

the one day opening, on October 11, 1996, large medium and giant ABT harvested and landed in the New York Bight area will be counted against the New York Bight set-aside quota.

#### Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 285.20(b), 50 CFR 285.22, and 50 CFR 285.24 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*

Dated: October 8, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 96-26261 Filed 10-9-96; 9:48 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 100796C]

#### **Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Trawl Gear Rockfish Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands**

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

#### **ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is closing the directed fishery for rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1996 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance apportioned to the trawl rockfish fishery in the BSAI.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 8, 1996, until 2400 hours, 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 1996 Pacific halibut mortality bycatch allowance for the BSAI trawl

rockfish fishery, which is defined at § 679.21(e)(3)(iv)(D), was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5, 1996) as 110 metric tons.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 679.21(e)(7)(iv), that the 1996 mortality bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to the trawl rockfish fishery in the BSAI has been caught. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI.

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

#### Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 679.21 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 8, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 96-26312 Filed 10-9-96; 11:44 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F