

adoption of an *Order*, the date by which these entities must file their Eligibility Certification, when allocations to these entities will be made, the deadline by which these entities must file any remaining requests for reimbursement, and the final date when reimbursement funds will be issued.

4. The Commission indicated in the *Incentive Auction R&O* that the Media Bureau will announce the date by which full power, Class A, and MVPD entities must submit their final expense documentation to the Commission.⁴ At the time of that delegation, the Spectrum Act imposed a deadline for the Commission to make all required reimbursements to full power, Class A, and MVPD entities of April 13, 2020.⁵ The Reimbursement Expansion Act permits the Commission to extend the deadline for reimbursements to full power, Class A, and MVPD entities, from the funds appropriated for this purpose by the Reimbursement Expansion Act, beyond April 13, 2020,⁶ but no later than July 3, 2023, as long as the certification requirements set forth in the Reimbursement Expansion Act are met.⁷ The *Incentive Auction R&O* stated that the Media Bureau may announce the final date reimbursement funds will be issued to full power and Class A stations and MVPDs and a deadline for the submission of final expense documentation, and we clarify that the Bureau also is authorized to set deadlines for funds appropriated by the Reimbursement Expansion Act.

5. *Consumer Education.* The Reimbursement Expansion Act provides that at least \$50 million from the funds appropriated to the Reimbursement Fund will be available to the Commission to make “payments solely for the purposes of consumer education relating to the reorganization of broadcast television spectrum” under 47 U.S.C. 1452(b).⁸ We interpret this provision as providing at least \$50 million for use by the Commission to fund its efforts to educate consumers about the reorganization of broadcast television spectrum under 47 U.S.C. 1452(b), with any unused funds to be returned to the U.S. Treasury. We anticipate, among other initiatives, hosting a dedicated consumer service call center to provide consumers technical support and assistance on such matters as rescanning and other means to resolve potential reception

issues. We also intend to perform targeted outreach to specific communities about rescanning, and, where appropriate, we may use local media or other outreach to disseminate rescanning information. Consumer education funding could also be used in developing additional online resources to support consumers. In all our activities, we will coordinate closely with industry stakeholders to ensure that our consumer education efforts are complementary to, and not duplicative of, industry efforts. In so doing, we will guard against unnecessary or wasteful spending. We welcome input from consumers and industry on other ways we can best use the funding to help mitigate disruption by consumers during the transition period.

II. Procedural Matters

A. Final Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

6. Because the actions taken in the *Order* do not require notice and comment, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply.

III. Ordering Clauses

7. *It is ordered* that, pursuant to the authority contained in Sections 1, 4, 5(b), 5(c), 303, and 336(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, Section 6403 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, and Section 511, Division E, Title V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, Pub. L. 115–141 (2018), 47 U.S.C. 151, 154, 155(b), 155(c), 303, 336(f), 1452, the *Order* is adopted and will become effective on August 27, 2018.

8. *It is further ordered* that the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of this *Order* to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

9. *It is further ordered* that the Commission will send a copy of the *Order* in a report to Congress and the Government Accountability Office pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (CRA), see 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A).

Federal Communications Commission.

Cecilia Sigmund,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 101206604–1758–02]

RIN 0648–XG435

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2018 Commercial Accountability Measures and Closure for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS implements an accountability measure (AM) for Atlantic migratory group (Atlantic) cobia that are sold (commercial) and harvested from the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Atlantic. NMFS projects that commercial landings of Atlantic cobia have reached the commercial quota. Therefore, NMFS closes the commercial sector for Atlantic cobia in the EEZ on September 5, 2018, and it will remain closed until the next fishing year that begins on January 1, 2019. This closure is necessary to protect the Atlantic cobia resource.

DATES: This rule is effective from 12:01 a.m., local time, September 5, 2018, until 12:01 a.m., local time, on January 1, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Helies, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727–824–5305, email: frank.helies@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fishery for coastal migratory pelagic fish includes king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, and cobia, and is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and is implemented by NMFS under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

Separate migratory groups of cobia were established in Amendment 18 to the FMP (76 FR 82058, December 29, 2011), and then revised in Amendment 20B to the FMP (80 FR 4216, January 27, 2015). The southern boundary for Atlantic cobia occurs at a line that

⁴ See *Incentive Auction R&O*, 29 FCC Rcd at 6819, para. 617.

⁵ The deadline for full power and Class A stations to transition to their new channels is July 13, 2020.

⁶ 47 U.S.C. 1452(j)(2)(C)(i).

⁷ *Id.* sec. 1452(j)(3)(B).

⁸ *Id.* sec. 1452(j)(2)(A)(iv).

extends due east of the Florida and Georgia state border at 30°42'45.6" N lat. The northern boundary for Atlantic migratory is the jurisdictional boundary between the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils, as specified in 50 CFR 600.105(a).

Atlantic cobia are unique among federally managed species in the southeast region, because no commercial permit is required to harvest and sell them. The distinction between commercial and recreational sectors is not as clear as other federally managed species in the southeast region. For example, regulations at 50 CFR part 622 specify quotas, annual catch limits, and AMs for cobia that are sold and cobia that are not sold. However, for purposes of this temporary rule, Atlantic cobia that are sold are considered commercially caught, and those that are not sold are considered recreationally caught.

The commercial quota for Atlantic cobia is 50,000 lb (22,680 kg), round or gutted weight, for the 2018 fishing year, which runs from January 1 through December 31 (50 CFR 622.384(d)(2)).

The AM for the commercial sector of Atlantic cobia, specified at 50 CFR 622.388(f)(1)(i), requires that NMFS file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to prohibit the sale and purchase of cobia for the remainder of the fishing year if commercial landings reach or are projected to reach the commercial quota specified in § 622.384(d)(2). The commercial AM is triggered for 2018, because NMFS

projects that commercial landings of Atlantic cobia will reach the commercial quota on September 5, 2018. Accordingly, the commercial sector for Atlantic cobia is closed in the EEZ at 12:01 a.m., local time, on September 5, 2018, and remains closed until the start of the next fishing year on January 1, 2019.

During the commercial closure, the sale and purchase of Atlantic cobia is prohibited. The recreational bag and possession limits for Atlantic cobia apply while the recreational sector is open. The prohibition on sale and purchase does not apply to Atlantic cobia that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, on September 5, 2018, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

Classification

The Regional Administrator for the NMFS Southeast Region has determined this temporary rule is necessary for the conservation and management of Atlantic cobia and is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws.

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.388(f)(1)(i) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

These measures are exempt from the procedures of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because the temporary rule is issued without opportunity for prior notice and comment.

This action is based on the best scientific information available. The

Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries (AA) finds good cause to waive the requirements to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment, pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), as such prior notice and opportunity for public comment is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures are unnecessary because the AM for Atlantic cobia has already been subject to notice and comment, and all that remains is to notify the public of the commercial closure for the remainder of the 2018 fishing year. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action is contrary to the public interest, because of the need to immediately implement the commercial closure to protect Atlantic cobia, since the capacity of the fishing fleet allows for rapid harvest of the commercial quota. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require time and would potentially result in a harvest that exceeds the commercial quota.

For the aforementioned reasons, the AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

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

Dated: August 22, 2018.

Margo B. Schulze-Haugen,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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