

Dated: March 13, 1996.
Richard W. Surdi,
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries
Conservation and Management, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 96-6647 Filed 3-20-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 672

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D.
031596A]

**Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska;
Pacific Cod for Processing by the
Inshore Component**

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 for processing by
the inshore component in the Central
Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska
(GOA). This action is necessary to
prevent exceeding the allocation of
Pacific Cod for processing by the
inshore component in the Central
Regulatory Area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), March 18, 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 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 allocation of
Pacific cod for processing by the inshore
component in the Central Regulatory
Area was established by the Final 1996
Harvest Specifications for Groundfish
(61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 38,610
metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS
(Regional Director), has determined, in
accordance with § 672.20(c)(2)(ii), that
the allocation of Pacific cod total
allowable catch for processing by the
inshore component in the Central

Regulatory Area soon will be reached.
The Regional Director established a
directed fishing allowance of 33,610 mt,
with consideration that 5,000 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 Pacific cod by
vessels catching Pacific cod for
processing by the inshore component in
the Central Regulatory Area.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts
for applicable gear types may be found
in the regulations at § 672.20(g).

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: March 18, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,
*Acting Director, Office of Fisheries
Conservation and Management, National
Marine Fisheries Service.*
[FR Doc. 96-6854 Filed 3-18-96; 2:20 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F