

NMFS, in accordance with § 672.22(a)(1)(i), is adjusting the season for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the Western Regulatory Area by allowing directed fishing for a 12-hour period from 12:00 noon, A.l.t., October 1, 1995, until 12:00 midnight, A.l.t., October 1, 1995. NMFS is taking this action to allow a controlled fishery to occur, thereby preventing the underharvest of the pollock TAC allocated to the inshore component as authorized by § 672.22(a)(2)(iii). In accordance with § 672.22(a)(4), NMFS has determined that closing the season at 12:00 midnight on October 1, 1995, is the least restrictive management adjustment to achieve the pollock TAC allocated to the inshore component and will allow other fisheries to continue in noncritical areas and time periods.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds for good cause that providing prior notice and public comment or delaying the effective date of this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Without this inseason adjustment, NMFS could not allow this fishery, and a pollock TAC in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA would not be harvested, resulting in an economic loss of more than 1.5 million dollars. Under § 672.22(c)(2), interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this action (see ADDRESSES).

#### Classification

This action is taken under § 672.22 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: September 29, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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#### 50 CFR Part 672

[Docket No. 950509041-5041-01; I.D. 092995B]

#### Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area

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

**ACTION:** Modification of a closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is opening directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to use the total allowable catch (TAC) for northern rockfish in this area.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 1, 1995, until 12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (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 672.

In accordance with § 672.20(c)(1)(ii)(B), the annual TAC for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area was established by the final 1995 specifications of groundfish (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995) as 4,610 metric tons (mt). NMFS has determined that as of September 2, 1995, 866 mt remain unharvested.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the 1995 TAC for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area has not been reached. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area.

All other closures remain in full force and effect.

#### Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 672.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: September 29, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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