

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 661

[Docket No. 950426116-5116-01; I.D. 081695B]

Ocean Salmon Fisheries off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California; Inseason Adjustment, U.S.-Canadian Border to Carroll Island, WA

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

ACTION: Inseason adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the possession and landing limit in the commercial salmon fishery in the area from the U.S.-Canada border to Carroll Island, WA, was increased to 200 coho per opening beginning August 12, 1995. This adjustment is intended to provide additional fishing opportunity to commercial fishermen.

DATES: Effective 0001 hours local time, August 12, 1995, through September 15, 1995. Comments will be accepted through September 7, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Director, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700-Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070. Information relevant to this notice has been compiled in aggregate form and is available for public review during business hours at the office of the Director Northwest Region, NMFS (Regional Director).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson, 206-526-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (60 FR 21746, May 3, 1995), NMFS announced that the 1995 commercial fishery in the area between the U.S.-Canadian border and Carroll Island, WA, would open on August 5 and fishing would follow a cycle of 4 days open and 3 days closed. The fishery would close the earliest of September 15, attainment of the adjusted 25,000 coho salmon quota (60 FR 40302, August 8, 1995), or attainment of the 160,000 pink salmon guideline. Each vessel would be able to possess, land and deliver no more than 80 coho per open period.

The best available information on August 10 indicated that commercial catch and effort rates were low during August 5 to 8, the first open period,

with catches totaling 3,300 coho salmon and 6,000 pink salmon. The pre-season objective for the possession and landing limit was to provide commercial fishermen a minimal allowance for coho salmon while providing access to pink salmon. Pink salmon are currently available in the fishery. Increasing the possession and landing limit to 200 coho salmon per opening would provide additional fishing opportunity to commercial fishermen by increasing access to coho salmon without exceeding the ocean share allocated to the commercial fishery in this area. Modification of limited retention regulations is authorized by regulations at 50 CFR 661.21(b)(1)(ii). All other restrictions that apply to this fishery remain in effect as announced in the annual management measures.

The Regional Director consulted with representatives of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding this adjustment. The State of Washington will manage the commercial fishery in State waters adjacent to this area of the exclusive economic zone in accordance with this Federal action. In accordance with the inseason notice procedures of 50 CFR 661.23, actual notice to fishermen of the fishing season action was given prior to 0001 hours local time, August 12, 1995, by telephone hotline number (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825 and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 KHz. Because of the need for immediate action to provide commercial fishermen with additional fishing opportunity, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this notice to be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment. This notice does not apply to treaty Indian fisheries or to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 661.21 and 661.23 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 21, 1995.

Richard H. Schaefer,

Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95-21090 Filed 8-23-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D. 081595C]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Pollock by Vessels Using Non-pelagic Trawl Gear

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for pollock by trawl vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the BSAI bycatch allowance of halibut specified for the trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery category.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 22, 1995, until 12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew N. Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR parts 620 and 675.

The 1995 bycatch allowance of halibut specified for the trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery category, which is defined at § 675.21(b)(1)(iii)(F), was established as 555 metric tons by the final 1995 harvest specifications of groundfish (60 FR 8479, February 14, 1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 675.21(c)(1)(iii), that the bycatch allowance of halibut specified for the trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery category has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is closing the directed fishery for pollock by trawl vessels using non-pelagic trawl gear in the BSAI.

Directed fishing standards for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 675.20(h).

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 675.20 and is exempt from OMB review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 17, 1995.

Richard H. Schaefer,

*Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and
Management, National Marine Fisheries
Service.*

[FR Doc. 95-20937 Filed 8-21-95; 11:38 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F