

Columbia: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Wednesday, September 8, 2021, through 9 a.m., Friday, September 10, 2021. Sockeye non-retention, all efforts must be made to release sockeye alive.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2021-07: Issued 2 p.m., September 10, 2021

Treaty Indian Fisheries

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Open for drift gillnet fishing from 12 p.m. (noon), Saturday, September 11, 2021, through 12 p.m. (noon), Monday, September 13, 2021. Sockeye non-retention, all efforts must be made to release sockeye alive.

Areas 6, 7, and 7A in the area southerly and easterly of a straight line drawn from the Iwersen Dock on Point Roberts in the State of Washington to the Georgina Point Light at the entrance to Active Pass in the Province of British Columbia: Open for net fishing from 5 a.m., Saturday, September 11, 2021, through 9 a.m., Monday, September 13, 2021. Sockeye non-retention, all efforts must be made to release sockeye alive.

All Citizen Fishery

Area 7: Open to reef net fishing, with non-retention of sockeye, from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, September 11, 2021 and 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday, September 12, 2021.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2021-08: Issued 4:45 p.m., September 13, 2021

All Citizen Fishery

Area 7: Open to reef net fishing, with non-retention of sockeye, from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, September 16, 2021, and 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, September 17, 2021.

Fraser River Panel Order Number 2021-09: Issued 12 p.m., September 17, 2021

Treaty Indian and All Citizen Fisheries

Areas 6, 6A, and 7: Relinquish regulatory control effective 11:59 p.m., Saturday, September 18, 2021.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries NOAA (AA), finds that good cause exists for the inseason orders to be issued without affording the public prior notice and opportunity for

comment under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such prior notice and opportunity for comments is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment is impracticable because NMFS has insufficient time to allow for prior notice and opportunity for public comment between the time the stock abundance information is available to determine how much fishing can be allowed and the time the fishery must open and close in order to harvest the appropriate amount of fish while they are available.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date, required under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), of the inseason orders. A delay in the effective date of the inseason orders would not allow fishers appropriately controlled access to the available fish at that time they are available.

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 300.97, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 3636(b).

Dated: December 14, 2021.

Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-27392 Filed 12-16-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 210217-0022; RTID 0648-XB563]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea

and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2021 Pacific ocean perch total allowable catch (TAC) in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), December 14, 2021, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allyson Olds, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 2021 Pacific ocean perch TAC in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI is 10,782 metric tons (mt) as established by the final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI and groundfish reserve release (86 FR 11449, February 25, 2021, and 86 FR 64827, November 19, 2021).

The Regional Administrator has determined that the 2021 TAC for Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 10,712 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 70 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. Consequently, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI. While this closure remains in effect the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR part 679, which was issued pursuant to section 304(b), and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest, as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay the closure of Pacific ocean perch Bering Sea subarea in the

BSAI. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of December 13, 2021.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for

waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

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

Dated: December 14, 2021.

Ngagne Jafnar Gueye,

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

[FR Doc. 2021-27372 Filed 12-14-21; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P