

**§ 1.1409 Commission consideration of the complaint.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) \* \* \*

(1) The following formula shall apply to attachments to poles by cable operators providing cable services. This formula shall also apply to attachments to poles by any telecommunications

carrier (to the extent such carrier is not a party to a pole attachment agreement) or cable operator providing telecommunications services until February 8, 2001:

$$\text{Maximum Rate} = \frac{\text{Space Occupied by Attachment}}{\text{Total Usable Space}} \times \frac{\text{Net Cost of a Bare Pole}}{\text{Carrying Charge Rate}}$$

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) The following formula shall apply to attachments to conduit by cable operators providing cable services. This

formula shall also apply to attachments to conduit by any telecommunications carrier (to the extent such carrier is not a party to a pole attachment agreement)

or cable operator providing telecommunications services until February 8, 2001:

$$\text{Maximum Rate} = \left[ \frac{1}{\text{Number of Ducts}} \times \frac{1 \text{ Duct}}{\text{No. of Inner Ducts}} \right] \times \left[ \frac{\text{No. of Ducts}}{\text{System Duct Length}} \times \frac{\text{Net Conduit Investment}}{\text{Carrying Charge Rate}} \right]$$

(Percentage of Conduit Capacity)                      (Net Linear Cost of a Conduit)

If no inner-duct is installed the fraction, "1 Duct divided by the No. of Inner-Ducts" is presumed to be 1/2.

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) Paragraphs (e)(2) and (e)(4) of this section shall become effective February 8, 2001 (*i.e.*, five years after the effective date of the Telecommunications Act of 1996). Any increase in the rates for pole attachments that results from the adoption of such regulations shall be phased in over a period of five years beginning on the effective date of such regulations in equal annual increments. The five-year phase-in is to apply to rate increases only. Rate reductions are to be implemented immediately. The determination of any rate increase shall be based on data currently available at the time of the calculation of the rate increase.

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 00-11911 Filed 5-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Parts 600 and 660**

[Docket No. 991223347-9347; I.D. 042600B]

**Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Adjustments**

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

**ACTION:** Fishing restrictions; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This document clarifies tables 2,3,4, and 5 for Pacific Coast groundfish species and trip limits that were published in the **Federal Register** on May 4, 2000.

**DATES:** Effective 0001 hours local time May 1, 2000 (May 16, 2000 for the "B" platoon), unless modified, superseded or rescinded, until the effective date of the 2001 annual specifications and management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery, which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Katherine King or Yvonne deReynier, Northwest Region, NMFS, 206-526-6140.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 4, 2000, at 65 FR 25881, NMFS announced changes to trip limits in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 are being republished in a logical and readable format.

In Section IV, tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 are republished as follows:

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

Table 2.--Minor Rockfish Species (excludes thornyheads)

North of 40° 10' N. lat.South of 40° 10' N. lat.NEARSHORE

black, *Sebastes melanops*  
 black and yellow, *S. chrysomelas*  
 blue, *S. mystinus*  
 brown, *S. auriculatus*  
 calico, *S. dalli*  
 China, *S. nebulosus*  
 copper, *S. caurinus*  
 gopher, *S. carnatus*  
 grass, *S. rastrelliger*  
 kelp, *S. atrovirens*  
 olive, *S. serranoides*  
 quillback, *S. maliger*  
 treefish, *S. serriceps*

black, *Sebastes melanops*.  
 black and yellow, *S. chrysomelas*.  
 blue, *S. mystinus*.  
 brown, *S. auriculatus*.  
 calico, *S. dalli*.  
 California scorpionfish, *Scorpaena guttata*.  
 China, *Sebastes nebulosus*.  
 copper, *S. caurinus*.  
 gopher, *S. carnatus*.  
 grass, *S. rastrelliger*.  
 kelp, *S. atrovirens*.  
 olive, *S. serranoides*.  
 quillback, *S. maliger*.  
 treefish, *S. serriceps*.

SHELF

bronzespotted, *S. gilli*  
 bocaccio, *S. paucispinis*  
 chameleon, *S. phillipsi*  
 chilipepper, *S. goodei*  
 cowcod, *S. levis*  
 dwarf-red, *S. rufinanus*  
 freckled, *S. lentiginosus*  
 greenblotched, *S. rosenblatti*  
 greenspotted, *S. chlorostictus*  
 greenstriped, *S. elongatus*  
 halfbanded, *S. semicinctus*  
 honeycomb, *S. umbrosus*  
 Mexican, *S. macdonaldi*  
 pink, *S. eos*  
 pinkrose, *S. simulator*  
 pygmy, *S. wilsoni*  
 redstriped, *S. proriger*  
 rosethorn, *S. helvomaculatus*  
 rosy, *S. rosaceus*  
 silvergrey, *S. brevispinis*  
 speckled, *S. ovalis*  
 squarespot, *S. hopkinsi*  
 starry, *S. constellatus*  
 stripetail, *S. saxicola*  
 swordspine, *S. ensifer*  
 tiger, *S. nigrocinctus*  
 vermilion, *S. miniatus*  
 yelloweye, *S. ruberrimus*

bronzespotted, *S. gilli*.  
 chameleon, *S. phillipsi*.  
 dwarf-red, *S. rufinanus*.  
 flag, *S. rubrivinctus*.  
 freckled, *S. lentiginosus*.  
 greenblotched, *S. rosenblatti*.  
 greenspotted, *S. chlorostictus*.  
 greenstriped, *S. elongatus*.  
 halfbanded, *S. semicinctus*.  
 honeycomb, *S. umbrosus*.  
 Mexican, *S. macdonaldi*.  
 pink, *S. eos*.  
 pinkrose, *S. simulator*.  
 pygmy, *S. wilsoni*.  
 redstriped, *S. proriger*.  
 rosethorn, *S. helvomaculatus*.  
 rosy, *S. rosaceus*.  
 silvergrey, *S. brevispinis*.  
 speckled, *S. ovalis*.  
 squarespot, *S. hopkinsi*.  
 starry, *S. constellatus*.  
 stripetail, *S. saxicola*.  
 swordspine, *S. ensifer*.  
 tiger, *S. nigrocinctus*.  
 vermilion, *S. miniatus*.  
 yelloweye, *S. ruberrimus*.  
 yellowtail, *S. flavidus*.

SLOPE

aurora, *S. aurora*  
 bank, *S. rufus*  
 blackgill, *S. melanostomus*  
 darkblotched, *S. crameri*  
 redbanded, *S. babcocki*  
 rougheye, *S. aleutianus*  
 sharpchin, *S. zacentrus*  
 shortraker, *S. borealis*  
 splitnose, *S. diploproa*  
 yellowmouth, *S. reedi*

aurora, *S. aurora*.  
 bank, *S. rufus*.  
 blackgill, *S. melanostomus*.  
 darkblotched, *S. crameri*.  
 Pacific ocean perch (POP), *S. alutus*.  
 redbanded, *S. babcocki*.  
 rougheye, *S. aleutianus*.  
 sharpchin, *S. zacentrus*.  
 shortraker, *S. borealis*.  
 yellowmouth, *S. reedi*.

Table 3. 2000 Trip Limits 1/ and Gear Requirements 2/ for Limited Entry Trawl Gear

**Read Section IV. A. NMFS Actions before using this table.**

line	Species/groups	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
1	<b>Minor slope rockfish</b>						
2	North	3,000 lb / 2 months		5,000 lb / 2 months			1,500 lb / month
3	South	3,000 lb / 2 months		5,000 lb / 2 months			1,500 lb / month
4	<b>Splitnose-South</b>	8,500 lb / 2 months		14,000 lb / 2 months			4,000 lb / month
5	<b>POP-North</b>	500 / month		2,500 lb / month			500 lb / month
	<b>Sablefish</b>	7,000 lb / 2 months; 22-inch size limit 3/		10,000 lb / 2 months; 22-inch size limit 3/			3,500 lb / month ; 22-inch size limit 3/
6	<b>Longspine thornyhead</b>	12,000 lb / 2 months		4,000 lb / 2 months			6,000 lb / month
7	<b>Shortspine thornyhead</b>	3,000 lb / 2 months		1,000 lb / 2 months			1,500 lb / month
8	<b>Dover sole</b>	55,000 lb / 2 months		20,000 lb / 2 months			20,000 lb/ month
9	<b>Arrowtooth flounder</b>	10,000 lb / trip					10,000 lb / trip
10	<b>Petrale sole</b>	No restriction	No limit but small footrope required	Small footrope--No pound limit; Large footrope--Included in "other flatfish" trip limit 2/			No restriction
11	<b>Rex sole</b>				No limit		
12	<b>Other flatfish 4/</b>					Small footrope--No pound limit; Large footrope--400 lb per trip 2/	
13	<b>Whiting shoreside 5/</b>	20,000 lb / trip before primary season		Primary season			20,000 lb / trip after primary season
14	<b>Use of small footrope bottom trawl or midwater trawl required for landing all the following species 6/:</b>						
15	<b>Minor Shelf rockfish</b>						
16	North	300 lb / month		1,000 lb / month			300 lb / month
17	South	500 lb / month		1,000 lb / month			500 lb / month
18	<b>Canary rockfish</b>	100 lb / month		300 lb / month			100 lb / month
19	<b>Widow rockfish</b>						
20	mid-water trawl	30,000 lb / 2 months		30,000 lb / 2 months			30,000 lb / 2 months
21	small footrope trawl	1,000 lb / month		1,000 lb / month			1,000 lb / month
22	<b>Yellowtail-North 7/</b>						
23	mid-water trawl	10,000 lb / 2 months		30,000 lb / 2 months			10,000 lb / 2 months
24	small footrope trawl	1,500 lb / month		1,500 lb / month			1,500 lb / month
25	<b>Bocaccio-South 7/</b>	300 lb / month		500 lb / month			300 lb / month
26	<b>Chilipepper-South 7/</b>						
27	mid-water trawl	25,000 lb / 2 months		25,000 lb / 2 months			25,000 lb / 2 months
28	small footrope trawl	7,500 lb / 2 months		7,500 lb / 2 months			7,500 lb / 2 months
29	<b>Cowcod - South 7/</b>	1 fish per landing		1 fish per landing			1 fish per landing
30	<b>Minor Nearshore rockfish</b>						
31	North	200 lb / month		200 lb / month			200 lb / month
32	South	200 lb / month		200 lb / month			200 lb / month
33	<b>Lingcod</b>	CLOSED		400 lb / month; 24-inch size limit 8/			CLOSED

1/ These trip limits apply coastwide unless otherwise specified. North means 40° 10' N. lat. to the US-Canada border. "South" means 40° 10' N. lat. to the US-Mexico border. 40° 10' N. lat. is about 20 nautical miles south of Cape Mendocino CA.

2/ Gear requirements and prohibitions are explained at paragraph IV.A.(14).

3/ No more than 500 lbs (227 kg) per trip may be sablefish smaller than 22 inches (56 cm) total length, which counts toward the cumulative limit.

4/ Other flatfish means all flatfish listed at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 3 with a trip limit (excludes rex sole).

5/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area inside 100 fm is 10,000 lb / trip throughout the year (See IV.B.(3)(c)).

6/ Small footrope trawl means a bottom trawl net with a footrope no larger than 8 inches (20 cm) in diameter.

Midwater gear also may be used; the footrope must be bare. See paragraph IV.A.(14).

7/ Yellowtail rockfish and POP in the south and bocaccio, chilipepper, and cowcod rockfishes in the north are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish in the appropriate area (Table 2).

8/ Lingcod must be greater than or equal to 24 inches (61 cm) total length. See IV.A.(6).

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 4. 2000 Trip Limits 1/ for Limited Entry Fixed Gear

**Read Section IV. A. NMFS Actions before using this table.**

line	Species/groups	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JULY-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
1	<b>Minor slope rockfish</b>						
2	North	3,000 lb / 2 months		5,000 lb / 2 months			1,500 lb / month
3	South	3,000 lb / 2 months		5,000 lb / 2 months			1,500 lb / month
4	<b>Splitnose-South</b>	8,500 lb/2 mo.		14,000 lb / 2 months			4,000 lb / month
5	<b>POP-North</b>	500 lb / month		2,500 lb / month			500 lb / month
6	<b>Sablefish</b> (daily trip limit fishery) 2/						
7	North of 36 ° N. lat.	300 lb / day, 2,100 lb / 2 months or 1 landing above 300 lb but less than 600 lb/week, less than 1,800 lb / 2 mo		300 lb / day, 2,400 lb / 2 months (option to make one landing per week above 300 lb removed May 1; may be reinstated in July)			300 lb / day, 2,400 lb / 2 months
8							
9							
10	South of 36 ° N. lat.	350 lb / day or 1 landing above 350 lb per week, up to 1,050 lb		350 lb / day or 1 landing above 350 lb per week, up to 1,050 lb			350 lb / day or 1 landing above 350 lb per week, up to 1,050 lb
11							
12							
13	<b>Longspine thornyhead</b>	12,000 lb / 2 months		4,000 lb / 2 months			6,000 lb / month
14	<b>Shortspine thornyhead</b>	1,000 lb / month		1,000 lb / month			1,000 lb / month
15	<b>Dover sole</b>	55,000 lb / 2 months		20,000 lb / 2 months			20,000 / month
16	<b>Arrowtooth flounder</b>	10,000 lb / trip		No restriction			10,000 lb / trip
17	<b>Petrale sole</b>	No restriction		No restriction			No restriction
18	<b>Rex sole</b>	No restriction		No restriction			No restriction
19	<b>Other flatfish 3/</b>	No restriction		No restriction			No restriction
20	<b>Shoreside whiting 4/</b>	20,000 lb / trip		Open			20,000 lb / trip
21	<b>Minor shelf rockfish</b>						
22	North	300 lb / month		1,000 lb / month			300 lb / month
23	South						
24	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	500 lb / month	CLOSED 5/	1,000 lb / month			500 lb / month
25	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	500 lb / month	1,000 lb / month			500 lb / month
26	<b>Canary-Coastwide</b>						
27	North	100 lb / month		300 lb / month			100 lb / month
28	South						
29	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	100 lb / month	CLOSED	300 lb / month			100 lb / month
30	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	100 lb / month	300 lb / month			100 lb / month
31	<b>Widow rockfish-Coastwide:</b>						
32	North	3,000 lb / month		3,000 lb / month			3,000 lb / month
33	South						
34	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	3,000 lb/month	CLOSED	3,000 lb / month			3,000 lb / month
35	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	3,000 lb/month	3,000 lb / month			3,000 lb / month
36	<b>Yellowtail-North 6/</b>	1,500 lb / month		1,500 lb / month			1,500 lb / month
37	<b>Bocaccio-South 6/</b>						
38	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	300 lb / month	CLOSED	500 lb / month			300 lb / month
39	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	300 lb / month	500 lb / month			300 lb / month
40	<b>Chilipepper-South 6/</b>						
41	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	2,000 lb /month	CLOSED	2,000 lb / month			2,000 lb / month
42	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	2,000 lb/month	2,000 lb / month			2,000 lb / month
43	<b>Cowcod - South 6/</b>						
44	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	1 fish per landing	CLOSED	1 fish per landing			1 fish per landing
45	South of 36°00'	CLOSED	1 fish per landing	1 fish per landing			1 fish per landing
46	<b>Minor nearshore rockfish</b>						
47	North	2,400 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb may be species other than black or blue rockfish 7/		3,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,400 lb may be species other than black or blue rockfish 7/			3,000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1,400 lb may be species other than black or blue rockfish 7/
48							
49							
50	South						
51	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	1,000 lb / 2 months	CLOSED	1,300 lb / 2 months			1,300 lb / 2 months
52	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	1,000 lb / 2 months	1,300 lb / 2 months			1,300 lb / 2 months
53	<b>Lingcod 8/</b>	CLOSED		400 lb / month, size limit 24 inches north, 26 inches south			CLOSED

1/ Trip limits apply coastwide unless otherwise specified. North means 40° 10' N. lat. to the US-Canada border. "South" means 40 10' N. lat. to the US-Mexico border.

2/ The sablefish size limit does not apply during the daily trip limit fishery, but does apply during the "regular" and mop-up" seasons north of 36° N. lat. See IV.B.(2).

3/ Other flatfish means all flatfish listed at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 4 with a trip limit.

4/ The whiting "per trip" limit in the Eureka area for catch inside 100 fathoms is 10,000 lb / trip throughout the year.

5/ Closed means it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the designated species in the time or area indicated (see IV.A.(7)).

6/ Yellowtail rockfish and POP in the south and bocaccio, chilipepper, and cowcod rockfishes in the north are included in trip limits for minor shelf rockfish (Table 2).

7/ The "per trip" limit for black rockfish off Washington also applies. See paragraph IV.B.(4).

8/ The size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) in the north and 26 inches (66 cm) in the south, total length.

To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

Table 5. 2000 Trip Limits 1/ for All Open Access Gear except Exempted Trawl Gear Engaged in Fishing for Pink Shrimp \*

**Read Section IV. A. NMFS Actions before using this table.**

line	Species/groups	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JULY-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV	DEC
1	<b>Minor slope rockfish</b>							
2	North	500 lb / 2 months		500 lb / 2 months			500 lb / 2 months	
3	South	500 lb / 2 months		500 lb / 2 months			500 lb / 2 months	
4	<b>Splitnose-South</b>	200 lb / month		200 lb / month			200 lb / month	
5	<b>POP--North</b>	100 lb / month		100 lb / month			100 lb / month	
6	<b>Sablefish 2/</b>							
7	North of 36 °	300 lb / day, but no more than 2,100 lb / 2 months		300 lb / day, but no more than 2,400 lb / 2 months			300 lb / day, but no more than 2,400 lb / 2 months	
8								
9	South of 36 °	350 lb / day		350 lb / day			350 lb / day	
10	<b>Thornyheads (longspine and shortspine combined)</b>							
11	North of Pt. Conception	CLOSED 3/			CLOSED		CLOSED	
12	South of Pt. Conception	50 lb / day		50 lb / day			50 lb / day	
13	<b>Arrowtooth</b>	200 lb / month		200 lb / month			200 lb / month	
14	<b>Dover sole</b>			(included in "other" flatfish limit)				
15	<b>Petrale sole</b>			(included in "other" flatfish limit)				
16	<b>Nearshore flatfish</b>			(included in "other" flatfish limit)				
17	<b>"Other" flatfish 4/</b>	300 lb / month		300 lb / month			300 lb / month	
18	<b>Shoreside whiting</b>	300 lb / month		300 lb / month			300 lb / month	
19	<b>Minor shelf rockfish</b>							
20	North	100 lb / month		100 lb / month			100 lb / month	
21	South							
22	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	200 lb / month	CLOSED	200 lb / month			200 lb / month	
23	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	200 lb / month	200 lb / month			200 lb / month	
24	<b>Canary</b>							
25	North	50 lb / month		50 lb / month			50 lb / month	
26	South							
27	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	50 lb / month	CLOSED	50 lb / month			50 lb / month	
28	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	50 lb / month	50 lb / month			50 lb / month	
29	<b>Widow</b>							
30	North	3,000 lb / month		3,000 lb / month			3,000 lb / month	
31	South							
32	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	3,000 lb / month	CLOSED	3,000 lb / month			3,000 lb / month	
33	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	3,000 lb / month	3,000 lb / month			3,000 lb / month	
34	<b>Yellowtail-North 5/</b>	100 lb / month		100 lb / month			100 lb / month	
35	<b>Bocaccio - South 5/</b>							
36	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	200 lb / month	CLOSED	200 lb / month			200 lb / month	
37	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	200 lb / month	200 lb / month			200 lb / month	
38	<b>Chilipepper-South 5/</b>							
39	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	2,000 lb / month	CLOSED	2,000 lb / month			2,000 lb / month	
40	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	2,000 lb / month	2,000 lb / month			2,000 lb / month	
41	<b>Cowcod - South 5/</b>							
42	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	1 fish per landing	CLOSED	1 fish per landing			1 fish per landing	
43	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	1 fish per landing	1 fish per landing			1 fish per landing	
44	<b>Minor nearshore rockfish</b>							
45	North	1,000 lb / 2 months, of which no more than 500 lb may be species other than black or blue rockfish 6/		1,500 lb / 2 months, of which no more than 700 lb may be species other than black or blue rockfish 6/7/			1,500 lb / 2 months, of which no more than 700 lb may be species other than black or blue rockfish 6/ 7/	
46								
47								
48	South							
49	40°10'-36°00' N. lat.	550 lb / 2 months	CLOSED	800 lb / 2 months			800 lb / 2 months	
50	South of 36°00' N. lat.	CLOSED	550 lb / 2 months	800 lb / 2 months			800 lb / 2 months	
51	<b>Lingcod 8/</b>	CLOSED		400 lb / month			CLOSED	

1/ Trip limits apply coastwide unless otherwise specified. North means 40° 10' N. lat. to the US-Canada border.

"South" means 40°10' N. lat. to the US-Mexico border.

2/ There is no size limit for sablefish taken and retained with nontrawl gear in the open access fishery. See IV.B.2.

3/ Closed means it is prohibited to take and retain, possess, or land the species in the time or area indicated (see IV.A.(7)).

4/ Other flatfish means all flatfish listed at 50 CFR 660.302 except those in this Table 5 with a trip limit.

5/ Yellowtail rockfish and POP in the south and bocaccio, chilipepper, and cowcod rockfishes in the north are included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish in the appropriate area (Table 2).

6/ The "per trip" limit for black rockfish off Washington also applies. See paragraph IV.B.(4).

7/ Provisions for landing groundfish in Pacific City, OR are found at paragraph IV.C.(4).

8/ The size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) in the north and 26 inches (66 cm) in the south, total length.

**To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.**

Dated: May 11, 2000.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-12425 Filed 5-16-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-C**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 000211039-0039-01; I.D. 051200B]

#### **Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska**

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

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for species that comprise the deep-water species fishery by vessels using trawl gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary because the second seasonal apportionment of the 2000 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the deep-water species fishery in the GOA has been caught.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), May 13, 2000, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., July 4, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mary Furuness, 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.

The Pacific halibut bycatch allowance for the GOA trawl deep-water species fishery, which is defined at § 679.21(d)(3)(iii)(B), was established by the Final 2000 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish for the GOA (65 FR 8298, February 18, 2000) for the second season, the period April 1, 2000, through July 3, 2000, as 300 metric tons.

In accordance with § 679.21(d)(7)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the second seasonal apportionment of the 2000 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl deep-water species fishery in the GOA has been caught. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for the deep-water species fishery by vessels using trawl gear in the GOA. The species and species groups that comprise the deep-water species fishery

are: all rockfish of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus*, deep water flatfish, rex sole, arrowtooth flounder, and sablefish.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e) and (f).

#### **Classification**

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to prevent overharvesting the second seasonal apportionment of the 2000 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl deep-water species fishery in the GOA. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The second seasonal apportionment of the Pacific halibut bycatch allowance has been caught. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action can not be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.21 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: May 12, 2000.

**George H. Darcy,**

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

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