

Dated: February 27, 1996.
 Richard W. Surdi,
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries
 Conservation and Management, National
 Marine Fisheries Service.*
 [FR Doc. 96-4997 Filed 2-28-96; 3:58 pm]
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50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D.
 022396F]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Eastern Aleutian District

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

ACTION: Modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed
 fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the
 Eastern Aleutian District of the Bering
 Sea and Aleutian Islands management
 area (BSAI). This action is necessary to
 fully utilize the total allowable catch
 (TAC) of Pacific ocean perch in this
 area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local
 time (A.l.t.), February 29, 1996, until 12
 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

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.

In accordance with § 675.20(a)(7)(ii),
 the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of
 Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5,
 1996) for the BSAI established 2,571
 metric tons (mt) as the initial total
 allowable catch of Pacific ocean perch
 for the Eastern Aleutian District. At the
 same time, the directed fishery for
 Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern
 Aleutian District was closed to directed
 fishing under § 675.20(a)(8) in order to
 reserve amounts anticipated to be

needed for incidental catch in other
 fisheries. NMFS has determined that as
 of February 10, 1996, 2,485 mt remain
 unharvested.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS,
 has determined that the 1996 TAC for
 Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern
 Aleutian District has not been reached.
 Therefore, NMFS is terminating the
 previous closure and is reopening
 directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch
 in the Eastern Aleutian District.

All other closures remain in full force
 and effect.

Classification

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

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

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