

usefulness.” 56 FR at 28249. FRA intended that the listing be updated whenever it does not accurately identify the person(s) certified and qualified (i.e., when the listing’s usefulness is diminished). Ideally, the listing should be updated each time a person is newly certified and qualified, and each time a person is no longer considered certified or qualified.

With regard to updating the listing of foreign locomotive engineers in joint operation territories, it should be noted that FRA considers it more important to remove the name of any foreign engineer who is no longer considered certified or qualified for joint operations territory than to fail to add a person who has recently become certified and qualified. When a controlling railroad questions a foreign engineer’s certification or qualifications and the engineer’s name is not found on the list, the controlling railroad would be expected to immediately contact the foreign railroad in order to confirm the person’s status before allowing the foreign engineer to proceed into the joint operations territory. Alternatively, if a controlling railroad were to question a foreign engineer’s certification or qualifications and the engineer’s name is found on the list, the controlling railroad would likely be expected to rely on the list and would be exercising due diligence in doing so. If the list is incorrect and the person’s name should have been removed, the controlling railroad cannot be expected to prevent an unqualified person from operating in the joint operations territory.

Several major railroads have voiced concern that because the listing is in such a constant state of flux, it would be extremely difficult to maintain an accurate listing at all times. In the joint operation context, a major railroad may face the challenge of coordinating a listing that includes separate lists submitted by more than 100 foreign railroads. Although FRA agrees that it will be challenging for some railroads that allow extensive joint operations to maintain an accurate written list, such railroads may find it easier to comply by maintaining the listing electronically. Maintaining the listing electronically has always been an option pursuant to § 240.221(f), but it has not been extensively utilized. There is no question that modern technology has greatly improved since the rule’s issuance in 1991, and thus the ability and desire to electronically maintain the listing should be much greater. For example, it is possible to maintain a secure Web site where a controlling railroad can search a foreign railroad’s uploaded list of locomotive engineers to

check: (1) Whether the person is certified and qualified for the joint operations territory; (2) the person’s class of service; and, (3) the date of the railroad’s certification decision. Another option may be for a foreign railroad to tap into its railroad crew management tracking system to produce a more detailed written or electronic list of its engineers to controlling railroads than what is currently being made available. Other electronically maintained options may be available and FRA encourages railroads controlling joint operations to consider options that would improve the usefulness of the required listing. Any railroad that would like to maintain the listing electronically is required to obtain approval from FRA pursuant to the requirements in § 240.221(f).

While FRA recognizes that recent changes in status to any particular engineer might not be reflected in the listing immediately, FRA expects the listing to be updated with enough regularity so that it retains its usefulness.

FRA believes that this notice provides sufficient information to guide parties that may have been confused by the requirements of § 240.221. However, FRA seeks comments on this notice from interested parties including any suggestions for providing more clarity, if necessary. Please refer to the Addresses section for additional information regarding the submission of comments.

Issued in Washington DC on August 21, 2008.

Jo Strang,

Associate Administrator for Safety.

[FR Doc. E8–20032 Filed 8–28–08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 541

[Docket No. NHTSA–2008–0049]

RIN 2127–AK31

Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2009 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2009

Correction

In rule document E8–18890 beginning on page 47847 in the issue of Friday, August 15, 2008, make the following correction:

Appendix A–I to Part 541 [Corrected]

On page 47849, in Appendix A–I to Part 541, in the second column of the table, in the 44th line entry, “Genesis³” should read “Genesis¹”.

[FR Doc. Z8–18890 Filed 8–28–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1505–01–D

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

RIN 0648–XJ69

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason retention limit adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the Atlantic tunas General category daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limit should be adjusted for the September, October–November, and December time periods of the 2008 fishing year, based on consideration of the determination criteria regarding inseason adjustments.

DATES: The effective dates for the adjusted BFT daily retention limits are September 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin or Brad McHale, 978–281–9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.27 subdivides the U.S. BFT quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) among the various domestic fishing categories, per the allocations established in the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (Consolidated HMS FMP). The latest (2006) ICCAT recommendation for western Atlantic BFT included a U.S. quota of 1,190.12 mt, effective beginning in 2007, through 2008, and thereafter until changed (i.e., via a new ICCAT

recommendation). It is possible that additional changes to the daily retention limit (i.e., for the January 2009 General category fishery) may be necessary following ICCAT's annual meeting in November 2008.

The 2008 fishing year began on January 1, 2008, and ends December 31, 2008. NMFS published final specifications on December 31, 2007 (72 FR 74193) and increased the default General category retention limit of one large medium or giant BFT (measuring 73 inches (185 cm) curved fork length (CFL) or greater) per vessel per day/trip to three large medium or giant BFT, measuring 73 inches CFL or greater, per vessel per day/trip for June 1 through August 31, 2008. Regardless of the duration of a fishing trip, no more than the daily retention limit may be on board a vessel. In addition, NMFS stated that it would consider adjustment of retention limits for future time periods, if warranted. In 2007, NMFS followed a similar course of action and raised General category retention limits via inseason actions to allow for a continuous three BFT retention limit, including for the January 2008 time period (72 FR 50257, August 31, 2007 and 72 FR 61565, October 31, 2007).

Adjustment of General Category Daily Retention Limits

Under 50 CFR 635.23(a)(4), NMFS may increase or decrease the daily retention limit of large medium and giant BFT over a range of zero to a maximum of three per vessel based on consideration of the criteria provided under § 635.27(a)(8), which include: the usefulness of information obtained from catches in the particular category for biological sampling and monitoring of the status of the stock; the catches of the particular category quota to date and the likelihood of closure of that segment of the fishery if no adjustment is made; the projected ability of the vessels fishing under the particular category quota to harvest the additional amount of BFT before the end of the fishing year; the estimated amounts by which quotas for other gear categories of the fishery might be exceeded; effects of the adjustment on BFT rebuilding and overfishing; effects of the adjustment on accomplishing the objectives of the fishery management plan; variations in seasonal distribution, abundance, or migration patterns of BFT; effects of catch rates in one area precluding vessels in another area from having a reasonable opportunity to harvest a portion of the category's quota; and a review of dealer reports, daily landing trends, and the availability of the BFT on the fishing grounds.

As of August 1, 2008, the coastwide General category has landed 50.8 metric tons (mt) out of a possible 740 mt, and landings rates remain less than 1.0 mt per day even though the General category retention limit was increased to three BFT per vessel per trip, measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL or greater for January and for June through August 2008. Starting on September 1, 2008, the General category daily retention limit, located at 50 CFR 635.23(a)(2), is scheduled to revert back to the default retention limit of one large medium or giant BFT (measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL) or greater per vessel per day/trip. This scheduled retention limit applies to General category permitted vessels and HMS Charter/Headboat category permitted vessels (when fishing commercially for BFT).

Each of the General category time periods (January, June-August, September, October-November, and December) is allocated a portion of the annual General category quota, thereby ensuring extended fishing opportunities in years when catch rates are high. In consideration of the rollover of unused quota from the January and June-August time periods, current catch rates, and the daily retention limit reverting to one large medium or giant BFT per vessel per day on September 1, 2008, NMFS anticipates the full 2008 fishing year General category quota will not be harvested. Adding an excessive amount of unused quota from one time-period subquota to the subsequent time-period subquota is undesirable because it effectively changes the time-period subquota allocation percentages established in the Consolidated HMS FMP and may contribute to excessive carryovers to subsequent fishing years.

NMFS has considered the set of criteria cited above and their applicability to the commercial BFT retention limit for the remainder of the 2008 fishing year. Based on these considerations, NMFS has determined that the General category retention should be adjusted to allow for retention of the established General category quota. Therefore, NMFS increases the General category retention limit from the default limits effective September 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008. This adjustment increases the General category daily retention limit to three large medium or giant BFT, measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL or greater, per vessel per day/trip. This General category retention limit is effective in all areas, except for the Gulf of Mexico, and applies to those vessel permitted in the General category as well as to those HMS Charter/Headboat permitted vessels fishing commercially for BFT.

This adjustment is intended to provide a reasonable opportunity to harvest the U.S. landings quota of BFT while maintaining an equitable distribution of fishing opportunities, to help achieve optimum yield in the General category BFT fishery, to collect a broad range of data for stock monitoring purposes, and to be consistent with the objectives of the Consolidated HMS FMP.

Monitoring and Reporting

NMFS selected the daily retention limit and the duration after examining an array of data as it pertains to the determination criteria. These data included, but were not limited to, current and previous catch and effort rates, quota availability, previous public comments on inseason management measures, stock status, etc. NMFS will continue to monitor the BFT fishery closely through the mandatory dealer landing reports, which NMFS requires to be submitted within 24 hours of a dealer receiving BFT. Depending on the level of fishing effort and catch rates of BFT, NMFS may determine that additional retention limit adjustments are necessary to ensure available quota is not exceeded or to enhance scientific data collection from, and fishing opportunities in, all geographic areas.

Closures or subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, will be published in the **Federal Register**. In addition, fishermen may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260, or access the internet at www.hmspermits.gov, for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for NMFS (AA), finds that it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest to provide prior notice of, and an opportunity for public comment on, this action for the following reasons:

NMFS continues to receive information refining its understanding of the commercial sector's specific needs regarding retention limits through the latter portions of the 2008 season. NMFS assessments and analyses show catch rates to date have been low and that there is sufficient quota for an increase to the General category retention limit during the months of September through December 2008.

The regulations implementing the Consolidated HMS FMP provide for inseason retention limit adjustments to respond to the unpredictable nature of BFT availability on the fishing grounds, the migratory nature of this species, and the regional variations in the BFT

fishery. Affording prior notice and opportunity for public comment to implement these retention limits is impracticable as it would preclude NMFS from acting promptly to allow harvest of BFT that are available on the fishing grounds. Analysis of available data shows that the General category BFT retention limits may be increased with minimal risks of exceeding the ICCAT-allocated quota.

Delays in increasing these retention limits would adversely affect those General and Charter/Headboat category vessels that would otherwise have an opportunity to harvest more than the default retention limit of one BFT per day and may exacerbate the problem of low catch rates and quota rollovers. Limited opportunities to harvest the respective quotas may have negative social and economic impacts to U.S. fishermen that either depend upon catching the available quota within the time periods designated in the Consolidated HMS FMP. Adjustment to the retention limit needs to be effective September 1, 2008, to minimize any unnecessary disruption in fishing patterns and for the impacted sectors to benefit from the adjustments so as to not preclude fishing opportunities from fishermen who only have access to the fishery during this time period.

Therefore, the AA finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment. For all of the above reasons, and because this action relieves a restriction (i.e., current default retention limit is one fish per vessel/trip but this action increases that limit and allows retention of more fish), there is also good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d) to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness.

This action is being taken under 50 CFR 635.23(a)(4) and (b)(3) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 26, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E8-20181 Filed 8-28-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 071106671-8010-02]

RIN 0648-XK11

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the C season allowance of the 2008 total allowable catch (TAC) of pollock for Statistical Area 630 in the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 26, 2008, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., October 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Hogan, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The C season allowance of the 2008 TAC of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA is 4,431 metric tons (mt) as established by the 2008 and 2009 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (73 FR 10562, February 27, 2008). In accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(iv)(B) the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), hereby decreases the C season pollock allowance by 753 mt, the amount of the B season allowance of the pollock TAC that was exceeded in Statistical Area 630. Therefore, the revised C season allowance of the pollock TAC in Statistical Area 630 is 3,678 mt (4,431 mt minus 753 mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Regional Administrator has determined that the C season allowance of the 2008 TAC of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional

Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 3,518 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 160 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA.

After the effective date of this closure the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay the closure of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of August 25, 2008.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: August 26, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E8-20156 Filed 8-26-08; 8:45 am]

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