integrity. The Contractor bears the primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct and for the inquiry, investigation, and adjudication of research misconduct alleged to have occurred under the contract in association with its own institution. However, the EPA retains the ultimate oversight authority for the EPA-supported research. The Contractor must take the actions required as described in EPA Order 3120.5 *Policy and Procedures for Addressing Research Misconduct* when research misconduct is suspected or found under its contract.

(e) *Remedies.* The Contracting Officer in consultation with the Scientific Integrity Official and OIG, if applicable, will make the final determination on any remedy to an actual or suspected loss of scientific integrity. Potential remedies include:

(1) Acceptance of the Contractor's proposed mitigation plan to the scientific integrity issue;

(2) Acceptance of an alternate mitigation plan negotiated by the parties listed in the first paragraph of this section;

(3) Termination for convenience, in whole or in part, if no mitigation plan will adequately resolve the actual or suspected loss of scientific integrity; or

(4) Termination for default or cause, in whole or in part, if the Contractor was aware of an actual or suspected loss of scientific integrity under this contract and did not disclose it or misrepresented relevant information to the EPA. Additionally, the Government may debar or suspend the Contractor from Government contracting or pursue other remedies as may be permitted by law or this contract.

(5) *Opportunity to Respond*—If the party who has been accused of a loss of scientific integrity feels that the Agency has reached an incorrect conclusion or the Contracting Officer has applied an inappropriate remedy, the party may provide a written response to the Contracting Officer, Scientific Integrity Official, and/or OIG.

(f) *Subcontractors and Consultants.* The Contractor agrees to insert language in any subcontract or consultant agreement placed hereunder which must conform substantially to the language of this clause, including this paragraph (f), unless otherwise authorized in advance in writing by the Contracting Officer.

(g) *Additional Resources.* For more information about the EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy, an introductory video can be accessed at: *https://youtu.be/FQJCy8BXXq8.* A training video is available at: *https://youtu.be/Zc0T7fooot8.*

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 2020–20665 Filed 10–16–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 180625576–8999–02]

RIN 0648–BK14

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019–2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments

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

ACTION: Final rule; inseason adjustments to biennial groundfish management measures.

SUMMARY: This final rule announces routine inseason adjustments to management measures in commercial groundfish fisheries. This action is intended to allow commercial fishing vessels to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting rebuilding and depleted stocks.

DATES: This final rule is effective October 19, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gretchen Hanshew, phone: 206–526–6147 or email: *Gretchen.Hanshew@noaa.gov.*

Electronic Access

This rule is accessible via the internet at the Office of the Federal Register website at *https://www.federalregister.gov.* Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at *http://www.pcouncil.org/.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subparts C through G, regulate fishing for over 90 species of groundfish off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) develops groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for two-year periods (*i.e.,* a biennium). NMFS published the final rule to implement harvest specifications and management measures for the 2019–2020 biennium for most species managed under the PCGFMP on December 12, 2018 (83 FR 63970).

Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries are managed using harvest specifications or limits (*e.g.,* overfishing limits [OFL], acceptable biological catch [ABC], annual catch limits [ACL] and harvest guidelines [HG]) based on the best scientific information available at that time (50 CFR 660.60(b)). The harvest specifications and management measures developed for the 2019–2020 biennium used data through the 2017 fishing year. In general, the management measures (*e.g.,* trip limits, area closures, and bag limits) set at the start of the biennial harvest specifications cycle help catch in the various sectors of the fishery reach, but not exceed, the limits for each stock. The Council, in coordination with Pacific Coast Treaty Indian Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, recommends adjustments to the management measures during the fishing year to achieve this goal. At its September 11, and 14–18, 2020 webinar, the Council recommended increasing the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) and open access (OA) trip limits for sablefish north of 36° North latitude (N lat.) and increasing the incidental landing limit for Pacific halibut in the LEFG primary sablefish fishery. Each of the adjustments discussed below are based on updated fisheries information that was unavailable when the Council completed the initial analysis for the current harvest specifications.

Since spring 2020, declines in Asian markets and restrictions for domestic restaurants, among other factors, have led to a decline in markets and therefore an overall decline in fishing effort. The combination of these factors has resulted in estimated year-end catches that are lower than was anticipated under normal market conditions. The following changes were requested by industry to increase access to available harvestable quotas for sablefish and incidentally caught Pacific halibut.

Increases to Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Trip Limits for Sablefish

Sablefish is an important commercial species on the west coast with vessels targeting sablefish using both trawl and fixed gear (longlines and pots/traps). Sablefish is managed with a coast-wide ACL that is apportioned north and south of 36° N lat. with 73.8 percent going to the north and 26.2 percent going to the south. In 2020, the portion of the ACL for sablefish north of 36° N lat. is 5,723 mt with a commercial HG of 5,113 mt. The commercial HG north of 36° N lat. is further divided between the limited entry and OA sectors with 90.6 percent, or 4,632 mt, going to the limited entry

sector and 9.4 percent, or 481 mt, going to the OA sector. The limited entry share of the commercial HG is further divided between trawl (58 percent, or 2,687 mt), and fixed gear (42 percent, or 1,946 mt). The limited entry fixed gear share is further divided between the primary (85 percent, or 1,654 mt), and daily trip limit (15 percent, or 292 mt) fisheries.

Sablefish north of 36° N lat. is anticipated to have catches through the end of the year lower than anticipated at the start of the 2020 fishery, resulting in sablefish harvest of approximately 71 percent of the sablefish north ACL.

At the September 2020 Council meeting, members of industry requested increases to sablefish trip limits to address the lower than anticipated harvest of sablefish in 2020. Under the current trip limits, total catch in the LEFG and OA fisheries north of 36° N lat. is projected to be less than 172 mt, or 62 percent of the LEFG catch share, and less than 237 mt, or 52 percent of the OA catch share. Increasing the trip limits as described in Option 2, Table 1, for the LEFG and OA fisheries north of 36° N lat. for the remainder of the fishing year is projected to increase total mortality. Harvest in the LEFG fishery may increase by 69 mt, or 89 percent of the LEFG catch share, and in the OA fishery by 32 mt, or 67 percent of the OA catch share. The trip limit changes are described in Table 1.

Table 1 -- Status Quo and the Council's Recommended Increased LEFG and OA Trip Limits for Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.

Option	Sector	Geographic Area	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Option 1: Status Quo Trip Limits	LE	North of 36° N. lat.	1,300 lb (590 kg)/week, not to exceed 3,900 lb (1,769 kb)/2 months		1,500 lb (680 kg)/week, not to exceed 4,500 lb (2,041 kg)/2 months			
	OA	North of 36° N. lat.	300 lb (136 kg)/day, or one landing per week, up to 1,200 lb (544 kg), not to exceed 2,400 lb (1,089 kg)/2 months		300 lb (136 kg)/day, or one landing per week up to 1,500 lb (680 kg), not to exceed 3,000 lb (1,361 kg)/2 months			
Option 2: Increased Trip Limits Implemented in This Rule	LE	North of 36° N. lat.	1,300 lb (590 kg)/week, not to exceed 3,900 lb (1,769 kg)/2 months		1,500 lb (680 kg)/week, not to exceed 4,500 lb (2,041 kg)/2 months		2,500 lb (1,134 kg)/week, not to exceed 7,500 lb (3,402 kg)/2 months	
	OA	North of 36° N. lat.	300 lb (136 kg)/day, or one landing per week, up to 1,200 lb (544 kg), not to exceed 2,400 lb (1,089 kg)/2 months		300 lb (136 kg)/day, or one landing per week up to 1,500 lb (680 kg), not to exceed 3,000 lb (1,361 kg)/2 months		600 lb (272 kg)/day or one landing per week up to 2,000 lb (907 kg), not to exceed 4,000 lb (1,814 kg)/2 months	

Trip limit increases for sablefish are intended to allow for increased attainment of the limited entry fixed gear and open access harvest guidelines (4,631 mt and 481 mt, respectively), by allowing for increased harvest opportunities from October through December 2020. Increasing the trip limits is expected to increase total mortality by approximately 100 mt. Sablefish harvest through the end of the year is still expected to be below the ACL, with harvest of approximately 73 percent of the 5,723 mt ACL for Sablefish north of 36° N lat. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Tables 2 (North) and 2 (South) to part 660, Subpart E, an increase to sablefish trip limits for the LEFG fishery north of 36° N lat. to ''2,500 lb (1,134 kg)/week, not to exceed 7,500 lb (3,402 kg)/2 months'' and, by modifying Tables 3 (North) and 3 (South) to part 660, Subpart F, an increase to the sablefish trip limits for the OA fishery north of 36° N lat. to ''600 lb (272 kg)/day or one landing per week up to 2,000 lb (907 kg), not to exceed 4,000 lb (1,814 kg)/2 months''.

Increases to Limited Entry Fixed Gear Incidental Landing Limits for Pacific Halibut

Under the authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the Council developed a Catch Sharing Plan for the International Pacific Halibut Commission Regulatory Area 2A. The Catch Sharing Plan allocates the Area 2A annual total allowable catch (TAC) among fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. Pacific halibut is generally a prohibited species for vessels fishing in Pacific coast groundfish fisheries, unless explicitly allowed in groundfish regulations and authorized by the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. In years where the Pacific halibut TAC is above 900,000 lb (408 mt), the Catch Sharing Plan allows the LEFG sablefish primary fishery an incidental retention limit for Pacific halibut north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.30′ N lat.).

On May 1, 2020, NMFS implemented a 2020 Area 2A TAC of 1,500,000 lb (680.4 mt) (85 FR 25317; May 1, 2020). Consistent with the provisions of the Catch Sharing Plan, the LEFG sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA has an incidental total catch limit of 70,000 lb (31.8 mt) for 2020. Current regulations at § 660.231(b)(3)(iv) provide for Pacific halibut retention by vessels fishing in the LEFG sablefish primary fishery from April 1 through October 31 with a landing limit of 200 lb (91 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut, for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed, and up to an additional two Pacific halibut in excess of this limit.

At the September 2020 Council meeting, members of industry requested increases to the landing limit for incidentally caught Pacific halibut in the sablefish primary fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.30′ N lat.). As noted above, overall fishing effort for sablefish has been lower than expected this year, and so has the incidental harvest of Pacific halibut in this fishery. Under the current incidental landing limit, total catch of Pacific halibut in this fishery through the end of the season is projected to be less than 65,000 lbs, or 93 percent of the allocation (70,000 lbs or 31,751 kg). Increasing the incidental landing limit as described in Option 2, Table 2, for the remainder of the fishing season, scheduled to close at noon on October 31, is projected to increase total mortality to over 69,000 lbs, or 99 percent of the allocation.

Table 2 -- Status Quo and the Council's Recommended Increased Landing Limit for Pacific Halibut in the Sablefish Primary Fishery North of Point Chehalis, WA

Option	Sector	Geo-graphic Area	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Option 1: Status Quo Landing Limit	LEFG	North of Point Chehalis, WA	Closed	200 lbs (91 kg) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lbs (454 kg) of sablefish[1/]				Closed
Option 2: Landing Limit	LEFG	North of Point Chehalis, WA	Closed	200 lbs (91 kg) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lbs (454 kg) of sablefish[1/]			250 lbs (113 kg) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lbs (454 kg) of sablefish[1/2/]	Closed

1/ All weights are dressed weights. A vessel may have an additional two Pacific halibut that are in excess of the limit.

2/ Increased limit would be effective on the date of publication of the **Federal Register** notice through noon on October 31, 2020.

Incidental landing limit increases for Pacific halibut are intended to allow for more Pacific halibut to be retained and landed for vessels targeting sablefish in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA. Under the Council's recommendation, increasing the trip limits is expected to increase landings by up to 4,500 lbs (2,041 kg). This is expected to allow increased attainment of the Pacific halibut allocation which would otherwise be discarded. Therefore, in order to allow increased incidental Pacific halibut catch in the sablefish primary fishery, the Council recommended and NMFS is revising incidental Pacific halibut retention regulations at § 660.231(b)(3)(iv) to increase the catch limit to ''250 lb (113 kg) dressed weight of halibut for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to two additional halibut in excess of the 250 lb (113 kg) per 1,000 lb (454 kg) limit per landing.''

Classification

This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.60(c) and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based are available for public inspection by contacting Gretchen Hanshew in NMFS West Coast Region (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above), or view at the NMFS West Coast Groundfish website: *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/west-coast-groundfish.*

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b), NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The adjustments to management measures in this document ease restrictive trip limits on commercial fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California to allow fisheries to harvest more fish while still staying within harvest limits. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the final rule for the 2019–2020 harvest specifications and management measures which published on December 12, 2018 (83 FR 63970).

At its September 2020 webinar, the Council recommended the increases to the commercial trip limits for the LEFG and OA sectors be implemented as soon as possible so that harvesters may be able to take advantage of these higher limits before the end of the year. Each of the adjustments to commercial management measures in this rule will create more harvest opportunity and allow fishermen to catch species that are currently under attained without causing any impacts to the fishery that were not anticipated during development of the 2019–20 biennial harvest specifications. Each of these recommended adjustments also rely on new catch data that were not available and thus not considered during the 2019–2020 biennial harvest specifications process. New catch information through summer 2020 was used to inform model projections. Models estimate that attainment of sablefish will be low in 2020 and, even with these increases to trip limits, most sectors are unlikely to come close to attaining their shares of the sablefish ACL. These adjustments to LEFG and OA fishery trip limits could provide up to an additional $885,000 in ex-vessel revenue to harvesters off Washington, Oregon, and California. Based on recent fishery data, best estimates also indicate that the sablefish primary fishery will not harvest its entire share of the Area 2A Pacific halibut total allowable catch. These adjustments to Pacific halibut management measures could provide up to an additional $13,500 in ex-vessel revenue to harvesters fishing off the Washington coast.

Additional economic benefits would also be seen for processors and the fishing support businesses; however, these are more difficult to quantify. Delaying implementation to allow for public comment would likely reduce the economic benefits to the commercial fishing industry and the businesses that rely on that industry. If the notice and comment rulemaking process took 90 days to complete, the increase would not be in place until December when the fishing year is almost over. Therefore, providing a comment period for this action could limit the economic benefits to the fishery, and would hamper the achievement of optimum yield from the affected fisheries.

The NMFS finds reason to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) so that this final rule may become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. The adjustments to management measures in this document affect commercial fisheries by increasing opportunity and relieving participants of the more restrictive trip limits. These adjustments were requested by the Council's advisory bodies, as well as members of industry during the Council's September 2020 meeting, and recommended unanimously by the Council. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the biennial harvest specifications and management measures established through a notice and comment rulemaking for 2019–2020 (82 FR 63970; December 12, 2018).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, and Indian Fisheries.

Dated: October 14, 2020.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 660 is amended as follows:

PART 660—FISHERIES OFF WEST COAST STATES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 660 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.,* 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.,* and 16 U.S.C. 7001 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 660.231, paragraph (b)(3)(iv) is revised to read as follows:

§ 660.231 Limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) * * *

(iv) Incidental Pacific halibut retention north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30′ N lat.). From April 1 through October 31, vessels authorized to participate in the sablefish primary fishery, licensed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for commercial fishing in Area 2A (waters off Washington, Oregon, California), and fishing with longline gear north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30′ N lat.) may possess and land up to 250 lbs (113 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lbs (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to two additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 250-lbs-per-1,000-pound limit per landing. ''Dressed'' Pacific halibut in this area means halibut landed eviscerated with their heads on. Pacific halibut taken and retained in the sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis may only be landed north of Pt. Chehalis and may not be possessed or landed south of Pt. Chehalis.

* * * * *

■ 3. Table 2 (North) to part 660, subpart E is revised to read as follows:

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Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

10/01/2020

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
	Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:						
1	North of 46°16' N. lat.	shoreline - 100 fm line[1/]					
2	46°16' N. lat. - 42°00' N. lat.	30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/]					
3	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/]					
	See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).						
	State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
4	**Minor Slope Rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish**	6,000 lb/2 month		8,000 lb/2 month			
5	**Pacific ocean perch**	1,800 lb/ 2 months					
6	**Sablefish**	1,300 lb week, not to exceed 3,900 lbs/2months		1,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 4,500 lbs/ 2 months		2,500 lb/week, not to exceed 7,500 lb/2 months	
7	**Longspine thornyhead**	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
8	**Shortspine thornyhead**	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months		
9	**Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]**	5,000 lb/ month		10,000 lb/ month			
10		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs.					
11	**Whiting**	10,000 lb/ trip					
12	**Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, & Widow rockfish**	200 lb/ month		800 lb/ month			
13	**Yellowtail rockfish**	1,000 lb/ month		3,000 lb/ month			
14	**Canary rockfish**	300 lb/ 2 months		3,000 lb/ 2 months			
15	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED					
16	**Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Washington Black rockfish & Oregon Black/blue/deacon rockfish**						
17	North of 42°00' N. lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish[4/]					
18	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,500 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,500 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 2,000 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish			
19	**Lingcod[5/]**						
20	North of 42°00' N. lat.	2,600 lb/2 months		4,000 lb/ 2 months			
21	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	1,400 lb/2 months		2,000 lb/ 2 months			
22	**Pacific cod**	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
23	**Spiny dogfish**	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
24	**Longnose skate**	Unlimited					
25	**Other Fish[6/] & Cabezon in California**	Unlimited					
26	**Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling**	Unlimited					
27	**Big skate**	Unlimited					

TABLE 2 (North)

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

6/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

■ 4. Table 2 (South) to part 660, subpart E is revised to read as follows:

Table 2 (South) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear South of 40°10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table 10/01/2020

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:							
1	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	40 fm line[1/] - 125 fm line[1/]					
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	75 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/] (also applies around islands)					
See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).							
State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.							
3	**Minor Slope rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish**	40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,375 lb may be blackgill rockfish		40,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 5,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
4	**Splitnose rockfish**	40,000 lb/ 2 months					
5	**Sablefish**						
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	1,300 lb week, not to exceed 3,900 lbs/2months		1,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 4,500 lbs/ 2 months		2,500 lb/week, not to exceed 7,500 lb/2 months	
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ week					
8	**Longspine thornyhead**	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
9	**Shortspine thornyhead**						
10	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months		
11	South of 34°27' N. lat.	3,000 lb/ 2 months					
12	**Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]**	5,000 lb/ month		10,000 lb/ month			
13		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs.					
14	**Whiting**	10,000 lb/ trip					
15	**Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly rockfish, Widow rockfish (including Chilipepper between 40°10' - 34°27' N. lat.)**						
16	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	Minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly, widow rockfish, & chilipepper: 2,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be any species other than chilipepper.		8,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lbs may be vermilion rockfish			
17	South of 34°27' N. lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	5,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 4,000 lb may be vermilion rockfish			
18	**Chilipepper**						
19	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	Chilipepper included under minor shelf rockfish, shortbelly and widow rockfish limits - - See above					
20	South of 34°27' N. lat.	2,000 lb/ 2 months, this opportunity only available seaward of the non-trawl RCA		4,000 lb/ 2 months, this opportunity only available seaward of the non-trawl RCA			
21	**Canary rockfish**						
22	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months		3,500 lb/ 2 months			
23	South of 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	3,500 lb/ 2 months			
24	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED					
25	**Cowcod**	CLOSED					
26	**Bronzespotted rockfish**	CLOSED					

TABLE 2 (South)

Table 2 (South) continued 10/01/2020

TABLE 2 (South) cont'd

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
27	**Bocaccio**						
28	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months			6,000 lb/ 2 months		
29	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months	6,000 lb/ 2 months		
30	**Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish**						
31	Shallow nearshore[4/]	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	2,000 lb/ 2 months			
32	Deeper nearshore[5/]	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	2,000 lb/ 2 months			
33	**California Scorpionfish**	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
34	**Lingcod[6/]**	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
35	**Pacific Cod**	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
36	**Spiny dogfish**	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
37	**Longnose skate**	Unlimited					
38	**Other Fish[7/] & Cabezon in California**	Unlimited					
39	**Big Skate**	Unlimited					

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the Minor Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail rockfish are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(*1*).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(*2*).

6/ The commercial mimimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

7/ "Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

■ 5. Table 3 (North) to part 660, subpart F is revised to read as follows:

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table 10/01/2020

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
	Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:						
1	North of 46°16' N. lat.	shoreline - 100 fm line[1/]					
2	46°16' N. lat. - 42°00' N. lat.	30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/]					
3	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	30 fm line[1/] - 100 fm line[1/]					
	See §§660.60, 660.330 and 660.333 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Bank, and EFHCAs).						
	State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
4	**Minor Slope Rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish**	500 pounds/month		1,000 lb/ month			
5	**Pacific ocean perch**	100 lb/ month					
6	**Sablefish**	300 lb day; or one landing per week up to 1,200 lb, not to exceed 2,400 lb/2 months		300 lb day; or one landing per week up to 1,500 lb, not to exceed 3,000 lb/2 months		600 lb/day or one landing per week up to 2,000 lb, not to exceed 4,000 lb/2 months	
7	**Shortpine thornyheads**	50 lb/ month					
8	**Longspine thornyheads**	50 lb/ month					
9	**Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]**	3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.		5,000 lb/ month			
10		South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "Other Flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs.					
11	**Whiting**	300 lb/ month					
12	**Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly rockfish, & Widow rockfish**	200 lb/ month		800 lb/ month			
13	**Yellowtail rockfish**	500 lb/ month		1,500 lb/ month			
14	**Canary rockfish**	300 lb/ 2 months		1,000 lb/ 2 months			
15	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED					
16	**Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Washington Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish**						
17	North of 42°00' N. lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue/deacon rockfish [4/]					
18	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,500 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,500 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 2,000 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish			
19	**Lingcod[5/]**						
20	North of 42°00' N. lat.	1,200 lb/month		2,000 lbs/ month			
21	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	600 lb/ month		1,000 lb/ month			
22	**Pacific cod**	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
23	**Spiny dogfish**	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
24	**Longnose skate**	Unlimited					
25	**Big skate**	Unlimited					
26	**Other Fish[6/] & Cabezon in California**	Unlimited					
27	**Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling**	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (North)

Table 3 (North). Continued 10/01/2020

TABLE 3 (North) cont'd

28	**SALMON TROLL** *(subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)*	
29	North	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lbs of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 200 lb per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 5 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod, on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. This limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." This limit is within the per month limit for lingcod described in the table above, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.
30	**PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL** *(not subject to RCAs)*	
31	North	**Effective April 1 - October 31:** Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.), there is an additional limit of 100 lbs or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

5/ The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

6/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

■ 6. Table 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F is revised to read as follows:

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table 10/01/2020

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
	Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:						
1	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	40 fm line[1/] - 125 fm line[1/]					
2	South of 34°27' N. lat.	75 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/] (also applies around islands)					
	See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs).						
	State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California.						
3	**Minor Slope Rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish**	10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 475 lb may be blackgill rockfish		10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,500 lb may be blackgill rockfish			
4	**Splitnose rockfish**	200 lb/ month					
5	**Sablefish**						
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb day; or one landing per week up to 1,200 lb, not to exceed 2,400 lb/2 months		300 lb day; or one landing per week up to 1,500 lb, not to exceed 3,000 lb/2 months		600 lb/day or one landing per week up to 2,000 lb, not to exceed 4,000 lb/2 months	
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb day; or one landing per week up to 1,600 lb not to exceed 4,800 lb/2 months					
8	**Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads**						
9	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED					
10	South of 34°27' N. lat.	50 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months					
11	**Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]**	3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.		5,000 lb/ month			
12		*South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs.*					
13	**Whiting**	300 lb/ month					
14	**Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper**						
15	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	400 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	4,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 400 lbs may be vermilion rockfish			
16	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months		3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,500 lbs may be vermilion rockfish			
17	**Canary rockfish**	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
18	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED					
19	**Cowcod**	CLOSED					
20	**Bronzespotted rockfish**	CLOSED					
21	**Bocaccio**	500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	500 lb/ 2 months	4,000 lb/ 2 months		
22	**Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish**						
23	Shallow nearshore[4/]	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	2,000 lb/ 2 months			
24	Deeper nearshore[5/]	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	2,000 lb/ 2 months			
25	**California scorpionfish**	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months			
26	**Lingcod[6/]**	500 lb/month	CLOSED	700 lb/ month			
27	**Pacific cod**	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
28	**Spiny dogfish**	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
29	**Longnose skate**	Unlimited					
30	**Big skate**	Unlimited					
31	**Other Fish[7/] & Cabezon in California**	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (South)

Table 3 (South). Continued									10/01/2020
			JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC	TABLE 3 (South) cont'd
32	**RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL**								
33	**NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:**								
34		*40° 10' N. lat. - 38° 00' N. lat.*	*100 fm line 1/ - 200 fm line 1/*	*100 fm line 1/ - 150 fm line 1/*				*100 fm line 1/ - 200 fm line 1/*	
35		*38° 00' N. lat. - 34° 27' N. lat.*	*100 fm line 1/ - 150 fm line 1/*						
36		*South of 34° 27' N. lat.*	*100 fm line 1/ - 150 fm line 1/ along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line 1/ around islands*						
37			Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curlfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 29).						
38	**PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR** *(not subject to RCAs)*								
39		South	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary rockfish, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.						

1/ The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ "Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(*1*).

5/ "Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 under "Groundfish" (7)(i)(B)(*2*).

6/ The commercial mimimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

7/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 200227–0066; RTID 0648–XA517]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area. This action is necessary to fully use the 2020 total allowable catch of Pacific ocean perch specified for the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 15, 2020, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2020. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., November 3, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2019–0074, by either of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to *www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-00874,* click the ''Comment Now!'' icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Records Office. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Whitney, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI) exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands