

FINAL INITIAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR ATLANTIC MACKEREL, SQUID, AND BUTTERFISH FOR THE FISHING YEAR JANUARY 1
THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1995 (MT)

Specifications	Squid		Atlantic Mackerel	Butterfish
	Loligo	Illex		
Max OY ¹	44,000	30,000	² N/A	16,000
ABC ³	36,000	30,000	850,000	16,000
IOY	36,000	30,000	⁴ 100,000	10,000
DAH	36,000	30,000	⁵ 100,000	10,000
DAP	36,000	30,000	50,000	10,000
JVP	0	0	35,000	0
TALFF	0	0	0	0

¹ Max OY as stated in the FMP.

² Not applicable; see the FMP.

³ IOY can rise to this amount.

⁴ This specification may be increased to 134,000 mt, the long-term potential catch for the Atlantic mackerel fishery.

⁵ Contains 15,000 mt projected recreational catch based on the formula contained in the regulations (50 CFR part 655).

NMFS also announces the four special conditions put forth for public comment that would affect any foreign joint venture fishery for Atlantic mackerel, should one occur in 1995: (1) River herring bycatch south of 37°30' N. lat. may not exceed 0.25 percent of the over-the-side transfers of Atlantic mackerel; (2) the Director, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Director) should do everything within his power to reduce impacts on marine mammals in prosecuting the Atlantic mackerel fisheries; (3) IOY may be increased during the year, but the total should not exceed 134,000 mt; and (4) applications from any given nation for a joint venture for 1995 will not be decided on until the Regional Director determines, based on an evaluation of performances, that the nation's purchase obligations for previous years have been fulfilled. There were no comments received regarding these conditions.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR part 655.

These final specifications are exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: March 30, 1995.

Samuel W. McKeen,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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50 CFR Part 672

[Docket No. 950206041-5041-01; I.D. 033195A]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Prohibit Retention of Pacific Cod

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of Pacific cod by vessels catching Pacific cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) for processing by the inshore component. NMFS is requiring that catches of Pacific cod by these vessels in the Western Regulatory Area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the allocation of Pacific cod specified for the inshore component in this area has been reached.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 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 GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska 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), the allocation of Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) for the inshore component in the Western Regulatory Area, GOA, was established by the final 1995 specifications of groundfish (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995), as 18,090 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(c)(3), that the allocation of Pacific cod TAC specified for the inshore component in the Western Regulatory Area, GOA, has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of Pacific cod by operators of vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the inshore component in the Western Regulatory Area in the GOA, be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 672.20(e).

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 31, 1995.

David S. Crestin,

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

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