quota adjustments to the fishing categories, give them a reasonable opportunity to catch available quota, and provide them the opportunity for planning operations accordingly.

This action is being taken under §§ 635.27(e) and 635.27(a)(10) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

This final rule does not contain a collection-of-information requirement for purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, are inapplicable.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 et seq. and 1801 et seq.

Dated: August 25, 2016.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

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

[FR Doc. 2016–21067 Filed 8–31–16; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 140904754-5188-02]

RIN 0648-BG27

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2015–2016 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments

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

ACTION: Final rule; inseason adjustments to biennial groundfish management measures.

SUMMARY: This final rule announces inseason changes to management measures in the Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries. This action, which is authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP), is intended to allow fisheries to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting overfished and depleted stocks.

DATES: This final rule is effective September 1, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Benjamin Mann, phone: 206–526–6117,

fax: 206–526–6736, or email: benjamin.mann@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This rule is accessible via the Internet at the Office of the Federal Register Web site at https://www.federalregister.gov. Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Web site at http://www.pcouncil.org/. Copies of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Groundfish Specifications and Management Measures for 2015-2016 and Biennial Periods Thereafter are available from Chuck Tracy. Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Portland, OR 97220, phone: 503-820-2280.

Background

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)—in coordination with Pacific Coast Treaty Indian Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California—recommended changes to groundfish management measures at its June 21–28, 2016, meeting. Specifically, the Council recommended taking a portion of the Pacific ocean perch (POP) initially deducted from the annual catch limit (ACL) and making it available to the mothership (MS) sector; a trip limit increase for black rockfish in the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) and open access (OA) fisheries in northern California; and trip limit reductions in the OA sablefish daily trip limit (DTL) fishery north of 36° N. lat.

 ${\it Transferring\ POP\ to\ the\ Mothership} \\ {\it Sector}$

As part of biennial harvest specifications and management measures, ACLs are set for non-whiting groundfish species, deductions are made "off-the-top" from the ACL to account for various sources of mortality (including scientific research activities) and the remainder, the fishery harvest guideline, is allocated among the various groundfish fisheries. The limited availability of overfished species that can be taken as incidental catch in the Pacific whiting fishery, particularly darkblotched rockfish, POP, and canary rockfish, led NMFS to implement sector-specific allocations for these species to the Pacific whiting fisheries. If the sector-specific allocation for a non-whiting species is reached, NMFS may close one or more of the at-sea sectors automatically, per regulations at § 660.60(d).

At the June, 2016 meeting, MS and catcher/processor (C/P) sectors requested more POP to accommodate

higher than anticipated harvest and prevent closure of the fishery prior to harvesting their allocations of Pacific whiting.

At the start of 2016, the MS and C/P sectors of the Pacific whiting fishery were allocated 7.2 mt and 10.2 mt of POP respectively, per regulations at § 660.55(c)(1)(i)(B). According to the best fishery information available at the June 2016 meeting, POP bycatch in the MS sector was approximately double 2016 POP bycatch projections. At that time, best available information regarding bycatch rates of POP in the MS sector indicated that if those rates continued, only 53 percent (38,246 mt) of the Pacific whiting allocation would be harvested by the end of the 2016 fishery. Therefore, the Council recommended that NMFS monitor fishery harvest of Pacific whiting and POP relative to their respective at-sea sector allocations, update projections of Pacific whiting allocation attainment based on new, updated POP bycatch rates, and if necessary, transfer some POP that would otherwise go unharvested to either the MS or C/P sectors as needed.

Current projections by the Northwest Fishery Science Center indicate that approximately 3.7 mt of POP off-the-top deductions for scientific research would remain unharvested through the end of the year. As of August 11, 2016, the C/ P sector has only harvested approximately 4.1 percent (0.41 mt) of its 2016 POP allocation indicating the C/P sector has sufficient POP allocation to cover their Pacific whiting harvests. However, approximately 70 percent (5.0 mt) of the total MS sector POP allocation has been harvested and only approximately 47 percent (34,256.46 mt) of the Pacific whiting allocation has been harvested. Using the most recent catch data through August 11, 2016, NMFS projects that at current rates, the MS sector will only harvest approximately 49 percent (35,486.35 mt) of its total Pacific whiting allocation (74,415 mt) before reaching the 7.2 mt POP allocation. Therefore, consistent with the Council's June recommendation to take into account the best estimates of the amount of POP available and the updated bycatch rates in the MS and C/P fisheries, NMFS is transferring 3.0 mt of POP to the at-sea sectors.

This rule transfers 3.0 mt of POP that is expected to go unharvested from the scientific research off-the-top deduction to the MS sector. This transfer increases the MS sector POP allocation from 7.2 mt to 10.2 mt. The remaining amount in the off-the-top deduction for scientific research is anticipated to go

unharvested (0.7 mt) but is not transferred at this time to buffer for uncertainty in the estimates of POP harvest in scientific research. This inseason action increases the POP amount available to the MS sector, and is expected to provide opportunity for the MS sector to obtain their entire Pacific whiting allocation (72,415 mt). Transfer of POP to the MS sector, when combined with projected impacts from all other sources, is not expected to result in greater impacts to POP than the 2016 ACL. This action is also not expected to increase impacts to other overfished species from those originally projected through the end of the year.

Increase in Trip Limits for the Black Rockfish LEFG and OA Fisheries Between 42° N. Lat. and 40°10′ N. Lat.

Black rockfish are caught in nearshore commercial and recreational fisheries. Black rockfish is a healthy stock that cooccurs with nearshore overfished rockfish species (e.g. canary rockfish and yelloweye rockfish). Catch of black rockfish is managed, in part, to keep catch of co-occurring overfished species within the management targets for the nearshore fishery and the state of California. In 2016, reduced fishing effort as a result of poor weather and ocean conditions has significantly impacted catch rate of black rockfish in the area between 42° N. lat., and 40°10' N. lat. for the LEFG and OA black rockfish commercial fisheries. The State of California reported 2016 black rockfish catch to be approximately 5 percent of the total allocation (19.9 mt of the 420 mt allocated). To provide the opportunity to harvest a larger portion of their allocation the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing an increase in the bimonthly trip limits for the LEFG fishery and the OA fishery between 42° N. lat., and 40°10′ N. lat. from "6,000 lbs/2 months which, no more than 1,200 lbs may be species other than black rockfish" to "7,000 lbs/2 months of which, no more than 1,200 lbs may be species other than black rockfish." The increased trip limits described above will be effective in periods 5 and 6, beginning September 1.

Reduction in Trip Limits in the OA Sablefish Fishery North of 36° N. Lat.

Reduced opportunities in other fisheries (e.g. crab and salmon) in 2016 have resulted in higher than normal effort in the open access sablefish fishery north of 36° N. lat. Reports from the PacFIN Quota Species Monitoring (QSM) Best Estimate Report (BER) dated June 18, 2016 indicate actual landings have been approximately double 2016

projections in the fishery. The Council's groundfish advisory panel (GAP) recommended a reduction in trip limits to reduce effort in order to avoid exceeding 2016 sablefish allocations to the fishery. The Council's GMT projected landings at the current rate of effort were 112 percent to 117 percent of the total OA allocation, through the end of the year. At its June 2016 meeting, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing a trip limit adjustment from "300 lbs/day, or one landing per week of up to 850 lb, not to exceed 1,700 lb/2 months" to "300 lbs/ day, or one landing per week of up to 750 lbs, not to exceed 1,500 lbs/2 months." Model projections through the end of the year with these adjustments show a total landing of 98 percent of the 2016 OA allocation. The reduced trip limits described above will be effective in periods 5 and 6, beginning September

Classification

This final rule makes routine inseason adjustments to groundfish fishery management measures, based on the best available information. This document also serves as notice of an automatic action, based on the best available information. Both are consistent with the PCGFMP and its implementing regulations.

This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.60(c) and (d) and 660.140(a)(3) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based are available for public inspection at the Office of the Administrator, West Coast Region, NMFS, during business hours.

NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and comment on the revisions to groundfish management measures under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) because notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Also, for the same reasons, NMFS finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), so that the regulatory changes in this final rule may become effective September 1, 2016.

At its June 2016 meeting, the Council recommended that NMFS consider a transfer of POP to the MS and C/P sectors, as needed based on the most recent fishery information. The Council recommended that the transfer be implemented as quickly as possible once the amount of POP, that would otherwise go unharvested in scientific research activities, was estimated. Updated catch information from scientific research activities became available in early August. There was not

sufficient time after the June 2016 Council meeting or after research catch information was available to undergo proposed and final rulemaking before this action needs to be in effect. For the action implemented in this final rule, affording the time necessary for prior notice and opportunity for public comment would prevent transfer of POP to the MS sector until later in the season, or potentially eliminate the possibility of doing so during the 2016 calendar year entirely, and is therefore impracticable. Failing to transfer POP to the MS sector in a timely manner could result in unnecessary restriction of fisheries if the MS sector exceeded their allocations. Providing the MS sector fishermen an opportunity to harvest their limits of Pacific whiting without interruption and, when combined with harvest from other sectors, without exceeding the POP ACL, allows harvest as intended by the Council, consistent with the best scientific information available. The Pacific whiting fishery contributes a large amount of revenue to the coastal communities of Washington and Oregon and this change allows continued harvest of Pacific whiting while continuing to prevent ACLs of overfished species and the allocations for target species from being exceeded.

The Council also recommended commercial trip limit changes for black rockfish and sablefish. These changes are based on the best available information, consistent with the PCGFMP and its implementing regulations. At the June Council meeting the Council recommended that increase to black rockfish trip limits be implemented as quickly as possible during the two-month cumulative limit period and that the decrease to sablefish trip limits be implemented as quickly as possible, by the start of the next cumulative limit period. There was not sufficient time after that meeting to draft this document and undergo proposed and final rulemaking before these actions need to be in effect. For the actions to be implemented in this final rule, affording the time necessary for prior notice and opportunity for public comment would prevent NMFS from managing fisheries using the best available science to approach, without exceeding, the ACLs for federally managed species in accordance with the PCGFMP and applicable law. The adjustments to management measures in this document affect commercial fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. These increases to trip limits must be implemented as quickly as possible during the two-month cumulative limit period to allow OA

fixed gear fishermen an opportunity to harvest higher limits of black rockfish without exceeding the ACL. The decrease to sablefish trip limits must be implemented by the start of the next two-month cumulative limit period, September 1, to prevent exceedance of the ACL and allow year-round fishing opportunities for fishermen. It would be contrary to public interest to delay implementation of these changes until after public notice and comment, because making the regulatory changes by September 1, allows harvest as intended by the Council, consistent with the best scientific information available. The increase to black rockfish trip limits allows additional harvest in fisheries that are important to coastal communities while continuing to prevent the black rockfish ACL from being exceeded. The decrease to sablefish trip limits allows continued

harvest in a fishery that is important to coastal communities while continuing to prevent sablefish ACL from being exceeded.

For the actions to be implemented in this final rule, affording the time necessary for prior notice and opportunity for public comment would prevent NMFS from managing fisheries using the best available science to prevent overfishing in accordance with the PCGFMP and applicable law.

Delaying these changes would also keep management measures in place that are not based on the best available information. Such delay would impair achievement of the PCGFMP goals and objectives of managing for appropriate harvest levels while providing for yearround fishing and marketing opportunities.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, NMFS finds good cause to waive prior notice and comment and to waive the delay in effectiveness.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, Indian fisheries.

Dated: August 29, 2016.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 660 is amended as follows:

PART 660—FISHERIES OFF WEST **COAST STATES**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 660 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq., 16 U.S.C. 773 et seq., and 16 U.S.C. 7001 et seq.

■ 2. Table 2b to part 660, subpart C, is revised to read as follows:

TABLE 2b TO PART 660, SUBPART C-2016, AND BEYOND, ALLOCATIONS BY SPECIES OR SPECIES GROUP [Weight in metric tons]

Charles	Area	Fishery HG or	Trawl		Non-trawl	
Species	Area	ACT	%	Mt	%	Mt
BOCACCIO a	S of 40°10' N. lat	353.7	N/A	85.0	N/A	268.7
Canary rockfish a b	Coastwide	109.8	N/A	58.5	N/A	51.3
COWCOD a c	S of 40°10' N. lat	4.0	N/A	1.4	N/A	2.6
DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH ^d	Coastwide	325.2	95	308.9	5	16.3
Petrale sole a	Coastwide	2,673.4	N/A	2,638.4	N/A	35.0
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH®	N of 40°10' N. lat	149.0	95	141.6	5	7.5
YELLOWEYE ROCKFISH a	Coastwide	13.2	N/A	1.1	N/A	12.1
Arrowtooth flounder	Coastwide	3,241	95	3,079	5	162
Chilipepper	S of 40°10′ N. lat	1,595	75	1,196	25	399
Dover sole	Coastwide	48,406	95	45,986	5	2,420
English sole	Coastwide	6,991	95	6.642	5	350
Lingcod	N of 40°10′ N. lat	2.441	45	1.098	55	1.342
Lingcod	S of 40°10′ N. lat	937	45	422	55	515
Longnose skate a		1.927	90	1.734	10	193
Longspine thornyhead	N of 34°27′ N. lat	2.969	95	2.820	5	148
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,091	95	1,036	5	55
Pacific whiting	Coastwide	301,731	100	301,731	0	0
Sablefish	N of 36° N. lat	0	See Table 10		able 1C	
Sablefish	S of 36° N. lat	1,875	42	788	58	1,088
Shortspine thornyhead	N of 34°27' N. lat	1,667	95	1,583	5	83
Shortspine thornyhead	S of 34°27' N. lat	871	NA	50	NA	821
Splitnose	S of 40°10' N. lat	1,736	95	1,649	5	87
Starry flounder	Coastwide	1,529	50	764	50	764
Widow rockfish f	Coastwide	1,880	91	1,711	9	169
Yellowtail rockfish	N of 40°10' N. lat	5,314	88	4,677	12	638
Minor Shelf Rockfish complex a	N of 40°10′ N. lat	1,880	60.2	1,132	39.8	748
Minor Shelf Rockfish complex ^a	S of 40°10′ N. lat	1,576	12.2	192	87.8	1,384
Minor Slope Rockfish complex	N of 40°10' N. lat	1,642	81	1,330	19	312
Minor Slope Rockfish complex	S of 40°10′ N. lat	675	63	425	37	250
Other Flatfish complex	Coastwide	7,039	90	6.335	10	704

^a Allocations decided through the biennial specification process.

b 14.0 mt of the total trawl allocation of canary rockfish is allocated to the at-sea whiting fisheries, as follows: 5.8 mt for the mothership fishery, and 8.2 mt for the catcher/processor fishery.

^cThe cowcod fishery harvest guideline is further reduced to an ACT of 4.0 mt.

[°]The cowcod fishery harvest guideline is further reduced to an ACT of 4.0 mt.

d Consistent with regulations at § 660.55(c), 9 percent (27.8 mt) of the total trawl allocation for darkblotched rockfish is allocated to the whiting fisheries, as follows:

11.7 mt for the shorebased IFQ fishery, 6.7 mt for the mothership fishery, and 9.4 mt for the catcher/processor fishery. The tonnage calculated here for the whiting portion of the shorebased IFQ fishery contributes to the total shorebased trawl allocation, which is found at 660.140(d)(1)(ii)(D).

c Consistent with regulations at § 660.55(c), 30 mt of the total trawl allocation for POP is allocated to the whiting fisheries, as follows: 12.6 mt for the shorebased IFQ fishery, 7.2 mt for the mothership fishery, and 10.2 mt for the catcher/processor fishery. The amount available to the mothership fishery was raised from 7.2 mt to 10.2 mt, by transferring 3.0 mt of the 5.2 mt initially deducted from the ACL to accunt for scientific research mortality, consistent with § 660.60(c)(3)(ii). The tonnage calculated here for the whiting portion of the shorebased IFQ fishery contributes to the total shorebased trawl allocation, which is found at 660.140(d)(1)(ii)(D).

Consistent with regulations at § 660.55(c), 500 mt of the total trawl allocation for widow rockfish is allocated to the whiting fisheries, as follows: 210 mt for the shorebased IFQ fishery, 120 mt for the mothership fishery, and 170 mt for the catcher/processor fishery. The tonnage calculated here for the whiting portion of the shorebased IFQ fishery contributes to the total shorebased trawl allocation, which is found at 660.140(d)(1)(ii)(D).

■ 3. Table 2 (North) to part 660, subpart

E, is revised to read as follows:

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Table 2 (North) to Part 660, Subpart E -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear North of 40°10' N. lat.

	Other limits and requirements apply Re	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV	-DEC
kfis	sh Conservation Area (RCA) ^{1/} :				1117.00	, 52. 55.	,	
1	North of 46° 16' N. lat.			shoreline - 1	100 fm line ^{1/}			
2	46°16' N. lat 42°00' N. lat.			30 fm line ^{1/} -	100 fm line ^{1/}			
3	42°00' N. lat 40°10' N. lat.			30 fm line ^{1/} -				
e §§	660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, t for conservation area descriptions a State trip limits and seasons may	nd coordinates (i	ncluding RCAs, Y	RCAs, CCAs, Fara	llon Islands, Cord	dell Banks, and E		6-660.79
_	·	, 20 111010 10011101110	The state of the s	o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o	,	9011 4114 041110111141		
4	Minor Slope Rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish			4,000 lb/	2 months			
5	Pacific ocean perch			1,800 lb/	2 months			
6	Sablefish	1,275 lb/week,	not to exceed 3,37	'5 lb/ 2 months	1,125 lb/week	, not to exceed 3,3	75 lb/ 2 m	onths
7	Longspine thornyhead			10,000 lb/	2 months			
8	Shortspine thornyhead		2,000 lb/ 2 months	3		2,500 lb/ 2 month	s	
9 10 11 12 13 14	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{3/}		5,000 lb/ month South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line, are not subject to the RCAs.					
15	Whiting			10,000	lb/ trip			
16	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} , Shortbelly, Widow & Yellowtail rockfish		200 lb/ month					
17	Canary rockfish			CLO	SED			
18	Yelloweye rockfish			CLO	SED			
19	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish							
20	North of 42 [°] 00' N. lat.	5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or blue rockfish ^{4/}						ockfish ^{4/}
21	42 [°] 00' N. lat 40 [°] 10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 mo		nore than 1,200 lb o nan black rockfish	f which may be	7,000 lb/ 2 mo more than 1,200 species other th	lb of which	n may be
22	Lingcod ^{5/}	200 lb/2	2 months		1,200 lb/ 2 months		600 lb/ month	200 lb/ month
23	Pacific cod			1,000 lb/	2 months		•	•
24	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lk	o/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 mont	hs	
25	Longnose skate			Unlir	nited			
26	Other Fish ^{6/} & Cabezon in Oregon and California	Unlimited						

^{1/} The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower than the depth contour. Vessels that are subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose other than transiting.

■ 4. Tables 3 (North) and 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F, are revised to read

as follows:

^{2/} Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish and splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for Minor Slope Rockfish.

^{3/ &}quot;Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and include butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.

4/ For black rockfish north of Cape Alava (48°09.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.),
there is an additional limit of 100 lb or 30 percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.

^{5/} The minimum size limit for lingcod is 22 inches (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

^{6/ &}quot;Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.

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

	Other limits and requirements apply -	 Read §§660.10 thr 	ough 660.399 befor	e using this table					
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC		
ockfis	sh Conservation Area (RCA) ^{1/} :	internal and the second	000						
1	North of 46°16' N. lat.				100 fm line ^{1/}				
2	46°16' N. lat 42°00' N. lat.			30 fm line ^{1/}	- 100 fm line ^{1/}				
3	42°00' N. lat 40°10' N. lat.			30 fm line ^{1/}	- 100 fm line ^{1/}				
See §§	660.60, 660.330 and 660.333 for addit 660.79 for conservation area descri	otions and coordin	nates (including R	CAs, YRCAs, CCAs	, Farallon Islands, (Cordell Banks, and E			
	State trip limits and season	s may be more restric	tive than Federal trip I	imits or seasons, partic	cularly in waters off Ore	egon and California.			
4	Minor Slope Rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	Per trip, no more than 25% of weight of the sablefish landed							
5	Pacific ocean perch		100 lb/ month						
	r dome cocum percin			100 10	I				
6	Sablefish		anding per week of u ceed 2,000 lb/ 2 mc	up to 1,000 lb, not to nths	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 850 lb, not to exceed 1,700 lb/ 2 months	300 lb/ day, or 1 lan up to 750 lb, not to e montl	exceed 1,500 lb/ 2		
7	Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads		CLOSED						
8 9	D	3,000	ner than Pacific sandd	labs.					
10 11 12 13	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish ^{3/}	South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hook line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to tw (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs.							
14	Whiting			300 lb	/ month				
15	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} , Shortbelly, Widow & Yellowtail rockfish			200 lb	/ month				
16	Canary rockfish			CLC	SED				
17	Yelloweye rockfish			CLC	SED				
18	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish								
19	North of 42°00' N. lat.	5,000	lb/ 2 months, no mo	ore than 1,200 lb of v	vhich may be specie	es other than black roc	kfish		
20	42°00' N. lat 40°10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months		than 1,200 lb of whi black rockfish	ch may be species	7,000 lb/ 2 months, than 1,200 lb of whicl other than blace	h may be species		
21	Lingcod ^{6/}	100 lb	/ month		600 lb/ mor	nth	100 lb/ month		
22	Pacific cod			1,000 lb/	2 months		THORUT		
23	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb	o/ 2 months	150,000 lb/ 2 months		100,000 lb/ 2 months			
24	Longnose skate			Unli	mited				
25	Other Fish ^{6/} & Cabezon in Oregon and California		Unlimited						

	(North). Continued						
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
26	SALMON TROLL (subject to Re	CAs when retaining all sp	pecies of groundfish	h, except for yellowta	il rockfish and lingc	od, as described be	(ow)
27	North	lb/month, both within rockfish and yellowta per trip, plus 1 ling applies during time	and outside of the RC il rockfish, and not in cod per trip, up to a to s when lingcod retent above, and not in add	1 lb of yellowtail rockfi A. This limit is within taddition to that limit. Siplimit of 10 lingcod, oion is allowed, and is ndition to that limit. All grestrictions listed in the	the 200 lb per month of almon trollers may re in a trip where any fish of "CLOSED." This literoundfish species are	combined limit for mino tain and land up to 1 li ning occurs within the f mit is within the per mo subject to the open ac	or shelf rockfish, widow ngcod per 15 Chinook RCA. This limit only onth limit for lingcod
28	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDE	FISH TRAWL (not subje	ct to RCAs)				
29	North	The following sublir lb/month (minimum 2 other groundfish sp	mits also apply and an 4 inch size limit); sab pecies taken are man- rd the per day and per	fish: 500 lb/day, multipl re counted toward the o olefish 2,000 lb/month; o aged under the overall of trip groundfish limits a d may not exceed the a	verall 500 lb/day and canary, thomyheads a 500 lb/day and 1,500 l nd do not have specie	1,500 lb/trip groundfish ind yelloweye rockfish b/trip groundfish limits. is-specific limits. The	limits: lingcod 300 are PROHIBITED. All Landings of these
							
/The R	ockfish Conservation Area is an are and longitude coordinates set out						
/ The R	and longitude coordinates set out depth contour boundary south of than the depth contour. Vessels	at §§ 660.71-660.74. TI 42 [°] N. lat.), and the boun	nis RCA is not defir dary lines that defir	ned by depth contour ne the RCA may clos	s (with the exception e areas that are de	n of the 20-fm eper or shallower	
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2/ Bocac 3/ "Other 4/ For bla	and longitude coordinates set out depth contour boundary south of than the depth contour. Vessels to other than transiting. ccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfis Splitnose rockfish is included in the flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 an ack rockfish north of Cape Alava (4 there is an additional limit of 100 limits of 100 li	at §§ 660.71-660.74. TI 42° N. lat.), and the bounthat are subject to RCA I shes are included in the ne trip limits for minor slo di include butter sole, cu 8°09.50' N. lat.), and bet bs or 30 percent by weig	nis RCA is not defir dary lines that defir restrictions may no trip limits for Minor ope rockfish. riffin sole, flathead s ween Destruction Is pht of all fish on boa	ned by depth contours the the RCA may clos t fish in the RCA, or of Shelf Rockfish. Sole, Pacific sanddab s. (47°40' N. lat.) and ord, whichever is great	s (with the exception e areas that are desperate in the RCA properate in the RCA , rex sole, rock sole Leadbetter Pnt. (4teter, per vessel, per	n of the 20-fm eper or shallower for any purpose e, and sand sole. 6°38.17' N. lat.), fishing trip.	
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Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 40°10' N. lat. Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table JAN-FEB MAR-APR MAY-JUN JUL-AUG SEP-OCT NOV-DEC Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)^{1/}: 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. 30 fm line1/ - 150 fm line1/ South of 34°27' N. lat. 60 fm line^{1/} - 150 fm line^{1/} (also applies around islands) See §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gear, trip limit and conservation area requirements and restrictions. See §§660.70-660.74 and §§660.76-660.79 for conservation area descriptions and coordinates (including RCAs, YRCAs, CCAs, Farallon Islands, Cordell Banks, and EFHCAs). State trip limits and seasons may be more restrictive than Federal trip limits or seasons, particularly in waters off Oregon and California. Minor Slope Rockfish2/ & 10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 475 lb may be 10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 550 lb may be 3 Darkblotched rockfish blackgill rockfish blackgill rockfish Splitnose rockfish 200 lb/ month \triangleright 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of \Box 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to of up to 850 lb, not up to 750 lb, not to exceed 1,500 lb/ 2 6 40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months to exceed 1,700 lb/ months 2 months Ш 300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months 7 South of 36°00' N. lat ယ Shortpine thornyheads and 8 longspine thornyheads CLOSED 9 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat 10 50 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months South of 34°27' N. lat S 11 3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs. 0 12 Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, 13 \Box petrale sole, English sole, starry South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more than 12 hooks per 14 flounder, Other Flatfish^{3/} line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb 15 (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs **T** 16 17 Whiting 300 lb/ month Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly, 18 Widow rockfish and Chilipepper 19 300 lb/ 2 months 200 lb/ 2 months 300 lb/ 2 months 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. CLOSED 1500 lb/ 2 months 20 South of 34°27' N. lat. 1500 lb/ 2 months 21 Canary rockfish CLOSED 22 Yelloweye rockfish CLOSED 23 Cowcod CLOSED 24 Bronzespotted rockfish CLOSED 25 26 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. 200 lb/ 2 months 100 lb/ 2 months 200 lb/ 2 months CLOSED South of 34°27' N. lat. 250 lb/ 2 months 250 lb/ 2 months 27

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-I	DEC
28	Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish						777777777777777777777777777777777777777	
29	Shallow nearshore	600 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	800 lb/ 2 months	900 lb/ 2 months	800 lb/ 2 months	1,000 lb/ 2	? months
30	Deeper nearshore							
31	40°10' N. lat 34°27' N. lat.	700 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	700 lb/ 2 months	900 lb/ 2	monthe	1.000 lb/ 2	monthe
32	South of 34°27' N. lat.	500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	600 lb/ 2 months	900 10/ 2	THORIUS	1,000 10/ 2	1110111115
33	California scorpionfish	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED		1,200 lb/	2 months		
34	Lingcod ^{4/}	100 lb/ month	CLOSED		400 lb/ mon	th		100 lb/ month
35	Pacific cod			1,000 lb/	2 months			
36	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months 100,000 lb/ 2 months				
37	Longnose skate			Unlir	nited			
38	Other Fish ^{5/} & Cabezon			Unlir	nited			
39	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH	OF 38°57.50' N. LA	T., CA HALIBUT A	AND SEA CUCUMB	ER NON-GROUND	FISH TRAWL		
40	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockf							***************************************
41	40° 10′ N. lat 38° 00′ N. lat.	100 fm line ^{1/} - 200 fm line ^{1/}			- 150 fm line ^{1/}		100 fm line fm lin	
42	38° 00' N. lat 34° 27' N. lat.			100 fm line 1/	- 150 fm line ^{1/}			
43	South of 34° 27' N. lat.	100 fm	line ^{1/} - 150 fm line ¹	^{1/} along the mainland	d coast; shoreline - 1	50 fm line 1/ around	islands	
44		spiny dogfish landed r limit. The daily trip li may not be multiplied lat. are allowed to (1)	nay exceed the amou mits for sablefish coa d by the number of da land up to 100 lb/day	ided may not exceed the street and of target species lar stwide and thornyhead by of the trip. Vessels of groundfish without the flatfish, no more than a	nded. Spiny dogfish ar s south of Pt. Concept participating in the Ca	e limited by the 300 lb ion and the overall gro llifornia halibut fishery rovided that at least o	vitrip overall g undfish "per t south of 38°t ne California	groundfish trip" limit 57.50' N.
				le, or California scorpio		onfish is also subject		
45	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH	sole, starry flounder	r, rock sole, curlfin so	le, or California scorpio closures i		onfish is also subject		
45 46	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH South	TRAWL GEAR (not Effective April 1 - Oct following sublimits month (minimum 24 other groundfish groundfish species	r, rock sole, curlfin so of subject to RCAs) ober 31: Groundfish: also apply and are or inch size limit); sable species taken are ma count toward the per or	le, or California scorpio closures i	by the number of days all 500 lb/day and 1,50 anany, thomyheads an I 500 lb/day and 1,500 becies-specific sublimit of groundfish landed ma	of the trip, not to exce D lb/trip groundfish lim d yelloweye rockfish a lb/trip groundfish limit s described here and	to the trip lim eed 1,500 lb/ its: lingcod 3 re PROHIBIT s. Landings the species-s	trip. The 300 lb/
46		sole, starry flounder TRAWL GEAR (not Effective April 1 - Oct following sublimits month (minimum 24 other groundfish groundfish species limits described in	r, rock sole, curlfin so ot subject to RCAs) ober 31: Groundfish: also apply and are curlinch size limit); sable species taken are ma count toward the per of the table above do no	le, or California scorpio closures i 500 lb/day, multiplied l bunted toward the overa fish 2,000 lb/ month; c naged under the overall day, per trip or other sp ot apply. The amount c	in line 31). by the number of days all 500 lb/day and 1,500 anary, thomyheads an I 500 lb/day and 1,500 becies-specific sublimit of groundfish landed maded.	of the trip, not to excc Dib/trip groundfish lim d yelloweye rockfish a Ib/trip groundfish limit s described here and ay not exceed the amo	to the trip lim eed 1,500 lb/ its: lingcod 3 re PROHIBIT s. Landings the species-s	trip. The 300 lb/
46	South Rockfish Conservation Area is an area c and longitude coordinates set out at §	sole, starry flounder TRAWL GEAR (not Effective April 1 - Oct following sublimits month (minimum 24 other groundfish species limits described in losed to fishing by p. § 660.71-660.74. Th	r, rock sole, curlfin so ot subject to RCAs) ober 31: Groundfish: also apply and are co- inch size limit); sable species taken are ma- count toward the per the table above do no articular gear types his RCA is not defin	le, or California scorpio closures i 500 lb/day, multiplied lounted toward the overa fish 2,000 lb/ month; c. naged under the overall day, per trip or other spot apply. The amount of land, bounded by lines speed by depth contours.	in line 31). by the number of days all 500 lb/day and 1,50 anary, thomyheads an 1,500 lb/day and 1,50 becies-specific sublimit of groundfish landed mided. becifically defined by s (with the exceptior	of the trip, not to exce of bitrip groundfish lim d yelloweye rockfish a lib/trip groundfish lims s described here and ay not exceed the amo	to the trip lim eed 1,500 lb/ its: lingcod 3 re PROHIBIT s. Landings the species-s	trip. The 300 lb/
46	South Rockfish Conservation Area is an area c and longitude coordinates set out at § depth contour boundary south of 42° N	sole, starry flounder TRAWL GEAR (nc. Effective April 1 - Oct following sublimits month (minimum 24 other groundfish groundfish species limits described in losed to fishing by pr. § 660.71-660.74. Ti l. lat.), and the boun	or subject to RCAs) ober 31: Groundfish: also apply and are inch size limit; setle species taken are ma count toward the per the table above do no articular gear types sis RCA is not defin dary lines that defin dary lines that defin	le, or California scorpio closures i 500 lb/day, multiplied sunted toward the overalishs 2,000 lb/month; c. naged under the overall day, per trip or other spot apply. The amount of land, bounded by lines speed by depth contourse the RCA may clos	in line 31). by the number of days all 500 lb/day and 1,50 anary, thomyheads an 1500 lb/day and 1,50 ecies-specific sublimit of groundfish landed m ded. becifically defined by s (with the exceptior e areas that are dee	of the trip, not to exce of birtip groundfish lim d yelloweye rockfish a libritip groundfish limit s described here and ay not exceed the ame latitude of the 20-fm per or shallower	to the trip lim eed 1,500 lb/ its: lingcod 3 re PROHIBIT s. Landings the species-s	trip. The 300 lb/
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46 The F	South Rockfish Conservation Area is an area c and longitude coordinates set out at § depth contour boundary south of 42° h than the depth contour. Vessels that a other than transiting. is included in the trip limits for minor sle cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish i limit. or flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and ince	sole, starry flounder TRAWL GEAR (no. Effective April 1 - Oct following sublimits month (minimum 24 other groundfish groundfish species limits described in tosed to fishing by p. § 660.71-660.74. Th. I. lat.), and the boun are subject to RCA rope rockfish. Blacke included in the trip clude butter sole, cu od is 24 inches (61	or subject to RCAs) ober 31: Groundfish: also apply and are cinch size limit); sable species taken are ma count toward the per the table above do not articular gear types ais RCA is not defin dary lines that define estrictions may not iill rockfish have a s limits for minor she of the strength of the	le, or California scorpio closures i 500 lb/day, multiplied lounted toward the overal fish 2,000 lb/ month; conaged under the overal day, per trip or other spot apply. The amount of land, bounded by lines speed by depth contours the the RCA may closure fish in the RCA, or or opening the contours of the land of the l	in line 31). by the number of days all 500 lb/day and 1,50 anary, thomyheads an 1,500 lb/day and 1,500 lecies-specific sublimit of groundfish landed midded. becifically defined by s (with the exception e areas that are dee operate in the RCA f sub-limit within the n potted rockfish have a, rex sole, rock sole	of the trip, not to exce of bitrip groundfish lim d yelloweye rockfish a libitrip groundfish limit s described here and ay not exceed the amo latitude of the 20-fm per or shallower or any purpose	to the trip lim sed 1,500 lb/ its: lingcod i re PROHIBIT s. Landings the species- sunt of pink s	trip. The 300 lb/

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 150818742-6210-02]

RIN 0648-XE835

Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive 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: Temporary rule; 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 fourth seasonal apportionment of the Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl deep-water species fishery in the GOA has been reached.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 1, 2016, through 1200 hours, A.l.t., October 1, 2016.

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.

The fourth seasonal apportionment of the Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the deep-water species in the GOA has been determined to be 0 metric tons (mt). This apportionment was established by the final 2016 and 2017 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (81 FR 14740,