

TITLE: 2013 Emergency Action in the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan

SIGNIFICANCE: Not Significant

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW: Not Major

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

RIN: 0648-BC79

PLANNED PUBLICATION DATE: Proposed Rule -- February 2013
Final Rule -- April 2013

STATUTORY/JUDICIAL DEADLINE: None

DESCRIPTION: At its November 2012 meeting, the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) requested that the Secretary of Commerce implement this Emergency action to eliminate monkfish possession limits in the Northern Fishery Management Area during fishing year 2013 due to the substantially reduced groundfish catch limits. This action would eliminate monkfish possession limits for the vessels that have been issued both a limited access monkfish permit and a Northeast multispecies (groundfish) permit and are simultaneously using both a monkfish and a groundfish day-at-sea in the Northern Fishery Management Area (Management Area). By eliminating the possession limits in these specific cases, this action would increase monkfish possession limits for the directed monkfish fishery in the Northern Fishery Management Area. It is expected that this action would allow some of the directed fishing vessels to land more monkfish per trip, which would result in an increase in revenue for such vessels.

TITLE: Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program Trailing Actions: Permitting requirements for observer and catch monitor providers

SIGNIFICANCE: Not significant

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW: Not Major

UPCOMING ACTION: Proposed rule

AGENCY: NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

RIN: 0648-BD30

PLANNED PUBLICATION: Proposed rule -- August 2013
Final Rule -- October 2013

STATUTORY/JUDICIAL DEADLINE: none

DESCRIPTION: This action would modify regulations pertaining to certified catch monitors and observers required under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The action specifies permitting requirements for business entities interested in providing certified observers and catch monitor services, as well as addresses numerous housekeeping measures and updates observer provider and vessel responsibilities relative to observer safety such that the regulations are consistent with the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012. This action affects individuals serving as certified catch monitors and observers, business entities that provide certified catch monitors and observers, vessels that are required to carry certified observers, and shore-based business entities that are required to employ the services of certified catch monitors.

TITLE: Amendment 28 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

SIGNIFICANCE: Not Significant

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW: Not Major

AGENCY: NMFS, NOAA, Commerce

RIN: 0648-BC63

PLANNED PUBLICATION: Proposed Rule – January 2013
Final Rule – May 2013

FINAL ACTION: May 2013

STATUTORY/JUDICIAL DEADLINE: none

DESCRIPTION:

A limited red snapper fishing season was established in 2012 through an emergency action under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) determined that some directed harvest could be allowed without compromising the rebuilding of the red snapper stock to target levels, and they saw the limited harvest as an opportunity to collect additional data on red snapper. Through Amendment 28, the Council intends to establish a process that would allow this type of limited harvest for red snapper in 2013 and in the future, depending on the projected mortalities (landings and discards) for the current fishing year and the amount of harvest from the previous year. The proposed actions would benefit fishermen and fishing communities that utilize the red snapper portion of the snapper grouper fishery.

TITLE: Designation of Critical Habitat for the Distinct Population Segments of Yelloweye Rockfish, Canary Rockfish, and Bocaccio of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin

SIGNIFICANCE: Not Significant

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW: Not Major

UPCOMING ACTION: Proposed Rule

AGENCY: NMFS, NOAA, Commerce

RIN: 0648-BC76

PLANNED PUBLICATION: Proposed Rule -- January 2013
Final Rule -- October 2013

STATUTORY/JUDICIAL DEADLINE: One year from the date of ESA listing

DESCRIPTION: The proposed action is to issue a proposed critical habitat designation for the Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of threatened yelloweye rockfish, the DPS of threatened canary rockfish, and the endangered DPS of bocaccio of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin, which were listed under the Endangered Species Act on April 27, 2010.

Proposed critical habitat designation for listed rockfish is not expected to have a significant impact because critical habitat has been previously designated in portions of Puget Sound for several threatened or endangered species. They include Puget Sound Chinook salmon and Hood Canal summer-run chum salmon, the Southern DPS of North American green sturgeon, bull trout, and Southern Resident killer whales. These previous designations share some essential features with listed rockfish, including adequate water quality and opportunity for foraging. The vast majority of the areas proposed as critical habitat for listed rockfish has already been designated as critical habitat for one or more of the species listed above. In addition, NOAA Fisheries is not aware of any circumstances in which the proposed designation would materially alter the budgetary impact of any entitlements, grants, use fees, or loan programs.