

**PART 651—NORTHEAST
MULTISPECIES FISHERY**

1. The authority citation for part 651 continues to read as follows:

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

2. Regulations published at 59 FR 63926, December 12, 1994, effective December 12, 1994, through March 12, 1995, and amended at 60 FR 3102, January 13, 1995, effective January 10, 1995, through March 12, 1995, are extended from March 13, 1995, through June 10, 1995.

3. In § 651.21, as temporarily amended at 59 FR 63926, December 12, 1994, and 60 FR 3102, January 13, 1995, paragraphs (d)(1)(ii)(B), (d)(2)(ii)(B), and (d)(3)(ii)(C) are revised, and (d)(1)(iv) is added, effective March 13, 1995, through June 10, 1995, to read as follows (Note: § 651.20(a)(b), and (c) are temporarily suspended through June 10, 1995; § 651.20(d), as amended, remains temporarily added, through June 10, 1995):

§ 651.21 Closed areas.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) * * *

(B) Transitting for compelling safety reasons, as determined by the fishing vessel operator, provided that fishing net gear is stowed in accordance with § 651.20(c)(7), and scallop dredge gear and hook gear is stowed in accordance with paragraphs (d)(1)(iii) and (iv) of this section. A fishing vessel operator that cannot demonstrate a compelling safety reason for being in the closed area shall be subject to enforcement action.

* * * * *

(iv) Hook gear vessels using gear other than pelagic hook gear and transitting closed areas as specified under paragraphs (d)(1), (2), and (3) of this section may not have fishing gear available for immediate use and must secure all anchors and buoys, and have all hook gear, including jigging machines, covered.

(2) * * *

(ii) * * *

(B) Transitting for compelling safety reasons, as determined by the fishing

vessel operator, provided that fishing net gear is stowed in accordance with § 651.20(c)(7), and scallop dredge gear and hook gear is stowed in accordance with paragraphs (d)(1)(iii) and (iv) of this section. A fishing vessel operator that cannot demonstrate a compelling safety reason for being in the closed area shall be subject to enforcement action.

(3) * * *

(ii) * * *

(C) Transitting for compelling safety reasons, as determined by the fishing vessel operator, provided that fishing net gear is stowed in accordance with § 651.20(c)(7), and scallop dredge gear and hook gear is stowed in accordance with paragraphs (d)(1)(iii) and (iv) of this section. A fishing vessel operator that cannot demonstrate a compelling safety reason for being in the closed area shall be subject to enforcement action.

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50 CFR Part 672

[Docket No. 950206041-5041-01; I.D. 030695D]

**Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska;
Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area**

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for Pacific cod by vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the offshore component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the allocation of Pacific cod for the offshore component in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 7, 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 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 allocation of Pacific cod for the offshore component in the Western Regulatory Area was established by the final groundfish specifications (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995), as 2,010 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(c)(2)(ii), that the allocation of Pacific cod total allowable catch for the offshore component in the Western Regulatory Area soon will be reached. The Regional Director established a directed fishing allowance of 1,510 mt, with consideration that 500 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the Western Regulatory Area. The Regional Director has determined that the directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by operators of vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the offshore component in the Western Regulatory Area.

Directed fishing standards for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 672.20(g).

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: March 6, 1995.

David S. Crestin,

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

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