

2010. At the end of the comment period, we will publish a document modifying these provisions or a document stating that the provisions will remain unchanged.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments limited to the provisions on reporting failures of mechanical couplings should reference Docket No. PHMSA-RSPA-2004-19854 and may be submitted in the following ways:

- *E-Gov Web Site:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. This site allows the public to enter comments on any Federal Register notice issued by any agency.

- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

- *Mail:* DOT Docket Operations Facility (M-30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* DOT Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**Instructions:** In the E-Gov Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>, under "Search Documents" select "Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration." Next, select "Notices," and then click "Submit." Select this rulemaking by clicking on the docket number listed above. Submit your comment by clicking the yellow bubble in the right column then following the instructions.

Identify docket number PHMSA-RSPA-2004-19854 at the beginning of your comments. For comments by mail, please provide two copies. To receive PHMSA's confirmation receipt, include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users may access all comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>, by following the steps above.

**Note:** PHMSA will post all comments without changes or edits to <http://www.regulations.gov> including any personal information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mike Israni by phone at (202) 366-4571 or by e-mail at [Mike.Israni@dot.gov](mailto:Mike.Israni@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 4, 2009, PHMSA published a final rule (74 FR 63905) under Docket No. PHMSA-RSPA-2004-19854 amending the Pipeline Safety Regulations (49 CFR Parts 190-199) to

require operators of gas distribution pipelines to develop and implement integrity management programs. In that final rule, PHMSA adopted a requirement that operators report failures of all compression couplings, both plastic and metallic. PHMSA also invited public comment on the requirement to report failure of compression couplings used in metal pipe. Public comments were due by January 4, 2010.

On December 18, 2009, AGA petitioned PHMSA to extend the comment period by thirty days. AGA stated that it is in the public interest to extend the comment period so that gas utilities have the opportunity to thoroughly review the regulation and draft annual report. AGA went on to say that extending the comment period is the only way to provide PHMSA with the necessary information to establish clear and consistent data. PHMSA agrees that additional time should be allowed and is extending the comment period from January 4, 2010 to February 4, 2010.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 28, 2009.

**Jeffrey D. Wiese,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 0809251266-81485-02]

**RIN 0648-XT39**

#### Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer

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

**ACTION:** Temporary rule; inseason quota transfers.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the State of Maine is transferring a portion of its 2009 commercial summer flounder quota to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. By this action, NMFS adjusts the quotas and announces the

revised commercial quota for each state involved.

**DATES:** Effective December 30, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah Heil, Fishery Management Specialist, 978-281-9257.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the summer flounder fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require annual specification of a commercial quota that is apportioned among the coastal states from North Carolina through Maine. The process to set the annual commercial quota and the percent allocated to each state are described in § 648.100.

The final rule implementing Amendment 5 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, which was published on December 17, 1993 (58 FR 65936), provided a mechanism for summer flounder quota to be transferred from one state to another. Two or more states, under mutual agreement and with the concurrence of the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), can transfer or combine summer flounder commercial quota under § 648.100(d). The Regional Administrator is required to consider the criteria set forth in § 648.100(d)(3) in the evaluation of requests for quota transfers or combinations.

Maine has agreed to transfer 3,790 lb (1,719.1 kg) of its 2009 commercial quota to Massachusetts to cover the summer flounder landings of one vessel granted safe harbor in Massachusetts due to mechanical issues on December 15, 2009. The Regional Administrator has determined that the criteria set forth in § 648.100(d)(3) have been met. The revised quotas for calendar year 2009 are: Maine, 1,317 lb (597.4 kg); and Massachusetts, 706,404 lb (320.4 kg).

#### Classification

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

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

Dated: December 28, 2009.

**William D. Chappell,**

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

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