

Transportation (DOT). The FMCSA analyzed this rule under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and DOT Order 5610.1C, Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts. This rule would be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement since this action does not have any effect on the quality of the environment.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule does not impose an unfunded Federal mandate, as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1532 *et seq.*), that will result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year.

Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform)

This action meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Executive Order 13045 (Protection of Children)

The FMCSA has analyzed this action under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environment risk to health or safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Executive Order 12630 (Taking of Private Property)

This rule will not affect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 386

Administrative procedures, Commercial motor vehicle safety, Highways and roads, Motor carriers, Penalties.

■ In consideration of the foregoing, the FMCSA amends title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, chapter III, part 386 as set forth below:

PART 386—RULES OF PRACTICE FOR MOTOR CARRIER, BROKER, FREIGHT FORWARDER, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROCEEDINGS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 386 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 13301, 13902, 31132–31133, 31136, 31502, 31504; sec. 204, Pub. L. 104–88, 109 Stat. 803, 941 (49 U.S.C. 701 note); sec. 217, Pub. L. 105–159, 113 stat. 1748, 1767; and 49 CFR 1.73.

APPENDIX A TO PART 386—[AMENDED]

■ 2. Appendix A to part 386 is amended by revising the figure “\$550” to read as “\$650”, the figure “\$1,100” to read as “\$2,100”, the figure “\$10,000” to read as “\$11,000”, and the figure “\$11,000” to read as “\$16,000”, whenever they appear throughout the appendix.

APPENDIX B TO PART 386—[AMENDED]

■ 3. In Appendix B to part 386 the introductory text is amended by revising the second sentence to read as follows:

* * * Pursuant to that authority, the inflation-adjusted civil penalties listed in paragraphs (a) through (g) of this appendix supersede the corresponding civil penalty amounts listed in title 49, United States Code. * * *

■ Appendix B to part 386 is further amended as follows:

a. Paragraph (a)(1) is amended by revising the figure “\$500” to read as “\$550”, and the figure “\$5,000” to read as “\$5,500”.

■ b. Paragraph (a)(2) is amended by revising the figure “\$5,000” to read as “\$5,500”.

■ c. Paragraph (a)(3) is amended by revising the figure “\$10,000” to read as “\$11,000”.

■ d. Paragraph (a)(4) is amended by revising the figure “\$2,500” to read as “\$2,750”.

■ e. Paragraph (a)(5) is amended by revising the figure “\$2,750” to read as “\$3,750”.

■ f. Paragraph (b) is amended by revising the figure “\$2,750” to read as “\$3,750”.

■ g. Paragraph (c) is amended by revising the figure “\$1,100” to read as “\$2,100”, the figure “\$2,750” to read as “\$3,750”, and the figure “\$11,000” to read as “\$16,000” whenever they appear throughout paragraph (c).

■ h. Paragraph (d) is amended by revising the figure “\$11,000” to read as “\$16,000”.

■ i. Paragraph (e) is amended by revising the figure “\$250” to read as “\$275”, and the figure “\$27,500” to read as “\$32,500”, wherever they appear

throughout paragraphs (e)(1) through (e)(3).

■ j. Paragraph (f) is revised to read as follows:

(f) *Operating after being declared unfit by assignment of a final unsatisfactory safety rating.* A motor carrier operating a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce after receiving a final unsatisfactory safety rating is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$11,000 (49 CFR 385.13). Each day the transportation continues constitutes a separate offense.

* * * * *

■ k. Paragraph (g) is amended by revising the figure “\$200” to read as “\$220” the figure “\$250” to read as “\$275”, the figure “\$500” to read as “\$550”, the figure “\$1,000” to read as “\$1,100”, the figure “\$2,000” to read as “\$2,200”, the figure “\$5,000” to read as “\$5,500”, the figure “\$10,000” to read as “\$11,000”, the figure “\$20,000” to read as “\$22,000”, the figure “\$25,000” to read as “\$27,500”, and the figure “\$100,000” to read as “\$110,000”, whenever they appear throughout paragraph (g).

Issued on: March 20, 2003.

Annette M. Sandberg,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03–7378 Filed 3–28–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 020718172–2303–02; I.D. 032503D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA Using Jig or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific Cod by catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using jig or hook-and-line gear in the Bogoslof Pacific cod exemption area of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the limit of Pacific cod for catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using jig or

hook-and-line gear in the Bogoslof Pacific cod exemption area in the BSAI.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 27, 2003, 2003, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (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.

Section 679.22(a)(7)(B) prohibits in all waters within the Bogoslof area directed fishing for pollock, Pacific cod, and Atka mackerel by vessels named on a Federal Fisheries Permit under § 679.4(b), except as provided in paragraph (a)(7)(i)(C). Section 679.22(a)(7)(i)(C) of the regulations provides for an exemption for all catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using jig or hook-and-line gear for directed fishing for Pacific cod and specifies 113 mt of Pacific cod for that exempted fishery. Accordingly, the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 113 metric tons of Pacific cod have been caught by catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using jig or hook-and-line gear in the Bogoslof exemption area described at § 679.22(a)(7)(i)(C)(1). Consequently, the Regional Administrator is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using jig or hook-and-line gear in the Bogoslof Pacific cod exemption area.

Maximum retainable 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. 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 contrary to the public interest. This requirement is contrary to the public interest as it would delay the closure of the fishery, lead to exceeding the Bogoslof exemption area limit of Pacific

cod caught by vessels using jig or hook-and-line gear, and therefore reduce the public's ability to use and enjoy the fishery resource.

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 50 CFR 679.22 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: March 25, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 03-7648 Filed 3-26-03; 1:47 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 021212307-3037-02; I.D. 032103D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Species in the Rock sole/Flathead sole/"Other flatfish" Fishery Category by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing directed fishing for species in the rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the second seasonal apportionment of the 2003 halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category in the BSAI.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), April 1, 2003, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., June 29, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

(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 second seasonal apportionment of the 2003 halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category in the BSAI is 164 metric tons as established by the final 2003 harvest specifications for Groundfish of the BSAI (68 FR 9907, March 3, 2003).

In accordance with § 679.21(e)(7)(v), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the second seasonal apportionment of the 2003 halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category in the BSAI has been caught. Consequently, NMFS is closing directed fishing for species in the rock sole/flathead sole/"other flatfish" fishery category by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI.

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 contrary to the public interest. This requirement is contrary to the public interest as it would delay the closure of the fishery, lead to exceeding the second seasonal apportionment of the 2003 halibut bycatch allowance, and therefore reduce the public's ability to use and enjoy the fishery resource.

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 § 679.21 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: March 25, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

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