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[FR Doc. 2021-18914 Filed 9-1-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 210210-0018]

RTID 0648-XB388

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; “Other Rockfish” in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas 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 “other rockfish” in the Western and  
Central Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of  
Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary  
to prevent exceeding the 2021 total  
allowable catch of “other rockfish” in  
the Western and Central Regulatory  
Areas of the GOA.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hours, Alaska  
local time (A.l.t.), August 30, 2021,  
through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31,  
2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Steve Whitney, 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 parts 600 and 679.

The 2021 total allowable catch (TAC)  
of “other rockfish” in the Western and  
Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA is  
940 metric tons (mt) as established by  
the final 2021 and 2022 harvest  
specifications for groundfish of the GOA  
(86 FR 10184, February 19, 2021).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the  
Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS  
(Regional Administrator), has  
determined that the 2021 “other  
rockfish” TAC in the Western and  
Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA  
will soon be reached. Therefore, NMFS  
is requiring that “other rockfish” in the  
Western and Central Regulatory Areas of  
the GOA be treated as prohibited  
species in accordance with § 679.21(b),  
as described under § 679.21(a), for the  
remainder of the year, except other  
rockfish species in the Western and  
Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA  
caught by catcher vessels using hook-  
and-line, pot, or jig gear as described in  
§ 679.20(j).

#### 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), 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 “other rockfish” in the Western and  
Central Regulatory Areas of the GOA.  
NMFS was unable to publish a notice  
providing time for public comment  
because the most recent, relevant data  
only became available as of August 26,  
2021.

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: August 30, 2021.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

[FR Doc. 2021-18990 Filed 8-30-21; 4:15 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 210210-0018; RTID 0648-  
XB321]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Greater Than or Equal to 50 Feet Length Overall Using Hook- and-Line 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; closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is prohibiting directed  
fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels  
greater than or equal to 50 feet length  
overall (LOA) using hook-and-line gear  
in the Central Regulatory Area of the  
Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is  
necessary to prevent exceeding the 2021  
Pacific cod total allowable catch  
apportioned to catcher vessels greater  
than or equal to 50 feet LOA using hook-  
and-line gear in the Central Regulatory  
Area of the GOA.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hours, Alaska  
local time (A.l.t.), September 1, 2021,  
through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31,  
2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Allyson Olds, 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.  
Regulations governing sideboard  
protections for GOA groundfish  
fisheries appear at subpart B of 50 CFR  
part 680.

The 2021 Pacific cod total allowable  
catch (TAC) apportioned to catcher  
vessels greater than or equal to 50 feet  
LOA using hook-and-line gear in the  
Central Regulatory Area of the GOA is  
680 metric tons (mt), as established by  
the final 2021 and 2022 harvest  
specifications for groundfish of the GOA  
(86 FR 10184, February 19, 2021).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i),  
the Administrator, Alaska Region,

NMFS (Regional Administrator) has determined that the 2021 Pacific cod TAC apportioned to catcher vessels greater than or equal to 50 feet LOA using hook-and-line gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 580 mt and is setting aside the remaining 100 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels greater than or equal to 50 feet LOA using hook-and-line gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. While this closure is effective the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

#### 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), 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 the directed fishing closure of Pacific cod by catcher vessels greater than or equal to 50 feet LOA using hook-and-line gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of August 27, 2021.

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: August 30, 2021.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 210210–0018; RTID 0648–XB233]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western 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 directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2021 Pacific cod total allowable catch apportioned to trawl catcher vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 1, 2021, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Allyson Olds, 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. Regulations governing sideboard protections for GOA groundfish fisheries appear at subpart B of 50 CFR part 680.

The 2021 Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) apportioned to trawl catcher vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is 2,071 metric tons (mt), as established by the final 2021 and 2022 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (86 FR 10184, February 19, 2021).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has determined that the 2021 Pacific cod

TAC apportioned to trawl catcher vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 1,871 mt and is setting aside the remaining 200 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA. While this closure is effective the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

#### 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), 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 the directed fishing closure of Pacific cod by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of August 27, 2021.

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: August 30, 2021.

**Jennifer M. Wallace,**

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

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