

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic swordfish fishery is managed under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*).

The implementing regulations at 50 CFR 630.24(b)(1)(i)(A) establish a quota of swordfish that may be harvested by drift gillnet during the period July 1 through December 31, each year. Under 50 CFR 630.25(a), NMFS is required to close the drift gillnet fishery for swordfish when its quota is reached, or is projected to be reached, by filing a document with the Office of the Federal Register at least 8 days before the closure is to become effective.

Based on the current level of swordfish catch by drift gillnets and historic data on catch per set for July, NMFS has determined that the drift gillnet quota for the July 1 through December 31 period will be reached on or before July 14, 1995. Hence, the drift gillnet fishery for Atlantic swordfish is closed effective 2330 hours, local time, July 14, 1995, through 2400 hours, local time, December 31, 1995.

During this closure of the drift gillnet fishery, on board a vessel using or having aboard a drift gillnet: a person may not fish for swordfish from the North Atlantic swordfish stock; and no more than two swordfish per trip may be possessed in the North Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, north of 5° N. lat., or landed in an Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean coastal state.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR 630.25(a) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: July 6, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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50 CFR Part 672

[Docket No. 950206041-5041-01; I.D. 070595A]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch 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 ocean perch (POP) in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the POP total allowable catch (TAC) in the Central Regulatory Area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 6, 1995, until 12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Sloan, 907-581-2062.

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 POP TAC for the Central Regulatory Area was established by the final 1995 harvest specifications of groundfish (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995) as 2,702 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(c)(2)(ii), that the POP TAC in the Central Regulatory Area soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 2,302 mt, with consideration that 400 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 POP 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 § 672.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 6, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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