

species TAC and will not promote optimum yield of groundfish and will result in economic harm to fishermen and processors who would otherwise participate in that fishery. Interested persons are invited to submit comment in writing (see ADDRESSES).

Classification

This action is taken under § 679.25 and § 679.20.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds for good cause that it is impractical and contrary to the public interest to provide prior public notice and comment on the inseason adjustment. Immediate effectiveness is necessary to prevent foregone revenue to the yellowfin sole fishery, which would otherwise be prevented from conducting operations in Zone 1.

This action is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: November 1, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-28717 Filed 11-04-96; 5:00 pm]

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 110496B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in 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 directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using hook-and-line gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary because the 1996 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance apportioned to the Pacific cod hook-and-line fishery in the BSAI has been reached.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), November 5, 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 1996 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance for the hook-and-line Pacific cod fishery, which is defined at § 679.21(e)(4)(ii)(A), is 800 mt (61 FR 4311, February 5, 1996).

The Administrator (formerly "Director"), Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 679.21(e)(8), that U.S. fishing vessels participating in the Pacific cod hook-and-line fishery in the BSAI have caught the 1996 Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance. Therefore, NMFS is closing directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI.

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: November 4, 1996.

Gary Matlock,

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

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