

The PRA information collection requirements contained in the Eighth Report and Order are as follows:

1. The Commission plans to modify the "Application for Satellite Space and Earth Station Authorizations" (FCC Form 312), including Schedule B, in the International Bureau Filing System ("MyIBFS") to reflect the off-axis equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) envelope compliance requirement. In the interim, earth station applicants must submit a table as an attachment to the FCC Form 312 to show their compliance with the off-axis EIRP requirement.

2. Earth station licensees who plan to use a contention protocol must certify that their contention protocol usage will be reasonable. In the future, the Commission will revise the FCC Form 312 in MyIBFS to provide a streamlined method for earth station applicants planning to use a contention protocol to make this certification.

The information collection requirements accounted for in this collection are necessary to determine the technical and legal qualifications of applicants or licensees to operate a station, transfer or assign a license, and to determine whether the authorization is in the public interest, convenience and necessity. Without such information, the Commission could not determine whether to permit respondents to provide telecommunication services in the U.S. Therefore, the Commission would be unable to fulfill its statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and the obligations imposed on parties to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Basic Telecom Agreement.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene H. Dortch,**

*Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 071004577-8124-02]

RIN 0648-XN46

#### Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Reduction of the Landing Limit for Eastern Georges Bank Cod in the U.S./Canada Management Area

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

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; reduction of landing limit.

**SUMMARY:** This action decreases the landing limit of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod to 500 lb (226.8 kg) per day-at-sea (DAS), or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb (2,267.9 kg) per trip for NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area. This action is authorized by the regulations implementing Amendment 13 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and is intended to increase the likelihood of harvesting the total allowable catch (TAC) for Eastern GB cod without exceeding it during the 2008 fishing year. This action is being taken to allow vessels to fully harvest the TACs for transboundary stocks of GB cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

**DATES:** Effective March 9, 2009, through April 30, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas Potts, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281-9341, fax (978) 281-9135.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Regulations governing the GB cod landing limit within the Eastern U.S./Canada Area are found at § 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(A) and (D). The regulations authorize vessels issued a valid limited access NE multispecies permit and fishing under a NE multispecies DAS to fish in the U.S./Canada Management Area, as defined at § 648.85(a)(1), under specific conditions. The TAC for Eastern GB cod for the 2008 fishing year (May 1, 2008–April 30, 2009) was set at 667 mt (73 FR 16572, March 28, 2008), a 35–

percent increase from the TAC for the 2007 fishing year.

The regulations at § 648.85(a)(3)(iv)(D) authorize the Administrator, Northeast (NE) Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), to increase or decrease the trip limits in the U.S./Canada Management Area to prevent over-harvesting or under-harvesting the TAC allocation. The default landing limit of Eastern GB cod for NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area is 500 lb (226.8 kg) per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) per trip. NMFS published a temporary rule on December 23, 2008 (73 FR 78659), increasing the landing limit for Eastern GB cod to 1,000 lb (453.6 kg) per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 10,000 lb (4,535.9 kg) per trip.

According to the most recent Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reports and other available information, the cumulative Eastern GB cod catch, is approximately 53.8 percent of the TAC, as of February 12, 2009, and is expected to achieve the TAC by early April; prior to conclusion of the 2008 fishing year. If the TAC were reached it would require that the Eastern U.S./Canada Area be closed for the remainder of the 2008 fishing year, preventing the harvest of the remaining portion of the Eastern GB haddock TAC and preventing harvest of GB yellowtail flounder in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. Based on this information, the Regional Administrator is decreasing the current Eastern GB cod landing limit of 1,000 lb (453.6 kg) per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 10,000 lb (4,535.9 kg) per trip in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area; to 500 lb (226.8 kg) per DAS, or any part of a DAS, up to 5,000 lb (2,268 kg) per trip, effective 0001 hours local time March 9, 2009, through April 30, 2009.

Eastern GB cod landings will continue to be closely monitored. Further inseason adjustments to increase or decrease the trip limit may be considered, based on updated catch data and projections. Should 100 percent of the TAC allocation for Eastern GB cod be projected to be harvested, the Eastern U.S./Canada Area would be closed to limited access NE multispecies DAS vessels for the remainder of the fishing year.

#### Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B) and (d)(3), the Assistant Administrator finds good cause to waive prior notice and opportunity for public comment, as well

as the delayed effectiveness for this action, because prior notice and comment and a delayed effectiveness would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The regulations under § 658.85(a)(3)(iv)(D) grant the Regional Administrator the authority to adjust the Eastern GB cod trip limit to prevent over-harvesting or under-harvesting the TAC allocation. This action would reduce the Eastern GB cod limit for all NE multispecies DAS vessels fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Area for the remainder of the 2008 fishing year. This action is intended to prevent the over-harvest of the Eastern GB cod TAC while allowing continued opportunities to achieve optimum yield in the NE multispecies fishery.

It is important to take this action immediately to slow the rate of Eastern GB cod harvest. Any further delay of this action is likely to result in a precipitous harvest of the Eastern GB cod TAC which may require that the Eastern U.S./Canada Area be closed for the remainder of the 2008 fishing year, preventing the harvest of the remaining portion of the Eastern GB haddock TAC, and preventing harvest of GB yellowtail flounder in the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area, thereby reducing the ability of fishers to maximize their fishing opportunities. Exceeding the 2008 TAC for Eastern GB cod would increase mortality of this overfished stock beyond that evaluated during the development of Amendment 13, resulting in decreased revenue for the NE multispecies fishery, increased negative economic impacts to vessels operating in the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area, a reduced chance of achieving optimum yield in the groundfish fishery, and unnecessary delays to the rebuilding of this overfished stock. Exceeding the 2008 Eastern GB cod TAC would also necessitate that any overages during the 2008 fishing year be deducted from the Eastern GB cod TAC for the 2009 fishing year. Reducing the 2009 TAC due to any 2008 TAC overage as a result of delaying this action would create an unnecessary burden on the fishing industry and further negative economic and social impacts that were not previously considered.

The Regional Administrator's authority to decrease the trip limit for Eastern GB cod in the U.S./Canada Management Area to ensure the shared U.S./Canada stocks of fish are harvested, but not exceeded, was publicly considered and open to public comment during the development of Amendment 13. Further, the potential of decreasing the Eastern GB cod trip limit was

announced to the public when the current trip limit was implemented on December 23, 2008. The public is able to obtain information on the rate of harvest of the Eastern GB cod TAC via the NMFS Northeast Regional Office website (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>), which provides at least some advanced notice of a potential action to prevent the TAC for Eastern GB cod from being exceeded during the 2008 fishing year. Therefore, any negative effect the waiving of public comment and delayed effectiveness may have on the public is mitigated by these factors.

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

Dated: March 4, 2009

**Emily H. Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E9-4893 Filed 3-4-09; 4:15 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 0809251266-81485-02]

RIN 0648-XN33

#### Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer

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

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; inseason quota transfer.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the State of North Carolina is transferring a portion of its 2009 commercial summer flounder quota to the Commonwealth of Virginia. By this action, NMFS adjusts the quotas and announces the revised commercial quota for each state involved.

**DATES:** Effective March 4, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Emily Bryant, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9244, FAX (978) 281-9135.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from North Carolina through Maine. The process to set the annual commercial

quota and the percent allocated to each state are described in § 648.100.

The final rule implementing Amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, which was published on December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), provided a mechanism for summer flounder quota to be transferred from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), can transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota under § 648.100(d). The Regional Administrator is required to consider the criteria set forth in § 648.100(d)(3) in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations.

North Carolina has agreed to transfer 23,130 lb (10,492 kg) of its 2009 commercial quota to Virginia to cover the summer flounder landings of three North Carolina vessels granted safe harbor in Virginia due to mechanical issues between January 16 and January 28, 2009. The Regional Administrator has determined that the criteria set forth in § 648.100(d)(3) have been met. The revised quotas for calendar year 2009 are: North Carolina, 2,893,992 lb (1,312,693 kg) and Virginia, 2,341,054 lb (1,061,884 kg).

#### Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: March 4, 2009.

**Emily H. Menashes,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. E9-4896 Filed 3-4-09; 4:15 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 09100091344-0956-02]

RIN 0648-XN71

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; closure.