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.

Transferring POP to the Mothership 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 co-occurs 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 1.

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 year-round 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]

Species	Area	Fishery HG or ACT	Trawl		Non-trawl	
			%	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 [e]	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]	Coastwide	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 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.

[c] 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).

[e] 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).

[f] 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 -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

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		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:							
1	North of 46°16' N. lat.	shoreline - 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 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.							
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 3,375 lb/ 2 months			1,125 lb/week, not to exceed 3,375 lb/ 2 months		
7	**Longspine thornyhead**	10,000 lb/ 2 months					
8	**Shortspine thornyhead**	2,000 lb/ 2 months			2,500 lb/ 2 months		
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**	CLOSED					
18	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED					
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/]					
21	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish				7,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	
22	**Lingcod[5/]**	200 lb/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 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
25	**Longnose skate**	Unlimited					
26	**Other Fish[6/]& Cabezon in Oregon and California**	Unlimited					

TABLE 2 (North)

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.

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/ "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/ "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.

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

Table 3 (North) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears North of 40°10' N. lat.

Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table

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		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:							
1	North of 46°16' N. lat.	shoreline - 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 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.							
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					
6	**Sablefish**	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months			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 landing per week of up to 750 lb, not to exceed 1,500 lb/ 2 months	
7	**Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads**	CLOSED					
8	**Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]**	3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.					
9							
10		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.					
11							
12							
13							
14	**Whiting**	300 lb/ month					
15	**Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, Widow & Yellowtail rockfish**	200 lb/ month					
16	**Canary rockfish**	CLOSED					
17	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED					
18	**Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish**						
19	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					
20	42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat.	8,500 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish				7,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish	
21	**Lingcod[5/]**	100 lb/ month		600 lb/ month			100 lb/ month
22	**Pacific cod**	1,000 lb/ 2 months					
23	**Spiny dogfish**	200,000 lb/ 2 months		150,000 lb/ 2 months	100,000 lb/ 2 months		
24	**Longnose skate**	Unlimited					
25	**Other Fish[6/] & Cabezon in Oregon and California**	Unlimited					

TABLE 3 (North)

Table 3 (North). Continued

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
26	**SALMON TROLL** *(subject to RCAs when retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)*						
27	North	Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lb of yellowtail rockfish for every 2 lbs of salmon landed, with a cumulative limit of 200 lb/month, both within and outside of the RCA. This limit is within the 200 lb per month combined limit for minor shelf rockfish, widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish, and not in addition to that limit. Salmon trollers may retain and land up to 1 lingcod per 15 Chinook per trip, plus 1 lingcod per trip, up to a trip limit of 10 lingcod, on a trip where any fishing occurs within the RCA. This limit only applies during times when lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." This limit is within the per month limit for lingcod described in the table above, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limits, seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.					
28	**PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL** *(not subject to RCAs)*						
29	North	**Effective April 1 - October 31:** Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of these species count toward the per day and per trip groundfish limits and do not have species-specific limits. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					

TABLE 3 (North) cont'd

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.

2/ Bocaccio, chilipepper and cowcod rockfishes are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish.

3/ "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 lbs 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/ "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.

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

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		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)[1/]:							
1	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	30 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/]					
2	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.							
3	**Minor Slope Rockfish[2/] & Darkblotched rockfish**	10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 475 lb may be blackgill rockfish			10,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 550 lb may be blackgill rockfish		
4	**Splitnose rockfish**	200 lb/ month					
5	**Sablefish**						
6	40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,000 lb, not to exceed 2,000 lb/ 2 months			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 landing per week of up to 750 lb, not to exceed 1,500 lb/ 2 months	
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.	300 lb/ day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lb, not to exceed 3,200 lb/ 2 months					
8	**Shortpine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads**						
9	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	CLOSED					
10	South of 34°27' N. lat.	50 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months					
11	**Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, petrale sole, English sole, starry flounder, Other Flatfish[3/]**	3,000 lb/ month, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs.					
12							
13		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.					
14							
15							
16							
17	**Whiting**	300 lb/ month					
18	**Minor Shelf Rockfish[2/], Shortbelly, Widow rockfish and Chilipepper**						
19	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	200 lb/ 2 months		300 lb/ 2 months	
20	South of 34°27' N. lat.	1500 lb/ 2 months		1500 lb/ 2 months			
21	**Canary rockfish**	CLOSED					
22	**Yelloweye rockfish**	CLOSED					
23	**Cowcod**	CLOSED					
24	**Bronzespotted rockfish**	CLOSED					
25	**Bocaccio**						
26	40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat.	200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	100 lb/ 2 months		200 lb/ 2 months	
27	South of 34°27' N. lat.	250 lb/ 2 months		250 lb/ 2 months			

TABLE 3 (South)

TABLE 3 (South) cont'd

Table 3 (South). Continued

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC
28	**Minor Nearshore Rockfish & Black rockfish**						
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 months		1,000 lb/ 2 months
32	South of 34°27' N. lat.	500 lb/ 2 months		600 lb/ 2 months			
33	California scorpionfish	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,200 lb/ 2 months			
34	**Lingcod[4/]**	100 lb/ month	CLOSED	400 lb/ month			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**	Unlimited					
38	**Other Fish[5/] & Cabezon**	Unlimited					
39	**RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF 38°57.50' N. LAT., CA HALIBUT AND SEA CUCUMBER NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL**						
40	**NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) for CA Halibut, Sea Cucumber & Ridgeback Prawn:**						
41	*40° 10' N. lat. - 38° 00' N. lat.*	*100 fm line[1/] - 200 fm line[1/]*	*100 fm line[1/] - 150 fm line[1/]*				*100 fm line[1/] - 200 fm line[1/]*
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/] along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line[1/] around islands*					
44		Groundfish: 300 lb/trip. Species-specific limits described in the table above also apply and are counted toward the 300 lb groundfish per trip limit. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of the target species landed, except that the amount of spiny dogfish landed may exceed the amount of target species landed. Spiny dogfish are limited by the 300 lb/trip overall groundfish limit. The daily trip limits for sablefish coastwide and thornyheads south of Pt. Conception and the overall groundfish "per trip" limit may not be multiplied by the number of days of the trip. Vessels participating in the California halibut fishery south of 38°57.50' N. lat. are allowed to (1) land up to 100 lb/day of groundfish without the ratio requirement, provided that at least one California halibut is landed and (2) land up to 3,000 lb/month of flatfish, no more than 300 lb of which may be species other than Pacific sanddabs, sand sole, starry flounder, rock sole, curlfin sole, or California scorpionfish (California scorpionfish is also subject to the trip limits and closures in line 31).					
45	**PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL GEAR** *(not subject to RCAs)*						
46	South	Effective April 1 - October 31: Groundfish: 500 lb/day, multiplied by the number of days of the trip, not to exceed 1,500 lb/trip. The following sublimits also apply and are counted toward the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits: lingcod 300 lb/ month (minimum 24 inch size limit); sablefish 2,000 lb/ month; canary, thornyheads and yelloweye rockfish are PROHIBITED. All other groundfish species taken are managed under the overall 500 lb/day and 1,500 lb/trip groundfish limits. Landings of all groundfish species count toward the per day, per trip or other species-specific sublimits described here and the species-specific limits described in the table above do not apply. The amount of groundfish landed may not exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.					

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.

2/ POP is included in the trip limits for minor slope rockfish. Blackgill rockfish have a species specific trip sub-limit within the minor slope rockfish cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is included in the trip limits for minor shelf rockfish. Bronzespotted rockfish have a species specific trip limit.

3/ "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/ The commercial mimimum size limit for lingcod is 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.

5/ "Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and includes kelp greenling, leopard shark, and cabezon in Washington.

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

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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,