

this final regulatory action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The small entities that this final regulatory action will affect are LEAs, including charter schools that operate as LEAs under State law; institutions of higher education; other public agencies; private nonprofit organizations; freely associated States and outlying areas; Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations; and for-profit organizations. We believe that the costs imposed on an applicant by the final priority will be limited to paperwork burden related to preparing an application and that the benefits will outweigh any costs incurred by applicants.

Participation in the Technical Assistance on State Data Collection program is voluntary. For this reason, the final priority imposes no burden on small entities unless they applied for funding under the program. We expect that in determining whether to apply for Technical Assistance on State Data Collection program funds, an eligible entity will evaluate the requirements of preparing an application and any associated costs and weigh them against the benefits likely to be achieved by receiving a Technical Assistance on State Data Collection program grant. An eligible entity will apply only if it determines that the likely benefits exceed the costs of preparing an application.

We believe that the final priority will not impose any additional burden on a small entity applying for a grant than the entity would face in the absence of the proposed action. That is, the length of the applications those entities would submit in the absence of this final regulatory action and the time needed to prepare an application would likely be the same.

This final regulatory action would not have a significant economic impact on a small entity once it receives a grant because it will be able to meet the costs of compliance using the funds provided under this program.

Intergovernmental Review: This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. One of the objectives of the Executive order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism. The Executive order relies on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

This document provides early notification of our specific plans and actions for this program.

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR**

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, compact disc, or other accessible format.

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Diana Diaz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 300

[Docket No. 250620-0102]

RIN 0648-BN54

Pacific Halibut Fisheries of the West Coast; Management Measures for the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Directed Commercial Fishery

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS is implementing annual management measures for the 2025 non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery that operates south of Point Chehalis, WA, (lat. 46°53.30' N) in the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) regulatory Area 2A off Washington, Oregon, and California. Annual management measures include fishing periods and

fishing period limits. NMFS is also implementing modified permit deadlines for all Area 2A non-Tribal commercial fisheries and is modifying inseason action announcement procedures for the Area 2A non-Tribal directed commercial fishery. These actions are intended to conserve Pacific halibut and provide fishing opportunity where available.

DATES: This rule is effective on June 24, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Heather Fitch, West Coast Region, NMFS, (360) 867-8608, heather.fitch@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773-773k) (Halibut Act) gives the Secretary of Commerce the responsibility of implementing the provisions of the Convention between Canada and the United States for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea (Convention), signed at Ottawa, Ontario, on March 2, 1953, as amended by a Protocol Amending the Convention (March 29, 1979).

As provided in the Halibut Act at 16 U.S.C. 773b, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, may accept or reject, on behalf of the United States, regulations recommended by the IPHC in accordance with the Convention. Following acceptance by the Secretary of State, the annual management measures recommended by the IPHC are published in the **Federal Register** through a NMFS rulemaking to provide notice of their immediate regulatory effectiveness and to inform persons subject to the regulations of their restrictions and requirements (50 CFR 300.62).

The Halibut Act also provides that Regional Fishery Management Councils may develop and recommend, and the Secretary of Commerce may implement, regulations governing Pacific halibut fishing in U.S. waters that are in addition to, and not in conflict with, approved IPHC regulations (16 U.S.C. 773c(c)). The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) developed a catch sharing plan guiding the allocation of halibut across the various sectors for the IPHC's regulatory Area 2A. The catch sharing plan is available on the Council's website at: https://www.pcouncil.org/managed_fishery/pacific-halibut/.

Fishery Allocation

At its annual meeting held January 27–31, 2025, the IPHC adopted an Area 2A catch limit, called a fishery constant exploitation yield (FCEY), of 1.53 million pounds (694 metric tons (mt)), net weight (*i.e.*, the weight of Pacific halibut that is without gills and entrails, head-off, washed, and without ice and slime) for 2025. The FCEY was derived from the total constant exploitation yield (TCEY) of 1.65 million pounds (748 mt), net weight, for Area 2A, which includes commercial discards and bycatch projections calculated using a formula developed by the IPHC. Based on the FCEY for Area 2A and the allocation framework in the Council’s catch sharing plan, the non-Tribal directed commercial fishing allocation is 259,515 pounds (118 mt), net weight for the 2025 fishing season (90 FR 13293, March 21, 2025).

This final rule implements management measures for the 2025 directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery in Area 2A that are not part of the annual IPHC regulations. This final rule adopts, without changes, the management measures from the proposed rule published on April 8, 2025 (90 FR 15129).

Fishing Periods

Fishing periods, often referred to as fishery openers, are the time during the annual commercial Pacific halibut season when fishing for non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut in Area 2A is allowed. This action implements two fishing periods. The first 58-hour fishing period for the 2025 directed commercial fishery will begin on June 24, 2025, at 8 a.m. PDT and close on June 26, 2025, at 6 p.m. PDT. The second fishing period will occur 2 weeks later, beginning on July 8, 2025, at 8 a.m. PDT and closing on July 10, 2025, at 6 p.m. PDT. If another fishing period is necessary to attain the allocation, NMFS intends to open a third fishing period on July 22, 2025 at 8 a.m. PDT and closing on July 24, 2025 at 6 p.m. PDT, through inseason action. If subsequent fishing periods are necessary to reach the allocation, NMFS intends to have them follow the same pattern, occurring 2 weeks after the previous fishing period (beginning on August 5, August 12, *etc.*), as announced by inseason action. If it is determined that additional fishing periods are warranted, and if for any reason a fishing period cannot be scheduled on this two-week schedule, NMFS intends to skip a fishing period in order to follow the outlined every

two-week schedule. NMFS will use email addresses obtained from 2025 Pacific halibut directed commercial fishery permit applications for email notice of inseason actions. Fishing periods may be added inseason consistent with 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(iii).

Fishing Period Limits

A fishing period limit, also called a vessel catch limit, is the maximum amount of Pacific halibut that may be retained and landed by a vessel during one fishing period. Each vessel may retain no more than the fishing period limit of Pacific halibut for its vessel class, which is determined by vessel length. NMFS is implementing the directed commercial fishing period limits, shown in table 1 below, for the first 2 fishing periods.

Fishing period limits are intended to ensure that the Area 2A directed commercial fishery does not exceed its allocation, while also providing fair and equitable access across participants to an attainable amount of harvest.

If NMFS determines that more than two fishing periods are warranted, NMFS will set the fishing period limits for subsequent fishing periods equal across all vessel classes through inseason action consistent with 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(iii).

TABLE 1—FISHING PERIOD LIMITS BY SIZE CLASS FOR THE 2025 FIRST AND SECOND FISHING PERIODS OF THE AREA 2A PACIFIC HALIBUT NON-TRIBAL DIRECTED COMMERCIAL FISHERY

Vessel class	Length range in feet (meters)	Fishing period limit in pounds (mt)
A	1–25 (0.3–7.8)	2,000 (0.907)
B	26–30 (7.9–9.3)	2,000 (0.907)
C	31–35 (9.4–10.9)	2,000 (0.907)
D	36–40 (11.0–12.4)	3,400 (1.542)
E	41–45 (12.5–13.9)	3,400 (1.542)
F	46–50 (14.0–15.4)	4,300 (1.950)
G	51–55 (15.5–16.9)	4,300 (1.950)
H	56+ (17.0+)	5,000 (2.268)

Notes: Fishing period limits are in dressed weight (head-on, with ice and slime). If a vessel’s size is between lengths, its length will be rounded up for the purpose of fishing period limits.

Inseason Action Announcement Procedures

This action adds email as a means to notify the affected public of an inseason action. Inseason actions will also be published in the **Federal Register** and will appear on the NMFS website. Inseason actions will be effective upon the date and time of either the receipt of notice by the direct email or publication in the **Federal Register**, whichever occurs first.

Permit Deadlines

Permits are required for all vessels participating in the Area 2A non-Tribal

commercial directed and incidental Pacific halibut fisheries. Vessels may not be permitted for both the Pacific halibut fishery incidental to salmon troll and the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. This action implements a March 15 permit deadline for all Area 2A non-Tribal commercial Pacific halibut fisheries.

Comments

NMFS published a proposed rule on April 8, 2025 (90 FR 15129) and accepted public comments on the 2025 Area 2A Pacific halibut directed commercial fishery annual management

measures through May 8, 2025. NMFS received one public comment. The comment spoke generally in support of an annual management plan; however, it is not clear that the comment is responsive to this rulemaking and the comment did not call for any changes from the proposed rule. No comments in opposition to this action were received.

Classification

Regulations governing the U.S. fisheries for Pacific halibut are developed by the IPHC, the Council, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the Secretary of

Commerce. Section 5 Halibut Act (16 U.S.C. 773c) allows the Regional Council having authority for a particular geographical area to develop regulations governing the allocation and catch of halibut in U.S. Convention waters as long as those regulations do not conflict with IPHC regulations. Those regulations may only be implemented with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce. Through this action, NMFS approves and implements the Council's recommendations. Accordingly, this action is consistent with both the Council's role and NMFS's authority to regulate the halibut fishery in waters off Washington, Oregon, and California.

There is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date in order to open the Area 2A non-Tribal directed Pacific halibut commercial fishery by June 24, 2025. This rule implements Area 2A non-Tribal commercial fishery management measures as published in the proposed rule (90 FR 15129; April 8, 2025), and based on Council recommendations, following a public Council process. The non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery had 97 vessels participate in 2024, and similar participation is expected in 2025. A delay in the effectiveness of these measures would result in the Area 2A Pacific halibut non-Tribal directed commercial fishery not being opened on its intended timeline and, thus, the fishery not being open on the dates that the affected public is expecting. Business decisions have likely been made surrounding this fishery opening date. A delay could cause economic harm to fishery participants and fishing communities, and would be contrary to public interest. The management measures were discussed at multiple Council meetings in 2024, which are open to the public and where public comment was accepted. Additionally, NMFS has determined that this rule qualifies for a waiver of the 30-day delay in effective date pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) because participants would otherwise be unable to fish on the expected dates.

NMFS received one comment in response to the proposed rule. The comment provided general support of an annual management plan; however, it does not appear responsive to this rulemaking and the comment did not call for changes from the proposed rule. No changes were made in response to that comment.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order (E.O.) 12866. This final rule is not an E.O. 14192 regulatory

action because this action is not significant under E.O. 12866.

NMFS has determined that this action would not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes; therefore, consultation with Tribal officials under E.O. 13175 is not required, and the requirements of sections (5)(b) and (5)(c) of E.O. 13175 also do not apply. A Tribal summary impact statement under section (5)(b)(2)(B) and section (5)(c)(2)(B) of E.O. 13175 is not required and has not been prepared.

The Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration during the proposed rule stage that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The factual basis for the certification was published in the proposed rule and is not repeated here. NMFS received one comment in response to the proposed rule, which did not address the certification. As a result, a regulatory flexibility analysis was not required for this action and none was prepared.

This final rule contains no new information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 300

Administrative practice and procedure, Antarctica, Canada, Exports, Fish, Fisheries, Fishing, Imports, Indians, Labeling, Marine resources, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Russian Federation, Transportation, Treaties, Wildlife.

Dated: June 20, 2025.

Samuel D. Rauch, III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS amends 50 CFR part 300, subpart E, as follows:

PART 300—INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS

Subpart E—Pacific Halibut Fisheries

■ 1. The authority citation for part 300, subpart E, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773–773k.

■ 2. In § 300.63, revise paragraphs (d)(2)(ii)(A) and (B), (e)(1)(iii), and (e)(2)(i), to read as follows:

§ 300.63 Catch sharing plan and domestic management measures in Area 2A.

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(d) * * *

(2) * * *

(ii) * * *

(A) Applications for permits for the directed commercial fishery in Area 2A must be received by NMFS no later than 2359 PDT on March 15, or by 2359 PDT the next business day in March if March 15 is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday.

(B) Applications for permits that allow for incidental catch of Pacific halibut during the salmon troll fishery or the sablefish primary fishery in Area 2A must be received by NMFS no later than 2359 PDT March 15, or by 2359 PDT the next business day in March if March 15 is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(1) * * *

(iii) *Inseason action to add fishing periods and associated fishing period limits.* Fishing periods in addition to those originally implemented at the start of the fishing year may be warranted in order to provide the fishery with opportunity to achieve the Area 2A directed commercial fishery allocation, if performance of the fishery during the initial fishing period(s) is different than expected and the directed commercial allocation is not attained through the initial period(s). If NMFS makes the determination that sufficient allocation remains to warrant additional fishing period(s) without exceeding the allocation for the Area 2A directed commercial fishery, the additional fishing period(s) and fishing period limits may be added during the fishing year. If NMFS determines fishing period(s) in addition to those included in an annual management measures rule is warranted, NMFS will send an email with notification of the inseason action to affected permit holders. This action will also be published in the **Federal Register** as soon as practicable. The inseason action will be effective upon the earlier of either receipt of email of such notification, or publication in the **Federal Register**. If the amount of directed commercial allocation remaining is determined to be insufficient for an additional fishing period, the allocation is considered to be taken and the fishery will be closed, as described at paragraph (e)(2) of this section.

(2) * * *

(i) If NMFS determines that the non-Tribal directed commercial fishery has attained its annual allocation or is projected to attain its allocation if additional fishing was to be allowed, the Regional Administrator will take automatic action to close the fishery via email to affected permit holders and announcement in the **Federal Register**. Automatic closure of the non-Tribal directed commercial fishery will be effective upon the earlier of either: receipt of email of such notification, or publication in the **Federal Register**.

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[FR Doc. 2025–11654 Filed 6–24–25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 250623–0109]

RIN 0648–BN06

Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John; Amendment 3

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues regulations to implement management measures described in Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John (Amendment 3), as prepared by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council). This final rule establishes new management measures for dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) in U.S. Caribbean Federal waters, including commercial and recreational minimum size limits and recreational bag and possession limits. The purpose of the management measures contained in this final rule and Amendment 3 is to ensure dolphinfish and wahoo have adequate time to mature and reproduce and to help protect against overfishing.

DATES: This final rule is effective July 25, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of Amendment 3, which includes a fishery impact statement, an environmental assessment, a regulatory impact review, and a Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) analysis, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-3-puerto-rico-st-croix-and-st-thomas-and-st-john-fishery-management-plans>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sarah Stephenson, 727–824–5305, sarah.stephenson@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS, with the advice of the Council, manages the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John fisheries in U.S. Caribbean Federal waters under the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John FMPs. NMFS implements the FMPs through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

On September 6, 2024, NMFS published a notice of availability for Amendment 3 and requested public comment (89 FR 72794). On September 27, 2024, NMFS published a proposed rule for Amendment 3 and requested public comment (89 FR 79220). NMFS approved Amendment 3 on November 27, 2024. The proposed rule and Amendment 3 outline the rationale for the actions contained in this final rule. The management measures described in Amendment 3 and implemented by this final rule are described below.

Executive Order 14172, “Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness” (January 20, 2025), directs that the Gulf of Mexico be renamed the Gulf of America. Consistent with the order, NMFS uses Gulf of America to refer to the geographical area previously known as the Gulf of Mexico, except when a statute or existing regulations explicitly refer to the “Gulf of Mexico.” Relevant to this rulemaking, existing regulations contained in 50 CFR part 622, including the heading for that part, refer to the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the South Atlantic and Caribbean. Amending the heading of 50 CFR part 622 is beyond the scope of this rulemaking.

Background

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires NMFS to prevent overfishing and achieve, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from federally managed fish stocks to ensure that fishery resources are managed for the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to providing food production and recreational opportunities, and protecting marine ecosystems.

This action is taken under the statutory authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 303(a)(1) as necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the

fishery to prevent overfishing and to promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery.

On September 22, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce approved the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John FMPs under section 304(a)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The FMPs took effect on October 13, 2022, after NMFS published the final rule to implement the FMPs (87 FR 56204, September 13, 2022). Each FMP contains management measures applicable for Federal waters off the respective island management area. Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 622 subparts S, T, and U describe management measures for Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John, respectively. Federal waters around Puerto Rico extend seaward from 9 nautical miles (nmi) or 16.7 kilometers (km) from shore to the offshore boundary of the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Federal waters around St. Croix and St. Thomas and St. John extend seaward from 3 nmi (5.6 km) from shore to the offshore boundary of the U.S. Caribbean EEZ.

Prior to implementation of the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John FMPs, dolphinfish and wahoo were not federally managed in Federal waters in the U.S. Caribbean. Because of the economic importance to the region of these fast-growing, short-lived pelagic species, they were included for management under each of the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John FMPs, even though they are exposed to harvest pressure across a wide area of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of America, and the Caribbean Sea due to their migratory nature. While each FMP established annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), and accountability measures (AMs) for dolphinfish and wahoo, the FMPs did not establish other management measures often used to limit harvest or effort, such as minimum size limits, recreational bag and possession limits, or commercial trip limits.

Two species of dolphinfish occur and are federally managed in the U.S. Caribbean. The dolphinfish species affected by Amendment 3 and this final rule is *Coryphaena hippurus*, also known as dolphinfish, dolphin, dorado, or mahi mahi.

At its December 2021 meeting, the Council began discussing management measures that could address the increasing risk of overharvest of juvenile dolphinfish as a result of the increasing influx and presence of *Sargassum* in the region. *Sargassum* is a type of floating brown algae that provides food, protection, and habitat for many marine