

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 2, 1995, until 12 midnight, A.l.t, December 31, 1995.

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

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 GOA (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.

The 1995 pollock TAC in Statistical Area 62 was established by the final 1995 harvest specifications of groundfish (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995) as 15,310 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 672.20(a)(2)(iv). As of September 16, 1995, the remaining pollock TAC for Statistical Area 62 is 3,079 mt.

NMFS announced a prohibition of directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 62 effective 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 4, 1995, until 12 midnight, A.l.t, December 31, 1995 (60 FR 50503, September 29, 1995). Current information shows the catching capacity of vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component is capable of exceeding the remaining TAC in Statistical Area 62 by more than 2,000 mt.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(c)(2)(ii), that the 1995 fourth quarterly allowance of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 62 will be taken by 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 2, 1995. Therefore, the Regional Director is terminating the previous closure at 60 FR 50503. The Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 2,679 mt after determining that 400 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in Statistical Area 62 of the GOA. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical

Area 62 effective 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 2, 1995.

After the effective date of this closure the maximum retainable bycatch amounts at § 672.20(g) apply at any time during a trip.

Classification

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

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

Dated: October 2, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D. 092895A]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Allocation.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reallocating Pacific cod from vessels using jig gear to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear and trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to promote the goals and objectives of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 4, 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.

In accordance with § 675.20 (a)(7)(ii), the Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) for the BSAI was established by the final 1995 harvest specifications of groundfish (60 FR 8479, February 14, 1995) and increased by an apportionment from the reserve (60 FR 32278, June 21, 1995) to 250,000 metric tons (mt). Pursuant to § 675.20 (a)(2)(iv)(A) and (a)(3)(iv), 5000 mt was allocated to vessels using jig gear.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that vessels using jig gear will not harvest 4,000 mt of Pacific cod by the end of the year. Therefore, in accordance with § 675.20(a)(2)(iv)(C), NMFS is reallocating 45 percent and 55 percent of the unused amount of Pacific cod allocated to vessels using jig gear to vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear and to vessels using trawl gear, respectively. The apportionment of the unused BSAI Pacific cod jig allocation is as follows: To vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear - 1,800 mt, and to vessels using trawl gear - 2,200 mt. Pursuant to § 675.20 (a)(3)(iv), the 1995 Pacific cod TAC is allocated as follows: (1) To vessels using hook-and-line or pot gear - 111,800 mt, (2) to vessels using trawl gear - 137,200 mt, and (3) to vessels using jig gear - 1,000 mt.

Classification

This action is taken under § 675.20 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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