

Source and Consumer Products  
Elements, adopted on Nov. 15, 1994.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

**50 CFR Part 675**

[Docket No. 950206040-5040-01; I.D.  
120895B]

**Groundfish of the Bering Sea and  
Aleutian Islands Area; Pacific Cod by  
Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in  
the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**

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

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is prohibiting directed  
fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using

hook-and-line gear in the Bering Sea  
and Aleutian Islands management area  
(BSAI). This action is necessary because  
the 1995 prohibited species bycatch  
mortality allowance of Pacific halibut  
specified for the Pacific cod hook-and-  
line fishery in the BSAI has been  
reached.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 12 noon, Alaska local  
time (A.l.t.), December 11, 1995, until  
12 midnight, A.l.t., 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 Pacific halibut bycatch  
mortality allowance for the hook-and-  
line Pacific cod fishery, which is

defined at § 675.21(b)(2)(ii)(A), is 725  
metric tons (60 FR 8479, February 14,  
1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS,  
has determined, in accordance with  
§ 675.21(d), that the Pacific halibut  
bycatch mortality allowance for the  
Pacific cod hook-and-line fishery in the  
BSAI has been reached. Therefore,  
NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for  
Pacific cod by vessels using hook-and-  
line gear in the BSAI.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts  
for applicable gear types may be found  
in the regulations at § 675.20(h).

**Classification**

This action is taken under § 675.20  
and is exempt review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: December 8, 1995.

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

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pm]

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