

directed fishing allowance of 2,933 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 Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e).

Classification

This action is taken under § 679.20 and is exempt from OMB review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 11, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 071096B]

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 prohibiting directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the northern rockfish total allowable catch (TAC) in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 11, 1996, until 12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 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 subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR parts 679.

The northern rockfish TAC for the Western Regulatory Area was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 640 metric tons (mt). See § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), established a directed fishing allowance for northern rockfish of 600 mt, with consideration that 40 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in this area. See § 679.20(d)(1). The Regional Director has determined that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area.

The maximum retainable bycatch amounts at § 679.20(e), apply to a fishery that is closed to directed fishing.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 11, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 071096D]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western 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 Pacific ocean perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska management area (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the Pacific ocean perch total allowable

catch (TAC) in the Western Regulatory Area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 11, 1996, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew 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 subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The Pacific ocean perch TAC for the Western Regulatory Area was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 1,260 metric tons (mt). (See § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).)

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined that the Pacific ocean perch TAC in the Western Regulatory Area soon will be reached. (See § 679.20(d)(1).) Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 1,100 mt, with consideration that 160 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the Western Regulatory Area. The Regional Director has determined that the directed fishing allowance has been reached.

Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for the Pacific ocean perch in the Western Regulatory Area.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e).

Classification

This action is taken under § 679.20 and is exempt from OMB review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 11, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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