

Dated: November 7, 2012.

Samuel D. Rauch, III,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, performing the
functions and duties of the Assistant
Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine
Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set out in the
preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is amended
as follows:

**PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE
CARIBBEAN, GULF, AND SOUTH
ATLANTIC**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 622
continues to read as follows:

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

■ 2. In § 622.42, paragraphs (a)(1)(v) and
(a)(2)(ii) are revised to read as follows:

§ 622.42 Quotas.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(1) * * *

(v) Greater amberjack—409,000 lb
(185,519 kg), round weight.

* * * * *

(2) * * *

(ii) *Recreational quota for greater
amberjack.* The recreational quota for
greater amberjack is 1,130,000 lb
(512,559 kg), round weight.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 622.44, paragraph (d) is added
to read as follows:

§ 622.44 Commercial trip limits.

* * * * *

(d) *Gulf greater amberjack.* Until the
quota specified in § 622.42 (a)(1)(v) is
reached, 2,000 lb (907 kg), round
weight. See § 622.43 (a)(1)(i) for the
limitations regarding greater amberjack
after the quota is reached.

* * * * *

■ 4. In § 622.49, paragraph (a)(1) is
revised to read as follows:

**§ 622.49 Annual catch limits (ACLs),
annual catch targets (ACTs), and
accountability measures (AMs).**

(a) * * *

(1) *Greater amberjack.* (i) *Commercial
sector—*(A) If commercial landings, as
estimated by the SRD, reach or are
projected to reach the annual catch
target (ACT) specified in
§ 622.42(a)(1)(v) (commercial quota), the
AA will file a notification with the
Office of the Federal Register to close
the commercial sector for the remainder
of the fishing year.

(B) In addition to the measures
specified in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(A) of this
section, if commercial landings, as
estimated by the SRD, exceed the

commercial ACL, as specified in
paragraph (a)(1)(i)(C) of this section, the
AA will file a notification with the
Office of the Federal Register, at or near
the beginning of the following fishing
year to reduce the commercial ACT
(commercial quota) and the commercial
ACL for that following year by the
amount of any commercial ACL overage
in the prior fishing year.

(C) The commercial ACL for greater
amberjack is 481,000 lb (218,178 kg),
round weight.

(ii) *Recreational sector—*(A) If
recreational landings, as estimated by
the SRD, reach or are projected to reach
the ACT specified in § 622.42 (a)(2)(ii)
(recreational quota), the AA will file a
notification with the Office of the
Federal Register to close the recreational
sector for the remainder of the fishing
year.

(B) In addition to the measures
specified in paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of
this section, if recreational landings, as
estimated by the SRD, exceed the
recreational ACL, as specified in
paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of this section, the
AA will file a notification with the
Office of the Federal Register, at or near
the beginning of the following fishing
year to reduce the recreational ACT
(recreational quota) and the recreational
ACL for that following year by the
amount of any recreational ACL overage
in the prior fishing year.

(C) The recreational ACL for greater
amberjack is 1,299,000 lb (589,216 kg),
round weight.

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[FR Doc. 2012-27540 Filed 11-9-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 111207737-2141-02]

RIN 0648-XC346

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic
Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of
Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory
Area of the Gulf of Alaska 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 amount of Pacific cod
from catcher vessels using trawl gear to

vessels using pot gear and vessels using
jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area
of the Gulf of Alaska management area.
This action is necessary to allow the
2012 total allowable catch of Pacific cod
to be harvested.

DATES: Effective November 7, 2012,
through 2400 hrs, Alaska local time
(A.l.t.), December 31, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Obren Davis, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS
manages the groundfish fishery in the
Gulf of Alaska (GOA) exclusive
economic zone according to the Fishery
Management Plan for Groundfish of the
Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the
North Pacific Fishery Management
Council under authority of the
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management 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. Regulations
governing sideboard protections for
GOA groundfish fisheries appear at
subpart B of 50 CFR part 680.

The 2012 Pacific cod total allowable
catch specified for catcher vessels using
trawl gear in the Central Regulatory
Area of the GOA is 15,954 metric tons
(mt) as established by the final 2012 and
2013 harvest specifications for
groundfish in the GOA (77 FR 15194,
March 14, 2012), after a 1,627 mt
apportionment to the trawl catcher
vessel sector under the Central GOA
Rockfish Program (§ 679.81(c)(4)(ii)).
The Administrator, Alaska Region
(Regional Administrator) has
determined that catcher vessels using
trawl gear will not be able to harvest
1,800 mt of the 2012 Pacific cod TAC
allocated to those vessels under
§ 679.20(a)(12)(i)(B)(4). In accordance
with § 679.20(a)(12)(ii)(B), the Regional
Administrator has also determined that
the pot and jig sectors currently have
the capacity to harvest this excess
allocation and reallocates 1,500 mt to
vessels using pot gear and 300 mt to
vessels using jig gear.

The harvest specifications for Pacific
cod included in the final 2012 harvest
specifications for groundfish in the GOA
(77 FR 15194, March 14, 2012) are
revised as follows: 14,154 mt for catcher
vessels using trawl gear, 13,255 mt for
vessels using pot gear, and 727 mt to
vessels using jig gear. This action does
not reduce the Pacific cod
apportionment (1,627 mt) made to the
trawl catcher vessel sector operating
under the Central GOA Rockfish
Program.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This requirement is 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 the reallocation of Pacific cod specified from catcher vessels using trawl gear to vessels using pot gear and vessels using jig gear. Since the fishery is currently open, it is important to immediately inform the industry as to the revised allocations. Immediate notification is necessary to allow for the orderly conduct and efficient operation of this fishery, to allow the industry to plan for the fishing season, and to avoid potential disruption to the fishing fleet as well as processors. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of November 6, 2012.

The AA 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.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: November 7, 2012.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-27536 Filed 11-7-12; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 111207737-2141-02]

RIN 0648-XC344

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Jig Gear 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; modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to fully use the 2012 Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) apportioned to vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. **DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), November 9, 2012, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2012. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., November 26, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2012-0223, by any one of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal www.regulations.gov. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the "submit a comment" icon, then enter NOAA-NMFS-2012-0223 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the "Submit a Comment" icon on that line.

- **Mail:** Address written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

- **Fax:** Address written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. Fax comments to 907-586-7557.

- **Hand delivery to the Federal Building:** Address written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. Deliver comments to

709 West 9th Street, Room 420A, Juneau, AK.

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. 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. 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) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh Keaton, 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 Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management 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.

NMFS closed directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) on June 29, 2012 (77 FR 39183, July 2, 2012).

As of November 5, 2012, NMFS has determined that approximately 25 metric tons of Pacific cod remain in the directed fishing allowance of the Pacific cod TAC apportioned to vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. Therefore, in accordance with § 679.25(a)(1)(i), (a)(2)(i)(C), and (a)(2)(iii)(D), and to fully utilize the 2012 TAC of Pacific cod apportioned to vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is reopening directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA, effective 1200 hrs, A.l.t., November 9, 2012.

The Administrator, Alaska Region (Regional Administrator) considered the following factors in reaching this