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[FR Doc. 96-18044 Filed 7-17-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 071296A]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Atka Mackerel in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the total allowable catch of Atka mackerel in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 13, 1996, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

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 Subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The total allowable catch of Atka mackerel for the Central Aleutian District was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5, 1996) for the BSAI and subsequent reserve apportionment (61 FR 16085, April 11, 1996) as 33,600 metric tons (mt). See § 679.20(c)(3)(iii). As of June 8, 1996, 1,800 mt remain. The directed fishery for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District was closed on April 14, 1996, (61 FR 16883, April 18, 1996; see also § 679.20(d)(iii)) and reopened on July 1, 1996 (61 FR 33046, June 26, 1996).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined, in

accordance with § 679.20(d)(1), that the Atka mackerel total allowable catch in the Central Aleutian District subarea soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 33,000 mt after determining that 600 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the Central Aleutian District. Consequently NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District.

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 review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 12, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 96-18150 Filed 7-12-96; 4:28 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 071296C]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker/Rougheye Rockfish Species Group in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of the shortraker/rougheye rockfish species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catches of the shortraker/rougheye rockfish species group in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the shortraker/rougheye rockfish species group total allowable catch (TAC) in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 14, 1996, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

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 GOA (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 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The TAC for the shortraker/rougheye rockfish species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996), as 530 metric tons. (See § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).)

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), that the TAC for the shortraker/rougheye rockfish species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of the shortraker/rougheye rockfish species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(b).

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 12, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 96-18188 Filed 7-15-96; 2:33 pm]

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 071296B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish in the West Yakutat District

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of sablefish by vessels using trawl gear in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catches of sablefish by vessels using trawl gear in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the allocation of the sablefish total allowable catch (TAC) assigned to trawl