

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 672

[Docket No. 950209041-5041-01; I.D. 071795B]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Trawl Fishery for Shallow-water Species

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for species that comprise the shallow-water species fishery by vessels using trawl gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary because the third seasonal bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to the shallow-water species fishery in the GOA has been caught.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 17, 1995, until 12 noon, A.l.t., October 1, 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(f)(1)(i), the shallow-water species fishery, which is defined at § 672.20(f)(1)(i)(B)(I), was apportioned 200 metric tons of Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) for the third season, the period July 1, 1995, through September 30, 1995 (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(f)(3)(i), that vessels participating in the trawl shallow-water species fishery in the GOA have caught the third seasonal allowance of Pacific halibut PSC apportioned to that fishery. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for each species and species group that comprise the shallow-water species fishery by vessels using trawl gear in the GOA, except directed fishing for pollock by vessels using pelagic trawl gear in those portions of the GOA that remain open to directed fishing for pollock. The species and species groups

that comprise the shallow-water species fishery are pollock, Pacific cod, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and "other species."

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: July 17, 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. 071795A]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Northern Rockfish 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 northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the northern rockfish total allowable catch (TAC) in the Central Regulatory Area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 18, 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 northern rockfish TAC for the Central Regulatory Area was established by the Final 1995 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995) as 4,610 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(c)(2)(ii), that

the northern rockfish TAC in the Central Regulatory Area soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 4,210 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 northern rockfish 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 17, 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. 950209041-5041-01; I.D. 071795E]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Western Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for northern rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the total allowable catch for northern rockfish in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 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 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.