

Dated: June 19, 2000.

David A. Drabkin,

*Deputy Associate Administrator for
Acquisition Policy.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[I.D. 050500G]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Texas Closure

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

ACTION: Adjustment of the ending date of the Texas closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces an adjustment to the ending date of the annual closure of the shrimp fishery in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Texas. The closure is normally from May 15 to July 15 each year. For 2000, the closure began on May 11, and will end at 30 minutes after sunset on July 5. The Texas closure is intended to prohibit the harvest of brown shrimp during their major emigration from Texas estuaries to the Gulf of Mexico so the shrimp may reach a larger, more valuable size and to prevent the waste of brown shrimp that would be discarded in fishing operations because of their small size.

DATES: The EEZ off Texas is open to trawl fishing from 30 minutes after sunset, July 5, 2000, until 30 minutes after sunset, May 15, 2001, or until NMFS publishes further notice in the *Federal Register*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Steve Branstetter, 727-570-5305; fax: 727-570-5583; e-mail: Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The EEZ off Texas is normally closed to all trawling each year from 30 minutes after sunset on May 15 to 30 minutes after sunset on July 15. The regulations at 50 CFR 622.34(h) describe the area of the Texas closure and provide for adjustments to the beginning and ending dates by the Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, NMFS, under procedures and restrictions specified in the FMP.

The beginning and ending dates of the Texas closure are based on biological sampling by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The closure date is established based on projected times that brown shrimp in Texas bays and estuaries will reach a mean size of 90 mm, and begin strong emigrations out of the bays and estuaries during maximum duration ebb tides. The waters off of Texas are re-opened to shrimping based on projections indicating that brown shrimp will reach a mean size of 112 mm, in concurrence with maximum duration ebb tides. Biological data collected by TPDW indicates that the criteria to end the Texas closure will be met on July 5, 2000. Accordingly, the time and date for ending the Texas closure is changed from 30 minutes after sunset on July 15, 2000, to 30 minutes after sunset on July 5, 2000.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 622.34(h)(2) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: June 29, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 00-16942 Filed 6-29-00; 4:21 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 981224323-9226-02; I.D. 120198B]

RIN 0648-AL23

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Recordkeeping and Reporting; Correction

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains a correction to the final rule for recordkeeping and reporting that was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15, 1999.

DATES: Effective December 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patsy A. Bearden, 907-586-7008.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15, 1999 (64 FR 61964), to revise recordkeeping and reporting regulations. The requirement that the operator of a catcher vessel is required to make records available for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer was inadvertently omitted from 50 CFR part 679.

Correction

In the final rule Revisions to Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements published in 64 FR 61964, November 15, 1999, FR Doc. 99-28294, on page 61974, in the third column, remove § 679.5(a)(13)(i) and add in its place the following:

§ 679.5 [Corrected]

(a) * * *

(13) * * *

(i) *Inspection.* The operator of a catcher vessel or catcher/processor or mothership or the manager of a shoreside processor or the operator of a buying station must make all logbooks, reports, forms, and mothership-issued fish tickets required under this section available for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer for the time periods indicated in paragraph (a)(13)(ii) of this section.

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Dated: June 29, 2000.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

*Deputy Asst. Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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