in the *Federal Register* of Thursday, October 1, 1998.

DATES: Effective January 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Ginter, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The LLP is a limited access system authorized under section 303(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The LLP is designed to limit the number, size and operation of vessels that may be used in the affected groundfish and crab fisheries. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted

the LLP in June 1995. The Council officially submitted the LLP to NMFS in June 1997. A proposed rule to implement the LLP was published on August 15, 1997 (62 FR 43865). The LLP was approved by NMFS on September 12, 1997. A final rule to implement the LLP was published on October 1, 1998 (63 FR 52642). Additional rules to implement an application process and a transfer process for LLP licenses were proposed on April 19, 1999 (64 FR 19113) and published as final on August 6, 1999 (64 FR 42826).

One of the licensing requirements adopted by the Council for vessels greater than or equal to 125 feet (38.1 m) length overall (LOA) to participate in the groundfish fisheries in the Western GOA was to have made at least one landing in the Western GOA in any 2 of the 4 calendar years 1992, 1993, 1994, or 1995, through June 17, 1995. The LLP proposed rule discussed this requirement in the preamble (at 62 FR 43869) and in the proposed rule text at § 679.4(i)(4)(ii)(E). Vessels that are equal to or greater than 125 feet (38.1 m) LOA were defined as "category 'A'" vessels. The proposed rule text described this particular licensing requirement as follows:

"A vessel assigned to vessel category 'A' must have made at least one legal landing of any amount of license limitation groundfish harvested in each of any 2 calendar years from January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995, in the Western Area of the Gulf of Alaska or in State waters shoreward of that area for a Western Gulf area endorsement."

NMFS' approval of the Council's LLP recommendation included approval of this particular licensing requirement as an integral part of the overall LLP. The final rule implementing the LLP also discussed this licensing requirement in the preamble (at 63 FR 52645) as a documented harvest " * * * in each of any 2 calendar years from January 1992 through June 17, 1995 * * *." However, the final rule text (63 FR 52655, § 679.4(i)(4)(ii)(C)) erroneously omitted the phrase, "in each of any 2 calendar years," and wrongly indicates that only one documented harvest of groundfish needs to be made by category "A" vessels during the period January 1992,

through June 17, 1995, to satisfy the license endorsement criteria for the Western GOA area.

Paragraph (i) was redesignated as paragraph (k) on October 13, 1998 (63 FR 54753).

Need for Correction

As published, the final regulations contain errors, which may prove to be misleading and need to be clarified.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 679

Alaska, Fisheries, Reporting and Recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, 50 CFR part 679 is corrected by making the following correcting amendments:

PART 679—FISHERIES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF ALASKA

1. The authority citation for part 679 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, 1801 *et seq.*, and 3631 *et seq.*

2. In § 679.4(k)(4)(ii)(C)(1) is revised to read as follows:

§ 679.4 Permits.

* * * * *

(k) * * *

(4) * * *

(ii) * * *

(C) *Western Gulf Area Endorsement.*

(1) *Vessel length category "A."* For a license to be assigned a Western Gulf area endorsement based on the participation from a vessel in vessel length category "A," at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish must have been made from that vessel in each of any 2 calendar years from January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995, in the Western Area of the Gulf of Alaska or in State waters shoreward of that area.

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Dated: May 8, 2000.

Penelope D. Dalton,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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