

**50 CFR Part 672**

[Docket No. 950206041-5041-01; I.D. 032095A]

**Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central 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 inshore component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the allocation of Pacific cod for the inshore component in this area.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 22, 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 inshore component in the Central Regulatory Area was established by the final 1995 groundfish specifications (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995) as 41,085 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 inshore component in the Central Regulatory Area soon will be reached. The Regional

Director established a directed fishing allowance of 38,085 mt, with consideration that 3,000 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the Central 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 inshore component in the Central 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 20, 1995.

**David S. Crestin,**

*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. 032095C]

**Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in Bycatch Limitation Zone 1**

**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 using trawl gear in Bycatch Limitation Zone 1 (Zone 1) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the prohibited species catch (PSC) allowance of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab

apportioned to the trawl Pacific cod fishery category in Zone 1.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 20, 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.

The 1995 PSC allowance of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in Zone 1 for the trawl Pacific cod fishery category, which is defined at § 675.21(b)(1)(iii)(E), was established as 225,000 crabs by the 1995 final initial specifications (60 FR 8479, February 14, 1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 675.21(c)(1)(i), that the PSC allowance of *C. bairdi* Tanner crab for the trawl Pacific cod fishery in Zone 1 has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using trawl gear in Zone 1 of the BSAI.

Directed fishing standards 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: March 20, 1995.

**David S. Crestin,**

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

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