

553(d)(3) not to delay the effectiveness of this temporary rule for 30 days. Otherwise the regular season could open as early as February 26, 1995, preceded by a 72-hour closure beginning on February 23.

**List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 663**

Fisheries, Fishing, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 16, 1995.

**Gary Matlock,**

*Program Management Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 663 is temporarily amended effective February 17, 1995, through September 1, 1995, as follows:

**PART 663—PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY**

1. The authority citation for part 663 continues to read as follows:

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

2. In § 663.23, paragraphs (b)(2)(i) through (b)(2)(iv) are suspended, and paragraph (b)(2)(v) is added to read as follows:

**§ 663.23 Catch restrictions.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(v) The regular season for the nontrawl sablefish fishery is postponed pending the establishment of a new season structure. Trip landing, frequency, and/or size limits may be imposed under paragraph (c) of this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

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**50 CFR Part 675**

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D. 021795B]

**Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Offshore Component Pollock in the Bering Sea Subarea**

**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 vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea (BS) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This

action is necessary to prevent exceeding the first allowance of the pollock total allowable catch (TAC) for the offshore component in this area.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), February 21, 1995, until 12 noon, A.l.t., August 15, 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 first seasonal allowance of pollock for vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the BS was established by the final groundfish specifications (60 FR 8479, February 14, 1995), as 310,781 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined in accordance with § 675.20(a)(8), that the first allowance of pollock TAC for the offshore component in the BS soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 300,781 mt with consideration that 10,000 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the BS. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the BS.

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

**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: February 17, 1995.

**Alfred Bilik,**

*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. 021795A]

**Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Rock Sole/Flathead Sole/"Other Flatfish"**

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

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is closing the directed fishery for species in the rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the first seasonal bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to the trawl rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category in the BSAI.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), February 21, 1995, until 12 noon, A.l.t., March 30, 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 first seasonal bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut for the BSAI trawl rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category, which is defined at § 675.21(b)(1)(iii)(B)(2), was established as 428 metric tons (mt) by the 1995 initial specifications (60 FR 8479, February 14, 1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 675.21(c)(1)(iii), that the first seasonal bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to the trawl rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery in the BSAI has been caught. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for species in the rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI.

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