

Type of proceeding	Fee
(B) Sliding cost portion	\$73. per party.
(iii) Quarterly request does not require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion	\$63.
(B) Sliding cost portion	\$18. per party.
(iv) Quarterly request does require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion	\$233.
(B) Sliding cost portion	\$18. per party.
(v) Monthly request does not require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion	\$21.
(B) Sliding cost portion	\$6. per party.
(vi) Monthly request does require a FR notice:	
(A) Set cost portion	\$166.
(B) Sliding cost portion	\$6. per party.
(99) (i) Application fee for the STB's Practitioners' Exam	\$250.
(ii) Practitioners' Exam Information Package	\$25.
(100) Carload Waybill Sample data:	
(i) Requests for Public Use File for all years prior to the most current year Carload Waybill Sample data available, provided on CD-R.	\$250. per year.
(ii) Specialized programming for Waybill requests to the Board	\$153. per hour.

[FR Doc. 2026-20889 Filed 10-9-26; 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-XG117]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; 2026 Commercial Quota Harvested for the State of Maine

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the 2026 summer flounder commercial quota allocated to the State of Maine has been harvested. Vessels issued a commercial Federal fisheries permit for the summer flounder fishery may not land summer flounder in Maine for the remainder of calendar year 2026, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer from another state. Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery require publication of this notification to advise Maine that the quota has been harvested, and to advise vessel permit holders and dealer permit holders that no Federal commercial quota is available for landing summer flounder in Maine.

DATES: Effective 0001 hours October 13, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Rigdon, (978) 281-9336, or Matthew.Rigdon@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found at 50 CFR 648.100 through 648.111. The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned on a percentage basis 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.

The commercial quota for summer flounder for 2026 was set equal to 12,765,277 lb (5,794,826 kg) (91 FR 7896, February 19, 2026). The amount allocated to vessels landing summer flounder in Maine is 15,283 lb (6,932 kg).

The NMFS Regional Administrator for the Greater Atlantic Region monitors the state commercial landings and determines when a state's commercial quota has been harvested. NMFS is required to publish notification in the **Federal Register** advising and notifying commercial vessels and dealer permit holders that, effective upon a specific date, the state's commercial quota has been harvested and no commercial quota is available for landing summer flounder in that state. Based on dealer reports and other available information, the Regional Administrator has determined that the available quota has been harvested. The Maine Department of Marine Resources closed the state fishery on October 7, 2026, and this action promotes consistency between state and Federal management measures.

The regulations at 50 CFR 648.14(n) prohibit federally permitted vessels from landing summer flounder for sale in a state, and prohibit all persons from purchasing or otherwise receiving summer flounder for a commercial

purpose after the effective date published in the **Federal Register** notification that commercial quota is no longer available in that state. Therefore, effective 0001 hours on October 13, 2026, landings of summer flounder in Maine by vessels holding Federal summer flounder commercial fishery permits are prohibited for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer and is announced in the **Federal Register**. Effective 0001 hours on October 13, 2026, federally permitted dealers are also notified that they may not purchase summer flounder from federally permitted vessels that land in Maine for the remainder of the calendar year, or until additional quota becomes available through a transfer from another state.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment because it would be contrary to the public interest. This action closes the commercial summer flounder fishery for Maine until January 1, 2027, under current regulations. The regulations at 50 CFR 648.103(b) require such action to ensure that summer flounder vessels do not exceed quotas allocated to the states. If implementation of this closure was delayed to solicit prior public comment, the quota for this fishing year will be exceeded, thereby undermining the conservation objectives of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Assistant Administrator further finds,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), good cause to waive the 30-day delayed effectiveness period for the reason stated above.

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

Dated: October 8, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–20861 Filed 10–9–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 260925–0005]

RIN 0648–BN00

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Fixed Gear Marking and Entanglement Risk Reduction

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rulemaking implements gear marking requirements and entanglement risk reduction measures for portions of the Pacific coast groundfish fishery. This rulemaking consists of mandatory requirements and voluntary measures. These new requirements and voluntary measures are established pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The intent of the gear marking requirements is to increase the likelihood of attributing entanglements to a specific fishery and gear type. The intent of the risk reduction measures is to reduce bycatch by decreasing the likelihood of marine animal entanglements with fishing line.

DATES:

Effective date: This final rule is effective January 11, 2027, with the exception of §§ 660.219(a)(1) and 660.319(a)(1), which are effective October 13, 2026.

Compliance date: The compliance date for §§ 660.219(b)(2) and 660.319(b)(2), is January 11, 2030.

ADDRESSES: A plain language summary of this rulemaking and the supporting statement for the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) information collection is

available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2024-0045>. Other information relevant to this rulemaking, which includes an analysis that addresses Presidential Executive Order 12866, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), and the statutory requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (the Analysis), may be obtained from the NMFS West Coast Region website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/west-coast>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gretchen Hanshaw, 206–526–6147 or gretchen.hanshaw@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pacific Coast groundfish fishery in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) seaward of Washington, Oregon, and California (the West Coast) is managed under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (Groundfish FMP). This final rule implements gear marking requirements and entanglement risk reduction measures for portions of the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. These measures are consistent with the authority provided through the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 303(a)(11) (16 U.S.C. 1853(a)(11)) for conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize bycatch; and with the authority provided at Magnuson-Stevens Act section 303(b)(4) (16 U.S.C. 1853(b)(4)) for measures that allow for prohibiting, limiting, conditioning, or requiring use of specified types of fishing gear. The framework for gear definitions and restrictions is described in the Groundfish FMP in section 6.6, which notes that gear definitions and restrictions may be revised through a rulemaking process. Additionally, section 6.10.3 of the Groundfish FMP authorizes gear identification requirements, and provides that these requirements may be modified as necessary in Federal regulations.

This rulemaking consists of new mandatory requirements and voluntary measures and is promulgated pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 303(c) and 304(b)(1)(A) (16 U.S.C. 1853(c) and 16 U.S.C. 1853(b)(1)(A)). The intent of the gear marking requirements for buoys and portions of lines is to increase the likelihood of attributing entanglements to a specific fishery. The intent of the risk reduction measures is to reduce bycatch by decreasing the likelihood of marine animal entanglements with fishing line. This rulemaking is, in part, in response to increased rates of entanglement of humpback whales with Pacific coast fishing gear since 2014. This rule also

clarifies requirements regarding the position of escape panels on pot gear to prevent the escape panel from being on the bottom of the pot and to promote consistency across the escape panel requirements for Federal groundfish pot fisheries off Alaska and the three West Coast states. This rulemaking also clarifies bottom longline regulations throughout 50 CFR part 660 for consistency with Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommendations implemented in this rulemaking.

Pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Act section 303(c)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1853(c)(2)), the Council deemed the regulations in this rulemaking necessary and appropriate to implement these actions in a December 20, 2024, letter from Council Executive Director, Merrick Burden, to Regional Administrator Jennifer Quan. The proposed rule was published on February 2, 2026 (91 FR 5408). The public comment period was open through March 9, 2026. This rulemaking implements the Groundfish FMP, consistent with the authority provided in sections 6.6 and 6.10.3 of the Groundfish FMP, for gear restrictions being described in this final rule.

Background

This final rule is based on the Council's final recommendations for gear marking and entanglement risk reduction in the groundfish fishery made at its June 2024 meeting in San Diego, CA. In developing the recommended measures, the Council considered the results of a 2022 workshop with the groundfish fishing industry, "Improving Gear Marking in the U.S. West Coast Sablefish Pot Fishery," as well as reports from its advisory bodies and public testimony. In spring 2026, NMFS considered public comments on the proposed rule and advice from the Council's enforcement consultants in developing this final rule.

The Needs and Scope of This Rulemaking

Marine animals, like whales and turtles, can get caught in fishing gear, which can prevent them from eating or cause serious injury or death. The animal most often entangled in gear associated with the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery is the humpback whale.

This rulemaking removes the regulatory requirement to use surface gear at both ends of groundfish pot and bottom longline gear sets, allowing vessels to reduce the number of vertical lines in the water. This voluntary measure is expected to reduce the