

could cause confusion, and therefore would be contrary to the public interest.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), NMFS finds that there is good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the date of effectiveness for this action. The 2025 fishing year begins on May 1, 2025, and the 2025 specifications are the same as the 2024 specifications. Requiring a 30-day delay before this final rule becomes effective does not provide any benefit to the regulated parties, as no additional time is required to come into compliance with this final rule. Unlike actions that require an adjustment period, skate fishing vessels will not need to purchase new equipment or otherwise expend time or money to comply with these management measures, because compliance simply means adhering to the same catch limits and possession limits as those for the 2024 fishing year. These specifications should be effective by the start of the skate fishing year on May 1, 2025. If this final rule is delayed for a short period, the prior year's specifications would roll over to allow continued operation of the fishery until the 2025 specifications are implemented. However, having the 2025 specifications in place by the start of the fishing season and preventing a rollover could reduce potential confusion about the 2025 specifications.

The Chief Counsel for Regulation, Department of Commerce, previously certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (SBA) that Framework 12, which set specifications for 2024 and projected specifications for 2025, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Implementing the 2025 specifications will not change the conclusions drawn in that previous certification to the SBA. No comments were received regarding this prior certification. As a result, no new regulatory flexibility analysis is required and none has been prepared.

This action does not contain a collection of information requirement for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

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

Dated: April 15, 2025.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-06713 Filed 4-17-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 250312-0037; RTID 0648-XE857]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of shortraker rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) except by catcher/processors checked-in to the Central GOA Rockfish Program who are fishing with a rockfish cooperative quota permit. This action is necessary because the 2025 total allowable catch of shortraker rockfish for vessels other than these catcher/processors has been reached.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), April 15, 2025, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Abby Jahn, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the GOA (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 2025 total allowable catch (TAC) of shortraker rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA for vessels other than catcher/processors checked-in to the Central GOA Rockfish Program who are fishing with a rockfish cooperative quota permit is 113 metric tons as established by the final 2025 and 2026 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (90 FR 12468, March 18, 2025).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Regional Administrator has determined that the 2025 TAC of shortraker rockfish for vessels other than catcher/processors checked-in to the Central GOA Rockfish

Program who are fishing with a rockfish cooperative quota permit will soon be or has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that shortraker rockfish for vessels in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(a)(2) for the remainder of the year, except for shortraker rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA caught by catcher vessels using hook-and-line, pot, or jig gear as described in § 679.20(j), or catcher vessels using trawl gear participating in the electronic monitoring program as described in § 679.21(a)(2). This action does not apply to catcher/processors checked in to the Central GOA Rockfish Program who are fishing with a rockfish cooperative quota permit.

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 the retention of shortraker rockfish for vessels other than catcher/processors checked-in to the Rockfish Program who are fishing with a rockfish cooperative quota permit. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data on shortraker rockfish catch only became available as of April 14, 2025.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). 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: April 15, 2025.

Kelly Denit,

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

[FR Doc. 2025-06761 Filed 4-15-25; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P