

specified position of the H-point can be achieved with a range of seat cushion inclination angles, adjust the seat inclination such that the most forward part of the seat cushion is at its lowest position with respect to the most rearward part. All tests specified by this standard are conducted with the ambient temperature between 18 degrees C. and 28 degrees C.

\* \* \* \* \*

S5.2.4.2 \* \* \*

(c) Determine if at least 125 mm of the cylinder can completely pass through the gap. If 125 mm or more of the cylinder can completely pass through the gap, the gap is not in compliance.

S5.2.6 \* \* \*

(d) Reduce the load at the rate of 250 ± 50 N/minute until the load is completely removed. Maintain this condition for two minutes ± 5 seconds.

\* \* \* \* \*

S5.2.7 \* \* \*

(a) *Backset retention and displacement.* For head restraints that move with respect to the seat when occupant loading is applied to the seat back, S5.2.7(a)(1) through (8) may be performed with the head restraint fixed in a position corresponding to the position when the seat is unoccupied. This fixation is applied to the member(s) that first transmit(s) the seat back loading from the occupant to the head restraint.

\* \* \* \* \*

(5) Maintain the position of the back pan as established in S5.2.7(a)(4) of this section. Using a 165 ± 2 mm diameter spherical head form with a surface roughness of less than 1.6 µm, root mean square, establish the head form initial reference position by aligning the centerline of the head form perpendicular to the displaced torso reference line, on the seat centerline, and at a height 65 ± 3 mm below the top of the head restraint. Apply a posterior initial load that will produce a 37 ± 0.7 Nm moment about the H-point. After maintaining this moment for 5.5 ± 0.5 seconds, measure the posterior displacement of the head form during the application of the load.

\* \* \* \* \*

(7) Reduce the load at the rate of 187 ± 37 Nm/minute until it is completely removed. Maintain this condition for two minutes ± 5 seconds.

\* \* \* \* \*

S5.3 *Procedures for dynamic performance.* Demonstrate compliance with S4.3 of this section in accordance with S5.3.1 through S5.3.9 of this section with a 50th percentile male Hybrid III test dummy specified in 49 CFR part 572 subpart E, fitted with sensors to

measure head to torso rotation. The dummy with all sensors is to continue to meet all specifications in 49 CFR part 572 subpart E. The restraint is positioned midway between the lowest and the highest position of adjustment, and at any position of backset.

\* \* \* \* \*

S5.3.4 *Seat Adjustment.* The following seat adjustments specify conditions to be met concurrently and are not a sequential list of adjustments. At each outboard designated seating position, using any control that primarily moves the entire seat vertically, place the seat in the lowest position. Using any control that primarily moves the entire seat in the fore and aft directions, place the seat midway between the forwardmost and rearmost position. If an adjustment position does not exist midway between the forwardmost and rearmost positions, the closest adjustment position to the rear of the midpoint is used. Adjust the seat cushion and seat back as required by S5 of this section. If the seat back is adjustable, it is set at an inclination position closest to 25 degrees from the vertical, as measured by SAE J826 (July 1995) manikin. If there is more than one inclination position closest to 25 degrees from the vertical, set the seat back inclination to the position closest to and rearward of 25 degrees. If the head restraint is adjustable, adjust the top of the head restraint to a position midway between the lowest position of adjustment and the highest position of adjustment. If an adjustment position midway between the lowest and the highest position does not exist, adjust the head restraint to a position below and nearest to midway between the lowest position of adjustment and the highest position of adjustment.

\* \* \* \* \*

Issued: October 28, 2010.

**David L. Strickland,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2010-27669 Filed 11-1-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-59-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Parts 600 and 622

[Docket No. 0907201152-0420-02]

RIN 0648-AY05

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Regulatory Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues this final rule that implements a regulatory amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (FMP) prepared by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council). This rule modifies the Bajo de Sico seasonal closure from a 3-month closure to a 6-month closure, and prohibits fishing for and possession of Caribbean reef fish in or from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) portion of Bajo de Sico during the closure. The final rule also prohibits anchoring in the EEZ portion of Bajo de Sico year-round. In addition to the measures contained in the regulatory amendment, this final rule also adds spear to the list of allowable gears in the commercial sector of the Caribbean reef fish fishery and revises the title of the FMP in the list of authorized fisheries and gear. The intended effect of this rule is to provide further protection for red hind spawning aggregations and large snappers and groupers, and better protect the essential fish habitat (EFH) where these species reside.

**DATES:** This rule is effective December 2, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the regulatory amendment, the Environmental Assessment, the regulatory flexibility analysis, and the regulatory impact review (RIR) may be obtained from Britni Tokotch, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 or may be downloaded from the Southeast Regional Office Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Britni Tokotch, 727-824-5305.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Caribbean reef fish fishery is managed

under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the Council and is implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

On July 28, 2010, NMFS published a proposed rule for the Bajo de Sico regulatory amendment in the **Federal Register** and requested public comment (75 FR 44209). The rationale for the measures contained in this final rule are provided in the regulatory amendment and in the preamble to the proposed rule and are not repeated here.

### Comments and Responses

During the comment period for the proposed rule, NMFS received one comment. This comment was from a Federal agency and expressed general support for the actions proposed in the rule. NMFS received no comments that addressed specific actions in the Bajo de Sico regulatory amendment or the proposed rule.

### Classification

The Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, determined that the regulatory amendment is necessary for the conservation and management of the reef fish fishery and is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

A final regulatory flexibility analysis (FRFA) was prepared. The FRFA incorporates the initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA), a summary of the significant economic issues raised by public comments, NMFS responses to those comments, and a summary of the analyses completed to support the action. A copy of the full analysis is available from NMFS (*see ADDRESSES*). A summary of the FRFA follows.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act provides the statutory basis for this final rule. This final rule will not establish any new reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements. No duplicative, overlapping, or conflicting Federal rules have been identified.

This final rule will modify the Bajo de Sico seasonal closure by extending it from a 3-month closure to a 6-month closure, and prohibit fishing for and possession of Caribbean reef fish in or from the EEZ portion of Bajo de Sico during the closure. This final rule will also prohibit anchoring by fishing vessels in the EEZ portion of Bajo de Sico year-round. This rule also makes minor revisions to the codified text, including adding spear to the list of

allowable gears in the commercial sector of the reef fish fishery, and revising the title of the FMP in the list of authorized fisheries and gears in § 600.725. The purposes of this final rule are to provide further protection for red hind spawning aggregations and large snappers and groupers from directed fishing mortality, to achieve a more natural sex ratio, age, and size structure, and to better protect the EFH where these species reside.

No significant issues associated with the economic analysis were raised through public comment on the proposed rule. A summary of the single comment received is provided in the previous section of this preamble. No changes were made in the final rule as a result of this comment.

At present, Federal permits are not required to participate in Council-managed fisheries on Puerto Rico's west coast, and, therefore, it is unknown how many fishermen or vessels participate in the Federal component of these fisheries. However, landings data from Puerto Rico's trip ticket program indicate that 294 fishermen had commercial landings on Puerto Rico's west coast in 2007. Some of these fishermen do not possess commercial fishing licenses, and the vessels used by these fishermen are not identified in the landings data. Preliminary fisherman Census data for 2008 indicate that 95 percent of commercial fishermen own one vessel, and thus it is assumed for current purposes that each commercial fisherman represents a single commercial fishing vessel. Furthermore, all charter and headboat vessels used to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic billfish, tunas, swordfish, or sharks must possess an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) charter/headboat permit. In 2008, eight charter vessels on Puerto Rico's west coast held HMS charter/headboat permits.

In Puerto Rico's west coast fisheries, commercial fishing vessels average 20 ft (6.3 m) in length, but range between 12 to 51 ft (3.8–15.9 m), with the vast majority being between 15 and 25 ft (4.7–7.8 m). These vessels have an average horsepower (HP) of approximately 77, though considerable variability exists within the fleet, even among vessels of comparable length. The age of these vessels is approximately 19 years on average. The majority of vessels are made of fiberglass (63 percent), though wood hulls and wood and fiberglass composite hulls are relatively common, accounting for 19 percent and 18 percent of the fleet, respectively. On average, each vessel carries two

individuals, the captain and one crewman.

According to the 2008 fisherman Census, 72 percent of Puerto Rico's west coast commercial fishermen possess some type of commercial fishing license while 28 percent do not. Of those fishermen who hold a commercial fishing license, the vast majority (78 percent) possess a full-time license, while the others possess either a beginner's license (18 percent) or a part-time license (4 percent). These fishermen are approximately 47 years old on average and have nearly 27 years of commercial fishing experience. Each fisherman supports approximately three dependents on average, which translates to an average household family size of four persons. Each fisherman spends an average of approximately 51 hours per week on commercial fishing related activities. These individuals are highly dependent on income from commercial fishing, which represents more than 85 percent of their household income on average. More than half of these fishermen (54 percent) have less than a high school level of education, 35 percent have a high school level of education, and 11 percent have some additional education beyond high school.

As a result of non-reporting, reported landings and, thus, revenue for Puerto Rico's commercial fisheries underestimate actual landings and revenue. Therefore, landings and revenue must be adjusted in order to generate more accurate estimates. Based on corrected landings estimates, average gross revenue per commercial fisherman was \$5,431 and \$9,168 in 2006 and 2007 respectively, or \$7,076 across both years. The maximum gross revenue for a single commercial fisherman in either year was approximately \$138,000. Commercial fishermen are mainly dependent on revenue from spiny lobster, queen conch, and reef fish, particularly queen snapper and silk snapper. However, harvest of queen conch is prohibited in the EEZ around Puerto Rico and bottom-tending gear (*e.g.*, fish traps, lobster traps, and bottom longline) is prohibited in Bajo de Sico. Scuba diving and bottom line are the predominant gears used by commercial fishermen. The bottom line fishery for reef fish is most relevant for the actions in this rule.

In 2008, eight vessels on Puerto Rico's west coast possessed HMS charter/headboat permits. All eight charter vessels are made of fiberglass. The majority of the HMS charter vessels (seven) use rod and reel gear, while one vessel uses handline gear. Furthermore, these vessels average 27 ft (8.4 m) in

length and have 358 HP on average and thus are slightly longer and considerably more powerful on average than commercial fishing vessels. These vessels are approximately 8 years old on average and are thus typically much newer than commercial fishing vessels. Charter vessels also typically carry more individuals in terms of crew and passengers (approximately seven on average) than commercial vessels. Charter vessels most frequently target dolphin, blue marlin, wahoo, and yellowfin tuna. Charter fishermen have approximately 25 years of fishing experience on average. Charter vessels in Puerto Rico take approximately 190 trips per year each, though recent survey data suggest that charter vessels on the west coast may average only 150–160 trips per year. These data also suggest that west coast charter vessels specialize in half-day trips rather than full-day trips, the latter of which was reported to cost \$526 on average in 2005. Annual landings and revenue data for west coast charter vessels are not presently available. However, the available information regarding number of trips per year and cost per trip indicates that these charter operations are similar to those in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions. Therefore, it is assumed that these vessels' maximum and average annual revenues are also similar to those operating in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions.

The Small Business Administration defines a small business in the commercial fishing industry as an entity that is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in its field of operation (including its affiliates), and has combined annual receipts not in excess of \$4.0 million annually (NAICS codes 114111, finfish fishing). For charter vessels, the other qualifiers apply and the annual receipts threshold is \$7.0 million (NAICS code 713990, recreational industries). Based on the annual revenue and related information for the fisheries provided above, all vessels expected to be directly impacted by this final rule are determined, for the purpose of this analysis, to be small entities.

The action to modify the Bajo de Sico closure is expected to directly benefit all eight charter vessels on Puerto Rico's west coast by giving them access to Bajo de Sico's HMS and pelagic resources during the 3 months (December, January, and February) the area is currently closed to all fishing. The magnitude of these economic benefits depends on the extent to which these vessels take additional trips to Bajo de Sico as opposed to reallocating current

trips from other areas. An estimate of how many additional trips these charter vessels might take is not currently available. However, additional trips would be expected to result in higher revenue and thus higher profit.

Conversely, 64 of the 294 (22 percent) commercial fishing vessels actively participating in Puerto Rico's west coast fisheries in 2007 are expected to experience direct, adverse economic effects as a result of the action to modify the Bajo de Sico closure. Specifically, since these vessels will experience additional loss of access to Bajo de Sico's fisheries resources, particularly reef fish, during the months of October, November, and March under this action, their landings, revenue, and, therefore, profit are expected to decrease. Based on an extrapolation of landings data from Puerto Rico's trip ticket data, the 64 directly affected vessels averaged approximately 6,400 lb (2,303 kg) in landings and \$17,300 in gross revenue in 2007. Detailed cost data and, therefore, profit estimates are not currently available for these commercial vessels. Therefore, the reduction in profit arising from this action cannot be directly estimated for the directly affected vessels.

However, surveys of the directly affected commercial fishermen indicate that these vessels are expected to experience a 48-percent reduction in landings and a 47-percent reduction in gross revenue, or approximately \$8,130 per vessel. Most of these losses are due to reductions in the harvest of reef fish, particularly deepwater snappers. However, the harvest of other species (e.g. baitfish) caught on trips that target reef fish are also expected to be foregone. Since these relatively small vessels will not be able to transit through Bajo de Sico with reef fish on board and may have to travel to more distant fishing grounds in order to harvest deepwater snappers, operating costs are expected to increase by 57 percent. Further, the affected fishermen are expected to experience a 55-percent reduction in household income. Since the fisherman's household income is generally indicative of net revenue or profit to the vessel, this figure represents the best available estimate of the expected percentage reduction in profit for these entities.

On the other hand, since October and November are off-season for many commercial vessels due to poor weather and sea conditions, and given that the harvest of their primary target species, silk snapper, is already prohibited during these months, the reductions in landings, revenue, household income and, therefore, profit are likely

overestimated. Furthermore, if they currently possess the proper gear, a few vessels may be able to partially mitigate these losses by reallocating some of their fishing effort out of the bottom line fishery for reef fish into the troll line fishery for HMS and pelagic species during the months that Bajo de Sico will be closed to fishing for Caribbean reef fish.

The action to prohibit anchoring by fishing vessels in Bajo de Sico year-round is not expected to generate adverse economic impacts on the eight charter vessels because they use troll or handline gear and do not drop anchor when fishing. It is possible, though not likely, that a few of the commercial vessels expected to be affected by the action to modify the Bajo de Sico closure may experience additional minimal adverse economic effects as a result of the anchoring prohibition. Though it is not necessary for vessels using bottom line gear to drop anchor when fishing, such behavior may occur on occasion. Since dropping anchor in Bajo de Sico would no longer be permissible under the action, vessels would be required to move out of the area, and thereby expend additional fuel, if they want to drop anchor. The effects resulting from the occasional need for a few vessels to expend additional fuel would likely be imperceptible and, therefore, probably have no impact on these vessels' profitability.

The action to add spear to the list of allowable gears in the commercial sector of the reef fish fishery is not expected to generate any adverse economic effects on commercial reef fish vessels. This action is administrative in nature, the purpose of which is to correct an oversight with respect to the current list of allowable gears for the commercial reef fish fishery. Since spear is and has been an historically used gear in the commercial reef fish fishery, the Council intended for it to be included in the list of allowable gears. This action would formally legalize its use in the fishery but have no effect on its current or expected future use in the fishery and thus, in turn, have no effect on the operations of commercial reef fish vessels.

The Council considered a number of alternatives to achieve their objectives and reduce potential adverse economic effects, where appropriate. The following is a discussion of these alternatives and the reason they were not chosen as the proposed action. An alternative may not be chosen for reasons unrelated to the expected economic effects of the alternative, such as not achieving the Council's objectives

and, as a result, the following information only discusses the expected economic effects of the alternative that was not chosen when the alternative would have achieved the Council's objectives, would have been expected to result in reduced adverse economic effects relative to the proposed action, or was not chosen for some other reason.

Four alternatives, including the status quo, were considered for the action to modify the Bajo de Sico seasonal closure. Three of the alternatives include multiple options that determine which species and specific activities are covered by the closure. The first alternative, the status quo, would not have modified the seasonal closure for Bajo de Sico or prohibited possession of reef fish onboard when transiting through the area during the closure. Further, the seasonal closure would have continued to apply to all fishing, including fishing for non-reef fish species such as HMS and pelagics. The status quo alternative is inconsistent with the Council's objective of providing greater protection for spawning aggregations of reef fish in the area as well as for developed coral that provide essential habitat for these species.

The second alternative, which would extend the seasonal closure by 3 months to the months of October, November, and March, had three options in addition to the action. The first option would have prohibited fishing for all species, including those not managed by the Council, during the closure. The second option would have prohibited fishing for and possession of all species, including those not managed by the Council, during the closure. The third option would have prohibited fishing for reef fish during the closure. The first two options were not selected because fishing for HMS and pelagic species using troll, rod and reel, and handline gear near the surface is not expected to result in the incidental harvest of reef fish or damage to coral. As such, prohibiting fishing for and possession of these species would generate unnecessary economic and social impacts on charter, private recreational, and commercial vessels. The third option was not selected because it would still allow transit through Bajo de Sico during the closure with reef fish onboard. Allowing possession of reef fish onboard would make enforcement of the closure more difficult and thereby less effective.

The third alternative, which would extend the seasonal closure by 3 months to the months of March, April, and May, had four options. Although this alternative would close Bajo de Sico for 6 months, and thereby generate comparable biological benefits in terms of protecting red hind spawning aggregations and larger individuals of snapper and grouper, as well as protecting well developed coral and sponge habitat (EFH), it would create greater adverse social and economic impacts on commercial vessels and associated onshore businesses because commercial fishing activity is considerably greater in March, April, and May than in October, November, and March. Thus, this alternative would result in lower net benefits to society.

The fourth alternative, which would implement a year-round closure of Bajo de Sico, had four options. This alternative would have generated greater biological benefits with respect to protecting coral and reef fish populations. However, the additional benefits of a year-round closure to reef fish spawning aggregations were not believed to be significantly greater compared to a 6-month closure, and additional protections to coral habitat are being accomplished by the anchoring prohibition. Further, by completely prohibiting access to Bajo de Sico's reef fish and, in effect, baitfish resources, this alternative would have generated much greater adverse social and economic impacts on commercial and charter vessels and associated onshore businesses. Given the rule's objectives, the Council concluded these considerably larger social and economic costs outweighed the additional biological benefits and, thus, would have resulted in lower net benefits to society.

Three alternatives, including the status quo, were considered for the action to prohibit anchoring in Bajo de Sico. The first alternative, the status quo, would not have implemented any restrictions on anchoring in Bajo de Sico. Anchoring is thought to cause substantial and long lasting damage to coral populations. Anchoring can also indirectly impact the long-term growth of coral populations. Coral populations are an essential part of the ecology of reef environments. If coral populations are decreased, reef fish populations could also be indirectly impacted by lack of essential habitat. Thus, this alternative is contrary to the Council's

objective of providing additional protections to important coral habitat.

The second alternative would have prohibited anchoring for 6 months. Anchoring has a high probability of damaging essential coral reef populations. These coral populations are very vulnerable and slow growing, and even slight damage can require years of recovery. Anchoring during the open season could damage coral beyond recovery. Coral populations are an essential part of the ecology of reef environments. If coral populations are decreased, reef fish populations could also be indirectly impacted by essential habitat. Thus, this alternative is contrary to the Council's objective of providing additional protections to important coral habitat.

Copies of the RIR and FRFA are available from NMFS (*see ADDRESSES*).

**List of Subjects**

*50 CFR Part 600*

Administrative practice and procedures, Confidential business information, Fisheries, Fishing, Fishing vessels, Foreign relations, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Statistics.

*50 CFR Part 622*

Fisheries, Fishing, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Virgin Islands.

Dated: October 28, 2010.

**Samuel D. Rauch III,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

■ For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR parts 600 and 622 are amended as follows:

**PART 600—MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT PROVISIONS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 600 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 561 and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 600.725, in paragraph (v), in the table under heading "V. Caribbean Fishery Management Council," the heading for entry 2. is revised, and a new entry 2.D. is added to read as follows:

**§ 600.725 General prohibitions.**

*	*	*	*	*
(v)	*	*	*	

	Fishery	Authorized gear types
V. Caribbean Fishery Management Council.	*	*
2. Caribbean Reef Fish Fishery (FMP).	*	*
D. Other commercial fishery .....	*	D. Spear.

**PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC**

■ 3. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 4. In § 622.33, paragraph (a) introductory text is revised, paragraph (a)(2)(ii)(A) is removed and reserved, and paragraph (a)(8) is added to read as follows:

**§ 622.33 Caribbean EEZ seasonal and/or area closures.**

(a) *Seasonal closures.* In addition to the other restrictions specified in this paragraph (a), fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round in the closed areas specified in paragraphs (a)(1), (2), (3), and (8) of this section.

(8) *Bajo de Sico closed area.* (i) The Bajo de Sico closed area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order the following points:

Point A	North lat.	West long.
A .....	18°15.7'	67°26.4'
B .....	18°15.7'	67°23.2'
C .....	18°12.7'	67°23.2'
D .....	18°12.7'	67°26.4'
A .....	18°15.7'	67°26.4'

(ii) From October 1 through March 31, each year, no person may fish for or possess any Caribbean reef fish, as listed in Table 2 of Appendix A to part 622, in or from those parts of the Bajo de Sico closed area that are in the EEZ. The prohibition on possession does not apply to such Caribbean reef fish harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(iii) Anchoring, by fishing vessels, is prohibited year-round in those parts of the Bajo de Sico closed area that are in the EEZ.

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2010-27661 Filed 11-1-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 635**

**RIN 0648-XZ95**

**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason Action To Close the Commercial Blacknose Shark and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Shark Fisheries**

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

**ACTION:** Notification of fishery closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is closing the commercial blacknose shark and non-blacknose small coastal shark (SCS) fisheries. This action is necessary because landings for the 2010 blacknose shark fishing season are projected to have reached at least 80 percent of the available quota.

**DATES:** The commercial fisheries for blacknose shark and non-blacknose SCS are closed effective 11:30 p.m. local time November 2, 2010 until, and if, NMFS announces, via a notice in the **Federal Register** that additional quota is available and the season is reopened.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karyl Brewster-Geisz or Peter Cooper, 301-713-2347; (fax) 301-713-1917.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), its amendments, and its implementing regulations found at 50 CFR part 635 issued under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*).

Under § 635.5(b)(1), shark dealers are required to report to NMFS all sharks landed every two weeks. Dealer reports for fish received between the 1st and 15th of any month must be received by

NMFS by the 25th of that month. Dealer reports for fish received between the 16th and the end of any month must be received by NMFS by the 10th of the following month. Under § 635.28(b)(3), when NMFS projects that fishing season landings for either blacknose shark or non-blacknose SCS quota have reached or are projected to reach 80 percent of the available quota within a given fishing season, NMFS will file for publication with the Office of the Federal Register a notice of closure for the entire SCS fishery, including both the blacknose and non-blacknose SCS fisheries, that will be effective no fewer than 5 days from the date of filing. From the effective date and time of the closure until NMFS announces, via a notice in the **Federal Register**, that additional quota is available and the season is reopened, the fishery for that species group is closed, even across fishing years.

On June 1, 2010 (75 FR 30484), NMFS announced the final rule for Amendment 3 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which, among other things, established quotas and opening dates for the 2010 blacknose shark and non-blacknose SCS fisheries. Both the blacknose shark and non-blacknose SCS fisheries opened on June 1, 2010, with base quotas of 19.9 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (43,872 lb dw) and 221.6 mt dw (488,539 lb dw), respectively. Dealer reports recently received through the September 30, 2010, reporting period indicate that 13.4 mt dw or 68 percent of the available blacknose shark fishery quota has been landed, and that 89.1 mt dw or 40 percent of the available non-blacknose SCS fishery quota has been landed. Dealer reports received to date indicate that 20 percent of the blacknose shark quota was landed from the opening of the fishery on June 1, 2010, through June 30, 2010; 14.4 percent of the quota was landed in July; 13.6 percent of the quota was landed in August; and 20 percent of the quota was landed in September. NMFS looked at