

excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under DOT Order 5610.1D, Subpart B, paragraph e(6)(y)(4). The categorical exclusion (CE) in paragraph e(6)(y)(4) covers relief during regional and local emergencies. Therefore, this rulemaking is covered by this CE.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 390

Highway safety, Intermodal transportation, Motor carriers, Motor vehicle safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, FMCSA amends 49 CFR part 390 as follows:

PART 390—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS: GENERAL

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

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 113, 504, 508, 31132, 31133, 31134, 31136, 31137, 31144, 31149, 31151, 31502; sec. 114, Pub. L. 103–311, 108 Stat. 1673, 1677; secs. 212 and 217, Pub. L. 106–159, 113 Stat. 1748, 1766, 1767; sec. 229, Pub. L. 106–159 (as added and transferred by sec. 4115 and amended by secs. 4130–4132, Pub. L. 109–59, 119 Stat. 1144, 1726, 1743, 1744), 113 Stat. 1748, 1773; sec. 4136, Pub. L. 109–59, 119 Stat. 1144, 1745; secs. 32101(d) and 32934, Pub. L. 112–141, 126 Stat. 405, 778, 830; sec. 2, Pub. L. 113–125, 128 Stat. 1388; secs. 5403, 5518, and 5524, Pub. L. 114–94, 129 Stat. 1312, 1548, 1558, 1560; sec. 2, Pub. L. 115–105, 131 Stat. 2263; and 49 CFR 1.81, 1.81a, 1.87.

§ 390.23 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend § 390.23(b) by removing the number “14” and adding, in its place, the number “30”.

Issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.87.

Derek Barrs,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 260930–0011]

RIN 0648–BN67

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of America, and South Atlantic; Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 4

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues regulations to implement Amendment 4 to the Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan (Puerto Rico FMP), as prepared and submitted by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council). This final rule reclassifies the rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP and implements management measures for rainbow runner based on the pelagic fish classification, including sector annual catch targets (ACTs) and accountability measures (AMs). The existing sector-specific annual catch limits (ACLs) for rainbow runner will be retained after the reclassification. The purpose of this final rule and Amendment 4 is to ensure that rainbow runner is managed consistent with its life history characteristics, fishing patterns, and with the Council’s management of other pelagic species.

DATES: This final rule is effective October 5, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Electronic copies of Amendment 4, which includes a fishery impact statement, a regulatory impact review, and a Regulatory Flexibility Act analysis, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-4-puerto-rico-fishery-management-plan-reclassification-rainbow-runner-pelagic-fish>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Lopez-Mercer, 727–824–5305, maria.lopez@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Rainbow runner is currently managed under the Puerto Rico FMP as a reef fish. The FMP was prepared by the Council and NMFS, approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and implemented by NMFS through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Background

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that NMFS and the regional fishery management councils prevent overfishing and achieve, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from federally managed fish stocks to ensure that fishery resources are managed for the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to providing food production and recreational opportunities and protecting marine ecosystems.

This action is taken under the statutory authority of the Magnuson-

Stevens Act section 303(a)(1) as necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and to promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery.

On May 21, 2026, NMFS published a notice of availability for Amendment 4 and requested public comment (91 FR 29927). On July 8, 2026, NMFS published a proposed rule for Amendment 4 and requested public comment (91 FR 42158). NMFS approved Amendment 4 on August 19, 2026. The proposed rule and notice of availability for Amendment 4 outline the rationale for the actions contained in this final rule. The management measures described in Amendment 4 and implemented by this final rule are described below.

During development of the Puerto Rico FMP, finfish stocks were classified into three descriptive categories: reef fish, pelagic fish, and rays. At that time, the rainbow runner and two other jack species that were new to Federal management under the Puerto Rico FMP (crevalle jack and African pompano) were classified as reef fish. Under the Puerto Rico FMP, each jack species is managed as an individual stock rather than in a stock complex because of differences in the primary location where they are caught. As described in the Puerto Rico FMP, rainbow runner is commonly caught in open water, while crevalle jack is commonly harvested closer to shore and around mangrove channels, and African pompano is commonly caught off the beach. With the implementation of the Puerto Rico FMP in October 2022, rainbow runner became subject to management measures applicable to reef fish in Federal waters around Puerto Rico. Federal waters around Puerto Rico extend seaward from 9 nautical miles or 16.7 kilometers from shore to the offshore boundary of the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone.

Under the Puerto Rico FMP, regulations that apply to all reef fish, including rainbow runner as originally classified, include anchoring restrictions, prohibited fishing gear types, seasonal closures, and a combined recreational bag and possession limit. Also, as a reef fish species, rainbow runner was subject to commercial and recreational ACLs, a total ACL, and sector-specific AMs.

Unless otherwise noted, all weights in this final rule are described in pounds (lb) round weight. Under the Puerto Rico FMP, commercial and recreational data were available to establish sector-specific ACLs for rainbow runner, which were equal to 10.14 percent for

commercial and 89.86 percent for recreational of the total ACL. For rainbow runner, the commercial ACL is 913 lb (414.1 kilograms (kg)), the recreational ACL is 8,091 lb (3,670 kg), and the total ACL is 9,004 lb (4,084.1 kg).

Under the Puerto Rico FMP, at or near the beginning of the fishing year, landings for each stock, stock complex, or indicator stock of reef fish are evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP (50 CFR 622.440(a)(4)). When landings for one sector are not available for comparison to that sector's ACL, the ACL for the sector with available landings is the applicable ACL for the stock or stock complex. At this time, recreational landings for rainbow runner are not available; therefore, commercial landings are evaluated relative to the commercial ACL to determine if the AM specified in 50 CFR 622.440(a)(7) applies. If NMFS estimates that available commercial landings for rainbow runner have exceeded the commercial ACL, the Assistant Administrator for NMFS will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the commercial and recreational fishing seasons for rainbow runner within that fishing year by the amount necessary to prevent commercial landings from exceeding the commercial ACL, unless NMFS determines that a reduction is not necessary based on the best scientific information available, or unless the ACL was exceeded because data collection or monitoring improved rather than because landings increased (50 CFR 622.440(a)(7)).

Since implementation of the Puerto Rico FMP in 2022, the status of the rainbow runner stock has not been formally assessed through a stock assessment; as such, the overfished status is unknown. During that time, rainbow runner has been determined to be not undergoing overfishing based on a comparison of landings relative to the overfishing limit proxy.

As described in Amendment 4, no AM-based fishing season reductions for rainbow runner have been applied. In 2024, the most recent commercial landings of rainbow runner (1,177 lb (534 kg) in 2022) exceeded the commercial ACL (913 lb (414.1 kg)) by 264 lb (120 kg). However, the AM was not implemented (*i.e.*, the lengths of the commercial and recreational fishing seasons were not reduced) because NMFS determined that the commercial ACL was exceeded due to improved data collection and monitoring rather than an increase in landings.

At the April 2023 Council meeting, the Council began to discuss reclassifying rainbow runner as a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP instead of as a reef fish to better reflect the way the species is fished. Methods and techniques used to harvest rainbow runner are consistent with those used for pelagic fishing in Federal waters around Puerto Rico. Around Puerto Rico, rainbow runner are caught in the water column, while reef fish are usually caught off the bottom. The Council requested its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to evaluate life history information and landings data available for rainbow runner and provide a recommendation on the classification of rainbow runner. The SSC determined that there was sufficient information to support the reclassification of the species as a pelagic fish and recommended that the Council reclassify rainbow runner as a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP. At the August 2023 Council meeting, the Council accepted the SSC's recommendation and began developing Amendment 4.

Management Measures Contained in This Final Rule

This final rule reclassifies rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP definitions. The reclassification subjects rainbow runner to Federal regulations under the FMP applicable to pelagic fish and excludes the species from Federal regulations applicable to reef fish. The current sector ACLs will not change as a result of the reclassification. This final rule also establishes sector ACTs and subjects rainbow runner to AMs consistent with management of pelagic fish.

Reclassification of Rainbow Runner as a Pelagic Fish

Rainbow runner was initially defined as a reef fish species under the Puerto Rico FMP (50 CFR 622.431). As such, regulations that pertain to managed reef fish have applied to rainbow runner. Reef fish-specific regulations include anchoring restrictions, prohibited fishing gear types, seasonal closures, a combined recreational bag and possession limit, a total ACL (*i.e.*, combined commercial and recreational ACLs), and sector-specific AMs. This final rule removes rainbow runner from the definition of "reef fish" in table 3 to 50 CFR 622.431 and adds it to the definition of "pelagic fish" in table 1 to 50 CFR 622.431.

As a result of the changes to the definitions, reef fish-specific regulations under the FMP will no longer apply to

rainbow runner. Specifically, restrictions designed to protect reef fish populations, including a recreational bag and possession limit (50 CFR 622.444(a)(2)) and a seasonal closure in the Bajo de Sico area off western Puerto Rico (50 CFR 622.439(a)(3)), will not apply to rainbow runner as a pelagic fish.

As described in Amendment 4, rainbow runner behaves as a pelagic species and has been historically targeted by Puerto Rico commercial and recreational fishermen consistent with other pelagic species, although catches are infrequent and variable. Reclassifying rainbow runner as a pelagic fish is not expected to change how the species is currently fished in Federal waters around Puerto Rico or increase the risk of overfishing of the stock. Under the Puerto Rico FMP, crevalle jack and African pompano will continue to be classified and managed as reef fish, which is consistent with their life history characteristics and fishing patterns in Federal waters around Puerto Rico.

Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets

Reclassifying rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP will not change the commercial ACL (913 lb (414 kg)) or the recreational ACL (8,091 lb (3,670 kg)). Rather, the reclassification removes rainbow runner commercial, recreational, and total ACLs from the tables for reef fish under 50 CFR 622.440(a) and adds the commercial and recreational ACLs to 50 CFR 622.440(b) for pelagic fish. The sector allocations of 10.14 percent commercial and 89.86 percent recreational that were established under the Puerto Rico FMP will remain unchanged. Because AMs for pelagic fish do not evaluate landings relative to total ACLs (*i.e.*, combined commercial and recreational ACLs), the total ACL value of 9,004 lb (4,084.1 kg) for rainbow runner will be removed from regulations.

Additionally, the reclassification as a pelagic fish requires the establishment of sector-specific ACTs as part of the AMs applicable to pelagic fish. Consistent with management of the other pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP, the sector ACTs will be set at 90 percent of their respective sector ACLs.

Managing pelagic species with sector ACTs and ACLs is intended to serve as a precautionary measure to address harvest uncertainty for pelagic species that are new to Federal management. This final rule sets the commercial ACT of rainbow runner at 822 lb (373 kg) and

the recreational ACT at 7,282 lb (3,303 kg).

Accountability Measures

This final rule also changes the AM applicable to rainbow runner from the AMs described in 50 CFR 622.440(a)(4)–(7) for reef fish and applies the pelagic fish AM described in 50 CFR 622.440(b)(7). Under the pelagic fish AM, if NMFS estimates that landings have exceeded the applicable ACT for a stock or stock complex, NMFS will determine the appropriate corrective action in consultation with the Council. Unlike a season reduction required by the reef fish AM, the pelagic fish AM provides managers with the flexibility to adapt management responses to an overage based on current fishery information and conditions.

By applying the pelagic AM to rainbow runner, the corrective action includes a consultation process to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource, rather than an automatic season reduction.

Comments and Responses

NMFS received nine comments during the public comment periods on the notice of availability and proposed rule for Amendment 4, which were submitted by individuals in the general public and fishing organizations.

Six comments were in support of reclassifying rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish, and NMFS agrees with those comments. Within this group, one commenter urged NMFS to address broader management considerations, such as expanding stock assessments, reassessing ACT buffers for data-limited species, issuing identification guides, and accounting for climate dynamics. Another supporting commenter recommended explicitly listing the rainbow runner on Puerto Rico catch reporting tools. This same commenter called for a localized electronic monitoring pilot project for pelagic vessels in the Bajo de Sico area to quantify incidental reef fish bycatch, paired with a 3-year review of rainbow runner ACLs based on the resulting data. NMFS appreciates the information provided in these comments. However, because these recommendations are outside the scope of this specific regulatory action, they were not considered by NMFS and the Council in development of Amendment 4. NMFS notes that these recommendations could be considered by the Council in the future as suggestions to improve pelagic fishing monitoring and data collection off Puerto Rico.

Two comments fell outside the scope of the action and are not addressed in

this final rule. These included opposition to all fishing on animal welfare grounds and recommendations to prohibit all commercial fishing in favor of alternative proteins and subsistence fishing.

One comment was opposed to the proposed actions specific to Amendment 4 and the proposed rule, which is summarized below, along with NMFS' response.

Comment 1: The rainbow runner should not be reclassified as a pelagic fish because the reclassification removes vital reef protections without scientific justification or meaningful local stakeholder consultation.

Response: NMFS disagrees that rainbow runner should not be reclassified as a pelagic species under the Puerto Rico FMP or that the reclassification removes vital protections without scientific justification or meaningful stakeholder consultation. This action directly responds to requests from Puerto Rican fishermen to increase fishing opportunities and is necessary to ensure the species is categorized accurately based on its life history and harvest characteristics. As discussed in Amendment 4, rainbow runner behaves as a pelagic species and has historically been targeted by Puerto Rico commercial and recreational fishermen in a manner consistent with other pelagic species, although catches remain infrequent and variable. In Federal waters off Puerto Rico, rainbow runner are caught in the water column using pelagic gear and methods, whereas reef fish species are targeted and caught off the bottom. Reclassifying rainbow runner as a pelagic fish aligns management with the biological traits of the stock and the operational realities of the fishery, and is not expected to change how the species is currently fished or increase the risk of overfishing the stock. Because pelagic fishing already occurs during the seasonal closure in the Bajo de Sico managed area, incorporating rainbow runner into the pelagic complex is not anticipated to increase overall pelagic fishing effort. The commercial and recreational harvest of rainbow runner will continue to be managed and monitored with ACLs and the newly established ACTs.

While specific reef fish regulations will no longer apply for rainbow runner, existing habitat protections will remain intact. For example, this rule does not alter year-round anchoring restrictions in the Bajo de Sico managed area, nor does it authorize gear types not previously evaluated and approved for harvesting pelagic species in Federal waters off Puerto Rico.

Furthermore, the action is based on scientific evaluation and robust procedural consultation. As discussed in Amendment 4, the Council directed its SSC to evaluate available life history information and landings data for rainbow runner. Following its review, the SSC determined that sufficient information existed to support the reclassification and recommended the change. Subsequently, NMFS certified that the actions in Amendment 4 are based on the best scientific information available. Stakeholder input was solicited and received during open Council meetings and through the Federal notice and comment rulemaking process.

NMFS has not made any changes from the proposed rule to this final rule based on public comment.

Classification

Pursuant to section 304(b)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this final rule is consistent with Amendment 4 to the Puerto Rico FMP, other provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law.

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. This final rule is expected to be an Executive Order 14192 deregulatory action.

NMFS has determined that this action would not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes; therefore, consultation with Tribal officials under Executive Order 13175 is not required, and the requirements of section (5)(b) and (c) of Executive Order 13175 also do not apply. A Tribal summary impact statement under section (5)(b)(2)(B) and (c)(2) of Executive Order 13175 is not required and has not been prepared.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act provides the statutory basis for this final rule. No duplicative, overlapping, or conflicting Federal rules have been identified. A description of this final rule, why it is being implemented, and the purpose of this final rule are contained in the

SUMMARY and SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION sections of this final rule.

This final rule contains no information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Senior Lead Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business

Administration during the proposed rule stage that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The factual basis for the certification was published in the proposed rule and is not repeated here. No comments were received regarding this certification. As a result, a final regulatory flexibility analysis was not required and none was prepared.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1), the 30-day delay to the effective date of this rule does not apply because this rule relieves a restriction. Reclassifying rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP removes reef fish-specific restrictions, including aggregate recreational bag and possession limits, anchoring prohibitions, and seasonal closures. Commercial and recreational fishermen will now be permitted to harvest rainbow runner year-round in Federal waters of the Bajo de Sico area in

western Puerto Rico, including during the previously prohibited period of October 1 through March 31. If there was a 30-day delay in effective date for this rule, fishery participants would remain restricted from fishing for rainbow runner in the Bajo de Sico area after October 1 and would remain subject to the restrictions and prohibitions in place for reef fish under the Puerto Rico FMP.

This final rule provides greater management flexibility and expands fishing opportunities for the harvest of rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic species under the Puerto Rico FMP. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1), the 30-day delay in effective date requirement does not apply to this rule.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 622

Caribbean, Fisheries, Fishing, Puerto Rico, Rainbow runner.

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

Dated: September 30, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch III,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS amends 50 CFR part 622 as follows:

PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF AMERICA, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

■ 1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 2. In § 622.431, under the definition of *Pelagic fish* revise Table 1 to § 622.431 and under the definition of *Reef fish* revise Table 3 to § 622.431 to read as follows:

§ 622.431 Definitions.

* * * * *

TABLE 1 TO § 622.431

Class or family	Scientific name	English common name
Dolphinfishes—Coryphaenidae	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	Dolphinfish.
	<i>Coryphaena equiselis</i>	Pompano dolphinfish.
Barracudas—Sphyracidae	<i>Sphyracna barracuda</i>	Great barracuda.
Jacks—Carangidae	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	Rainbow runner.
Mackerels and tunas—Scombridae	<i>Thunnus atlanticus</i>	Blackfin tuna.
	<i>Scomberomorus regalis</i>	Cero.
	<i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i>	King mackerel.
	<i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>	Little tunny.
	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	Wahoo.
Tripletails—Lobotidae	<i>Lobotes surinamensis</i>	Tripletail.

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TABLE 3 TO § 622.431

Class or Family	Scientific name	English common name
Angelfishes—Pomacanthidae	<i>Pomacanthus paru</i>	French angelfish.
	<i>Pomacanthus arcuatus</i>	Gray angelfish.
	<i>Holacanthus ciliaris</i>	Queen angelfish.
Groupers—Serranidae	<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>	Black grouper.
	<i>Cephalopholis fulva</i>	Coney.
	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	Goliath grouper.
	<i>Cephalopholis cruentata</i>	Graysby.
	<i>Hyporthodus mystacinus</i>	Misty grouper.
	<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>	Nassau grouper.
	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	Red grouper.
	<i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>	Red hind.
	<i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>	Rock hind.
	<i>Mycteroperca tigris</i>	Tiger grouper.
	<i>Hyporthodus flavolimbatus</i>	Yellowedge grouper.
	<i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>	Yellowfin grouper.
	<i>Mycteroperca interstitialis</i>	Yellowmouth grouper.
Grunts—Haemulidae	<i>Haemulon plumieri</i>	White grunt.
Jacks—Carangidae	<i>Alectis ciliaris</i>	African pompano.
	<i>Caranx hippos</i>	Crevalle jack.
Parrotfishes—Scaridae	<i>Scarus coeruleus</i>	Blue parrotfish.
	<i>Scarus coelestinus</i>	Midnight parrotfish.
	<i>Scarus taeniopterus</i>	Princess parrotfish.
	<i>Scarus vetula</i>	Queen parrotfish.
	<i>Scarus guacamaia</i>	Rainbow parrotfish.

TABLE 3 TO § 622.431—Continued

Class or Family	Scientific name	English common name
Snappers—Lutjanidae	<i>Sparisoma aurofrenatum</i>	Redband parrotfish.
	<i>Sparisoma chrysotum</i>	Redtail parrotfish
	<i>Sparisoma viride</i>	Stoplight parrotfish.
	<i>Scarus iseri</i>	Striped parrotfish.
	<i>Apsilus dentatus</i>	Black snapper.
	<i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>	Blackfin snapper.
	<i>Pristipomoides macrophthalmus</i>	Cardinal snapper.
	<i>Lutjanus cyanopterus</i>	Cubera snapper.
	<i>Lutjanus jocu</i>	Dog snapper.
	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	Lane snapper.
	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>	Mutton snapper.
	<i>Etelis oculatus</i>	Queen snapper.
	<i>Lutjanus apodus</i>	Schoolmaster.
	<i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>	Silk snapper.
	<i>Rhomboplites aurubens</i>	Vermilion snapper.
	<i>Pristipomoides aquilonaris</i>	Wenchman.
Surgeonfishes—Acanthuridae	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>	Yellowtail snapper.
	<i>Acanthurus coeruleus</i>	Blue tang.
	<i>Acanthurus chirurgus</i>	Doctorfish.
Triggerfishes—Balistidae	<i>Acanthurus tractus</i>	Ocean surgeonfish.
	<i>Balistes caprisus</i>	Gray triggerfish.
	<i>Canthidermis sufflamen</i>	Ocean triggerfish.
Wrasses—Labridae	<i>Balistes vetula</i>	Queen triggerfish.
	<i>Lachnolaimus maximus</i>	Hogfish.
	<i>Halichoeres radiatus</i>	Puddingwife.
	<i>Bodianus rufus</i>	Spanish hogfish.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 622.440, revise paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) and paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 622.440 Annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), and accountability measures (AMs).

(a) * * *

(1) *Commercial ACLs.* The commercial ACLs are as follows and given in round weight.

TABLE 1 TO § 622.440(a)(1)

Family	Stock or stock complex and species composition	Commercial ACL
Angelfishes	Angelfish—French angelfish, gray angelfish, queen angelfish	137 lb (62.1 kg).
Groupers	Grouper 3—coney ¹ , graysby	23,890 lb (10,836.3 kg).
	Grouper 4—black grouper, red grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper.	2,492 lb (1,130.3 kg).
	Grouper 5—misty grouper, yellowedge grouper	15,327 lb (6,952.2 kg).
	Grouper 6—red hind ¹ , rock hind	121,729 lb (55,215.3 kg).
Grunts	Grunts—white grunt	177,923 lb (80,704.5 kg).
Jacks	Jacks 1—crevalle jack	46 lb (20.8 kg).
	Jacks 2—African pompano	1,052 lb (477.1 kg).
Parrotfishes	Parrotfish 2—princess parrotfish, queen parrotfish, redband parrotfish, redband parrotfish, stoplight parrotfish, striped parrotfish.	147,774 lb (67,029.1 kg).
Snappers	Snapper 1—black snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper ¹ , vermilion snapper, wenchman.	424,009 lb (192,327.2 kg).
	Snapper 2—cardinal snapper, queen snapper ¹	257,236 lb (116,680.2 kg).
	Snapper 3—lane snapper	244,376 lb (110,847 kg).
	Snapper 4—dog snapper, mutton snapper ¹ , schoolmaster	116,434 lb (52,813.5 kg).
	Snapper 5—yellowtail snapper	315,806 lb (143,247.1 kg).
	Snapper 6—cubera snapper	119 lb (53.9 kg).
Surgeonfishes	Surgeonfish—blue tang, doctorfish, ocean surgeonfish	147 lb (66.6 kg).
Triggerfishes	Triggerfish—gray triggerfish, ocean triggerfish, queen triggerfish ¹	83,099 lb (37,693 kg).
Wrasses	Wrasses 1—hogfish	70,140 lb (31,814.9 kg).
	Wrasses 2—puddingwife, Spanish hogfish	20,126 lb (9,129 kg)

¹ Indicator stock.

(2) *Recreational ACLs.* The recreational ACLs are as follows and given in round weight.

TABLE 2 TO § 622.440(a)(2)

Family	Stock or stock complex and species composition	Recreational ACL
Angelfishes	Angelfish—French angelfish, gray angelfish, queen angelfish	2,985 lb (1,353.9 kg).
Groupers	Grouper 3—coney ¹ , graysby	19,634 lb (8,905.8 kg).
	Grouper 4—black grouper, red grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper.	5,867 lb (2,661.2 kg).
	Grouper 5—misty grouper, yellowedge grouper	4,225 lb (1,916.4 kg).
	Grouper 6—red hind, ¹ rock hind	34,493 lb (15,645.7 kg).
Grunts	Grunts—white grunt	2,461 lb (1,116.2 kg).
Jacks	Jacks 1—crevalle jack	41,894 lb (19,002.7 kg).
	Jacks 2—African pompano	5,719 lb (2,594 kg).
Parrotfishes	Parrotfish 2—princess parrotfish, queen parrotfish, redband parrotfish, redtail parrotfish, stoplight parrotfish, striped parrotfish.	17,052 lb (7,734.6 kg).
Snappers	Snapper 1—black snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper ¹ , vermilion snapper, wenchman.	111,943 lb (50,776.4 kg).
	Snapper 2—cardinal snapper, queen snapper ¹	24,974 lb (11,328 kg).
	Snapper 3—lane snapper	21,603 lb (9,798.9 kg).
	Snapper 4—dog snapper, mutton snapper ¹ , schoolmaster	76,625 lb (34,756.5 kg).
	Snapper 5—yellowtail snapper	23,988 lb (10,880.7 kg).
	Snapper 6—cubera snapper	6,448 lb (2,924.7 kg).
Surgeonfishes ...	Surgeonfish—blue tang, doctorfish, ocean surgeonfish	860 lb (390 kg).
Triggerfishes	Triggerfish—gray triggerfish, ocean triggerfish, queen triggerfish ¹	7,453 lb (3,380.6 kg).
Wrasses	Wrasses 1—hogfish	8,263 lb (3,748 kg).
	Wrasses 2—puddingwife, Spanish hogfish	5,372 lb (2,436.6 kg).

¹ Indicator stock.

(3) *Total ACLs.* The total ACLs (combined commercial and recreational ACLs) are as follows and given in round weight.

TABLE 3 TO § 622.440(a)(3)

Family	Stock or stock complex and species composition	Total ACL
Angelfishes	Angelfish—French angelfish, gray angelfish, queen angelfish	3,122 lb (1,416.1 kg).
Groupers	Grouper 3—coney, ¹ graysby	43,524 lb (19,742.1 kg).
	Grouper 4—black grouper, red grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper.	8,359 lb (3,791.5 kg).
	Grouper 5—misty grouper, yellowedge grouper	19,552 lb (8,868.6 kg).
	Grouper 6—red hind, ¹ rock hind	156,222 lb (70,861.1 kg).
Grunts	Grunts—white grunt	180,384 lb (81,820.8 kg).
Jacks	Jacks 1—crevalle jack	41,940 lb (19,023.6 kg).
	Jacks 2—African pompano	6,771 lb (3,071.2 kg).
Parrotfishes	Parrotfish 2—princess parrotfish, queen parrotfish, redband parrotfish, redtail parrotfish, stoplight parrotfish, striped parrotfish.	164,826 lb (74,763.8 kg).
Snappers	Snapper 1—black snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper, ¹ vermilion snapper, wenchman.	535,952 lb (243,103.7 kg).
	Snapper 2—cardinal snapper, queen snapper ¹	282,210 lb (128,008.3 kg).
	Snapper 3—lane snapper	265,979 lb (120,646 kg).
	Snapper 4—dog snapper, mutton snapper, ¹ schoolmaster	193,059 lb (87,570 kg).
	Snapper 5—yellowtail snapper	339,794 lb (154,127.9 kg).
	Snapper 6—cubera snapper	6,567 lb (2,978.7 kg).
Surgeonfishes ...	Surgeonfish—blue tang, doctorfish, ocean surgeonfish	1,007 lb (456.7 kg).
Triggerfishes	Triggerfish—gray triggerfish, ocean triggerfish, queen triggerfish ¹	90,552 lb (41,073.6 kg).
Wrasses	Wrasses 1—hogfish	78,403 lb (35,563 kg).
	Wrasses 2—puddingwife, Spanish hogfish	25,498 lb (11,565.6 kg).

¹ Indicator stock.

* * * * *

(b) *Pelagic fish.* The ACLs and ACTs are given in round weight. Indicator stocks are noted in the relevant tables to paragraph (a) of this section. For those fishing commercially, the applicable ACL is the commercial ACL and the applicable ACT is the commercial ACT. For those fishing recreationally, the applicable ACL is the recreational ACL and the applicable ACT is the recreational ACT. When landings for

one sector are not available for comparison to that sector's ACL and ACT, the ACL and ACT for the sector with available landings are the ACL and ACT for the stock or stock complex.

- (1) *Barracuda—great barracuda.*
 - (i) Commercial ACL—495 lb (224.5 kg).
 - (ii) Commercial ACT—445 lb (201.8 kg).
 - (iii) Recreational ACL—167,693 lb (76,064.2 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—150,924 lb (68,457.9 kg).

(2) *Dolphinfishes—dolphinfish, pompano dolphinfish.* (i) Commercial ACL—232,173 lb (105,311.9 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—208,956 lb (94,780.8 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—1,513,873 lb (686,681.2 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—1,362,486 lb (618,013.2 kg).

(3) *Jacks—rainbow runner.*

- (i) Commercial ACL—913 lb (414.1 kg).
- (ii) Commercial ACT—822 lb (373 kg).
- (iii) Recreational ACL—8,091 lb (3,670 kg).
- (iv) Recreational ACT—7,282 lb (3,303 kg).
- (4) *Mackerels—cero, king mackerel.*
- (i) Commercial ACL—232,422 lb (105,424.8 kg).
- (ii) Commercial ACT—209,180 lb (94,882.4 kg).
- (iii) Recreational ACL—129,180 lb (58,595 kg).
- (iv) Recreational ACT—116,262 lb (52,735.5 kg).
- (5) *Tripletail.*
- (i) Commercial ACL—270 lb (122.4 kg).
- (ii) Commercial ACT—243 lb (110.2 kg).
- (iii) Recreational ACL—39,005 lb (17,692.3 kg).
- (iv) Recreational ACT—35,105 lb (15,923.3 kg).
- (6) *Tunas—blackfin tuna, little tunny.*
- (i) Commercial ACL—82,779 lb (37,547.9 kg).
- (ii) Commercial ACT—74,501 lb (33,793 kg).
- (iii) Recreational ACL—34,485 lb (15,642.1 kg).
- (iv) Recreational ACT—31,037 lb (14,078.1 kg).
- (7) *Wahoo.*
- (i) Commercial ACL—25,911 lb (11,753 kg).
- (ii) Commercial ACT—23,320 lb (10,577.7 kg).
- (iii) Recreational ACL—210,737 lb (95,588.6 kg).
- (iv) Recreational ACT—189,663 lb (86,029.6 kg).
- (8) *Pelagic fish AM application.* At or near the beginning the fishing year, landings for each stock, stock complex, or indicator stock will be evaluated relative to the applicable ACT for the stock or stock complex based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP. If NMFS estimates that landings have exceeded the applicable ACT specified in paragraph (b) of this section for a stock or stock complex, NMFS in consultation with the Caribbean Fishery Management Council will determine appropriate corrective action.

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[FR Doc. 2026–20330 Filed 10–2–26; 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–XG088]

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 October 2, 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 that these three criteria have been met for the transfer approved in this notification.

North Carolina is transferring 6,580 pounds (lb; 2,985 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, 2,892,991 lb (1,312,239 kg); and Massachusetts, 1,055,312 lb (478,681 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: October 1, 2026.

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

[FR Doc. 2026–20356 Filed 10–2–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305–0067; RTID 0648–XF879]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of 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 Pacific ocean perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2026 total allowable catch of Pacific ocean perch