Flexibility Act (Public Law 96–354, 5 U.S.C. 601–612) do not apply.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This final rule does not impose an unfunded mandate as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–4, 109 Stat. 48). It does not result in the expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $148.1 million or more in any one year.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct, sponsor, or require through regulations. DOT has analyzed this final rule under the PRA and has determined that this rule does not contain collection of information requirements.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism Assessment)

The final rule does not have a substantial direct effect on the States, the relationship between the national government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. This final rule does not include sufficient federalism implications to warrant consultation processes.

Executive Order 13175 (Tribal Consultation)

This final rule was analyzed according to E.O. 13175, ''Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.'' The final rule does not include sufficient tribal implications to warrant consultation processes.

National Environmental Policy Act

DOT has analyzed the environmental effects of this action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) and has determined that it is categorically excluded pursuant to DOT Order 5610.1D, available at *https://www.transportation.gov/mission/dots-procedures-considering-environmental-impacts*.

List of Subjects

49 CFR Part 92

Claims, Government employees, Wages.

49 CFR Part 98

Conflict of interest.

Issued in Washington, DC, under authority delegated in 49 CFR Part 1.27(c).

Gregory Zerzan,

General Counsel.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Office of the Secretary amends 49 CFR parts 92 and 98 as follows:

Title 49—Transportation

PART 92—RECOVERING DEBTS TO THE UNITED STATES BY SALARY OFFSET

■ 1. The authority citation for part 92 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5514, as amended; 5 CFR part 550, subpart K; 4 CFR parts 101–105.

■ 2. Amend § 92.5 by revising paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 92.5 Definitions.

* * * * *

(g) *DOT operating element* (see 49 CFR 1.3) means the Office of the Secretary or a DOT Operating Administration including—

(1) Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) Federal Highway Administration.

(3) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

(4) Federal Railroad Administration.

(5) Federal Transit Administration.

(6) Great Lakes St. Lawerence Seaway Development Corporation.

(7) Maritime Administration.

(8) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(9) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

* * * * *

PART 98—[REMOVED AND RESERVED]

■ 3. Under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 322(a), remove and reserve part 98.

[FR Doc. 2026–18560 Filed 9–10–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–9X–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 241203–0308; RTID 0648–XG045]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer From New Jersey to North Carolina

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 New Jersey is transferring a portion of their 2026 commercial bluefish quota to the State of North Carolina. This quota adjustment is necessary to comply with the Atlantic Bluefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) quota transfer provisions. This announcement informs the public of the revised 2026 commercial bluefish quotas for New Jersey and North Carolina.

DATES: Effective September 10, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the Atlantic bluefish fishery are found in 50 CFR 648.160 through 648.167. These regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from Maine through Florida. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state is described in § 648.162, and the final 2026 allocations were published on February 19, 2026 (91 FR 7896).

The final rule implementing amendment 1 to the FMP, as published in the **Federal Register** on July 26, 2000 (65 FR 45844), provided a mechanism for transferring bluefish 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 request approval to transfer or combine bluefish commercial quota under § 648.162(e). The Regional Administrator is required to consider three criteria in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations: (1) the transfers 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 criteria have been met for the transfers approved in this notification.

New Jersey is transferring 250,000 pounds (lb) (113,398 kilograms (kg)) of Atlantic bluefish to North Carolina through mutual agreement of the states. This transfer was requested to ensure North Carolina would not exceed its

2026 state quota. The revised bluefish quotas for 2026 are: New Jersey, 408,379 lb (185,238 kg); and North Carolina, 1,743,521 lb (790,848 kg).

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 648.162(e)(1)(i) through (iii), which was issued pursuant to section 304(b), and is exempted from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: September 9, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–18623 Filed 9–10–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 260908–0006]

RIN 0648–BM54

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Greater Atlantic Region Catch Share Cost Recovery Program Updates

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule implements regulatory and administrative changes to improve the Greater Atlantic Region's Catch Share Cost Recovery Programs. These updates are intended to simplify regulations and reduce costs for the Atlantic Sea Scallop Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), Golden Tilefish IFQ, and Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) fisheries. This action will result in improved administration and management of the Atlantic sea scallop, golden tilefish, and Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog fisheries.

DATES: This rule is effective October 13, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the supporting documents for this rule are available from Sustainable Fisheries Division, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Potts, Fishery Policy Analyst, *douglas.potts@noaa.gov*, (978) 281–9341.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) manages three Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPP): (1) Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Atlantic Sea Scallop IFQ; (2) Golden Tilefish IFQ; and (3) Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog ITQ. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the collection of fees to recover ''the actual costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement'' of a LAPP (16 U.S.C. 1854(d)(2)(A)(i)). Permit holders in these three LAPPs must pay an annual cost recovery fee, based on the ex-vessel value of fish landed under the program. The fee may be up to, but cannot exceed, 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of the fish harvested under the LAPP (16 U.S.C 1854(d)(2)(B)). Permits cannot be renewed until the previous year's fee is paid (see 50 CFR 648.53(h)(4)(iii), 648.74(c)(6)(iii)(C)(1), and 648.294(h)(5)(vi)).

A proposed rule for this action was published in the **Federal Register** on May 1, 2026 (91 FR 23385), and public comments were accepted through June 1, 2026. Additional information on the developmental history and need for this action is contained in the proposed rule and is not repeated here.

This action waives fees under $25 to avoid the disproportionate costs associated with administering these bills. The cost of staff time spent working on billing for fees less than the U.S. Department of Treasury's $25 minimum threshold for debt collection significantly exceeds the value of the bills themselves, ultimately costing the fishing industry more in the subsequent billing cycle. The unbilled amounts below $25 will be rolled over into the following year's cost recovery accounting, so GARFO would still collect the total ''actual costs'' of the LAPPs as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

This action also standardizes the billing timeline for GARFO, and payment periods for permit holders, across the regulations implementing the three LAPPs administered by GARFO. Setting a standard timeline for billing and payment periods will reduce uncertainty for members of the fishing industry and reduce the administrative burden on the agency. This action requires NMFS to send out bills within 6 months of the end of the cost recovery period and sets payments due within 30 days from the date bills are sent for all three LAPPs. Currently, Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog ITQ bills are due within 30 days, Golden Tilefish IFQ bills are due within 45 days, and Atlantic Sea Scallop IFQ bills are due within 60 days. Requiring payment within 30 days of the bill date, also known as ''Net 30,'' is standard practice across many industries. Providing 6 months from the end of the cost recovery period to send fee notices allows time for GARFO staff to compile the cost of managing the LAPPs as well as sufficient time to receive, review, and correct, if necessary, landings and price data from fishing vessels and dealers. The Atlantic Sea Scallop IFQ cost recovery year runs from October 1 through September 31, and GARFO would send out bills before the end of the following March. The cost recovery year for Golden Tilefish IFQ and Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog ITQ follows the calendar year, and GARFO would send out bills before the end of the following June.

Comments and Responses

We received three comments on the proposed rule. One comment expressed general support for the proposed action because it would improve efficiency without negatively impacting sustainability of the fisheries. Two of the comments received were not relevant to this rule and are, therefore, not discussed further.

Changes From the Proposed Rule

There are no changes from the proposed rule.

Classification

NMFS is issuing this rule pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The reason for using this regulatory authority is that this action addresses the agency's administration of the cost recovery provisions of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Golden Tilefish FMP, and Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP to minimize agency inefficiencies and unnecessary costs for the industry. NMFS notified the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council of its intention to implement these changes using this authority. Neither Council objected, nor did they express interest in addressing these issues through the Council process. The NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this final rule is consistent with the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP, Golden Tilefish FMP, and Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law.