(c) *Mortgage in MARAD's favor.* Upon delivery of a new Vessel or upon final completion of the Shipyard Project, or at the time a Note is guaranteed by MARAD with respect to an existing Vessel or Shipyard Project, a Mortgage on the Vessel and a Mortgage or other security interest on the Shipyard Project will be executed in MARAD's favor, unless MARAD determines that a Mortgage or a security interest is not available, enforceable, or required in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) *Filing.* A Borrower must file a Mortgage, a security interest, or both with the proper authorities. After a Borrower has recorded the Mortgage, the recorded Mortgage or evidence of the filing of the security interest must be provided to MARAD.

(e) *Mortgage secured by multiple Vessels.* (1) When MARAD has a security interest in two or more Vessels, the Financing Documents may provide that one Mortgage relating to all the Vessels (Fleet Mortgage) be executed, perfected, and delivered to MARAD by the Borrower.

(2) If the Fleet Mortgage relates to undelivered Vessels, the Fleet Mortgage will be executed upon delivery of the first Vessel. At the time of each subsequent Vessel delivery, the Borrower must execute a supplement to the Fleet Mortgage that makes that Vessel subject to MARAD's mortgage lien.

(3) The Fleet Mortgage must provide that payment by the Borrower of the entire amount of the Note(s) guaranteed by MARAD will be required to discharge the Fleet Mortgage, regardless of the amount of the Note(s) issued and outstanding at the time of execution and delivery of the Fleet Mortgage or the number of Vessels covered by the Fleet Mortgage.

(4) The discharge date of the Fleet Mortgage will be the maturity date of the Note. MARAD may require, as authorized by the Act, such payments of principal prior to maturity (redemptions), regarding all related notes, as deemed necessary to maintain adequate security for the Note.

(5) Each Fleet Mortgage must provide that in the event of constructive total loss, requisition of title or sale of any Vessel covered by the Fleet Mortgage, indebtedness represented by the Note will be paid, unless MARAD otherwise determines that there remains adequate security for the Note, and the Vessel will be discharged from the mortgage lien.

(f) *Adequacy of collateral.* (1) A Mortgage on the Vessel(s) or Shipyard Project may be adequate security for the Note.

(2) If MARAD determines that the mortgage on the Vessel(s) or Shipyard Project is insufficient to provide adequate security or if MARAD finds that other security is adequate, as a condition to approving the Project, MARAD may require other or additional collateral, such as a mortgage(s) on other Vessels, security interests on other assets, special escrow funds, pledges of stock, charters, contracts, notes, letters of credit, accounts receivable assignments, and guarantees.

§ 298.37 Vessels of national interest.

MARAD may, in consultation with another agency, designate certain classes or types of Vessels to be eligible for priority processing and financing through the Program (Vessels of National Interest) as follows:

(a) When there is no specified funding for financing of Vessels designated as Vessels of National Interest, MARAD may give public notice of the designation, *e.g.* publication via the MARAD web page. Unless extended, earlier revoked, or an expiration is specified in the notice, such a designation will remain valid for four years from the date of publication.

(b) When funding is specified for Vessels designated as Vessels of National Interest, MARAD will publish notice of the designation in the **Federal Register**. The designation notice will include the amount of funding available for qualifying Vessels and other information necessary for interested parties to apply such as the timeline for applying and any expiration on funding.

§ 298.39 Default and liquidation.

Upon default under the terms of any Note, Financing Documents, Mortgage, Guarantee, or other security document, MARAD will take remedial actions including, but not limited to, where appropriate, seizure or arrest of collateral, foreclosure, restructuring, debarment, referral for debt collection, or liquidation to protect the interest of the United States.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026–17636 Filed 8–27–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–81–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 300

[RTID 0648–XF970; Docket No. 260611–0141]

Pacific Halibut Fisheries of the West Coast; Inseason Action for the 2026 Area 2A Pacific Halibut Directed Commercial Fishery

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces an inseason action for the 2026 Pacific halibut non-Tribal directed commercial fishery in the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) regulatory Area 2A. This action adds a fishing period, September 1 through September 3, 2026, with a fishing period catch limit of 5,000 pounds (lb) (2.27 metric tons (mt)) per vessel, dressed weight. This action is intended to provide additional opportunity for the fleet to achieve the 2026 non-Tribal directed commercial fishery allocation.

DATES: This rule is effective September 1, 2026 at 8 a.m. Pacific daylight time (PDT), through September 3, 2026 at 6 p.m. PDT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Louis Forristall, West Coast Region, NMFS, (503) 230–5410, *louis.forristall@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 16, 2026, NMFS published a final rule implementing fishing periods (*i.e.,* season dates) and fishing period limits (*i.e.,* vessel catch limits) for the IPHC Area 2A Pacific halibut non-Tribal directed commercial fishery that operates south of Point Chehalis, WA, lat. 46°53.30′ N (91 FR 36094). The Area 2A non-Tribal directed commercial fishery allocation for 2026 is 261,211 lb (118 mt), net weight (*i.e.,* the weight of Pacific halibut that is without gills and entrails, head off, washed, and without ice and slime) (91 FR 14464, March 25, 2026).

The initial fishing periods for the 2026 fishery occurred June 23–25 and July 7–9, 2026, with fishing period limits ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 lb (0.907 to 2.268 mt), varying by vessel size class. Third and fourth fishing periods were added through inseason actions on July 20, 2026 (91 FR 45224) and August 6, 2026 (91 FR 50726), respectively. The third fishing period occurred between July 21 and 23, 2026 and the fourth occurred between August 18 and August 20, 2026. Both periods had 5,000 lb (2.27 mt) fishing period limits for all vessels. Landings information to date indicates that sufficient allocation remains to warrant another additional fishing period without exceeding the allocation. Approximately 209,796 lb (71 mt), net weight, have been harvested of the 261,211 lb (118 mt) allocation (80 percent), through August 25, 2026, leaving 51,415 lb (47 mt) remaining (20 percent).

NMFS is implementing an additional fishing period via inseason in accordance with 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(iii). Consistent with 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(ii), and the final rule for the 2026 fishery, fishing period limits for any additional fishing period(s) implemented through inseason action will be equal across vessel size classes and developed based on the estimated remaining allocation to date, projected participation, and catch rates.

NMFS has determined that the following inseason action is necessary to meet the management objective of attaining the non-Tribal directed commercial fishery's 2026 allocation, not anticipated to risk exceeding the allocation, and consistent with the inseason management provisions at 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(iii).

Inseason Action

This inseason action implements an additional fishing period, beginning September 1, at 8 a.m. PDT and ending on September 3, at 6 p.m. PDT. This inseason action also implements a fishing period catch limit of 5,000 lb (2.27 mt) per vessel, dressed weight (head on, with ice and slime), for all vessel size classes, during this fishing period.

On August 25, 2026, notice of this inseason action was sent via email notification directly to the affected public.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982. This action is taken under the regulatory authority at 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(iii) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. There is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this inseason action because the public had an opportunity to comment on the final rule implementing the 2026 non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery in Area 2A. The final rule specifically provided that additional fishing periods and fishing period limits may be set through inseason action during the 2026 fishing season, in accordance with 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(iii), if another fishing period(s) is deemed necessary to attain the 2026 allocation. The final rule further specified that NMFS would implement additional 58-hour fishing periods every 2 weeks, and that if a fishing period could not be scheduled in time it would take place on the next 2-week interval. The fifth fishing period would follow this pattern, beginning 2 weeks after the fourth fishing period on September 1, 2026, at 8 a.m. PDT and closing on September 3, 2026, at 6 p.m. PDT. The final rule for the 2026 non-Tribal directed commercial fishery was subject to notice and comment rulemaking. Therefore, the public had specific notice and an opportunity to comment on NMFS' intent to implement inseason action to open this fifth fishing period for the non-Tribal directed commercial fishery during that rulemaking process.

Additionally, the California, Oregon, and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife provide estimated harvest data to NMFS in season, tracking the estimated catch of Pacific halibut within the fishery to date. As of August 25, 2026, the Area 2A non-Tribal directed commercial fishery caught an estimated 80 percent of the fishery's 2026 allocation. NMFS uses current fishery harvest and participation estimates, and fishing period catches from prior years, to determine whether additional fishing periods are necessary to reach the fishery's annual allocation, and to set fishing period limits for any additional fishing periods set through inseason action. Given that harvest in the first four fishing periods for the 2026 fishery is estimated to be below the allocation, a fifth fishing period is considered necessary to maximize the opportunity and likelihood that the fishery will attain its 2026 allocation.

The final rule implementing the 2026 fishing season sets the regulated public's expectations for both the initial and additional fishing periods for the fishery by setting a prescribed schedule in the final rule (91 FR 36094, June 16, 2026). The regulated public needs sufficient time to plan for additional fishing periods and make business planning decisions for the 2026 season, accordingly. The annual directed commercial fishing season for Pacific halibut in Area 2A is relatively short and occurs primarily during the summer months. The landings information needed to determine if additional openers are warranted is not available until less than 2 weeks before the opener would begin. Conducting notice and comment rulemaking to implement these additional openers would result in them being implemented well after the summer months. As such, implementing this action through proposed and final rulemaking would limit the benefit this action would provide to fishery participants and there is good cause to waive notice and comment rulemaking under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). Specifically, delaying this inseason action for notice and comment rulemaking would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest because it would limit the rule's ability to create meaningful opportunity for the fishery to achieve its 2026 allocation. Without implementation of an additional fishing period, the fishery allocation would not be reached. This would eliminate economic benefits for fishery participants and be inconsistent with the goals of the Catch Sharing Plan. Finally, no aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the process described in regulations at 50 CFR 300.63(e)(1)(iii) and in the final rule (91 FR 36094, June 16, 2026).

NMFS has also determined that the 30-day delay in the date of effectiveness required by 5 U.S.C. 553(d) does not apply to this inseason action because this action relieves a restriction on the fishery and there is good cause to waive the requirement pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) and (d)(3), respectively.

The 30-day delay in effective date requirement pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) does not apply to this inseason action because this inseason action relieves a restriction by allowing participants to fish on the additional fishing dates described above. Waiving the 30-day delay in effectiveness thus provides additional opportunity for commercial Pacific halibut fishermen to harvest Pacific halibut and increases the likelihood of full utilization of the 2026 allocations in Area 2A.

Additionally, there is good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to establish an effective date less than 30 days after the date of publication, as a delay in effectiveness of this action would: (1) constrain fishing opportunity; (2) be inconsistent with the goals of the Catch Sharing Plan; and (3) potentially limit the economic opportunity intended by this rule to the associated fishing communities. NMFS regulations allow for implementing additional fishing periods and setting period limits for the directed commercial fishery inseason to provide opportunity for the fishery to achieve its annual allocation, so long as this additional fishing will not result in exceeding the catch limit for the fishery. NMFS recently received landings data for the non-Tribal directed commercial fishery that indicates that an additional fishing period is necessary to ensure optimal harvest of the allocation. The non-Tribal directed commercial fishery's season is limited. Thus, timely action to implement additional fishing periods is necessary to achieve the allocation. It is therefore in the public interest that this action is not delayed, because a delay in the effectiveness of this additional fishing period could prevent the allocation objectives of the Area 2A Pacific halibut non-Tribal directed commercial fishery from being met.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773–773k.

Dated: August 26, 2026.

Kelly Denit,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–17645 Filed 8–27–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305–0066; RTID 0648–XF883]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; reallocation.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reallocating the projected unused amounts of Pacific cod from vessels using jig gear and catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 meters (m)) length overall (LOA) using hook-and-line gear to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear and is opening directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to allow the 2026 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific cod to be harvested.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 1, 2026, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2026. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., September 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by docket number NOAA–NMFS–2025–1098, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and enter NOAA–NMFS–2025–1098 in the Search box. Click on the ''Comment'' icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Mail: Submit written comments to Gretchen Harrington, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS. 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 *https://www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address, *etc.*), 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: Andrew Olson, 907–206–5813.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP) prepared and recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC specified for vessels using jig gear in the BSAI is 721 mt as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026) and reallocation (91 FR 16583, April 2, 2026).

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC specified for catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI is 234 mt as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026).

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC specified for catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI is 3,272 mt as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026) and reallocation (91 FR 16583, April 2, 2026). NMFS closed directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) effective February 3, 2026 (91 FR 5244, February 5, 2026).

The Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has determined that jig vessels will not be able to harvest 711 mt of the 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(7)(ii)(A)(*1*) and catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear will not be able to harvest 224 mt of the 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(7)(ii)(A)(*3*).

Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(a)(7)(iii)(A) and (a)(7)(iv)(C), NMFS reallocates 711 mt of Pacific cod from the jig vessels to the annual amount specified for catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear, and in accordance with § 679.20(a)(7)(iii)(A), NMFS reallocates 224 mt of Pacific cod from the catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear to the annual amount specified for catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear.

The harvest specifications for 2026 Pacific cod included in final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026) and reallocation (91 FR 16583, April 2, 2026) are revised as follows: 10 mt to vessels using jig gear, 10 mt to catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear, and 4,207 mt to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear.

As a result of the reallocation of Pacific cod to catcher vessel less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear, NMFS has determined that as of August 25, 2026, approximately 422 mt of Pacific cod remain in the 2026 Pacific cod allocation for catcher vessel less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI.