

(i) For a 2-year period without recertification.

(ii) The applicable counties will be published annually in the **Federal Register**. A family must live in one of these applicable counties to be eligible for this subsidy. The counties will be chosen based on the cost and availability of affordable housing for both individuals and families within that county.

(iii) The maximum amount of this rental subsidy is 50 percent of reasonable rent as defined by paragraph (a)(4) of this section. Grantees must collaborate with their local Continuum of Care (CoC) as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 to determine the proper subsidy amounts to be used by all grantees in each applicable county.

(iv) Grantees must provide a letter of support from their local CoC to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Office when requesting VA approval of this subsidy. The SSVF Program Office must approve all subsidy requests before the subsidy is used.

(v) Very low-income veteran families may receive this subsidy for a period of two years before recertification minus the number of months in which the recipient received the rental assistance provided under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(vi) Extremely low-income veteran families may receive this subsidy for up to a 2-year period before recertification following receipt of rental assistance under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(vii) For any month, the total rental payments provided to a family under this paragraph (a)(8) cannot be more than the total amount of rent. Payment of this subsidy by a grantee must conform to the requirements set forth in paragraphs (a)(2) through (7) of this section. The rental subsidy amount will not change for the veteran family in the second year of the two-year period, even if the annual amount published changes.

(viii) A veteran family will not need to be recertified as a very low-income veteran family as provided for by § 62.36(a) during the initial two-year period. After an initial two-year period, a family receiving this subsidy, or a combination of the rental assistance under paragraph (a)(1) of this section and this subsidy, may continue to receive rental payments under this section, but would require recertification at that time and once every two years.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(2) A grantee may pay directly to a third party (and not to a participant), in

an amount not to exceed \$1,800, per participant during any 2-year period, beginning on the date that the grantee first submits a payment to a third party. This cap will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U). This amount is for the following types of expenses:

* * * * *

(f) * * *

(2) Placement for a veteran and his or her spouse with dependent(s) may not exceed 60 days.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 2021-24496 Filed 11-9-21; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

39 CFR Part 3040

[Docket No. RM2020-8]

Update to Competitive Product List

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission is announcing an update to the competitive product list. This action reflects a publication policy adopted by Commission rules. The referenced policy assumes periodic updates. The updates are identified in the body of this document. The competitive product list, which is re-published in its entirety, includes these updates.

DATES: This rule is effective December 27, 2021, without further action, unless adverse comment is received by December 10, 2021. If adverse comment is received, the Commission will publish a timely withdrawal of the rule in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: For additional information, this document can be accessed electronically through the Commission’s website at <https://www.prc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Introduction
- II. Commission Process
- III. Authorization
- IV. Modifications
- V. Ordering Paragraphs

I. Introduction

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642(d)(2) and 39 CFR 3040.103, the Commission provides a Notice of Update to Competitive Product List by listing all necessary modifications to the competitive product list.

II. Commission Process

Pursuant to 39 CFR part 3040, the Commission maintains a Mail Classification Schedule (MCS) that includes rates, fees, and product descriptions for each market dominant and competitive product, as well as product lists that categorize Postal Service products as either market dominant or competitive. *See generally* 39 CFR part 3040. The product lists are published in the Code of Federal Regulations as “Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 3040—Market Dominant Product List” and “Appendix B to Subpart A of Part 3040—Competitive Product List” pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642(d)(2). *See* 39 U.S.C. 3642(d)(2). Both the MCS and its product lists are updated by the Commission on its website on a quarterly basis.¹ In addition, these quarterly updates to the product lists are also published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to 39 CFR 3040.103. *See* 39 CFR 3040.103.

III. Authorization

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3040.103(d)(1), this Notice of Update to Product Lists identifies any modifications made to the market dominant or competitive product list, including product additions, removals, and transfers.² Pursuant to 39 CFR 3040.103(d)(2), the modifications identified in this document result from the Commission’s most recent MCS update posted on the Commission’s website on October 5, 2021, and supersede all previous product lists.³

IV. Modifications

The following list of products is being added to “Appendix B to Subpart A of Part 3040—Competitive Product List”:

1. First-Class Package Service Contract 115
2. First-Class Package Service Contract 116
3. First-Class Package Service Contract 117
4. Parcel Select Contract 47
5. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 191
6. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 192

¹ See <https://www.prc.gov/mail-classification-schedule> in the Current MCS section.

² 39 CFR 3040.103(d)(1). More detailed information (e.g., Docket Nos., Order Nos., effective dates, and extensions) for each market dominant and competitive product can be found in the MCS, including the “Revision History” section. *See, e.g.*, file “MCSRedline03312020.docx,” available at <https://www.prc.gov/mail-classification-schedule>.

³ Previous versions of the MCS and its product lists can be found on the Commission’s website, available at <https://www.prc.gov/mail-classification-schedule> in the MCS Archives section.

7. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 193
8. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 194
9. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 195
10. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 196
11. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 197
12. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 198
13. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 199
14. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 200
15. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 201
16. Priority Mail Contract 691
17. Priority Mail Contract 692
18. Priority Mail Contract 693
19. Priority Mail Contract 694
20. Priority Mail Contract 695
21. Priority Mail Contract 696
22. Priority Mail Contract 697
23. Priority Mail Contract 698
24. Priority Mail Contract 699
25. Priority Mail Contract 700
26. Priority Mail Contract 701
27. Priority Mail Contract 702
28. Priority Mail Contract 703
29. Priority Mail Contract 704
30. Priority Mail Contract 705
31. Priority Mail Contract 706
32. Priority Mail Contract 707
33. Priority Mail Contract 708
34. Priority Mail Contract 709
35. Priority Mail Contract 710
36. Priority Mail Contract 711
37. Priority Mail Contract 712
38. Priority Mail Contract 713
39. Priority Mail Contract 714
40. Priority Mail Contract 715
41. Priority Mail Contract 716
42. Priority Mail Contract 717
43. Priority Mail Contract 718
44. Priority Mail Contract 719
45. Priority Mail Contract 720
46. Priority Mail Express Contract 87
47. Priority Mail Express Contract 88
48. Priority Mail Express Contract 89
49. Priority Mail Express Contract 90
50. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 74
51. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 75
52. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 76
53. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service & Parcel Select Contract 9
54. Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International, First-Class Package International Service & Commercial ePacket Contract 10
- The following list of products is being removed from “Appendix B to Subpart A of Part 3040—Competitive Product List”:
1. First-Class Package Service Contract 75
2. First-Class Package Service Contract 85
3. First-Class Package Service Contract 92
4. First-Class Package Service Contract 93
5. First-Class Package Service Contract 102
6. First-Class Package Service Contract 111
7. First-Class Package Service Contract 113
8. International Priority Airmail Contract 1
9. International Priority Airmail, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 3
10. International Priority Airmail, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International, & First-Class Package International Service Contract 7
11. International Priority Airmail, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 10
12. Parcel Return Service Contract 15
13. Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service Contract 8
14. Parcel Select & Parcel Return Service Contract 12
15. Parcel Select Contract 20
16. Parcel Select Contract 36
17. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 61
18. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 72
19. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 73
20. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 74
21. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 80
22. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 81
23. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 85
24. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 92
25. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 93
26. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 103
27. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 111
28. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 119
29. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 120
30. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 125
31. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 131
32. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 138
33. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 140
34. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 145
35. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 147
36. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 157
37. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 160
38. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 161
39. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 165
40. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 167
41. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 171
42. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 173
43. Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 181
44. Priority Mail & Parcel Select Contract 3
45. Priority Mail Contract 357
46. Priority Mail Contract 383
47. Priority Mail Contract 389
48. Priority Mail Contract 395
49. Priority Mail Contract 400
50. Priority Mail Contract 401
51. Priority Mail Contract 403
52. Priority Mail Contract 416
53. Priority Mail Contract 421
54. Priority Mail Contract 424
55. Priority Mail Contract 427
56. Priority Mail Contract 428
57. Priority Mail Contract 431
58. Priority Mail Contract 437
59. Priority Mail Contract 439
60. Priority Mail Contract 440
61. Priority Mail Contract 444
62. Priority Mail Contract 445
63. Priority Mail Contract 450
64. Priority Mail Contract 451
65. Priority Mail Contract 458
66. Priority Mail Contract 462
67. Priority Mail Contract 464
68. Priority Mail Contract 465
69. Priority Mail Contract 502
70. Priority Mail Contract 510
71. Priority Mail Contract 521
72. Priority Mail Contract 522
73. Priority Mail Contract 525
74. Priority Mail Contract 526
75. Priority Mail Contract 532
76. Priority Mail Contract 538
77. Priority Mail Contract 560
78. Priority Mail Contract 563
79. Priority Mail Contract 570
80. Priority Mail Contract 572
81. Priority Mail Contract 574
82. Priority Mail Contract 592
83. Priority Mail Contract 593
84. Priority Mail Contract 597
85. Priority Mail Contract 598

86. Priority Mail Contract 600
 87. Priority Mail Contract 602
 88. Priority Mail Contract 603
 89. Priority Mail Contract 613
 90. Priority Mail Contract 616
 91. Priority Mail Contract 617
 92. Priority Mail Contract 619
 93. Priority Mail Contract 622
 94. Priority Mail Contract 623
 95. Priority Mail Contract 626
 96. Priority Mail Contract 629
 97. Priority Mail Contract 632
 98. Priority Mail Contract 633
 99. Priority Mail Contract 637
 100. Priority Mail Contract 638
 101. Priority Mail Contract 639
 102. Priority Mail Contract 643
 103. Priority Mail Contract 644
 104. Priority Mail Contract 646
 105. Priority Mail Contract 648
 106. Priority Mail Contract 649
 107. Priority Mail Contract 651
 108. Priority Mail Contract 652
 109. Priority Mail Contract 653
 110. Priority Mail Contract 654
 111. Priority Mail Contract 659
 112. Priority Mail Contract 662
 113. Priority Mail Contract 667
 114. Priority Mail Contract 668
 115. Priority Mail Contract 673
 116. Priority Mail Contract 676
 117. Priority Mail Contract 678
 118. Priority Mail Contract 679
 119. Priority Mail Contract 680
 120. Priority Mail Express & First-Class Package Service Contract 1
 121. Priority Mail Express & First-Class Package Service Contract 3
 122. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 13
 123. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 59
 124. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 62
 125. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 67
 126. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 75
 127. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 79
 128. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 83
 129. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 86
 130. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 105
 131. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 107
 132. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 108
 133. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 112
 134. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 113
 135. Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract 117
 136. Priority Mail Express Contract 54
 137. Priority Mail Express Contract 57
 138. Priority Mail Express Contract 62

139. Priority Mail Express Contract 64
 140. Priority Mail Express Contract 82
 141. Priority Mail Express Contract 84
 142. Priority Mail Express Contract 85
 143. Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International, First-Class Package International Service & Commercial ePacket Contract 3
 144. Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International, First-Class Package International Service & Commercial ePacket Contract 9
 145. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 23
 146. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 25
 147. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 28
 148. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 29
 149. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 35
 150. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 36
 151. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 37
 152. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 39
 153. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 44
 154. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 45
 155. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 46
 156. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 48
 157. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 68
 158. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 70
 159. Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & First-Class Package Service Contract 72

The above-referenced changes to the competitive product list are incorporated into “Appendix B to Subpart A of Part 3040—Competitive Product List.”

V. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. Part 3040 of title 39, Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as set forth below the signature of this document, effective 45 days after the

date of publication of the document in the **Federal Register** without further action, unless adverse comments are received.

2. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of the document in the **Federal Register**.

3. Interested persons may submit adverse comments no later than 30 days from the date of the publication of this document in the **Federal Register**.

4. If adverse comments are received, the Secretary will publish a timely withdrawal of the document in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Erica A. Barker,

Secretary.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 3040

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Postal Regulatory Commission amends chapter III of title 39 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 3040—PRODUCT LISTS AND THE MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 3040 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 503; 3622; 3631; 3642; 3682.

■ 2. Revise appendix A to subpart A of part 3040 to read as follows:

Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 3040—Market Dominant Product List

(An asterisk (*) indicates an organizational class or group, not a Postal Service product.)

FIRST-CLASS MAIL *

Single-Piece Letters/Postcards

Presorted Letters/Postcards

Flats

Outbound Single-Piece First-Class Mail International

Inbound Letter Post

USPS MARKETING MAIL (COMMERCIAL AND NONPROFIT) *

High Density and Saturation Letters

High Density and Saturation Flats/Parcels Carrier Route

Letters

Flats

Parcels

Every Door Direct Mail—Retail

PERIODICALS *

In-County Periodicals

Outside County Periodicals

PACKAGE SERVICES *

Alaska Bypass Service

Bound Printed Matter Flats

Bound Printed Matter Parcels

Media Mail/Library Mail

SPECIAL SERVICES *

Ancillary Services
 International Ancillary Services
 Address Management Services
 Caller Service
 Credit Card Authentication
 International Reply Coupon Service
 International Business Reply Mail Service
 Money Orders
 Post Office Box Service
 Stamp Fulfillment Services

NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENTS *

Domestic*
 International*
 Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service
 Agreements with Foreign Postal
 Operators

NONPOSTAL SERVICES *

Alliances with the Private Sector to Defray
 Cost of Key Postal Functions
 Philatelic Sales

MARKET TESTS *

Plus One
 Commercial PO Box Redirect Service
 Extended Mail Forwarding

■ 3. Revise appendix B to subpart A of part 3040 to read as follows:

**Appendix B to Subpart A of Part 3040—
 Competitive Product List**

(An asterisk (*) indicates an organizational class or group, not a Postal Service product.)

DOMESTIC PRODUCTS *

Priority Mail Express
 Priority Mail
 Parcel Select
 Parcel Return Service
 First-Class Package Service
 USPS Retail Ground

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS *

Outbound International Expedited Services
 Inbound Parcel Post (at UPU rates)
 Outbound Priority Mail International
 International Priority Airmail (IPA)
 International Surface Air Lift (ISAL)
 International Direct Sacks—M-Bags
 Outbound Single-Piece First-Class Package
 International Service
 Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky
 Letters

NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENTS *

Domestic *
 Priority Mail Express Contract 60
 Priority Mail Express Contract 65
 Priority Mail Express Contract 74
 Priority Mail Express Contract 77
 Priority Mail Express Contract 81
 Priority Mail Express Contract 83
 Priority Mail Express Contract 87
 Priority Mail Express Contract 88
 Priority Mail Express Contract 89
 Priority Mail Express Contract 90
 Parcel Return Service Contract 11
 Parcel Return Service Contract 14
 Parcel Return Service Contract 17
 Parcel Return Service Contract 18
 Priority Mail Contract 80
 Priority Mail Contract 153
 Priority Mail Contract 292
 Priority Mail Contract 360
 Priority Mail Contract 438

Priority Mail Contract 457
 Priority Mail Contract 469
 Priority Mail Contract 474
 Priority Mail Contract 478
 Priority Mail Contract 479
 Priority Mail Contract 486
 Priority Mail Contract 487
 Priority Mail Contract 488
 Priority Mail Contract 490
 Priority Mail Contract 495
 Priority Mail Contract 497
 Priority Mail Contract 499
 Priority Mail Contract 503
 Priority Mail Contract 504
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 Priority Mail Contract 507
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 Priority Mail Contract 607
 Priority Mail Contract 609
 Priority Mail Contract 611
 Priority Mail Contract 614
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 Priority Mail Contract 628
 Priority Mail Contract 631
 Priority Mail Contract 635
 Priority Mail Contract 640
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 Priority Mail Contract 642
 Priority Mail Contract 645
 Priority Mail Contract 647
 Priority Mail Contract 650
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 Priority Mail Contract 657
 Priority Mail Contract 658
 Priority Mail Contract 660
 Priority Mail Contract 661
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 Priority Mail Contract 710
 Priority Mail Contract 711
 Priority Mail Contract 712
 Priority Mail Contract 713
 Priority Mail Contract 714
 Priority Mail Contract 715
 Priority Mail Contract 716
 Priority Mail Contract 717
 Priority Mail Contract 718
 Priority Mail Contract 719
 Priority Mail Contract 720
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 48
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 72
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 73
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 84
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 85
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
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 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
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 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 95
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 96
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 99
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 101
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 102
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 103
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 111
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 114
 Priority Mail Express & Priority Mail Contract
 116

International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service with Reseller Contract 5

International Priority Airmail Contracts

International Priority Airmail, International Surface Air Lift, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contracts

International Priority Airmail, International Surface Air Lift, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 1

International Priority Airmail, International Surface Air Lift, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 2

International Priority Airmail, International Surface Air Lift, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service with Reseller Contracts

International Priority Airmail, International Surface Air Lift, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service with Reseller Contract 1

International Priority Airmail, International Surface Air Lift, Commercial ePacket, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service with Reseller Contract 2

Inbound International*

International Business Reply Service (IBRS) Competitive Contracts

International Business Reply Service Competitive Contract 1

International Business Reply Service Competitive Contract 3

Inbound Direct Entry Contracts with Customers

Inbound Direct Entry Contracts with Foreign Postal Administrations

Inbound Direct Entry Contracts with Foreign Postal Administrations

Inbound Direct Entry Contracts with Foreign Postal Administrations 1

Inbound EMS

Inbound EMS 2

Inbound Air Parcel Post (at non-UPU rates)

Inbound Competitive Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators

Inbound Competitive Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1

SPECIAL SERVICES*

Address Enhancement Services

Greeting Cards, Gift Cards, and Stationery

International Ancillary Services

International Money Transfer Service—Outbound

International Money Transfer Service—Inbound

Premium Forwarding Service

Shipping and Mailing Supplies

Post Office Box Service

Competitive Ancillary Services

NONPOSTAL SERVICES*

Advertising

Licensing of Intellectual Property other than Officially Licensed Retail Products (OLRP)

Mail Service Promotion

Officially Licensed Retail Products (OLRP)

Passport Photo Service

Photocopying Service

Rental, Leasing, Licensing or other Non-Sale Disposition of Tangible Property

Training Facilities and Related Services

USPS Electronic Postmark (EPM) Program

MARKET TESTS*

[FR Doc. 2021-24391 Filed 11-9-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 160906822-7547-02; RTID 0648-XB566]

Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2021 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure of the Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina Hogfish Stock in the South Atlantic

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS implements accountability measures (AMs) applicable to the commercial harvest of hogfish in the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina (Georgia-North Carolina) for the 2021 fishing year through this temporary rule. NMFS estimates that commercial landings of the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock have reached the sector's annual catch limit (ACL). Therefore, NMFS closes the commercial sector for the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock on November 10, 2021. This closure is necessary to protect the hogfish resource.

DATES: This rule is effective 12:01 a.m., local time, November 10, 2021, until 12:01 a.m., local time, January 1, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Vara, NMFS Southeast Regional Office, telephone: 727-824-5305, email: mary.vara@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The snapper-grouper fishery of the South Atlantic includes hogfish and is

managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 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.

On August 24, 2017, NMFS implemented management measures for hogfish through a final rule for Amendment 37 to the FMP (82 FR 34584; July 25, 2017). For South Atlantic hogfish, that final rule set management and AMs as two stocks: Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina (Georgia-North Carolina), and Florida Keys/East Florida (Florida Keys-East Florida). It also specified fishing levels and AMs for those stocks, according to each sector. The commercial inseason AM for Georgia-North Carolina states that if commercial landings reach or are projected to reach the commercial ACL, then the commercial sector will be closed for the remainder of the fishing year (50 CFR 622.193(u)(1)(i)(A)).

The commercial ACL for the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock is 23,456 lb (10,639 kg), round weight (50 CFR 622.193(u)(1)(iii)(A)). The NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center indicates that the commercial ACL for the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock has been reached. Therefore, this temporary rule implements an AM to close the commercial sector of the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock for the remainder of the 2021 fishing year. As a result, the 2021 commercial harvest for the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock in Federal waters of the South Atlantic EEZ will be closed effective 12:01 a.m., local time, November 10, 2021. During the closure, the recreational bag and possession limits for the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock in or from South Atlantic Federal waters is two fish per person, per day.

All sale or purchase of hogfish in or from Federal waters of the South Atlantic off Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina is prohibited, and harvest or possession of this species is limited to the bag and possession limits while the recreational sector is open. These bag and possession limits apply to the Georgia-North Carolina hogfish stock on board a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, without regard to where such species were harvested, *i.e.*, in state or Federal waters (50 CFR 622.193(u)(1)(i)(A)).