

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

49 CFR Parts 1002, 1011, 1160, 1161,
1162 and 1163

[Ex Parte No. 55 (Sub-No. 94); Ex Parte
No. 55 (Sub-No. 86)]

Revision of Application Procedures and Corresponding Regulations; Revision of Licensing Application Forms and Corresponding Regulations

AGENCY: Interstate Commerce
Commission.

ACTION: Policy statement.

SUMMARY: The Commission is announcing that it no longer will accept the "old" standard licensing application form, *Authority Application Form OP-1* (Approved by OMB, 3120-0047, Expires 10/1/93), and henceforth will accept only new Forms OP-1, OP-1(P), OP-1(W) and OP-1(FF) (Approved by OMB, 3120-0047, Expires 12/97). The Commission will reject applications submitted on the "old" form. The Commission is taking this action in order for the public and the Commission to realize the efficiencies available through use of the shorter and more accurate new forms.

In addition, the Commission is announcing that the new forms have been revised slightly to correct minor errors and to make them easier for the public to use. The "new revised" forms are now available from the Commission. Because no substantive revisions are involved, the Commission will continue to accept both the "new" forms and the "new revised" forms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This policy statement is effective June 1, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne O'Malley (Office of Public Assistance) 202-927-7597. [TDD for the hearing impaired: 202-927-5721.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a decision served December 9, 1994, the Commission adopted revised regulations, as well as new forms, to implement the Trucking Industry Regulatory Reform Act (TIRRA), Title II of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act Amendments of 1994, Pub.L. 103-311 (August 26, 1994). The revised regulations (which further streamline and simplify the licensing process and establish a new fee schedule) and the new forms became effective on January 1, 1995. The new forms have been available since then; however, as a transition measure, the Commission has continued to accept the old forms. Nevertheless, applications submitted on the old Form OP-1 have

been processed under the revised licensing standards and procedures that took effect on January 1, 1995.

The old forms request a considerable amount of information that no longer is relevant to the licensing standards as revised by TIRRA. Thus, the old forms are burdensome to the public and the Commission, which now have had ample opportunity to become familiar with the revised forms and procedures.

In order for the public and the Commission to benefit fully from the efficiencies offered by the new forms, the Commission no longer will accept applications filed on the old form, and will reject them. The filing fees accompanying applications filed on old forms will be returned, along with the rejected application. In addition, the Commission will forward two copies of an appropriate new form to the sender of the rejected application.

In addition, since January 1, 1995, when the new forms began to be used, several minor technical corrections and improvements to the forms have been made. The new revised forms are available from all Commission Regional Offices and from the Commission's Office of Public Assistance in Washington, DC.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 553 and 559; 16 U.S.C. 1456; and 49 U.S.C. 10101, 10305, 10321, 10921, 10922, 10923, 10924, 10928, and 11102.

Decided: May 1, 1995.

By the Commission, Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-11132 Filed 5-4-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7035-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 663

[Docket No. 941265-4365; I.D. 041995A]

Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Miscellaneous Management Measures

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

ACTION: Modification of annual
specifications and management
measures, and inseason adjustment of
commercial trip landing and
recreational bag limits.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces
adjustments to the annual specifications

and management measures to increase the harvest guideline for sablefish and provide conversion factors for lingcod. NMFS also announces inseason adjustments to increase the commercial trip limits for trawl-caught sablefish and yellowtail rockfish, and to reduce the recreational bag limit for rockfish off Washington State. These actions are authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan which governs the harvest of groundfish in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. These actions are intended to correct an error in the calculation for the sablefish harvest guideline, enable the 1995 harvest guidelines for yellowtail rockfish and the limited entry allocation for trawl-caught sablefish to be reached, to reduce fishing effort in the recreational fishery for black rockfish off Washington State, and to accommodate traditional fishing and marketing practices in the lingcod fishery.

DATES: Effective May 1, 1995, until the effective date of the 1996 annual specifications and management measures, which will be published in the **Federal Register**. Comments will be accepted until May 17, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments on these actions should be sent to Mr. William Stelle, Jr., Director, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or Ms. Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Director, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. Information relevant to these actions has been compiled in aggregate form and is available for public review during business hours at the office of the Director, Northwest Region, NMFS (Regional Director).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson 206-526-6140; or Rodney R. McInnis 310-980-4040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 4, 1995, NMFS filed 1995 Annual Specifications and Management Measures for Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery with the Office of the Federal Register (60 FR 2331-2344, January 9, 1995). At its April 1995 meeting in Portland, OR, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considered the best available scientific information, the advice of its advisory committees, and public testimony before recommending to NMFS the following actions adjusting these annual specifications and measures for implementation by May 1, 1995, the beginning of the next period for cumulative trip limits in the Pacific

groundfish commercial fishery. A cumulative trip limit is the maximum amount that may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed per vessel in a calendar month, without a limit on the number of landings or trips.

1. *Increase of the Harvest Guideline for Sablefish.* At its October 1994 meeting, the Council recommended the annual specifications for the 1995 groundfish fishery. These specifications include the acceptable biological catch (ABC), harvest guidelines, and limited entry and open access allocations for certain species. After the specifications were announced, an error was discovered in the calculation of the sablefish harvest guideline.

At its October 1994 meeting, the Council was advised that the 1994 sablefish harvest guideline of 7,000 metric tons (mt) north of the Conception subarea (36° N. lat.) would be exceeded by 700 mt. In response, the Council reduced the 1995 harvest guideline by 700 mt, from 7,800 mt to 7,100 mt, to compensate for the 1994 overage. This projected overage subsequently was found to be incorrect due to an error in calculation. The best available information at the April 1995 Council meeting indicated that landings in 1994 were 7,274 mt, less than 4 percent above the 7,000 mt harvest guideline for sablefish north of the Conception subarea (36° N. lat.). This is within the acceptable range allowed for other species. Therefore, at its April 1995 meeting, the Council recommended that the 700-mt deduction to the 1995 harvest guideline be eliminated, increasing the harvest guideline to 7,800 mt. This increase to the harvest guideline results in proportional increases to the limited entry allocation (which includes trawl and nontrawl allocations) and to the open access allocation. The 700-mt increase to the harvest guideline results in: A 43-mt increase to the open access allocation (from 420 mt to 463 mt); a 657-mt increase to the limited entry allocation (from 5,900 mt to 6,557 mt); a 383 mt increase (58 percent) to the limited entry trawl allocation (from 3,420 mt to 3,803 mt); and a 274-mt increase (42 percent) for the limited entry nontrawl allocation (from 2,480 mt to 2,754 mt). No change is made to the tribal treaty allocation of 780 mt which was calculated before the 700-mt deduction to the harvest guideline had been made.

2. *Increase of the Limited Entry Trip Limit for Trawl-Caught Sablefish.* The best available information through March 18, 1995, projected that the trawl fishery would land 3,234 mt of sablefish in 1995, 566 mt (15 percent) below the revised 3,803-mt limited entry

allocation for the trawl fishery. So that the trawl allocation could be reached, the Council recommended that the limited entry cumulative trip limit for trawl-caught sablefish be increased by about 15 percent, from 6,000 lb (2,722 kg) to 7,000 lb (3,175 kg) per vessel per month coastwide. Sablefish often are caught with thornyheads and Dover sole, which are managed together as the "DTS complex." NMFS expects that increasing the trip limit will not only ensure that the trawl allocation is reached, but also will help divert effort from shortspine thornyheads, whose trip limit was reduced on April 1, 1995 (60 FR 16811, April 3, 1995). No change is made to the cumulative trip limit for the DTS complex. Also, no change is made to the nontrawl sablefish fishery, which is expected to achieve its allocation by the end of the year.

3. *Increase of the Limited Entry Trip Limits for Yellowtail Rockfish.* Yellowtail rockfish are a component of the *Sebastes* complex, which includes most species of rockfish caught off Washington, Oregon, and California. The best available information through March 18, 1995, projected the catch of yellowtail rockfish in the Vancouver, Columbia, and Eureka areas to be 4,607 mt in 1995 (3,661-mt landed catch plus 946-mt discards), 32 percent below the 6,740-mt combined harvest guideline for these areas. (The Vancouver-Eureka area is divided into northern and southern subareas at Cape Lookout, OR (45°20'15" N. lat.), with northern and southern harvest guidelines, but projections for each subarea separately cannot be determined this early in the year.) Therefore, to allow full achievement of the harvest guidelines for yellowtail rockfish, the Council recommended that the monthly cumulative trip limits be increased by about 30 percent, from 14,000 lb (6,350 kg) to 18,000 lb (8,165 kg) north of Cape Lookout, and from 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) to 40,000 lb (18,144 kg) between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino (40°30' N. lat., which is the southern boundary of the Eureka subarea). South of Cape Mendocino, there is no separate trip limit for yellowtail rockfish, which is counted toward the 100,000-lb (45,359 kg) cumulative monthly trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex (which includes yellowtail rockfish). Even though the harvest guidelines for the *Sebastes* complex were not projected to be reached, no change is made to the cumulative trip limits for the *Sebastes* complex because an increase in yellowtail landings will result in increased landings of the entire complex.

4. *Reduction of the Recreational Bag Limit for Rockfish off Washington.* At the March 1995 Council meeting in San Francisco, CA, the Council was advised that the State of Washington had recently decided to reduce its recreational bag limit for rockfish, and would be requesting the same change in Federal waters on the same date, May 1, 1995. The current Federal bag limit, which is consistent with the previous State limit, is 15 rockfish per day south of Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" N. lat.) or 12 rockfish per day north of Leadbetter Point. The requested change is 10 rockfish per day in Federal waters off Washington State. This reduction in the bag limit is intended to reduce the harvest of rockfish (in numbers of fish) by about 10 percent, and would have the largest effect on black rockfish which generally comprise more than 75 percent of the recreational rockfish catch off Washington State.

Off Washington, black rockfish are harvested predominantly in the recreational fishery. (The commercial fishery for black rockfish off Washington already has been restricted by the regulations at 50 CFR 663.23(b)(1)(iii).) Black rockfish appear to be the only nearshore coastal species sufficiently abundant to support a recreational fishery at the current magnitude. Although there is no separate harvest guideline for black rockfish at this time and the suggested level of removal is more conservative than for most other rockfish species, the reduction in the bag limit is intended to avoid a resource conservation problem in the future, as well as to maintain reasonable concentrations of black rockfish in nearshore areas accessible to the recreational fishery. This change also would be more consistent with the bag limits for black rockfish caught off Oregon (15 rockfish per day, of which only 10 may be black rockfish). The Council concurred with the State of Washington's request, and recommended that the Federal bag limit for rockfish off Washington be reduced to 10 rockfish for consistency with state regulations.

5. *Lingcod Length and Weight Conversions.* A Federal trip limit for commercially caught lingcod was implemented for the first time in January 1995 of 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) cumulative per month. A 22-inch (56 cm, total length) size limit also was implemented for the commercial and recreational fisheries, which previously had applied only to the recreational fishery off California. After the trip and size limits were announced, it became apparent that some fishing operations had traditionally landed dressed lingcod

“headed-and-gutted.” Other individuals asked to land lingcod eviscerated with the head left on. “Heading” lingcod is not allowed under the annual management measures, which prohibit retention of fish subject to a size limit if the total length cannot be determined (paragraph IV.A.(6) at 60 FR 2341, January 9, 1995). Therefore, to avoid disruption of traditional fishing and marketing practices, a length for “headed” lingcod is needed which corresponds to the 22-inch (56-cm) size limit. Similarly, trip limits apply to the round weight of fish, so a conversion to a round-weight equivalent is needed for lingcod that have been gutted, or headed-and-gutted, before landing.

The Council recommended that the size limit for lingcod that are “heads-off” be 18 inches (46 cm) based on a published scientific report by the Washington Department of Fisheries. (Washington State has adopted this size limit for lingcod that are “heads-off”; Oregon and California have not yet adopted a size for lingcod with the head removed.) The Council also recommended that the following product recovery ratios (PRRs) for lingcod that is headed-and-gutted or only eviscerated, taken from an Alaska Sea Grant Report, be used if the State of landing has no conversion factors. (Currently, only Washington has a conversion factor for headed-and-gutted lingcod, which is the same as the conversion factor being adopted in this document.) A Product Recovery Rate (PRR) of 1.5 is used to convert the 20,000-lb (9,072 kg) round weight, cumulative trip limit for lingcod to 13,333 lb (6,048 kg) for headed and gutted lingcod. A PRR of 1.1 is used to convert the 20,000-lb (9,072 kg) round weight, cumulative trip limit to 18,183 lb (8,246 kg) for lingcod that are gutted with the heads left on.

NMFS Actions

NMFS concurs with the Council’s recommendations, and, for the reasons stated above, announces the following changes to the 1995 fishery specifications and management measures published at 60 FR 2331–2344, January 9, 1995:

1. *Sablefish Harvest Guideline.* The weights (in thousands of metric tons) for sablefish in Table 1 (60 FR 2333) are revised so that: The sablefish harvest guideline for the area north of 36° N. lat. (the Vancouver, Columbia, Eureka, and Monterey statistical subareas) is increased from 7.1 to 7.8; the limited entry allocation is increased from 5.90 to 6.557; and the open access allocation is increased from 0.42 to 0.463. Also, footnote f/ to Table 1 is revised to read

as follows: “f/ The 7,800 mt sablefish harvest guideline is the 8,700 mt ABC north of the Conception subarea (north of 36° N. lat.) reduced by 900 mt for estimated discards. The 7,800–mt harvest guideline is reduced by 780 mt for the treaty tribes before dividing the remaining 7,020 mt between the limited entry (6,557 mt) and open access (463 mt) fisheries. The limited entry allocation is further allocated 58 percent to the trawl fishery (3,803 mt), and 42 percent to the nontrawl fishery (2,754 mt), both of which are harvest guidelines. (See the section on trawl and nontrawl sablefish management for 1995).” The “note” under paragraph IV.E.(3)(a) (at 60 FR 2342) describing the limited entry gear allocations is revised to incorporate these new numbers.

2. *Increase to the Limited Entry Trip Limit for Trawl-Caught Sablefish.* Paragraphs IV.E.(3)(b)(ii)(A) and (B) announcing trip limits for the DTS complex (60 FR 2342), as modified for shortspine thornyheads (60 FR 16811, April 3, 1995), are revised as follows:

IV.E.(3)(b)(ii)(A) *North of Cape Mendocino.* The cumulative trip limit for the DTS complex taken and retained north of Cape Mendocino is 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) per vessel per month. Within this cumulative limit, no more than 7,000 lb (3,175 kg) may be sablefish, and no more than 15,000 lb (6,804 kg) may be thornyheads. No more than 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) of the thornyheads may be shortspine thornyheads.

IV.E.(3)(b)(ii)(B) *South of Cape Mendocino.* The cumulative trip limit for the DTS complex taken and retained south of Cape Mendocino is 50,000 lb (22,680 kg) per vessel per month. Within this cumulative limit, no more than 7,000 lb (3,175 kg) may be sablefish, and no more than 15,000 lb (6,804 kg) may be thornyheads. No more than 3,000 lb (1,361 kg) of the thornyheads may be shortspine thornyheads.

3. *Increase to the Limited Entry Trip Limits for Yellowtail Rockfish.* Paragraphs IV.C.(2)(a)(i) and (ii) announcing trip limits for the *Sebastes* complex (including bocaccio, yellowtail, and canary rockfish) (60 FR 2342) are revised as follows:

IV.C.(2)(a)(i) *North of Cape Lookout.* The cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex taken and retained north of Cape Lookout is 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) per vessel per month. Within this cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex, no more than 18,000 lb (8,165 kg) may be yellowtail rockfish taken and retained north of Cape Lookout, and no more than 6,000 lb (2,722 kg) may be canary rockfish.

IV.C.(2)(a)(ii) *Cape Lookout to Cape Mendocino.* The cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex taken and retained between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino is 50,000 lb (22,680 kg) per vessel per month. Within this cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex, no more than 40,000 lb (18,144 kg) may be yellowtail rockfish taken and retained between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino, and no more than 6,000 lb (2,722 kg) may be canary rockfish.

4. *Rockfish Recreational Bag Limit.* Paragraph IV.J.(3) announcing the recreational bag limits in Federal waters off the State of Washington (60 FR 2344) is revised as follows:

IV.J.(3) *Washington.* The bag limits for each person engaged in recreational fishing seaward of the State of Washington are: Three lingcod per day no smaller than 22 inches (56 cm) total length; and 10 rockfish per day.

5. *Size Limits.* Paragraph IV.A.(6)(60 FR 2341) is revised as follows:

IV.A.(6) *Size Limits and Length Measurement.* Total length is measured from the tip of the snout (mouth closed) to the tip of the tail (pinched together) without mutilation of the fish or the use of additional force to extend the length of the fish. No fish subject to a size limit may be retained, if it is in such condition that its length has been extended or cannot be determined by these methods or by the methods in paragraphs IV.E.(3)(d) for sablefish and IV.G.(1)(a) for lingcod.

6. *Lingcod Size and Weight Conversions.* New paragraphs

IV.G.(1)(a) and (b) are added to paragraph IV.G.(1) (60 FR 2343) as follows:

IV.G.(1)(a) *Size Conversion.* For lingcod with the head removed, the minimum size limit, which corresponds to 22 inches (56 cm) total length for whole fish, is 18 inches (46 cm) measured from the origin of the first dorsal fin (where the front dorsal fin meets the dorsal surface of the body closest to the head) to the tip of the upper lobe of the tail; the dorsal fin and tail must be left intact.

IV.G.(1)(b) *Weight Conversion.* The PRR established by the state where the fish is or will be landed will be used to convert the processed weight to round weight for purposes of applying the trip limit. (The states’ PRRs may differ and fishers should contact fishery enforcement officials in the state where the fish will be landed to determine that state’s official PRR.) If a state does not have a PRR for lingcod that is headed and gutted, or only gutted, the following PRRs will be used. To determine the

round weight, multiply the processed weight times the PRR.

(i) *Headed and gutted.* The PRR for headed and gutted lingcod is 1.5. Therefore, the cumulative trip limit for headed and gutted lingcod is 13,333.3 lb (6,048 kg) processed weight per vessel per month, which corresponds to 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) round weight. (The State of Washington currently uses a PRR of 1.5.)

(ii) *Gutted, with the head on.* The PRR for lingcod that has only been eviscerated is 1.1. Therefore, the cumulative trip limit for gutted lingcod is 18,182 lb (8,246 kg) processed weight per vessel per month, which corresponds to 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) round weight.

7. *Introductory Text is Added to paragraph IV.J.(60 FR 2344) to Clarify that Length Measurement is the Same in the Recreational and Commercial Fisheries.*

IV.J. *Recreational Fishery.* Length measurement for lingcod is explained at paragraphs IV.A.(6) and IV.G.(1)(a).

Classification

The determination to take this action is based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which the determination is based are available for public inspection at the office of the Regional Director, Northwest Region, (see ADDRESSES) during business hours. There was an opportunity for public comment at the April Council meeting. Supporting documents were available for public inspection prior to, and at, the Council meeting. The Secretary therefore finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive the requirements for publication of a general notice of proposed rulemaking. Most actions taken in this rule relieve restrictions and therefore, according to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1), are not subject to the 30-day delayed effectiveness requirement of the Administrative Procedure Act. The only action that does not relieve a restriction is the reduction in the rockfish bag limit off the State of Washington. This action, however, is being implemented by the State of Washington on May 1, 1995, and NMFS finds that it is necessary to have consistent state and Federal bag limits. NMFS finds that need for consistency is good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 663.21(a) and 50 CFR 663.23(c)(1)(i)(C), (1)(i)(E), and (3)(B), and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: May 1, 1995.

Richard H. Schaefer,

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

[FR Doc. 95-11128 Filed 5-2-95; 2:44 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D. 042195B]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Yellowfin Sole

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for yellowfin sole 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 yellowfin sole fishery category in the BSAI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), May 1, 1995, until 12 noon, A.l.t., August 1, 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 yellowfin sole fishery, which is defined at § 675.21(b)(1)(iii)(B)(1), was established as 280 metric tons by the final 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 yellowfin sole fishery in the BSAI has been caught. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for yellowfin sole 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).

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 675.21 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: May 1, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 95-11069 Filed 5-1-95; 4:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D. 050195B]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Greenland Turbot/Arrowtooth Flounder/Sablefish

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 Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/sablefish 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 1995 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance apportioned to the trawl Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/sablefish fishery category in the BSAI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), May 3, 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 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance apportioned to the trawl Greenland turbot/arrowtooth flounder/sablefish fishery category, which is defined at § 675.21(b)(1)(iii)(C), was established as 120 metric tons by the 1995 final specifications (60 FR 8479, February 14, 1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with