

FR 28355, May 22, 2001), or to Executive Order 13045, entitled “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks” (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997). This action does not contain any information collections subject to OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), nor does it require any special considerations under Executive Order 12898, entitled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

Since tolerances and exemptions that are established on the basis of a petition under FFDCA section 408(d), such as the tolerances in this final rule, do not require the issuance of a proposed rule, the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), do not apply.

This action directly regulates growers, food processors, food handlers, and food retailers, not States or Tribes, nor does this action alter the relationships or distribution of power and responsibilities established by Congress in the preemption provisions of FFDCA section 408(n)(4). As such, the Agency has determined that this action will not have a substantial direct effect on States or Tribal governments, on the relationship between the National Government and the States or Tribal governments, or on the distribution of

power and responsibilities among the various levels of government or between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes. Thus, the Agency has determined that Executive Order 13132, entitled “Federalism” (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999), and Executive Order 13175, entitled “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments” (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), do not apply to this action. In addition, this action does not impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described under Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) (2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*).

This action does not involve any technical standards that would require Agency consideration of voluntary consensus standards pursuant to section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) (15 U.S.C. 272 note).

IX. Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides, and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: May 4, 2023.

Charles Smith,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, for the reasons stated in the preamble, EPA is amending 40 CFR chapter I as follows:

PART 180—TOLERANCES AND EXEMPTIONS FOR PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOOD

■ 1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 321(q), 346a and 371.

■ 2. Revise § 180.433 to read as follows:

§ 180.433 Fomesafen; tolerances for residues.

(a) *General.* Tolerances are established for residues of the herbicide fomesafen, including its metabolites and degradates, in or on the following commodities. Compliance with the tolerance levels specified in the following table 1 to this paragraph (a) is to be determined by measuring only fomesafen, 5-[2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenoxy]-N-(methylsulfonyl)-2-nitrobenzamide, in or on the commodity.

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)

Commodity	Parts per million
Berry, low growing, subgroup 13–07G, except cranberry	0.02
Cotton, gin byproducts	0.025
Cotton, undelinted seed	0.025
Vegetable, bulb, group 3–07	0.02
Vegetable, cucurbit, group 9	0.03
Vegetable, fruiting, group 8–10	0.03
Vegetable, legume, forage and hay, except soybean, subgroup 7–22A	0.05
Vegetable, legume, group 6	0.05
Vegetable, tuberous and corm, subgroup 1C	0.025

(b)–(d) [Reserved]

[FR Doc. 2023–09819 Filed 5–8–23; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 271

[EPA–R04–RCRA–2023–0042; FRL–10671–02–R4]

South Carolina: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final action.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking direct final action on the authorization of South Carolina’s changes to its hazardous waste program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended. These changes were outlined in a September 26, 2022, application to the EPA. We have determined that these changes satisfy all requirements needed for final authorization.

DATES: This authorization is effective on July 10, 2023 without further notice

unless the EPA receives adverse comment by June 8, 2023. If the EPA receives adverse comment, we will publish a timely withdrawal of this direct final action in the **Federal Register** informing the public that the authorization will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–R04–RCRA–2023–0042, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from www.regulations.gov. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/submitting-epa-dockets>.

The EPA encourages electronic submittals and lists all publicly available docket materials electronically at www.regulations.gov. If you are unable to make electronic submittals or require alternative access to docket materials, please notify Leah Davis through the provided contacts in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Please also contact Leah Davis if you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with disabilities who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leah Davis; RCRA Programs and Cleanup Branch; Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303–8960; telephone number: (404) 562–8562; fax number: (404) 562–9964; email address: davis.leah@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Why is the EPA using a direct final action?

The EPA is publishing this action without a prior proposed rule because

we view this as a noncontroversial action and anticipate no adverse comment. This action is a routine program change. However, in the “Proposed Rules” section of this issue of the **Federal Register**, we are publishing a separate document that will serve as the proposed rule allowing the public an opportunity to comment. We will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting must do so at this time. For further information about commenting on this action, see the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

If the EPA receives comments that oppose this authorization, we will withdraw this action by publishing a document in the **Federal Register** before the action becomes effective. The EPA will base any further decision on the authorization of the State program changes on the proposal mentioned in the previous paragraph. We will then address all public comments in a later final action.

II. Why are revisions to state programs necessary?

States that have received final authorization from the EPA under RCRA section 3006(b), 42 U.S.C. 6926(b), must maintain a hazardous waste program that is equivalent to, consistent with, and no less stringent than the Federal program. As the Federal program changes, states must change their programs and ask the EPA to authorize the changes. Changes to state programs may be necessary when Federal or state statutory or regulatory authority is modified or when certain other changes occur. Most commonly, states must change their programs because of changes to the EPA’s regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 124, 260 through 268, 270, 273, and 279.

New Federal requirements and prohibitions imposed by Federal regulations that the EPA promulgates pursuant to the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA) take effect in authorized states at the same time they take effect in unauthorized states. Thus, the EPA will implement those requirements and prohibitions in South Carolina, including the issuance of new permits implementing those requirements, until the State is granted authorization to do so.

III. What decisions has the EPA made in this action?

South Carolina submitted a complete program revision application (PRA), dated September 26, 2022, seeking authorization of changes to its hazardous waste program corresponding

to certain Federal rules promulgated between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2021 (including RCRA Clusters¹ XXVII, XXVIII, and XXIX). Additionally, South Carolina’s PRA seeks authorization for certain provisions that had been excluded from previously authorized checklists² in Clusters XV (Checklist 207 only), XXIV (Checklist 233 only), and XXV (Checklist 237 only). The EPA concludes that South Carolina’s application to revise its authorized program meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements established under RCRA, as set forth in RCRA section 3006(b), 42 U.S.C. 6926(b), and 40 CFR part 271. Therefore, the EPA grants South Carolina final authorization to operate its hazardous waste program with the changes described in the authorization application, and as outlined below in Section VI of this document.

South Carolina has responsibility for permitting treatment, storage, and disposal facilities within its borders (except in Indian country, as defined at 18 U.S.C. 1151) and for carrying out the aspects of the RCRA program described in its program revision application, subject to the limitations of HSWA, as discussed above.

IV. What is the effect of this authorization decision?

The effect of this decision is that the changes described in South Carolina’s authorization application will become part of the authorized State hazardous waste program and will therefore be federally enforceable. South Carolina will continue to have primary enforcement authority and responsibility for its State hazardous waste program. The EPA will maintain its authorities under RCRA sections 3007, 3008, 3013, and 7003, including its authority to:

- Conduct inspections, and require monitoring, tests, analyses, and reports;
- Enforce RCRA requirements, including authorized State program requirements, and suspend or revoke permits; and
- Take enforcement actions regardless of whether the State has taken its own actions.

This action does not impose additional requirements on the regulated community because the regulations for which the EPA is

¹ A “cluster” is a grouping of hazardous waste rules that the EPA promulgates from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the following year.

² A “checklist” is developed by the EPA for each Federal rule amending the RCRA regulations. The checklists document the changes made by each Federal rule and are presented and numbered in chronological order by date of promulgation.

authorizing South Carolina are already effective under State law and are not changed by this action.

V. What has South Carolina previously been authorized for?

South Carolina initially received final authorization on November 8, 1985, effective November 22, 1985 (50 FR 46437), to implement the RCRA hazardous waste management program. The EPA granted authorization for changes to South Carolina's program on the following dates: September 8, 1988, effective November 7, 1988 (53 FR 34758); February 10, 1993, effective April 12, 1993 (58 FR 7865); November 29, 1994, effective January 30, 1995 (59 FR 60901); April 26, 1996, effective June 25, 1996 (61 FR 18502); October 4, 2000, effective December 4, 2000 (65 FR 59135); August 21, 2001, effective

October 22, 2001 (66 FR 43798); September 2, 2003, effective November 3, 2003 (68 FR 52113); February 9, 2005, effective April 11, 2005 (70 FR 6765); March 28, 2005, effective May 27, 2005 (70 FR 15594); and November 20, 2020, effective November 20, 2020 (85 FR 74265).

VI. What changes is the EPA authorizing with this action?

South Carolina submitted a complete program revision application, dated September 26, 2022, seeking authorization of changes to its hazardous waste management program in accordance with 40 CFR 271.21. This application included changes associated with Checklists 240, 241, 242, and 243 from RCRA Clusters XXVII, XXVIII, and XIX. South Carolina was previously authorized for Checklists 207, 233B,

233D2, 233E, and 237 in the November 20, 2020, Final Authorization (85 FR 74265); however certain provisions of the Federal rules associated with these checklists were excluded from authorization due to omissions or errors that the EPA deemed substantive. South Carolina has corrected these errors and omissions and has submitted these corrected provisions for authorization in this application. The EPA has determined, subject to receipt of written comments that oppose this action, that South Carolina's hazardous waste program revisions are equivalent to, consistent with, and no less stringent than the Federal program, and therefore satisfy all of the requirements necessary to qualify for final authorization. Therefore, the EPA grants final authorization to South Carolina for the following program changes:

Description of Federal requirement	Federal Register date and page	Analogous state authority ¹
Checklist 207, Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest Rule ² .	70 FR 10776, 3/4/2005.	R.61–79.262.21(f)(4). ³
Checklist 233B, Revisions to the Definition of Solid Waste—Legitimacy-related Provisions, Including Prohibition of Sham Recycling, Definition of Legitimacy, Definition of Contained ² .	80 FR 1694, 1/13/2015; 83 FR 24664, 5/30/2018.	R.61–79.261.2(a)(2)(ii) [reserved].
Checklist 233D2, Revisions to the Definition of Solid Waste—2008 DSW Exclusions and Non-Waste Determinations Including Revisions From 2015 DSW Final Rule ² .		R.61–79.261.2(c)(4) Table 1 and R.61–79.270.42 Entries 9 and 10, Section A (Appendix 1).
Checklist 233E, Revisions to the Definition of Solid Waste—Remanufacturing Exclusion ² .		R.61–79.261.2(c)(4) Table 1.
Checklist 237, Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule ² .	81 FR 85732, 11/28/2016.	R.61–79.261.420(g).
Checklist 240, Safe Management of Recalled Airbags	83 FR 61552, 11/30/2018.	R.61–79.260.10; R.61–79.261.4(i) [reserved]; R.61–79.261.4(j)(1)–(3); R.61–79.262.14(a)(5)(ix).
Checklist 241, Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals and Amendment to the P075 Listing for Nicotine.	84 FR 5816–5950, 2/22/2019.	R.61–79.261.4(a)(1)(ii); R.61–79.261.7(c); R.61–79.261.33(c) (including Comment) and (e) Table; R.61–79.262.10(m)–(n); R.61–79.262.13(c)(9); R.61–79.262.14(a)(5)(ix)–(x); R.61–79.264.1(g)(13); R.61–79.265.1(c)(16); R.61–79.266.500 through R.61–79.266.510 [Addition of Subpart P]; R.61–79.268.7 Heading; R.61–79.268.50(a) and (a)(4)–(5); R.61–79.270.1(c)(2)(x); R.61–79.273.80(a) and (d).
Checklist 242, Universal Waste Regulations: Addition of Aerosol Cans.	84 FR 67202, 12/9/2019.	R.61–79.260.10; R.61–79.261.9(c)–(e); R.61–79.264.1(g)(11)(iii)–(v); R.61–79.265.1(c)(14)(iii)–(v); R.61–79.268.1(f)(3)–(5); R.61–79.270.1(c)(2)(viii)(C)–(E); R.61–79.273.1(a)(3)–(5); R.61–79.273.3(b)(2); R.61–79.273.6(a)–(c), including (c)(1)–(2), R.61–79.273.9; R.61–79.273.13(c)(2)(iii)–(iv) and (e), including (e)(1)–(4); R.61–79.273.14(f); R.61–79.273.32(b)(4); R.61–79.273.33(c)(2)(iii)–(iv) and (e), including (e)(1)–(4); R.61–79.273.34(f).
Checklist 243, Modernizing Ignitable Liquids Determinations.	85 FR 40594, 7/7/2020.	R.61–79.260.11(a)–(e), including (e)(1)–(2); R.61–79.261.21(a)(1), (a)(3)(ii)(A)–(D), (a)(4), (a)(4)(i)(A), (a)(4)(i)(D), and Appendix IX to Part 261.

Notes

¹ The South Carolina regulatory citations are from the South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61–79.260–273, effective May 27, 2022.

² South Carolina was authorized for this Checklist as a part of the Final Authorization effective November 20, 2020, (85 FR 74265). The provisions listed for this entry were previously excluded from the November 20, 2020 (85 FR 74265) Final Authorization due to an omission or error which was deemed substantive. South Carolina is submitting revisions to these provisions and the EPA is authorizing these individual provisions here.

³ There are certain regulatory provisions for which the states cannot be authorized to administer or implement. These provisions include the requirements associated with the Federal manifest registry system (Section 262.21) contained within the Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest Rule (Checklist 207).

VII. Where are the revised state rules different than the Federal rules?

When revised state rules differ from the Federal rules in the RCRA state authorization process, the EPA determines whether the state rules are equivalent to, more stringent than, or broader in scope than the Federal program. Pursuant to RCRA section 3009, 42 U.S.C. 6929, state programs may contain requirements that are more stringent than the Federal regulations. Such more stringent requirements can be federally authorized and, once authorized, become federally enforceable. Although the statute does not prevent states from adopting regulations that are broader in scope than the Federal program, states cannot receive Federal authorization for such regulations, and they are not federally enforceable. There are no State requirements in the program revisions listed in the table above that are considered to be more stringent or broader in scope than the Federal requirements.

VIII. Who handles permits after the authorization takes effect?

When final authorization takes effect, South Carolina will issue permits for all the provisions for which it is authorized and will administer the permits it issues. The EPA will continue to administer any RCRA hazardous waste permits or portions of permits that the EPA issued prior to the effective date of authorization until they expire or are terminated. The EPA will not issue any new permits or new portions of permits for the provisions listed in the table above after the effective date of the final authorization. The EPA will continue to implement and issue permits for HSWA requirements for which South Carolina is not yet authorized. The EPA has the authority to enforce State-issued permits after the State is authorized.

IX. How does this action affect Indian country in South Carolina?

South Carolina is not authorized to carry out its hazardous waste program in Indian country within the State, which includes the Indian lands associated with the Catawba Indian Nation. Therefore, this action has no effect on Indian country. The EPA retains jurisdiction over Indian country and will continue to implement and administer the RCRA program on these lands.

X. What is codification and is the EPA codifying South Carolina's hazardous waste program as authorized in this action?

Codification is the process of placing citations and references to the State's statutes and regulations that comprise the State's authorized hazardous waste program into the Code of Federal Regulations. The EPA does this by adding those citations and references to the authorized State rules in 40 CFR part 272. The EPA is not codifying the authorization of South Carolina's revisions at this time. However, the EPA reserves the ability to amend 40 CFR part 272, subpart PP, for the authorization of South Carolina's program changes at a later date.

XI. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted this action from the requirements of Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011). This action authorizes State requirements for the purpose of RCRA section 3006 and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by State law. Therefore, this action is not subject to review by OMB. I certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). Because this action authorizes pre-existing requirements under State law and does not impose any additional enforceable duty beyond that required by State law, it does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538). For the same reason, this action also does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of tribal governments, as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). This action will not have substantial direct effects on the states, on the relationship between the National Government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999), because it merely authorizes State requirements as part of the State RCRA hazardous waste program without altering the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established by RCRA. This action also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not

economically significant and it does not make decisions based on environmental health or safety risks. This action is not subject to Executive Order 13211, "Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use" (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001), because it is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

Under RCRA section 3006(b), the EPA grants a state's application for authorization as long as the state meets the criteria required by RCRA. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for the EPA, when it reviews a state authorization application, to require the use of any particular voluntary consensus standard in place of another standard that otherwise satisfies the requirements of RCRA. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. As required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (61 FR 4729, February 7, 1996), in issuing this action, the EPA has taken the necessary steps to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize potential litigation, and provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct. The EPA has complied with Executive Order 12630 (53 FR 8859, March 15, 1988), by examining the takings implications of this action in accordance with the "Attorney General's Supplemental Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings" issued under the Executive order. This action does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). "Burden" is defined at 5 CFR 1320.3(b). Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994) establishes Federal executive policy on environmental justice. Its main provision directs Federal agencies, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States. Because this action authorizes pre-existing State rules which are at least equivalent to, and no less stringent than existing Federal requirements, and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by State law, and there are no anticipated significant adverse human health or environmental

effects, this action is not subject to Executive Order 12898.

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. The EPA will submit a report containing this document and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication in the **Federal Register**. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2). This final action will be effective July 10, 2023.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 271

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential business information, Hazardous waste, Hazardous waste transportation, Indian lands, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Authority: This action is issued under the authority of sections 2002(a), 3006, and 7004(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6912(a), 6926, and 6974(b).

Dated: March 30, 2023.

Daniel Blackman,

Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. 2023-08990 Filed 5-8-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 230502-0116]

RIN 0648-BL71

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 34

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues regulations to implement Amendment 34 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region (CMP FMP) (Amendment 34), as prepared and submitted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (South Atlantic Council) and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). For Atlantic migratory group king mackerel (Atlantic king mackerel), this final rule revises the stock and sector annual catch limits (ACL), and the recreational bag and possession limits off the east coast of Florida. For both Atlantic king mackerel and Atlantic migratory group Spanish mackerel (Atlantic Spanish mackerel), this final rule revises the landing fish intact provisions for the recreational sector. In addition, for Atlantic king mackerel, Amendment 34 revises the acceptable biological catch (ABC) and annual optimum yield (OY). The purpose of this final rule and Amendment 34 is to revise the catch limits based on a recent stock assessment and the best scientific information available, and to revise management measures for Atlantic king and Spanish mackerel.

DATES: This final rule is effective June 8, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of Amendment 34, which includes a fishery impact statement and a regulatory impact review, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-34-catch-level-and-allocation-adjustments-and-management-measures-atlantic-king>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Vara, telephone: 727-824-5305, or email: mary.vara@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the CMP FMP, the South Atlantic and Gulf Councils (Councils) jointly manage fishing for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel in Federal waters from Texas through New York (to the intersection point of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York). Atlantic king mackerel and Atlantic Spanish mackerel are managed under the CMP FMP in Federal waters of the Atlantic from New York to the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida, boundary. The Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel and Spanish mackerel are divided into the northern and southern zones separated by a line extending from the North Carolina/South Carolina border. The CMP FMP was prepared by the Councils and implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

All weights in this final rule are in round and eviscerated weight combined, unless otherwise specified.

Background

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that NMFS and regional fishery management councils prevent overfishing and achieve, on a continuing basis, the OY from federally managed fish stocks. These mandates are intended 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. To further this goal, the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires fishery managers to minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality to the extent practicable.

On January 30, 2023, NMFS published a notice of availability for Amendment 34 and requested public comment (88 FR 5845). On February 10, 2023, NMFS published a proposed rule for Amendment 34 and requested public comment (88 FR 8785). NMFS approved Amendment 34 on April 25, 2023. The proposed rule and Amendment 34 outline the rationale for the actions contained in this final rule. A summary of the management measures described in Amendment 34 and implemented by this final rule is described below.

The Atlantic king mackerel ABC is apportioned between the northern and southern zones. Under the current framework procedures in the CMP FMP, the South Atlantic Council is responsible for specifying management measures for Atlantic king mackerel and Atlantic Spanish mackerel. The fishing year for Atlantic king mackerel is from March through February.

The most recent Southeast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) stock assessment for Atlantic king mackerel was completed in April 2020 (SEDAR 38 Update 2020). The assessment update incorporated data through the 2017–2018 fishing year (March 2017 through February 2018). The assessment indicated that Atlantic king mackerel was not overfished or undergoing overfishing. The South Atlantic Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the SEDAR 38 Update (2020) at their April 2020 meeting and determined that the assessment was conducted using the best scientific information available and was adequate for determining stock status and supporting fishing level recommendations.