

Public Reporting Burden Statement

NMFS estimates that the public reporting burden will average 10 minutes per response for completing the Observer Coverage Rebate Application, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of the data requirements, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 (Attn: Lori Gravel), and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0634-), Washington DC 20503 (Attn: NOAA Desk Officer)

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50 CFR Part 642

[I.D. 050294A]

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of an amendment to a fishery management plan and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils (Councils) have submitted Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) for review by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary).

Written comments are requested from the public.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before July 1, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be mailed to the Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

Requests for copies of Amendment 7, which includes a regulatory impact review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis and an environmental assessment, should be sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 W. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609-24*6, FAX 813-225-7015, or to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Southpark Building, One Southpark Circle, suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699, FAX 803-769-4520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark F. Godcharles, 813-893-3161.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) requires that a council-prepared amendment to a fishery management plan be submitted to the Secretary for review and approval, disapproval, or partial disapproval. The Magnuson Act also requires that the Secretary, upon receiving an amendment, immediately publish a notice that the document is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider public comment in determining approvability of the amendment.

Amendment 7 proposes the following actions. (1) The eastern zone commercial quota for the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel would be divided into equal quotas for Florida east and west coast fisheries. The Florida east coast sub-zone would encompass the waters off the east coast of Florida from a line extending directly east from the Volusia/Flagler County, Florida boundary (29°25'N. lat.) to a line extending directly east from the Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundary

(25°20.4'N. lat.). The east coast sub-zone would exist from November 1 through March 31, when the boundary separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel is a line extending directly east from the Volusia/Flagler County, Florida boundary. From November 1 through March 31, the Florida west coast sub-zone would encompass the waters off the southeast, south, and west coasts of Florida from the Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundary to a line extending directly south from the Alabama/Florida boundary (87°31'06"-W. long.). From April 1 through October 31, when the boundary separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel is a line extending directly west from the Monroe/Collier County, Florida boundary (25°48'N. lat.), the west coast sub-zone would extend from the Monroe/Collier County, Florida boundary to the Alabama/Florida boundary. (2) The west coast sub-zone quota would be further subdivided into equal quotas for fishermen harvesting with hook-and-line and those using run-around gillnet gear. (3) Persons would be allowed to fish under the gillnet quota in the west coast sub-zone only aboard vessels that have endorsements on their Federal commercial mackerel permits to fish with gillnets in that sub-zone. All harvest of Gulf group king mackerel in the west coast sub-zone by vessels with such an endorsement would be counted against the gillnet quota.

Proposed regulations to implement Amendment 7 are scheduled for publication within 15 days.

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

Dated: May 3, 1994.

Richard H. Schaefer,

Director of Office of Fisheries, Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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