

# Some foreign allocations cut, others raised by Commerce

Regulations published this week by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will reduce the amount of fish to be allocated to foreign fishermen from the 1977 level of 2.1 million metric tons to 1.9 million metric tons.

Changes to regulations controlling foreign fishing within the United States' 200-mile conservation zone will go into effect January 1, 1978, according to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

The reduction is caused by changes in the amounts of some species that can be caught and still permit the stocks to grow, and an increase in the capability of American fishermen to catch more fish.

Another major change in the 1978 regulations provides for an inseason review of fishing to determine if adjustments should be made in the total allowable catch for each species, in the estimates of domestic catch, and in the amount of fish that may be caught by foreign fishermen. The review will be based primarily on current information on the status of the stocks, and actual versus estimated performance of domestic and foreign fleets in current and prior years.

Off the Pacific coast, the amounts of five species available to foreign fishermen have been reduced: Pacific hake—89,000 mt (123,200); rockfishes, including Pacific Ocean perch—710 mt (1,600); flounders—90 mt (125); sablefish—90 mt (250); other species—445 mt (600). The latter four species may only be taken as a small, unavoidable by-catch percentage of a nation's allocation of Pacific hake. The amount of jack mackerel available remains at 4,000 mt. Foreign fishermen in the area were restricted to a "vessel-day" limitation as well as an allotment last year; however, this limitation has been removed because its value as a management technique in this fishery is uncertain.

In the Gulf of Alaska, available amounts of five species of fish have been reduced, and four have been increased: pollock—117,340 mt (149,000); Pacific Ocean perch—18,900 mt (29,000); flounders—17,600 mt

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(20,500); sablefish—8,000 mt (19,500); other species—12,960 (16,200).

Those increasing are rockfish—4,080 mt (4,000); Atka mackerel—24,800 mt (22,000); Pacific cod—16,980 mt (2,300); squid—1,600 mt (0). An additional amount of fish, equivalent to 20 percent of the total allowable catch for each species, has been held in reserve for later allocation to foreign nations if U.S. fishermen do not exceed their estimated catch.

The amounts available in the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea have changed also. Of the species available to foreign fishermen, 6 remain unchanged, 2 have increased, and 3 have decreased. Unchanged are pollock—950,000 mt, yellowfin sole—106,000 mt,

Pacific Ocean perch—21,500 mt, squid—10,000 mt, other species—93,600 mt, and snails—3,000 mt.

Those species which have larger amounts available are: other flounders—139,000 mt (105,000); Atka mackerel—24,800 mt (0). The initial amounts available have been reduced for: sablefish—3,900 mt (7,400); cod—58,000 mt (56,500); and herring—8,670 mt (20,000). The amount of tanner crab available will be decided at a later date.

A reserve of 1,500 mt of Pacific cod and 600 mt of sablefish in the Bering Sea has been established for possible allocation at a later date.

NOTE: Figures in parentheses are last year's allocations to foreign fleets.