

subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). NMFS is requiring that catches of Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the Pacific ocean perch total allowable catch (TAC) in the BSAI has been caught.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 31, 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 the 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 ocean perch TAC for the Bering Sea subarea 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 1,850 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 675.20(a)(9), that the TAC for Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 675.20(c).

Classification

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

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

Dated: October 31, 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. 103095D]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Rockfish by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1995 prohibited species bycatch mortality allowance of Pacific halibut specified for the trawl rockfish fishery in the BSAI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 31, 1995, until 12 midnight, 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 mortality allowance of Pacific halibut for the BSAI trawl rockfish fishery, which is defined at § 675.21(b)(1)(iii)(D), was established as 110 metric tons (mt) 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 1995 apportionment of the Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance for the trawl rockfish fishery has been caught. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 675.20(h).

Classification

This action is taken under § 675.21 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 31, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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