

Federal Communications Commission.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D.
102795A]

**Groundfish of the Bering Sea and
Aleutian Islands Area; Pacific Cod by
Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering
Sea and Aleutian Islands Management
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 using

trawl gear in the Bering Sea and
Aleutian Islands management area
(BSAI). This action is necessary to
prevent exceeding the 1995 prohibited
species bycatch mortality allowance of
Pacific halibut specified for the trawl
Pacific cod fishery in the BSAI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), October 28, 1995, until 12
midnight, December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mary Furuness, 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 bycatch mortality allowance
of Pacific halibut for the BSAI trawl
Pacific cod fishery, which is defined at
§ 675.21(b)(1)(iii)(E), was established as
1,550 metric tons (mt) by the Final 1995

Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (60
FR 8479, February 14, 1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS,
has determined, in accordance with
§ 675.21(c)(1)(iii), that the 1995
apportionment of the Pacific halibut
bycatch mortality allowance for the
trawl Pacific cod fishery has been
caught. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting
directed fishing for Pacific cod 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 § 675.21
and is exempt from review under E.O.
12866.

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

Dated: October 27, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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