integrity. The Contractor bears the primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct and for the inquiry, investigation, and adjudication of research misconduct alleged to have occurred under the contract in association with its own institution. However, the EPA retains the ultimate oversight authority for the EPA-supported research. The Contractor must take the actions required as described in EPA Order 3120.5 Policy and Procedures for Addressing Research Misconduct when research misconduct is suspected or found under its contract.

- (e) Remedies. The Contracting Officer in consultation with the Scientific Integrity Official and OIG, if applicable, will make the final determination on any remedy to an actual or suspected loss of scientific integrity. Potential remedies include:
- (1) Acceptance of the Contractor's proposed mitigation plan to the scientific integrity issue;
- (2) Acceptance of an alternate mitigation plan negotiated by the parties listed in the first paragraph of this section;
- (3) Termination for convenience, in whole or in part, if no mitigation plan will adequately resolve the actual or suspected loss of scientific integrity; or
- (4) Termination for default or cause, in whole or in part, if the Contractor was aware of an actual or suspected loss of scientific integrity under this contract and did not disclose it or misrepresented relevant information to the EPA. Additionally, the Government may debar or suspend the Contractor from Government contracting or pursue other remedies as may be permitted by law or this contract.
- (5) Opportunity to Respond—If the party who has been accused of a loss of scientific integrity feels that the Agency has reached an incorrect conclusion or the Contracting Officer has applied an inappropriate remedy, the party may provide a written response to the Contracting Officer, Scientific Integrity Official, and/or OIG.
- (f) Subcontractors and Consultants. The Contractor agrees to insert language in any subcontract or consultant agreement placed hereunder which must conform substantially to the language of this clause, including this paragraph (f), unless otherwise authorized in advance in writing by the Contracting Officer
- (g) Additional Resources. For more information about the EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy, an introductory video can be accessed at: https://youtu.be/FQJCy8BXXq8. A training video is available at: https://youtu.be/Zc0T7fooot8.

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 2020–20665 Filed 10–16–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 180625576-8999-02]

RIN 0648-BK14

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019–2020 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 routine inseason adjustments to management measures in commercial groundfish fisheries. This action is intended to allow commercial fishing vessels to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting rebuilding and depleted stocks.

DATES: This final rule is effective October 19, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gretchen Hanshew, phone: 206–526–6147 or email: *Gretchen.Hanshew@noaa.gov.*

Electronic Access

This rule is accessible via the internet at the Office of the Federal Register website at https://www.federalregister.gov. Background information and documents are available at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at http://www.pcouncil.org/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 660, subparts C through G, regulate fishing for over 90 species of groundfish off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) develops groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for two-year periods (i.e., a biennium). NMFS published the final rule to implement harvest specifications and management measures for the 2019-2020 biennium for most species managed under the PCGFMP on December 12, 2018 (83 FR 63970).

Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries are managed using harvest specifications or limits (e.g., overfishing limits [OFL], acceptable biological catch [ABC], annual catch limits [ACL] and harvest guidelines [HG]) based on the best scientific information available at that time (50 CFR 660.60(b)). The harvest specifications and management measures developed for the 2019–2020 biennium used data through the 2017 fishing year. In general, the management measures (e.g., trip limits, area closures, and bag limits) set at the start of the biennial harvest specifications cycle help catch in the various sectors of the fishery reach, but not exceed, the limits for each stock. The Council, in coordination with Pacific Coast Treaty Indian Tribes and the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, recommends adjustments to the management measures during the fishing year to achieve this goal. At its September 11, and 14-18, 2020 webinar, the Council recommended increasing the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) and open access (OA) trip limits for sablefish north of 36° North latitude (N lat.) and increasing the incidental landing limit for Pacific halibut in the LEFG primary sablefish fishery. Each of the adjustments discussed below are based on updated fisheries information that was unavailable when the Council completed the initial analysis for the current harvest specifications.

Since spring 2020, declines in Asian markets and restrictions for domestic restaurants, among other factors, have led to a decline in markets and therefore an overall decline in fishing effort. The combination of these factors has resulted in estimated year-end catches that are lower than was anticipated under normal market conditions. The following changes were requested by industry to increase access to available harvestable quotas for sablefish and incidentally caught Pacific halibut.

Increases to Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access Trip Limits for Sablefish

Sablefish is an important commercial species on the west coast with vessels targeting sablefish using both trawl and fixed gear (longlines and pots/traps). Sablefish is managed with a coast-wide ACL that is apportioned north and south of 36° N lat. with 73.8 percent going to the north and 26.2 percent going to the south. In 2020, the portion of the ACL for sablefish north of 36° N lat. is 5,723 mt with a commercial HG of 5,113 mt. The commercial HG north of 36° N lat. is further divided between the limited entry and OA sectors with 90.6 percent, or 4,632 mt, going to the limited entry

sector and 9.4 percent, or 481 mt, going to the OA sector. The limited entry share of the commercial HG is further divided between trawl (58 percent, or 2,687 mt), and fixed gear (42 percent, or 1,946 mt). The limited entry fixed gear share is further divided between the primary (85 percent, or 1,654 mt), and daily trip limit (15 percent, or 292 mt) fisheries.

Sablefish north of 36° N lat. is anticipated to have catches through the end of the year lower than anticipated

at the start of the 2020 fishery, resulting in sablefish harvest of approximately 71 percent of the sablefish north ACL.

At the September 2020 Council meeting, members of industry requested increases to sablefish trip limits to address the lower than anticipated harvest of sablefish in 2020. Under the current trip limits, total catch in the LEFG and OA fisheries north of 36° N lat. is projected to be less than 172 mt, or 62 percent of the LEFG catch share, and less than 237 mt, or 52 percent of

the OA catch share. Increasing the trip limits as described in Option 2, Table 1, for the LEFG and OA fisheries north of 36° N lat. for the remainder of the fishing year is projected to increase total mortality. Harvest in the LEFG fishery may increase by 69 mt, or 89 percent of the LEFG catch share, and in the OA fishery by 32 mt, or 67 percent of the OA catch share. The trip limit changes are described in Table 1.

Table 1 -- Status Quo and the Council's Recommended Increased LEFG and OA Trip Limits for Sablefish North of 36° N. lat.

Option	Sector	Geographic	Jan-	Mar-	May-	Jul-Aug	Sep-	Nov-
		Area	Feb	Apr	Jun		Oct	Dec
Option 1:	LE	North of	1,300 1			lb (680 kg		
Status Quo		36° N. lat.	kg)/we		excee	sceed 4,500 lb (2,041 kg)/2		
Trip Limits			to ex			mont	ths	
			3,90					
			(1,769					
			moi					
	OA	North of	300 lt	`		lb (136 kg)		
		36° N. lat.	kg)/da	•		g per week		
			one la	_	, ,	g), not to e		
			per we		(1,361 kg)/2	2 month	S
			to 1,2	200 lb				
			`	g), not				
			to ex					
			2,40	00 lb				
			(1,089	kg)/2				
			moı					
Option 2:	LE	North of	1,300 1	b (590	· ·	lb (680	_	00 lb
Increased		36° N. lat.	kg)/we			ek, not to	\ /	134
Trip Limits			to ex		exceed	4,500 lb	kg)/we	eek, not
Implemented			3,90		` '	1 kg)/2		xceed
in This Rule			(1,769		mo	onths		00 lb
			mor	nths			(3,40)	2 kg)/2
								nths
	OA	North of	300 lb	(136	300 1	lb (136	600 1	b (272
		36° N. lat.	kg)/da	•		y, or one		day or
			one la	nding	landi	ing per	one la	anding
			per we			c up to	_	eek up
			to 1,2		· ·	lb (680	1	000 lb
			(544 k	g), not		not to		kg), not
			to ex		exceed	3,000 lb		ceed
			2,40		` ′	1 kg	4,00	00 lb
			(1,089	kg)/2	mo	onths	(1,814	4 kg)/2
			moı	nths			mo	nths

Trip limit increases for sablefish are intended to allow for increased attainment of the limited entry fixed gear and open access harvest guidelines (4,631 mt and 481 mt, respectively), by allowing for increased harvest opportunities from October through December 2020. Increasing the trip limits is expected to increase total mortality by approximately 100 mt. Sablefish harvest through the end of the year is still expected to be below the ACL, with harvest of approximately 73 percent of the 5,723 mt ACL for Sablefish north of 36° N lat. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is implementing, by modifying Tables 2 (North) and 2 (South) to part 660, Subpart E, an increase to sablefish trip limits for the LEFG fishery north of 36° N lat. to "2,500 lb (1,134 kg)/week, not to exceed 7,500 lb (3,402 kg)/2 months" and, by modifying Tables 3 (North) and 3 (South) to part 660, Subpart F, an increase to the sablefish trip limits for the OA fishery north of 36° N lat. to "600 lb (272 kg)/day or one landing per week up to 2,000 lb (907 kg), not to exceed 4,000 lb (1,814 kg)/2 months".

Increases to Limited Entry Fixed Gear Incidental Landing Limits for Pacific Halibut

Under the authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, the Council developed a Catch Sharing Plan for the International Pacific Halibut Commission Regulatory Area 2A. The Catch Sharing Plan allocates the Area 2A annual total allowable catch (TAC) among fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. Pacific halibut is generally a prohibited species for vessels fishing in Pacific coast groundfish fisheries, unless explicitly allowed in groundfish regulations and authorized by the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. In years where the Pacific halibut TAC is above 900,000 lb (408 mt), the Catch Sharing Plan allows the LEFG sablefish primary fishery an incidental retention limit for Pacific halibut north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.).

On May 1, 2020, NMFS implemented a 2020 Area 2A TAC of 1,500,000 lb (680.4 mt) (85 FR 25317; May 1, 2020). Consistent with the provisions of the Catch Sharing Plan, the LEFG sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA has an incidental total catch limit of 70,000 lb (31.8 mt) for 2020. Current regulations at § 660.231(b)(3)(iv) provide

for Pacific halibut retention by vessels fishing in the LEFG sablefish primary fishery from April 1 through October 31 with a landing limit of 200 lb (91 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut, for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed, and up to an additional two Pacific halibut in excess of this limit.

At the September 2020 Council meeting, members of industry requested increases to the landing limit for incidentally caught Pacific halibut in the sablefish primary fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.30′ N lat.). As noted above, overall fishing effort for sablefish has been lower than expected this year, and so has the incidental harvest of Pacific halibut in this fishery. Under the current incidental landing limit, total catch of Pacific halibut in this fishery through the end of the season is projected to be less than 65,000 lbs, or 93 percent of the allocation (70,000 lbs or 31,751 kg). Increasing the incidental landing limit as described in Option 2, Table 2, for the remainder of the fishing season, scheduled to close at noon on October 31, is projected to increase total mortality to over 69,000 lbs, or 99 percent of the allocation.

Table 2 -- Status Quo and the Council's Recommended Increased Landing Limit for Pacific Halibut in the Sablefish Primary Fishery North of Point Chehalis, WA

Option	Sector	Geo-	Jan-	Mar-	1 -	Jul-	,	Sep-Oct	Nov-
		graphic	Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug			Dec
		Area							
Option	LEFG	North of	Close	ed 2	00 lbs (91	1 kg) o	f Pacif	ic halibut for	Closed
1:		Point			every	1,000	lbs (45	4 kg) of	
Status		Chehalis,				sabl	efish ^{1/}		
Quo		WA							
Landing									
Limit									
Option	LEFG	North of	Close	ed	200 lbs	(91 kg)	of	250 lbs	Closed
2:		Point			Pacific l	nalibut	for	(113 kg) of	
Landing		Chehalis,		(every 1,0	00 lbs	(454	Pacific	
Limit		WA			kg) of s	ablefis	$\mathbf{h}^{1/}$	halibut for	
								every	
								1,000 lbs	
								(454 kg) of	
								sablefish ^{1/2/}	

^{1/} All weights are dressed weights. A vessel may have an additional two Pacific halibut that are in excess of the limit.

^{2/} Increased limit would be effective on the date of publication of the **Federal Register** notice through noon on October 31, 2020.

Incidental landing limit increases for Pacific halibut are intended to allow for more Pacific halibut to be retained and landed for vessels targeting sablefish in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA. Under the Council's recommendation, increasing the trip limits is expected to increase landings by up to 4,500 lbs (2,041 kg). This is expected to allow increased attainment of the Pacific halibut allocation which would otherwise be discarded. Therefore, in order to allow increased incidental Pacific halibut catch in the sablefish primary fishery, the Council recommended and NMFS is revising incidental Pacific halibut retention regulations at § 660.231(b)(3)(iv) to increase the catch limit to "250 lb (113 kg) dressed weight of halibut for every 1,000 lb (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to two additional halibut in excess of the 250 lb (113 kg) per 1,000 lb (454 kg) limit per landing.

Classification

This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.60(c) and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The aggregate data upon which these actions are based are available for public inspection by contacting Gretchen Hanshew in NMFS West Coast Region (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, above), or view at the NMFS West Coast Groundfish website: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/west-coast-groundfish.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b), NMFS finds good cause to waive prior public notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The adjustments to management measures in this document ease restrictive trip limits on commercial fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California to allow fisheries to harvest more fish while still staying within harvest limits. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the final rule for the 2019-2020 harvest specifications and management measures which published on December 12, 2018 (83 FR 63970).

At its September 2020 webinar, the Council recommended the increases to the commercial trip limits for the LEFG and OA sectors be implemented as soon as possible so that harvesters may be able to take advantage of these higher limits before the end of the year. Each of the adjustments to commercial

management measures in this rule will create more harvest opportunity and allow fishermen to catch species that are currently under attained without causing any impacts to the fishery that were not anticipated during development of the 2019-20 biennial harvest specifications. Each of these recommended adjustments also rely on new catch data that were not available and thus not considered during the 2019-2020 biennial harvest specifications process. New catch information through summer 2020 was used to inform model projections. Models estimate that attainment of sablefish will be low in 2020 and, even with these increases to trip limits, most sectors are unlikely to come close to attaining their shares of the sablefish ACL. These adjustments to LEFG and OA fishery trip limits could provide up to an additional \$885,000 in ex-vessel revenue to harvesters off Washington, Oregon, and California. Based on recent fishery data, best estimates also indicate that the sablefish primary fishery will not harvest its entire share of the Area 2A Pacific halibut total allowable catch. These adjustments to Pacific halibut management measures could provide up to an additional \$13,500 in ex-vessel revenue to harvesters fishing off the Washington coast.

Additional economic benefits would also be seen for processors and the fishing support businesses; however, these are more difficult to quantify. Delaying implementation to allow for public comment would likely reduce the economic benefits to the commercial fishing industry and the businesses that rely on that industry. If the notice and comment rulemaking process took 90 days to complete, the increase would not be in place until December when the fishing year is almost over. Therefore, providing a comment period for this action could limit the economic benefits to the fishery, and would hamper the achievement of optimum yield from the affected fisheries.

The NMFS finds reason to waive the 30-day delay in effectiveness pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) so that this final rule may become effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. The adjustments to management measures in this document affect commercial fisheries by increasing opportunity and relieving participants of the more restrictive trip limits. These adjustments were requested by the Council's advisory bodies, as well as members of industry during the Council's September 2020 meeting, and

recommended unanimously by the Council. No aspect of this action is controversial, and changes of this nature were anticipated in the biennial harvest specifications and management measures established through a notice and comment rulemaking for 2019–2020 (82 FR 63970; December 12, 2018).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 660

Fisheries, Fishing, and Indian Fisheries.

Dated: October 14, 2020.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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. In § 660.231, paragraph (b)(3)(iv) is revised to read as follows:

§ 660.231 Limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery.

* * (b) * * *

(3) * * *

(iv) Incidental Pacific halibut retention north of Pt. Chehalis, WA $(46^{\circ}53.30' \text{ N lat.})$. From April 1 through October 31, vessels authorized to participate in the sablefish primary fishery, licensed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for commercial fishing in Area 2A (waters off Washington, Oregon, California), and fishing with longline gear north of Pt. Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N lat.) may possess and land up to 250 lbs (113 kg) dressed weight of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lbs (454 kg) dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to two additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 250-lbs-per-1,000-pound limit per landing. "Dressed" Pacific halibut in this area means halibut landed eviscerated with their heads on. Pacific halibut taken and retained in the sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis may only be landed north of Pt. Chehalis and may not be possessed or landed south of Pt. Chehalis.

■ 3. Table 2 (North) to part 660, subpart E is revised to read as follows:

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

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 10/01/2020 JAN-FEB MAR-APR MAY-JUN JUL-AUG SEP-OCT NOV-DEC Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)11: shoreline - 100 fm line1 1 North of 46 16' N. lat. 46°16' N. lat. - 42°00' N. lat. 30 fm line1/ - 100 fm line1/ 30 fm line^{1/} - 100 fm line^{1/} 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. 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 Rockfish^{2/} & Darkblotched 6.000 lb/2 month 8.000 lb/2 month rockfish 5 Pacific ocean perch 1,800 lb/ 2 months 2,500 lb/week, not to 1,300 lb week, not to exceed 1,500 lb/ week, not to exceed 4,500 lbs/ exceed 7,500 lb/2 6 Sablefish 3,900 lbs/2months 2 months 10.000 lb/ 2 months 7 Longspine thornyhead 8 Shortspine thornyhead 2.000 lb/ 2 months 2,500 lb/ 2 months D 9 5.000 lb/ month 10.000 lb/ month Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, Ш petrale sole, English sole, starry South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more 10 flounder, Other Flatfish3/ 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. Ш 11 Whiting 10.000 lb/ trip Minor Shelf Rockfish21, Shortbelly, & N 200 lb/ month 800 lb/ month Widow rockfish 13 Yellowtail rockfish 1.000 lb/ month 3.000 lb/ month 14 Canary rockfish 300 lb/ 2 months 3.000 lb/ 2 months Z 15 Yelloweye rockfish CLOSED 0 16 Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Washington Black rockfish & Oregon Black/blue/deacon rockfish 7 5,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or 17 North of 42°00' N. lat. blue/deacon rockfish4 5 8 500 lb/ 2 7.000 lb/ 2 months, no months, no more than more than 7,000 lb/2 months, no more than 2,000 lb of which may be 1.500 lb of 1.500 lb of 18 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. which may be which may be species other than black rockfish species other species other than black than black rockfish rockfish 19 Lingcod^{5/} North of 42°00' N. lat. 20 2,600 lb/2 months 4,000 lb/ 2 months 21 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat 1.400 lb/2 months 2,000 lb/ 2 months 22 Pacific cod 1,000 lb/ 2 months 150,000 lb/ 2 23 Spiny dogfish 200,000 lb/ 2 months 100,000 lb/ 2 months months 24 Longnose skate Unlimited 25 Other Fish^{6/}& Cabezon in California Unlimited 26 Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling Unlimited 27 Big skate 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. 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 off California and leopard shark. To convert pounds to kilograms, divide by 2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.

	Other limits and requirements apply Dec	d \$5660 10 throu	igh 660 200 hofo	ro uning this tabl	_				10/01/20	
	Other limits and requirements apply Rea	JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-0	CT	NOV-DEC	10/01/20	
200	kfish Conservation Area (RCA) ^{1/} :	0,111.23	100 0 () 0 1 (I III II GOIT	0027.00	OL.		110 1 020	=	
1	40°10' N. lat 34°27' N. lat.	1	1	40 fm line ^{1/}	- 125 fm line ^{1/}	1		1		
2	South of 34 [°] 27' N. lat.		75 fm line	1/ - 150 fm line ^{1/}	(also applies arou	ınd island:	s)			
	e §§660.60 and 660.230 for additional gea 60.76-660.79 for conservation area descr									
	State trip limits and seasons may be n	nore restrictive that	n Federal trip limits	or seasons, partic	cularly in waters off	Oregon and	d Californ	nia.		
3	Minor Slope rockfish ^{2/} & Darkblotched rockfish	more than 1,	nths, of which no 375 lb may be I rockfish	40,000 lb/ 2	months, of which blackgil	no more I rockfish	than 5,5	500 lb may be		
4	Splitnose rockfish			40,000 lb	/ 2 months					
5	Sablefish			1						
6	40 [°] 10' N. lat 36 [°] 00' N. lat.	1 '	x, not to exceed s/2months	1,500 lb/ week	, not to exceed 4, 2 months	500 lbs/		lb/week, not to eed 7,500 lb/2 months	╢ᆿ	
7	South of 36°00' N. lat.			2,000	lb/ week	'			→	
8	Longspine thornyhead			10,000 lb	/ 2 months				֡֡֡֞֞֞֝֡֡֡֞֞֞֝֡֡֡֡֡֡֡֡֡	
9	Shortspine thornyhead		2 000 lb/ 2 m anth		ı	2 F00 lb/ 2			┧ᢁ	
10 11	40 10' N. lat 34 27' N. lat. South of 34 27' N. lat.		2,000 lb/ 2 month		2 months	2,500 lb/ 2	montn	S	┨	
11	South of 34 27 N. lat.			3,000 lb/	ZIIIOIIIIS				⊣ ш	
12	Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder,	5,000 lb/ month 10,000 lb/ month						Խ		
13	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 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	Whiting			10,00	0 lb/ trip				1	
15	Minor Shelf Rockfish ^{2/} , Shortbelly rockf	ish, Widow rocl	kfish (including	Chilipepper be	tween 40 [°] 10' - 3	4 [°] 27' N. la	t.)		7 %	
16	40 [°] 10' N. lat 34 [°] 27' N. lat.	widow rockfish 2,500 lb/ 2 mor more than 500	kfish, shortbelly, n, & chilipepper: nths, of which no o lb may be any than chilipepper.	8,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 500 lbs vermilion rockfish					South)	
17	South of 34 [°] 27' N. lat.	4,000 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	5,000 lb/ 2 r	nonths, of which vermilio	no more t n rockfish	han 4,0	00 lb may be		
18	Chilipepper									
19	40 [°] 10' N. lat 34 [°] 27' N. lat.	Chilipepper inc	luded under mind	or shelf rockfish,	shortbelly and wi	dow rockf	ish limit	ts See above	е	
20	South of 34 [°] 27' N. lat.	opportunity	months, this only available e non-trawl RCA	4,000 lb/ 2 mol	nths, this opportu non-tra	nity only a awl RCA	vailable	seaward of the	е	
21	Canary rockfish									
22	40 [°] 10' N. lat 34 [°] 27' N. lat.	300 lb/	2 months		3,500 lb/	2 months				
23	South of 34°27' N. lat.	300 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED		3,500 lb/	2 months	i			
24	Yelloweye rockfish			CLO	DSED				1	
25	Cowcod			CLO	DSED					
26	Bronzespotted rockfish		CLOSED							

		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-I	DEC
27	Bocaccio							
28	40°10' N. lat 34°27' N. lat.	1	1,500 lb/ 2 month	s	6	6,000 lb/ 2 month	ıs	
29	South of 34 [°] 27' N. lat.	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED	1,500 lb/ 2 months	(6,000 lb/ 2 month	ıs	
30	Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Bl	ack rockfish, &	Oregon Black/l	Blue/Deacon roc	kfish			
31	Shallow nearshore ^{4/}	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED		2,000 lb/	2 months		
32	Deeper nearshore ^{5/}	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED		2,000 lb/	2 months		
33	California Scorpionfish	1,500 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED		1,500 lb/	2 months		
34	Lingcod ⁶	1,200 lb/ 2 months	CLOSED		1,500 lb/	2 months		
35	Pacific Cod		•	1,000 lb/ 2	2 months			
36	Spiny dogfish	200,000 lb	/ 2 months	onths 150,000 lb/ 2 100,000 lb/ 2 months				
37	Longnose skate			Unlim	ited			
38	Other Fish ^{7/} & Cabezon in California			Unlim	ited			
39	Big Skate			Unlim	ited			
1/ 1	he Rockfish Conservation Area is an area clo and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 660. depth contour boundary south of 42° N. lat.) than the depth contour. Vessels that are su other than transiting.	71-660.74. This , and the bounda	RCA is not definary lines that defin	ned by depth conto	ours (with the ex lose areas that	cception of the 20 are deeper or sh)-fm iallower	
2/ F	Pacific ocean perch is included in the trip limit Slope Rockfish cumulative limit. Yellowtail have a species specific trip limit.							Minor
3/ "(Other Flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and inc	lude butter sole,	curlfin sole, flath	ead sole, Pacific	sanddab, rex so	le, rock sole, and	d sand sol	e.
4/ "5	Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 u	nder "Groundfish	ı" (7)(i)(B)(<i>1</i>).					
	Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11 ur							
3/ T	he commercial mimimum size limit for lingco	d is 24 inches (6	31 cm) total lengt	h South of 42° N.	lat.			
	Other Fish" are defined at § 660.11 and include							

 \blacksquare 5. Table 3 (North) to part 660, subpart F is 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 10/01/2020 JAN-FEB MAR-APR JUL-AUG SEP-OCT NOV-DEC Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)11: 1 North of 46°16' N. lat shoreline - 100 fm line1/ 46°16' N. lat. - 42°00' N. lat. 30 fm line1/ - 100 fm line1/ 2 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. 30 fm line1/ - 100 fm line1/ 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 Bank, 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 Rockfish^{2/} & 500 pounds/month 1,000 lb/ month Darkblotched rockfish 100 lb/ month 5 Pacific ocean perch 600 lb/day or one 300 lb day; or one landing per 300 lb day; or one landing per week up to landing per week up to 6 Sablefish week up to 1,200 lb. not to 1,500 lb, not to exceed 3,000 lb/2 months 2,000 lb, not to exceed exceed 2.400 lb/2 months 4,000 lb/2 months 7 Shortpine thornyheads 50 lb/ month 8 Longspine thornyheads 50 lb/ month Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, 3,000 lb/ month, no more than petrale sole, English sole, starry 300 lb of which may be species 5,000 lb/ month ⋗ flounder, Other Flatfish3/ other than Pacific sanddabs. \Box South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "Other Flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more 10 than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 Ш mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs. 11 Whiting 300 lb/ month Minor Shelf Rockfish^{2/}, Shortbelly 200 lb/ month 800 lb/ month rockfish, & Widow rockfish 13 Yellowtail rockfish 500 lb/ month 1,500 lb/ month Z 14 Canary rockfish 300 lb/ 2 months 1,000 lb/ 2 months 0 15 Yelloweye rockfish CLOSED 7 16 Minor Nearshore Rockfish, Washington Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish **_ 5** 5,000 lb/2 months, no more than 1,200 lb of which may be species other than black rockfish or 17 North of 42°00' N. lat blue/deacon rockfish 4/ 8,500 lb/ 2 7,000 lb/ 2 months, no months, no more than more than 1,500 lb of 1,500 lb of 7,000 lb/ 2 months, no more than 2,000 lb of which may be 18 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. which may be which may be species other than black rockfish species other species other than black than black rockfish rockfish 19 Lingcod^{5/} North of 42°00' N. lat 1,200 lb/month 2,000 lbs/ month 600 lb/ month 1,000 lb/ month 21 42°00' N. lat. - 40°10' N. lat. 22 Pacific cod 1,000 lb/ 2 months 150,000 lb/ 2 23 Spiny dogfish 200,000 lb/ 2 months 100,000 lb/ 2 months months 24 Longnose skate Unlimited 25 Big skate Unlimited 26 Other Fish^{6/} & Cabezon in California Unlimited 27 Oregon Cabezon/Kelp Greenling Unlimited

Tab	ole 3 (North). Continued	10,	01/2020
28	SALMON TROLL (subject to RCAs whe	n retaining all species of groundfish, except for yellowtail rockfish and lingcod, as described below)	ΤA
29	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 5 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 where lingcod retention is allowed, and is not "CLOSED." This limit is within the per month limit for lingcod describe in the table above, and not in addition to that limit. All groundfish species are subject to the open access limit seasons, size limits and RCA restrictions listed in the table above, unless otherwise stated here.	BLE 3
30	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TR	AWL (not subject to RCAs)	│
31	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 1,50 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 unde 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 no exceed the amount of pink shrimp landed.	8 8
/ T		closed to fishing by particular gear types, bounded by lines specifically defined by latitude	
		0.71-660.74. This RCA is not defined by depth contours (with the exception of the 20-fm	~~~
		.), and the boundary lines that define the RCA may close areas that are deeper or shallower subject to RCA restrictions may not fish in the RCA, or operate in the RCA for any purpose	
2/ E		es are included in the trip limits for Minor Shelf Rockfish. Splitnose rockfish is included in the trip	
3/ "(Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and in	nclude butter sole, curlfin sole, flathead sole, Pacific sanddab, rex sole, rock sole, and sand sole.	
/ F		9.50' N. lat.), and between Destruction Is. (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Pnt. (46°38.17' N. lat.),	
	·	percent by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel, per fishing trip.	
		nes (56 cm) total length North of 42° N. lat. and 24 inches (61 cm) total length South of 42° N. lat.	
		ude kelp greenling off California and leopard shark.	
0	convert pounds to kilograms, divide by	2.20462, the number of pounds in one kilogram.	

■ 6. Table 3 (South) to part 660, subpart F is revised to read as follows:

Table 3 (South) to Part 660, Subpart F -- Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas and Trip Limits for Open Access Gears South of 10/01/2020 Other limits and requirements apply -- Read §§660.10 through 660.399 before using this table SEP-OCT JAN-FEB MAR-APR MAY-JUN JUL-AUG NOV-DEC Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)11: 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. 40 fm line^{1/} - 125 fm line^{1/} 75 fm line^{1/} - 150 fm line^{1/} (also applies around islands) South of 34°27' N lat 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. 10,000 lb/2 months, of which no Minor Slope Rockfish2/ & 10.000 lb/2 months, of which no more than 1.500 lb may be more than 475 lb may be blackgill rockfish Darkblotched rockfish blackgill rockfish 4 Splitnose rockfish 200 lb/ month Sablefish 600 lb/day or one 300 lb day: or one landing per 300 lb day; or one landing per week up to landing per week up to week up to 1,200 lb, not to 6 40°10' N. lat. - 36°00' N. lat. 1,500 lb, not to exceed 3,000 lb/2 months 2,000 lb, not to exceed exceed 2,400 lb/2 months 4,000 lb/2 months 7 South of 36°00' N. lat 300 lb day; or one landing per week up to 1,600 lb not to exceed 4,800 lb/2 months Shortpine thornyheads and longspine 8 thornyheads CLOSED 9 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat D 10 South of 34°27' N. lat. 50 lb/ day, no more than 1,000 lb/ 2 months Dover sole, arrowtooth flounder, \Box 3,000 lb/ month, no more than petrale sole, English sole, starry 300 lb of which may be species 5,000 lb/ month flounder, Other Flatfish3/ other than Pacific sanddabs. Ш South of 42° N. lat., when fishing for "other flatfish," vessels using hook-and-line gear with no more 12 than 12 hooks per line, using hooks no larger than "Number 2" hooks, which measure 0.44 in (11 ယ mm) point to shank, and up to two 1 lb (0.45 kg) weights per line are not subject to the RCAs. 13 Whiting 300 lb/ month Minor Shelf Rockfish21, Shortbelly, S Widow rockfish and Chilipepper 0 400 lb/ 2 4,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 400 lbs may be 15 40°10' N. lat. - 34°27' N. lat. \blacksquare months vermilion rockfish CLOSED 3,000 lb/ 2 months, of which no more than 1,500 lbs may be 1.500 lb/ 2 16 South of 34°27' N. lat months vermilion rockfish 7 300 lb/ 2 17 Canary rockfish CLOSED 1,500 lb/ 2 months months 18 Yelloweye rockfish CLOSED 19 Cowcod CLOSED CLOSED 20 Bronzespotted rockfish 500 lb/ 2 CLOSED 21 Bocaccio 500 lb/ 2 months 4,000 lb/ 2 months months 22 Minor Nearshore Rockfish, California Black rockfish, & Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon rockfish 1,200 lb/ 2 CLOSED 2,000 lb/ 2 months 23 Shallow nearshore months 1,200 lb/ 2 CLOSED 2,000 lb/ 2 months 24 Deeper nearshore months 1,500 lb/2 25 California scorpionfish CLOSED 1.500 lb/ 2 months months 500 lb/month CLOSED 700 lb/ month 26 Lingcod^{6/} 27 Pacific cod 1,000 lb/ 2 months 150,000 lb/ 2 28 Spiny dogfish 200,000 lb/ 2 months 100,000 lb/ 2 months months 29 Longnose skate Unlimited 30 Big skate Unlimited Unlimited 31 Other Fish7/ & Cabezon in California

Tab	ole 3 (South). Continued						10/0	1/2020		
		JAN-FEB	MAR-APR	MAY-JUN	JUL-AUG	SEP-OCT	NOV-DEC			
32	RIDGEBACK PRAWN AND, SOUTH OF	38°57.50' N. LAT	., CA HALIBUT	AND SEA CUCU	IMBER NON-GE	ROUNDFISH TR	AWL	∣ ⊣		
33	NON-GROUNDFISH TRAWL Rockfish	Conservation Ar	ea (RCA) for CA				i	➤		
34	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/}	Œ		
35	38°00' N. lat 34°27' N. lat		1	100 fm line 1/	- 150 fm line ^{1/}		1	▎┏		
36	South of 34° 27' N. lat	. 100 fm line ^{1/}	100 fm line 1/ - 150 fm line 1/ along the mainland coast; shoreline - 150 fm line 1/ around islands							
37	PINK SHRIMP NON-GROUNDFISH TR	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 29).								
0	PINK SHRIMF NON-GROUNDFISH IK	AVVL GEAR (1101	Subject to NCAS	,				ן ד		
39	South	exceed 1,500 lb/ti lb/trip groundfish rockfish, thor managed under count toward the	rip. The following s limits: lingcod 300 myheads and yellow the overall 500 lb/w per day, per trip c	roundfish: 500 lb/da ublimits also apply 0 lb/ month (minimu weye rockfish are P day and 1,500 lb/tri or other species-spe to not apply. The a of pink shr	and are counted to um 24 inch size lim ROHIBITED. All of p groundfish limits. ecific sublimits described.	oward the overall 50 it); sablefish 2,000 ther groundfish spe Landings of all gro cribed here and the	0 lb/day and 1,500 lb/ month; canary cies taken are bundfish species species-specific) cont'd		
′ T	The Rockfish Conservation Area is an area	closed to fishing t	oy particular gear	types, bounded l	oy lines specifica	lly defined by latit	ude			
	and longitude coordinates set out at §§ 66	0.71-660.74. Thi	s RCA is not defi	ned by depth con	tours (with the ex	ception of the 20	-fm			
	depth contour boundary south of 42° N. la							-		
	than the depth contour. Vessels that are other than transiting.	subject to RCA re	strictions may no	ot fish in the RCA	, or operate in the	RCA for any pur	pose	-		
F	POP is included in the trip limits for minor s	lope rockfish. Bla	ackgill rockfish ha	ave a species spe	ecific trip sub-limi	t within the minor	slope rockfish	-		
	cumulative limits. Yellowtail rockfish is in	cluded in the trip li	mits for minor sh	elf rockfish. Bron	zespotted rockfis	sh have a species	s specific trip			
	limit.	l			L					
	Other flatfish" are defined at § 660.11 and i			nead sole, Pacific	sanddab, rex so	ie, rock sole, and	sand sole.	-		
	Shallow Nearshore" are defined at § 660.1					-		-		
	Deeper Nearshore" are defined at § 660.11			-				-		
	he commercial mimimum size limit for ling					_		1		
	Other fish" are defined at § 660.11 and incl							7		
-	convert pounds to kilograms, divide by	∠.∠∪40∠, uie nui	iner of bonuas	iii one kilogram	4			.i		

[FR Doc. 2020–23078 Filed 10–16–20; 8:45 am] **BILLING CODE 3510–22–C**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 200227-0066; RTID 0648-XA517]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea

and Aleutian Islands management area. This action is necessary to fully use the 2020 total allowable catch of Pacific ocean perch specified for the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 15, 2020, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2020. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., November 3, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2019–0074, by either of the following methods:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2019-00874, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn:

Records Office. Mail comments to P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/ A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Whitney, 907–586–7228.

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