

September 11, 2023; and 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

Areas 7 and 7A: Open for drift gillnet fishing from 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Saturday, September 9, 2023; 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Sunday, September 10, 2023; 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Monday, September 11, 2023; and 8 a.m. through 9 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

Area 7: Open for reef net fishing 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Saturday, September 9, 2023; 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Sunday, September 10, 2023; 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Monday, September 11, 2023; and 5:30 a.m. through 9 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2023-08: Issued 12:00 p.m., September 12, 2023

Treaty Tribal Fishery

Areas 6, 7, and 7A: Extend for net fishing from 9 a.m. through 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Sockeye must be released.

Treaty Tribal and All Citizen Fisheries

Areas 6, 7, and 7A, excluding the Apex: Relinquish regulatory control effective 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The Apex is those waters north and west of the Area 7A "East Point Line," defined as a line projected from the low water range marker in Boundary Bay on the International Boundary through the east tip of Point Roberts in the state of Washington to the East Point light on Saturna Island in the Province of British Columbia.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries NOAA (AA), finds that good cause exists for the inseason orders to be issued without affording the public prior notice and opportunity for comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such prior notice and opportunity for comments is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment is impracticable because of insufficient time between the time the stock abundance information is available to determine how much fishing can be allowed and the time the fishery must open or close in order to harvest the appropriate amount of fish while they are available.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective

date, required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), of the inseason orders. A delay in the effective date of the inseason orders would not allow fishers appropriately controlled access to the available fish at that time they are available.

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 300.97, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 3636(b).

Dated: December 19, 2023.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

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. 221223-0282; RTID 0648-XD608]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to NJ

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

ACTION: Notification of quota transfer.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the State of North Carolina is transferring a portion of its 2023 commercial summer flounder quota to the State of New Jersey. This adjustment to the 2023 fishing year quota is necessary to comply with the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan quota transfer provisions. This announcement informs the public of the revised 2023 commercial quotas for North Carolina and New Jersey.

DATES: Effective December 21, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Deighan, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9184.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found in 50 CFR 648.100 through 648.111. These regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from Maine through North Carolina. The

process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state is described in § 648.102 and final 2023 allocations were published on January 3, 2023 (88 FR 11).

The final rule implementing Amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP), as published in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), provided a mechanism for transferring summer flounder commercial quota from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Administrator, can transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota under § 648.102(c)(2). The Regional Administrator is required to consider three criteria in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations: the transfer or combinations would not preclude the overall annual quota from being fully harvested; the transfer addresses an unforeseen variation or contingency in the fishery; and the transfer is consistent with the objectives of the FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Regional Administrator has determined these three criteria have been met for the transfer approved in this notification.

North Carolina is transferring 16,690 pounds (lb; 7,570 kilograms (kg)) to New Jersey through a mutual agreement between the states. This transfer was requested to repay landings made by an out-of-state permitted vessel under a safe harbor agreement. The revised summer flounder quotas for 2023 are North Carolina, 3,131,074 lb (1,420,231 kg), and New Jersey, 2,487,110 lb (1,128,134 kg).

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 648.102(c)(2)(i) through (iv), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b), and is exempted from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: December 20, 2023.

Everett Wayne Baxter,

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

[FR Doc. 2023-28423 Filed 12-21-23; 4:15 pm]

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