

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The direct final rule, “Joint Policies of the Departments of the Interior and of the Army Relative to Reservoir Project Lands,” published on January 16, 2025, at 90 FR 4669, included a 60-day public comment period that ended on March 17, 2025. The effective date of the direct final rule was April 16, 2025. A notice to delay the effective date of the direct final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on April 16, 2025, at 90 FR 15935 delaying the effective date to May 16, 2025. This notice further delays the effective date to June 16, 2025. The Department of the Interior is taking this action in response to Memorandum M-25-10 of January 20, 2025, from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, Implementation of Regulatory Freeze, regarding the postponement of effective dates of certain published regulations. The memorandum directed the heads of Executive Departments and Agencies to consider postponing for 60 days from the date of the memorandum the effective date for any rules that have been published in the **Federal Register**, or any rules that have been issued in any manner but have not taken effect, for the purpose of reviewing any questions of fact, law, and policy that the rule may raise. The Department of the Interior is delaying the effective date of the direct final rule published at 90 FR 4669 to June 16, 2025.

The Department of the Interior is delaying the effective date of the direct final rule without opportunity for public comment and making the delay effective immediately, based on the good cause exemptions in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) and 553(d)(3), in that seeking public comment on the delay is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest. The delay in effective date until June 16, 2025, is necessary to give Department officials the opportunity for further review and consideration of new regulations, consistent with the memorandum of the President, dated

January 20, 2025. Given the imminence of the effective date of the direct final rule, seeking prior public comment on this delay is impractical, and contrary to the public interest in the orderly promulgation and implementation of regulations. For the foregoing reasons, the good cause exception in 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) also applies to the Department of the Interior’s decision to make this action effective immediately.

Tyler Hassen,

Acting Assistant Secretary—Policy, Management, and Budget.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 622**

[Docket No. 231101-0256; RTID 0648-XE866]

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; 2025 Recreational Fishing Season Announcement and Closure for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; recreational fishing season and closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the 2025 recreational fishing season for blueline tilefish in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the South Atlantic. Announcing the length of the recreational fishing season is the accountability measure (AM) for the recreational sector. NMFS estimates that recreational landings of blueline tilefish will reach the recreational annual catch limit (ACL) during the 2025 fishing year. NMFS announces the season length and closure date for the recreational harvest of blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic to allow recreational fishermen to maximize their opportunities while NMFS manages recreational harvest to protect the blueline tilefish resource.

DATES: This temporary rule is effective from July 22 through December 31, 2025.

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 blueline tilefish 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 NMFS, approved by the Secretary of Commerce, 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.

Regulations at 50 CFR 622.193(z)(2) specify the recreational ACL for blueline tilefish of 116,820 pounds (lb) or 52,989 kilograms (kg) in round weight, and the recreational AM. The recreational AM states that NMFS will project the length of the recreational fishing season for blueline tilefish based on catch rates from the previous fishing year and announce the end date of the recreational season based on when NMFS projects the recreational ACL will be met [50 CFR 622.193(z)(2)]. While the fishing year for blueline tilefish started on January 1, 2025, the recreational season for blueline tilefish harvested in or from the South Atlantic EEZ is closed from January 1 through April 30, and September 1 through December 31 each year [50 CFR 622.183(b)(7)]. Data from the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center informed NMFS’ projection that recreational landings of blueline tilefish will reach the recreational ACL for 2025 by July 22. Therefore, the recreational season and harvest of blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic EEZ is closed starting on July 22, 2025, and will continue to be closed through the end of the calendar year. During the recreational closure, the bag and possession limits for blueline tilefish in or from the South Atlantic EEZ are zero. The next recreational fishing season for blueline tilefish begins on May 1, 2026.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 622.193(z)(2), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures are unnecessary because the rule that established the recreational ACL and AM for blueline tilefish has already been subject to notice and comment,

and all that remains is for NMFS to notify the public of the end date of the recreational season. Such procedures are contrary to the public interest because of the need to immediately implement this action to protect the bluefin tilefish stock. NMFS estimates that the recreational ACL will be reached in 2025 and prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require additional time, potentially resulting in a harvest in excess of the established ACL.

For the reasons just stated, there is also good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

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

Dated: May 12, 2025.

Kelly Denit,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 250512-0084]

RIN 0648-BN19

Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2025 Specifications and Management Measures

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: Through this final rule, NMFS establishes fishery management measures for the ocean salmon fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California for the season beginning May 16, 2025, and ending May 15, 2026 (the 2025 ocean salmon fishing season), under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The fishery management measures include fishing areas, seasons, quotas, legal gear, recreational fishing days and catch limits, harvest guidelines, possession and landing restrictions, and minimum lengths for salmon taken in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Washington, Oregon, and California. These measures are intended to prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from the fishery, to provide for the exercise of federally

recognized fishing rights by West Coast Indian Tribes, to allow a portion of the salmon runs to escape the ocean fisheries in order to provide for spawning escapement, and to apportion the ocean harvest equitably among non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries.

DATES: This final rule is effective from 0001 hours Pacific Daylight Time, May 16, 2025, until the effective date of the 2026 management measures, as published in the **Federal Register**, which we expect to be 0001 hours Pacific Daylight Time, May 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The documents cited in this document are available on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council or PFMC) website (<https://www.pcouncil.org>) and the NMFS West Coast Region (WCR) website (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/fisheries-west-coast-states-west-coast-salmon-fisheries-2025-management-measures>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The ocean salmon fisheries in the EEZ (3-200 nautical miles (nmi); 5.6-370.4 kilometers (km)) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California are managed under the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subpart H, provide the mechanism for developing and promulgating preseason specifications and management measures and making inseason adjustments to the management measures within limits set by the FMP by notification in the **Federal Register**. Regulations at 50 CFR 660.408 govern the establishment of annual management measures, and regulations at 50 CFR 660.409 govern the implementation of inseason adjustments. This rule implements the management measures for the 2025 ocean salmon fishing season.

Process Used To Establish 2025 Management Measures

Ocean salmon fishery management measures are established via a collaborative process with the Council, States, Tribes, fishing industry participants, anglers, and the public. The Council announced its annual preseason management process for the 2025 ocean salmon fishing season in the **Federal Register** on December 11, 2024 (89 FR 99841). NMFS published an additional notice of opportunity to submit public comments on the 2025 ocean salmon fishery management

measures in the **Federal Register** on February 19, 2025 (90 FR 9896). These notices announced the availability of key documents, the dates and locations of meetings and public hearings regarding determining the annual proposed and final modifications to ocean salmon fishery management measures, and instructions on how to comment on those measures. The agendas for the March and April Council meetings were published in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 9618, February 14, 2025, and 90 FR 12706, March 19, 2025) and posted on the Council's website prior to the meetings.

In accordance with the FMP, the Council's Salmon Technical Team (STT) and economist prepared four reports, which were made available on the Council's website upon their completion. The first of the reports, "Review of 2024 Ocean Salmon Fisheries," was prepared in February when the first increment of scientific information necessary for crafting management measures for the 2025 ocean salmon fishing season became available. The first report summarizes biological and socio-economic data from the 2024 ocean salmon fisheries and assesses the performance of the fisheries with respect to the 2024 management objectives for salmon stocks and stock complexes, as well as provides historical information for comparison. The second report, "Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations" (PRE I), provides the 2025 salmon stock abundance projections and analyzes how the salmon stocks defined in the FMP and Council management goals would be affected if the 2024 management measures (the no-action alternative under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)) were continued for the 2025 ocean salmon fishing season. The completion of PRE I is the initial step in developing and evaluating the full suite of preseason alternatives for the 2025 fishing season.

Following the completion of the first two reports, the Council met from March 4 to 11, 2025, to develop 2025 management alternatives for proposal to the public and consideration under NEPA. The Council proposed three alternatives for commercial and recreational fisheries management and three alternatives for treaty Indian fisheries management for analysis and public comment. These alternatives consisted of various combinations of management measures designed to ensure that stocks of coho salmon and Chinook salmon meet conservation goals, to provide for ocean harvests of