

endorsement, temporarily or permanently, with the commercial permit for Gulf reef fish that is issued for the vessel under the new owner. Such new owner will be the person specified by the owner or his/her legal guardian, in the case of a disabled owner, or by the will or executor/administrator of the estate, in the case of a deceased owner. (Change of ownership of a vessel with a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish upon disability or death of an owner is considered a purchase of a permitted vessel and paragraph (m)(3) of this section applies regarding a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish for the vessel under the new owner.)

(ii) In the event of the disability or death of an operator whose presence aboard a vessel is a condition for the validity of a Gulf red snapper endorsement, the RD may revise and reissue an endorsement, temporarily or permanently, to the permitted vessel. Such revised endorsement will contain the name of a substitute operator specified by the operator or his/her legal guardian, in the case of a disabled operator, or by the will or executor/administrator of the estate, in the case of a deceased operator. As was the case with the replaced endorsement, the presence of the substitute operator aboard and in charge of the vessel is a condition for the validity of the revised endorsement. Such revised endorsement will be reissued only with the concurrence of the vessel owner.

§ 622.7 [Amended]

3. In § 622.7, in paragraph (i)(5), the concluding words "introductory text" are removed.

§ 622.16 [Suspended]

4. Section 622.16 is suspended indefinitely.

5. In § 622.44, paragraph (e) is added to read as follows:

§ 622.44 Commercial trip limits.

* * * * *

(e) *Gulf red snapper*. This paragraph (e) is effective through December 31, 1997.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, the trip limit for

red snapper in or from the Gulf for a vessel that has on board a valid commercial permit for Gulf reef fish is 200 lb (91 kg), round or eviscerated weight.

(2) The trip limit for red snapper in or from the Gulf for a vessel that has on board a valid commercial permit for Gulf reef fish and a valid Gulf red snapper endorsement is 2,000 lb (907 kg), round or eviscerated weight.

(3) As a condition of a commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish, as required under § 622.4(a)(2)(v), without regard to where red snapper are harvested or possessed, a vessel with such permit—

(i) May not possess red snapper in or from the Gulf in excess of the appropriate vessel trip limit, as specified in paragraph (e)(1) or (e)(2) of this section.

(ii) May not transfer at sea red snapper in or from the Gulf.

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 090996A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

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 Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska. This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the Pacific ocean perch total allowable catch (TAC) in the Eastern Regulatory Area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 9, 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 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.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii), the Pacific ocean perch TAC for the Eastern Regulatory Area was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 2,366 metric tons (mt). The directed fishery for Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern Regulatory Area was closed under § 679.20(d)(iii) on July 11, 1996, (61 FR 37225, July 17, 1996) and reopened on July 31, 1996 (61 FR 40158, August 1, 1996).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1), that the Pacific ocean perch TAC in the Eastern Regulatory Area soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 2,066 mt, with consideration that 300 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the Eastern 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 Eastern 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: September 9, 1996.

Gary Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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