

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

This final rule is considered to be an Executive Order 14192 deregulatory action.

A tribal summary impact statement under section (5)(b)(2)(B) and section (5)(c)(2) of Executive Order 13175 was not required for this final rule because this action does not impose substantial direct compliance costs on Indian tribal governments and this action does not preempt tribal law. A tribal summary impact statement is not required and has not been prepared.

The Senior Lead Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (SBA) during the proposed rule stage that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The factual basis for the certification was published in the proposed rule and is not repeated here. No comments were received regarding this certification. As a result, a final regulatory flexibility analysis was not required and none was prepared.

This final rule contains no information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 648

Fisheries, Fishing, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: September 8, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS amends 50 CFR part 648 as follows:

PART 648—FISHERIES OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

- 1. The authority citation for part 648 continues to read as follows:

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

- 2. In § 648.53, revise paragraph (h)(4)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 648.53 Overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limits (ACL), annual catch targets (ACT), annual projected landings (APL), DAS allocations, and individual fishing quotas (IFQ).

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(h) * * *

(4) * * *

(ii) *Fee Payment Procedure.* Within 6 months from the end of a cost recovery

billing period, NMFS shall mail a cost recovery bill to each IFQ scallop permit holder. An IFQ scallop permit holder who has incurred a cost recovery fee must pay the fee to NMFS within 30 days from the date of mailing of the recovery bill. Cost recovery payments shall be made electronically via the Federal web portal, <https://www.pay.gov>, or other internet sites as designated by the Regional Administrator. Instructions for electronic payment shall be available on both the payment website and the paper bill. Payment options shall include payment via a credit card, as specified in the cost recovery bill, or via direct automated clearing house (ACH) withdrawal from a designated checking account. Payment by check may be authorized by NMFS if it has determined that electronic payment is not possible (for example, if the geographical area of an individual(s) is affected by catastrophic conditions).

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- 3. In § 648.74, revise paragraph (c)(5) introductory text to read as follows:

§ 648.74 Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) Program.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(5) *Fee payment and collection.* NMFS will send a bill to ITQ permit holders within 6 months from the end of a cost recovery billing period for any applicable ITQ cost recovery fee.

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- 4. In § 648.294, revise paragraph (h)(3) introductory text, and paragraph (h)(3)(i) to read as follows:

§ 648.294 Golden tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) program.

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(h) * * *

(3) *Fee payment procedure.* NMFS will create an annual IFQ allocation bill for each cost recovery billing period and provide it to IFQ allocation permit holders with quota share within 6 months from the end of a cost recovery billing period. The bill will include information regarding the amount and value of IFQ allocation landed during the prior cost recovery billing period, and the associated cost recovery fees.

(i) *Payment due date.* An IFQ allocation permit holder who has incurred a cost recovery fee must pay the fee to NMFS within 30 days of the date of the bill.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305-0066; RTID 0648-XF984]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Blackspotted and Rougheye Rockfish in the Central Aleutian and Western Aleutian Districts 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; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of blackspotted and rougheye rockfish in the Central Aleutian and Western Aleutian districts (CAI/WAI) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary because the 2026 blackspotted and rougheye rockfish total allowable catch (TAC) in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI will soon be or has been reached.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 9, 2026, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Whitney, 907-206-6783.

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 blackspotted and rougheye rockfish TAC in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI is 325 metric tons as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026).

The Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS has determined that the 2026 blackspotted and rougheye rockfish TAC in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI will soon be or has been reached. Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), NMFS is prohibiting retention of blackspotted and rougheye rockfish in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI

and requiring that blackspotted and rougheye rockfish in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI be treated in the same manner as a prohibited species, as described under § 679.21(a), for the remainder of the year, except blackspotted and rougheye rockfish species in the CAI/WAI caught by catcher vessels using hook-and-line, pot, or jig gear as described in § 679.20(j). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2026 blackspotted and rougheye rockfish TAC in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI. While this prohibition is effective the requirements at § 679.20(j)(4) apply.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens

Act. This action is required by 50 CFR part 679, which was issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 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, as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay prohibiting retention of blackspotted and rougheye rockfish in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data on the total

catch of blackspotted and rougheye rockfish in the CAI/WAI of the BSAI only became available as of September 8, 2026.

There is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to establish an effective date less than 30 days after date of publication. This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

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

Dated: September 8, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

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