the public interest because of the need to immediately implement this action to protect red snapper, because the capacity of the fishing fleet allows for rapid harvest of the commercial ACL. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require time and could potentially result in a harvest well in excess of the established commercial ACL.

For the reasons just stated, there is also good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effectiveness of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

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

Dated: August 19, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–17120 Filed 8–19–26; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 260702–0161; RTID 0648–XF978]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish; 2026 Illex Squid Quota Harvested

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; possession limit adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed *Illex* squid fishery in Federal waters based on a projection that 96 percent of the 2026 domestic annual harvest (DAH) will be harvested. This closure is effective 0001 hour (hr) local time on August 23, 2026, through 2400 hr local time on December 31, 2026. This action is necessary to comply with the regulations implementing the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and is intended to prevent the 2026 *Illex* squid annual catch limit from being exceeded.

DATES: Effective 0001 hr local time on August 23, 2026, through 2400 hr local time on December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Fenton, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978–281–9196.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implementing the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP appear at 50 CFR part 648, subpart B. The regulations at § 648.22 describe the specifications that must be set annually for the fisheries managed under the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP. For the *Illex* squid fishery, these specifications include the Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH), which is also known as the commercial quota and represents the total amount of *Illex* squid that can be landed by commercial fishing vessels in a given fishing year. On July 9, 2026, NMFS published a final rule (91 FR 42360) implementing a 38,631-metric ton (mt) *Illex* squid DAH for fishing year 2026 (January 1–December 31, 2026).

The regulations at § 648.24(a)(2) require NMFS to close the directed *Illex* squid fishery in Federal waters for the remainder of the year when the Regional Administrator projects that 96 percent of the DAH is harvested. When such a closure is in effect, vessels are prohibited from fishing for, possessing, or landing more than 10,000 pounds (lb; 4,536 kilograms (kg)) of *Illex* squid at any time per trip, and from landing *Illex* squid more than once per calendar day, as specified at § 648.26(c)(2).

Based on vessel reports, dealer reports, and other available information, the Regional Administrator projected that 96 percent of the *Illex* squid DAH will be harvested by August 23, 2026. Therefore, effective 0001 hr local time on August 23, 2026, through 2400 hr local time on December 31, 2026, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) of *Illex* squid at any time per trip, and may only land *Illex* squid once per calendar day. Vessels issued an *Illex* squid moratorium permit that enter port before 0001 hr local time on August 23, 2026, may land and sell more than 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) of *Illex* squid from that trip, consistent with the possession restrictions at § 648.26(c).

Also, effective 0001 hr local time on August 23, 2026, through 2400 hr local time on December 31, 2026, federally permitted dealers may not purchase, possess, or receive for a commercial purpose or attempt to purchase, possess, or receive for a commercial purpose, more than 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) of *Illex* squid from a vessel unless the vessel enters port before 0001 hr local time on August 23, 2026.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This action is required by § 648.24(a)(2), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The public had prior notice and opportunity to comment on the 2026 *Illex* squid DAH through the proposed rule to implement the 2026 *Illex* squid fishery specifications (91 FR 12545; March 16, 2026), and the closure process for the *Illex* squid fishery when that provision of the FMP was put in place. Further, data indicating that 96 percent of the 2026 DAH will be harvested only recently became available. High volume landings in the *Illex* squid fishery can lead to harvest of the DAH relatively quickly. If implementation of this action is delayed, the 2026 DAH will likely be exceeded, thereby undermining the conservation objectives of the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP. For these reasons, there is also good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date.

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

Dated: August 19, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–17148 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 260209–0039; RTID 0648–XF973]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From North Carolina to Massachusetts

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; quota transfer.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the State of North Carolina is transferring a portion of its 2026 commercial summer flounder quota to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This adjustment to the 2026 fishing year quota is necessary to comply with the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) quota transfer provisions. This announcement informs the public of the revised 2026

commercial quotas for North Carolina and Massachusetts.

DATES: Effective August 20, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Rigdon, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281–9336.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found in 50 CFR 648.100 through 648.111. These regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from Maine through North Carolina. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state is described in § 648.102, and the final 2026 allocations were published on February 19, 2026 (91 FR 7896).

The final rule implementing amendment 5 to the FMP, as published in the **Federal Register** on December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), provided a mechanism for transferring summer flounder commercial quota from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Administrator, can transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota under § 648.102(c)(2). The Regional Administrator is required to consider three criteria in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations: (1) the transfers or combinations would not preclude the overall annual quota from being fully harvested; (2) the transfers address an unforeseen variation or contingency in the fishery; and (3) the transfers are consistent with the objectives of the FMP and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The Regional Administrator has determined these three criteria have been met for the transfer approved in this notification.

North Carolina is transferring 2,435 pounds (lb; 1,104 kilograms (kg)) of summer flounder to Massachusetts through a mutual agreement between the states. This transfer was requested to repay landings made by an out-of-state permitted vessel under a safe harbor agreement. The revised summer flounder quotas for 2026 are: North Carolina, 2,899,571 lb (1,315,223 kg); and Massachusetts, 1,048,732 lb (475,697 kg).

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 648.102(c)(2)(i) through (iv), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and is exempted from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: August 19, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–17129 Filed 8–20–26; 8:45 am]

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