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examination of stock projections for 1994 that were conducted using low, mean, and high estimates of recruitment and the number of age-1 fish. The adopted management measures are based upon the low estimate of recruitment in order to proceed conservatively due to several sources of uncertainty in the assessment.

*Comment:* The ACCA questions the way in which state survey data were used to estimate age-0 fish. They believe the assessment should have relied on the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) index, which indicates poor recruitment.

*Response:* The stock assessment incorporates the results of five state surveys to estimate age-0 fish. Each of the state surveys is limited in area and indicates recruitment trends locally. The overall analysis combines all of the surveys and produces a moderate estimate that is lower than the mean over the past 5 years. The uncertainty concerning this estimate is one of the reasons cited by the Council and ASMFC for the conservative quota adopted.

*Comment:* The ACCA questions the assumption that the 1993 commercial quota will not be exceeded and states that the 1994 quota should not be set until final 1993 landings figures are available. ACCA supports the FMP provision that requires state landings in excess of the 1993 quota to be deducted from state quota allocations for 1994.

*Response:* The FMP requires the Summer Flounder Monitoring Committee to make a recommendation concerning management measures for the upcoming year by August 15. Clearly, the Council was aware that it would be impossible to incorporate landings data from one year into the recommendations for the following year. The assumption that the 1993 quota is not exceeded is not unreasonable since the FMP requires weekly dealer reports and gives NMFS the authority to close states to the landing of summer flounder when a state quota is attained. If final 1993 landings exceed a state quota, the 1994 state quota will be decreased by the overage amount.

*Comment:* The ACCA believes the 1994 quota recommendation does not take into account the additional reduction in target fishing mortality that the FMP requires in 1996.

*Response:* As stated in the proposed specifications, a conservative quota level was selected for 1994 in part in anticipation of the FMP requirement for reduction of the target fishing mortality rate to 0.23 in 1996. If a conservative quota level is implemented in 1994, and if recruitment in 1993/94 exceeds the

assumed level, then spawning stock biomass is expected to increase at a rate faster than estimated. Larger stock sizes in 1996 would allow for a quota level that would minimize the impacts of the additional reduction on fishermen.

**Classification**

This action is authorized by 50 CFR part 625.

**List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 625**

Fisheries, reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

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

Dated: March 1, 1994.

**Samuel W. McKeen,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 94-5125 Filed 3-2-94; 3:28 pm]

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**50 CFR Part 651**

[Docket No. 931076-4052; I.D. 030194A]

RIN 0648-AD33

**Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Correction**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; correction.

**SUMMARY:** This document corrects a final rule published on Tuesday, March 1, 1994 (59 FR 9872), which implements Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Northeast Multispecies Fishery (FMP).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 1, 1994.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Murphy, Northeast Regional Office, 508-281-9252.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Need for Correction**

This document corrects the minimum-mesh net size requirement to be 5½ inches (13.97 cm), rather than 6 inches (15.24 cm), for the Gulf of Maine/ Georges Bank regulated mesh area and the Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge juvenile protection area from March 1, 1994, through March 31, 1994. The minimum mesh size requirement for these two areas will become 6 inches (15.24 cm) beginning April 1, 1994. The Regional Director determined on February 25, 1994, that fishermen need additional time to come into compliance with a larger minimum mesh requirement of 6 inches (15.24 cm).

**Correction of Publication**

Accordingly, the publication on March 1, 1994, of the final rule, which was the subject of FR Doc. 94-4610, is corrected as follows:

1. On page 9874, under the "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" caption, in the second column, before the heading, "Comments and Responses", add the following heading and paragraph: Delay of 6-inch (15.24-cm) Minimum Mesh Requirement.

The 6-inch minimum mesh requirements in the Gulf of Maine/ Georges Bank regulated mesh area (see § 651.20(a)(2)) and the Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge juvenile protection area (see § 651.20(a)(5)) are effective beginning April 1, 1994, with a minimum mesh requirement of 5½ inches (13.97 cm) from March 1 through March 31, 1994. The Regional Director determined on February 25, 1994, that fishermen need additional time to come into compliance with a larger minimum mesh requirement of 6 inches (15.24 cm).

**§ 651.20 [Corrected]**

2. On page 9893, third column, in § 651.20(a)(2), line 2, after the phrase "area, shall be", insert the following: "5½ inches (13.97 cm) from March 1, 1994, through March 31, 1994, and beginning April 1, 1994."

3. On page 9894, third column, in § 651.20(a)(5), introductory text, last line, after the words "net gear", and before the period, add the words: "except that from March 1, 1994, through March 31, 1994, the minimum mesh requirement shall be 5½ inches (13.97 cm) square mesh (hung on the square) in the last 140 bars of the codend and extension piece of all mobile net gear."

Dated: March 1, 1994.

**Samuel W. McKeen,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 94-5078 Filed 3-2-94; 11:22 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

**50 CFR Part 672**

[Docket No. 920461-4061; I.D. 021594E]

**Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; technical amendment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues a technical amendment that updates directed

the coastline to the Vermillion Parish line, north to Highway 14, thence east to U.S. Highway 90. This hearing will allow additional comments on this proposal to be submitted from all interested parties.

**DATES:** The comment period on the proposal is reopened through April 4, 1994. The public hearing will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 23, 1994.

**ADDRESSES:** The public hearing will be held in the auditorium of the New Iberia Senior High School, 1301 E. Admiral Doyle Drive, New Iberia, Louisiana. Written comments and materials should be sent to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A, Jackson, Mississippi 39213. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wendell A. Neal at the above address (601/965-4900).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The Endangered Species Act requires the Service to designate critical habitat to the maximum extent prudent and determinable concurrently with listing a species. Although the Service found that designation of critical habitat was not prudent in the proposed rule of June 21, 1990 (55 FR 25341) for listing the Louisiana black bear as threatened, in the final rule listing the Louisiana black bear as threatened, published on January 7, 1992 (57 FR 588), the Service changed its earlier finding by determining that designation of critical habitat was prudent but not then determinable. A proposal to designate three areas as critical habitat was published in the Federal Register on December 2, 1993 (58 FR 63560). The actual critical habitat within these areas is limited to forestland.

Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Endangered Species Act requires that a public hearing be held on proposed designation of critical habitat if requested within 45 days of the proposal's publication in the Federal Register. Public hearing requests were received during the allotted time period from Robert Lamar Boese, the Honorable Bill Tauzin, Pistro L. Ripari, and Henry Stickler.

Anyone expecting to make an oral presentation at the hearing is

encouraged to provide a written copy of their statement to the hearing officer prior to the start of the hearing. In the event there is a large attendance, the time allotted for oral statements may have to be limited. Oral and written statements receive equal consideration. There are no limits to the length of written comments presented at this hearing or mailed to the Service.

The comment period originally closed on March 2, 1993. In order to accommodate the public hearing, the Service reopens the public comment period. Written comments may now be submitted through April 4, 1994, to the office in the ADDRESSES section.

#### Author

The primary author of this notice is Wendell A. Neal (see ADDRESSES section).

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

Dated: February 25, 1994.

James W. Pulliam, Jr.,  
Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 94-5114 Filed 3-4-94; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310-25-00

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

##### 50 CFR Part 651

[D. 030194B]

##### Northeast Multispecies Fishery

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

**ACTION:** Public hearings and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), will hold preliminary hearings to inform interested parties and receive comments on proposals to amend the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). In response to concerns expressed by the NEFMC's Industry Advisory Committee about the emergence of a juvenile silver hake (whiting) fishery, the NEFMC intends to hold public hearings this spring on a set

of management objectives and alternatives to meet those objectives. The NEFMC seeks input on the development of the public hearing document from interested parties who have not had the opportunity to comment at FMP development meetings in the New England area.

**DATES:** Written comments should be sent by March 8, 1994 (see ADDRESSES). The hearings will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 1994; and at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 1994.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Douglas G. Marshall, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, Suntaug Office Park, 5 Broadway (Route One), Saugus, MA 01906. Additional information can be obtained from the NEFMC at the above address, or from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Federal Bldg., room 2115, 300 South New Street, Dover, DE 19901-6790.

Public hearings will be held on March 7 at the South Wall Fire House, West Atlantic Avenue at Route 34, Wall, NJ, (908) 223-2150; and on March 8 at the Gurney's Inn, Old Montauck Highway, Montauk, NY, (516) 668-2345.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Douglas G. Marshall, Executive Director, (617) 231-0422.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NEFMC staff will provide materials for the hearings to the MAFMC. The MAFMC will distribute the materials to interested parties and provide other support for the hearings. They will also forward all comments to the NEFMC. After the NEFMC's Groundfish Committee reviews the scoping hearing comments, a public hearing document will be prepared. Interested members of the public should contact either the MAFMC or the NEFMC office for further information (see ADDRESSES).

This hearing is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Douglas G. Marshall at (617) 231-0422 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 1, 1994.

David S. Crestin,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 94-5092 Filed 3-2-94; 11:22 am]

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