

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 927-5660. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission instituted a rulemaking proceeding (60 FR 39143, August 1, 1995) in response to a petition filed May 25, 1994, by the Municipality of Anchorage, AK. Petitioner requested, *inter alia*, that short notice increase publications for intermodal motor/water service to and from Alaska be sent to subscribers the same day the filings are sent to the Commission [Board]. The full text of the new regulation is set forth below. The Board is requiring that short notice publications, including (1) short notice publications involving all noncontiguous domestic trade traffic, and not only the intermodal Alaska trade; and (2) rate decreases as well as increases, generally be sent to subscribers on the date the publications are sent to the Board for filing.

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To obtain a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289-4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927-5721.]

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

We certify that the new regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) because the rule affects only the mailing date for notification.

Environmental and Energy Considerations

The rule will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources because the proposal merely changes time frames for notice. We conclude that an environmental assessment is not necessary under our regulations because the proposed action would not result in changes in carrier operations that exceed the thresholds established in our regulations. See 49 CFR 1105.6(c)(2).

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 1312

Freight forwarders, Maritime carriers, Motor carriers, Moving of household goods, Pipelines.

Decided: May 29, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, title 49, chapter X, part 1312 is amended as follows:

PART 1312—REGULATIONS FOR THE PUBLICATION, POSTING AND FILING OF TARIFFS, SCHEDULES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS OF MOTOR, PIPELINE AND WATER CARRIERS, AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS FREIGHT FORWARDERS

1. The authority citation for part 1312 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 553; 49 U.S.C. 721, 13701, 13702, and 13521.

2. Section 1312.6, paragraph (b)(2) is revised to read as follows:

§ 1312.6 Furnishing copies of tariff publications.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) Newly-issued tariffs, supplements, or loose-leaf pages, including short-notice publications, shall be sent to each subscriber not later than the time the copies for official filing are sent to the Board, except that with the advance, written permission of the subscriber, any publication may be sent not later than 5 working days after the time the copies are sent to the Board.

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[FR Doc. 96-15161 Filed 6-13-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 285

[I.D. 060596A]

Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Bluefin Tuna Adjustments

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

ACTION: Bluefin tuna catch limit adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS takes this inseason action to reopen the Angling category fishery for large school and small medium Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABT) and to adjust daily catch limits for the Angling category fishery to one fish per angler, which may be from the school or large school size class, and, in addition,

one fish per vessel from the small medium size class ABT. This action is being taken to lengthen the fishing season and ensure reasonable fishing opportunities in all geographic areas without risking overharvest of this category.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The daily catch limit adjustment is effective June 18, 1996, through December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Hogarth, 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of ABT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 285.

Implementing regulations for the Atlantic tuna fisheries at § 285.24 allow for inseason adjustments to the daily catch limits in order to lengthen the fishing season and ensure reasonable fishing opportunities for all geographic areas. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, may increase or reduce the per-angler catch limit for any size class bluefin tuna or may change the per-angler limit to a per-boat limit or a per-boat limit to a per-angler limit.

The 1996 quota of ABT allocated to the Angling category has been adjusted to 243 metric tons (mt) by a final rule effective June 18, 1996. The portion of this recreational catch that may be taken in large school and small medium ABT is 100 mt. As of June 5, 1996, preliminary estimates of recreational fishery landings of ABT between 47 inches (119 cm) and 73 inches (185 cm) total 60 mt. Due to earlier projections on ABT catch by this fishing category, the daily catch limit for ABT was set at one fish per vessel per day (61 FR 8223, March 4, 1996), and subsequently, the fishery for large school and small medium ABT was closed (61 FR 11336, March 20, 1996).

With the adjusted quota for the Angling category and the revised catch estimates, sufficient quota remains to exercise the regulatory authority for inseason adjustments to reopen the large school/small medium category. In addition, the daily catch limit for ABT is adjusted to one fish per angler, which may be from the school or large school size class, and one small medium size class ABT may be landed per vessel.

Fishing for, retention, possessing, or landing large medium or giant ABT by vessels in the Angling category or Charter/Headboat category was previously closed (61 FR 8223, March 4, 1996) to prevent overharvest of the quota established for that category. This

current action has no effect on that prior closure. Recreational anglers may continue to fish for large medium and giant ABT under the NMFS tag-and-release program (§ 285.27).

Subsequent adjustments to the daily catch limit, if any, shall be announced through publication in the Federal Register. In addition, anglers may call the Highly Migratory Species Information Line at 301-713-1279 for updates on quota monitoring and catch limit adjustments. Anglers aboard Charter/Headboat and General category vessels, when engaged in recreational fishing for school, large school, and small medium ABT, are subject to the same rules as anglers aboard Angling category vessels.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 285.20(b) and 50 CFR 285.22 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*

Dated: June 10, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-15114 Filed 6-11-96; 9:47 am]

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50 CFR Part 285

[Docket No. 960416112-6164-02; I.D. 030896D]

RIN 0648-AI29

Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Annual Quotas and Effort Controls

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS amends the regulations governing the Atlantic tuna fisheries to: Set Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABT) fishing category quotas for the 1996 fishing year, revise allocations to monthly quota periods and establish the effort control schedule in the ABT General category, allow the partial transfer of quotas among Purse Seine category permit holders and amend landing requirements, and increase minimum sizes for Atlantic yellowfin and bigeye tunas. The regulatory amendments are necessary to implement the 1994 recommendation of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regarding fishing quotas for bluefin tuna, as required by the Atlantic Tunas

Convention Act (ATCA), and to achieve domestic management objectives.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The rule is effective June 18, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of supporting documents, including an Environmental Assessment Regulatory Impact Review (EA/RIR), are available from, William Hogarth, Acting Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management (F/CM), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Hogarth, 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic tuna fisheries are managed under regulations at 50 CFR part 285 issued under the authority of ATCA. ATCA authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to implement regulations as may be necessary to carry out the recommendations of ICCAT. The authority to implement ICCAT recommendations has been delegated from the Secretary to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA).

Background information about the need for revisions to Atlantic tunas fishery regulations was provided in the proposed rule (61 FR 18366, April 25, 1996) and is not repeated here. These regulatory changes will improve NMFS' ability to implement the ICCAT recommendations and further the management objectives for the Atlantic tuna fisheries:

Fishing Category Quotas

The ABT fishing category quotas for the 1996 fishing year are as follows: General category—541 mt; Harpoon Boat category—53 mt; Purse Seine category—251 mt; Angling category—243 mt; Incidental category—110 mt; and Reserve—108 mt.

The Angling category quota is subdivided as follows: No more than 5 mt may be large medium or giant ABT; no more than 138 mt may be school ABT; and the quota for school ABT is further subdivided as 65 mt for the southern area and 73 mt for the northern area.

The Incidental category quota is subdivided as follows: 109 mt for longline vessels, no more than 86 mt in the southern area; and 1 mt for vessels taking ABT incidental to fishing with other authorized gear.

General Category Effort Controls

The General category quota is distributed as follows: 25 percent in June-July; 35 percent in August; 30 percent in September; and 10 percent in

October-December. These percentages are applied only to the base quota of 531 mt, with the remaining 10 mt being reserved for the New York Bight fishery in October. Thus, of the 531 mt total, 133 mt is available in the period beginning June 1 and ending July 31; 186 mt is available in the period beginning August 1 and ending August 31; 159 mt is available in the period beginning September 1 and ending September 30; and 63 mt (53 mt based on 10 percent, plus 10 mt New York Bight fishery) is available in the period beginning October 1 and ending December 31.

Attainment of quota in any period will result in a closure until the subsequent period, whereupon any underharvest or overharvest would be carried over to the subsequent period to adjust the base quota for that period. Inseason closures will be filed at the Office of the Federal Register, stating the effective date of closure, and announced through local media and over NOAA weather radio.

In 1995, daily closures (Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) were implemented to lengthen the fishing season. This rule removes Wednesday as a restricted fishing day and includes Tuesday as a restricted fishing day. Having three consecutive days closed will increase the likelihood of accomplishing the objective of temporarily extending the fishing season by facilitating enforcement of the daily closures.

Under this rule, the effective period of the effort controls is limited to mid-July through mid-September, corresponding to the historical period when catch rates are highest. Also, some adjustments to the effort control schedule are made to reflect increased fishing activity on holiday weekends and market closures in Japan. Thus, persons aboard vessels permitted in the General category or the Charterboat/Headboat category would not be allowed to fish for, catch, retain or land large medium or giant ABT on designated restricted fishing days: July 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30; August 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27; and September 3, 8, 9, 10, 15.

Purse Seine Requirements

This rule implements, for the Purse Seine category alone, a more flexible method of allocation of the domestic U.S. quota. Individual purse seine allocations of bluefin tuna quota are transferable, in whole or in part, to any other purse seine vessel permitted in the Atlantic tunas fisheries. Wholesale or partial transfers of allocation require written notice to NMFS 3 days in