

Area	Extended falconry dates
Ducks, mergansers, and coots	Sept. 18–Sept. 19

- (1) In *Montana*, the limits are 2 daily and 6 in possession.
- (2) In *New Mexico*, the limits for sandhill cranes are 3 daily and 6 in possession.
- (3) In *California*, in the Imperial County Special Management Area, there is no extended falconry season.
- (4) In *Oregon*, no more than 1 pigeon daily in bag or possession.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648
RIN 0648–XB238

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Skate Complex; Rescission of Control Dates

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

ACTION: Notification of rescinded control dates.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the rescission of the July 30, 2009, and March 31, 2014, skate wing and bait fishery control dates. The New England Fishery Management Council has decided to discontinue development of limited access alternatives for both the skate wing and skate bait fisheries as part of Amendment 5 to the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan. The Council also stated that the existing control dates for each sector of the fishery are too outdated to be used should the Council reconsider limited access for the skate fisheries in the future and has requested that NMFS rescind both control dates. This notification informs stakeholders and the public of this decision, and that July 30, 2009, and March 31, 2014, are no longer considered dates for entry into the bait and skate wing fisheries, respectively.

DATES: The rescission of skate wing and bait fishery control dates is effective August 31, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Ferrio, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281–9180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The New England Fishery Management Council manages a complex of seven skate species (barndoor, clearnose, little, rosette, smooth, thorny, and winter skate) through the Northeast Skate Complex Fishery Management Plan

(FMP). Under this FMP, skates are harvested and managed within two targeted fishery sectors, one for use as food (the wing fishery) and one for use as bait in other fisheries (the bait fishery). Currently, all skate permits are open access and may be obtained anyone with a valid commercial operator’s permit.

NMFS announced a control date of July 30, 2009, for the bait sector of the fishery (74 FR 37977; July 30, 2009) during the initial development of Amendment 3 to the Skate FMP. At that time, the Council was concerned about the possibility of increased effort by new entrants into the skate bait fishery, and therefore, considered developing a limited access program for that sector only. The notification announcing the control date intended to promote public awareness of potential eligibility criteria for access to the fishery and possible implementation of a limited-entry management plan. Although Amendment 3 (75 FR 34049; June 16, 2010) did not end up establishing limited entry for the bait fishery, the July 30, 2009 control date remained on record for future use.

On March 31, 2014, NMFS announced a separate control date for the wing fishery at the Council’s request (79 FR 18002; March 31, 2014). This notification was not tied to a specific regulatory action or amendment at the time, but was intended as a preliminary step toward preparing for a limited entry program for the overall skate fishery and announcing these possibilities to the public.

In 2016, the Council began developing Amendment 5 to the Skate FMP, which included consideration of limited access for both the bait and wing sectors of the fishery. However, at its meeting in April 2021, the Council decided to discontinue development of all limited access alternatives in this amendment in favor of other management strategies to address latent effort. In conjunction with that decision, the Council also determined that both control dates for the wing and bait skate fisheries are outdated should a limited access program be reconsidered in the future. As a result, at its following meeting in June 2021, the Council voted to request NMFS rescind the existing control dates for the skate FMP. Therefore, NMFS

announces the rescission of the July 30, 2009, control date with respect to the skate bait fishery; and the March 31, 2014, control date with respect to the skate wing fishery.

The Council decided to not develop a limited entry management system for the Skate FMP in Amendment 5. However, if the Council chooses to pursue limited access in the future, it will consider new control dates for these fisheries.

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

Dated: August 25, 2021.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2021–18679 Filed 8–30–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 210716–0148; RTID 0648–XB188]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery; 2021 *Illex* Squid Quota Harvested

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; reduction of possession limit.

SUMMARY: Federal *Illex* squid vessel permit holders are prohibited from fishing for, catching, possessing, transferring or landing more than 10,000 lb (4,535 kg) of *Illex* squid per trip, and from landing *Illex* squid more than once per calendar day. This prohibition is required when NMFS projects that 94 percent of the 2021 annual catch limit has been caught. This action is intended to prevent over-harvest of *Illex* squid for the fishing year.

DATES: Effective 0001 hr local time, August 30, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alyson Pitts, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations for the *Illex* squid fishery are at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations at § 648.24(a)(2) require that NMFS must prohibit Federal *Illex* squid vessel permit holders from directed fishing when the Regional Administrator projects that 94 percent of the domestic annual harvest (DAH) quota is caught. Vessels may not catch, possess, transfer, or land more than 10,000 lb (4,535 kg) of *Illex* squid per trip, or land *Illex* squid more than once per calendar day. The Regional Administrator monitors the *Illex* squid fishery catch based on dealer reports, state data, and other available information. When 94 percent of the DAH has been reached, NMFS must provide at least 72 hours of notice to the public that it made this determination. NMFS must also publish the date that the catch is projected to reach 94 percent of the quota and the date when prohibitions on catch and landings for the remainder of the fishing year become effective.

The Regional Administrator has determined, based on dealer reports and other available information, that the *Illex* squid fleet will catch 94 percent of the total *Illex* squid DAH quota for the 2021 season through December 31, 2021, by August 30, 2021. Therefore,

effective 0001 August 30, 2021, federally permitted vessels may not fish for, catch, possess, transfer, or land more than 10,000 lb (4,535 kg) of *Illex* squid, and may not land *Illex* squid more than once per calendar day. Vessels that have entered port before 0001 hr on August 30, 2021, may offload and sell more than 10,000 lb (4,535 kg) of *Illex* squid from that trip. Also, federally permitted dealers may not receive *Illex* squid from federally permitted *Illex* squid vessels that harvest more than 10,000 lb (4,535 kg) of *Illex* squid through 2400 hr, December 31, 2021, unless it is from a trip landed by a vessel that entered port before 0001 hr on August 30, 2021.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR part 648, which was issued pursuant to section 304(b), and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

NMFS finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) and 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment and the delayed effectiveness because it would be contrary to the public interest and impracticable. Data and other

information indicating the *Illex* squid fleet will have landed at least 94 percent of the 2021 DAH quota have only recently become available. Landings data are updated on a weekly basis, and NMFS monitors catch data on a daily basis as catch increases toward the limit. Further, high-volume catch and landings in this fishery increases total catch relative to the quota quickly. The regulations at § 648.24(a)(2) require such action to ensure that *Illex* squid vessels do not exceed the 2021 DAH quota. If implementation of this action is delayed, the quota for the 2021 fishing year may be exceeded, thereby undermining the conservation objectives of the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan. Also, the public had prior notice and full opportunity to comment on this process when the provisions regarding closures and the 2021 quota levels were put in place.

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

Dated: August 25, 2021.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-18724 Filed 8-26-21; 4:15 pm]

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