

delay would preclude the fishery from harvesting BFT that are available on the fishing grounds that might otherwise become unavailable during a delay. This action does not raise conservation and management concerns. Transferring quota within the General category does not affect the overall U.S. BFT quota, and the adjustment would have a minimal risk of exceeding the ICCAT-allocated quota. NMFS notes that the public had an opportunity to comment on the underlying rulemakings that established the U.S. BFT quota and the inseason adjustment criteria.

For all of the above reasons, the AA finds that pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d), there also is good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effective date.

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

Dated: December 30, 2022.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2022-28635 Filed 1-3-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 221228-0283]

RTID 0648-XC484

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery; Final 2023 Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Specifications

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We are finalizing specifications for the 2023 Atlantic deep-sea red crab fishery, including an annual catch limit, and total allowable landings limit. This action is necessary to fully implement previously projected allowable red crab harvest levels that will prevent overfishing and allow harvesting of optimum yield. This action is intended to establish the allowable 2023 harvest levels, consistent with the Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery Management Plan.

DATES: The final specifications for the 2023 Atlantic deep-sea red crab fishery are effective March 1, 2023, through February 29, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Deighan, Fishery Management Specialist, (978) 281-9184.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Atlantic deep-sea red crab fishery is managed by the New England Fishery Management Council. The Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery Management Plan includes a specification process that requires the Council to recommend an acceptable biological catch, an annual catch limit, and total allowable landings every four years. Collectively, these are the red crab specifications. Prior to the start of fishing year 2020, the Council recommended specifications for the 2020-2023 fishing years (Table 1).

TABLE 1—COUNCIL-APPROVED 2020–2023 RED CRAB SPECIFICATIONS

	Metric ton	Million lb
Acceptable Biological Catch	2,000	4.41
Annual Catch Limit	2,000	4.41
Total Allowable Landings	2,000	4.41

On April 14, 2020, we approved the Council-recommended specifications for the 2020 fishing year, effective through February 28, 2021, and we projected the continuation of those specifications for 2021–2023 (85 FR 20615). At the end of each fishing year, we evaluate catch information and determine if the quota has been exceeded. If a quota is exceeded, the regulations at 50 CFR 648.262(b) require a pound-for-pound reduction in a subsequent fishing year. We have reviewed available 2022 fishery information against the projected 2023 specifications. There have been no annual catch limit or total allowable landings overages, nor is there any new biological information that would require altering the projected 2023 specifications published in 2020. Based on this information, we are finalizing specifications for fishing year 2023, as projected in the 2020 specifications rule, and outlined above in Table 1. These specifications are not expected to result in overfishing, and they adequately account for scientific uncertainty. This is the final year of these specifications, and new specifications will be developed by the Council for 2024 and beyond.

Classification

The NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this final rule is consistent with the Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery Management Plan, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act, and other applicable law.

This rule is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), we find good cause to waive prior public notice and opportunity for public comment on the catch limit and allocation adjustments, because allowing time for notice and comment would be contrary to the public interest. The proposed rule for the 2020–2023 specifications provided the public with the opportunity to comment on the specifications, including the projected 2021 through 2023 specifications (85 FR 9717, February 20, 2020). We received no comments on the proposed rule announcing the projected 2021–2023 specifications and the process for announcing finalized interim year quotas. Further, this final rule contains no changes from the projected 2023 specifications that were included in both the February 20, 2020, proposed rule and the April 14, 2020, final rule. The public and industry participants expect this action. Through both the proposed rule for the 2020–2023 specifications and the final rule for the 2020 specifications, we alerted the public that we would conduct a review of the latest available catch information in each of the interim years of the multi-year specifications and announce the final quota prior to the March 1 start of the fishing year. Thus, the proposed and final rules that contained the projected 2021–2023 specifications provided a full opportunity for the public to comment on the substance and process of this action.

The Chief Counsel for Regulation, Department of Commerce, previously certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (SBA) that the 2020–2023 red crab specifications would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Implementing the 2023 specifications will not change the conclusions drawn in that previous certification to the SBA. Because advance notice and the opportunity for public comment are not required for this action under the Administrative Procedure Act, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, do not apply to this rule. Therefore, no new regulatory flexibility analysis is required and none has been prepared.

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

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

Dated: December 30, 2022.

Samuel D. Rauch, III,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-28626 Filed 1-4-23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 220223-0054; RTID 0648-
XC635]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2023 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts

Correction

In rule document 2022-28343
appearing on pages 80090-80094 in the
issue of December 29, 2022, make the
following corrections:

1. On page 80093, in Table 9, in the
first column, in the 13th and 14th lines
down, “Hook-and-line catcher vessel
≤60 ft LOA” should read, “Hook-and-
line catcher vessel ≥60 ft LOA”.

2. On the same page, in the same
table, in the same column, in the 16th
line down, “Pot catcher vessel ≤60 ft
LOA” should read, “Pot catcher vessel
≥60 ft LOA”.

[FR Doc. C1-2022-28343 Filed 1-4-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 0099-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 220216-0049; RTID 0648-
XC650]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of 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 Pacific cod by catcher vessels
using hook-and-line (HAL) gear in the
Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of
Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary
to prevent exceeding the A season
allowance of the 2023 total allowable
catch of Pacific cod by catcher vessels
using HAL gear in the Western
Regulatory Area of the GOA.

DATES: Effective 0001 hours, Alaska
local time (A.l.t.), January 1, 2023,
through 1200 hours, A.l.t., June 10,
2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Krista Milani, 907-581-2062.

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 A season allowance of the 2023
Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC)
apportioned to catcher vessels using
HAL gear in the Western Regulatory
Area of the GOA is 35 metric tons (mt)
as established by the final 2022 and
2023 harvest specifications for
groundfish in the GOA (87 FR 11599,
March 2, 2022) and inseason adjustment
(87 FR 80088, December 29, 2022). The
Regional Administrator has determined
that the 2023 TAC apportioned to
catcher vessels using HAL gear in the
Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is
necessary to account for the incidental
catch of this species in other anticipated
groundfish fisheries for the 2023 fishing
year. Therefore, in accordance with
§ 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Regional
Administrator establishes the directed
fishing allowance for catcher vessels
using HAL gear in the Western
Regulatory Area of the GOA as 0 mt.
Consequently, in accordance with
§ 679.20(d)(1)(iii), NMFS is prohibiting
directed fishing for catcher vessels using

HAL gear in the Western Regulatory
Area of the GOA.

While this closure is effective, the
maximum retainable amounts at
§ 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time
during a trip.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to
section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens
Act. This action is required by 50 CFR
part 679, which was issued pursuant to
section 304(b), and is exempt from
review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there
is good cause to waive prior notice and
an opportunity for public comment on
this action, as notice and comment
would be impracticable and contrary to
the public interest, as it would prevent
NMFS from responding to the most
recent fisheries data in a timely fashion,
and would delay the closure of Pacific
cod by catcher vessels using HAL gear
in the Western Regulatory Area of the
GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a
notice providing time for public
comment because the most recent,
relevant data only became available as
of December 29, 2022.

The Assistant Administrator for
Fisheries, NOAA also finds good cause
to waive the 30-day delay in the
effective date of this action under 5
U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based
upon the reasons provided above for
waiver of prior notice and opportunity
for public comment.

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

Dated: December 30, 2022.

Jennifer M. Wallace,

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

[FR Doc. 2022-28629 Filed 12-30-22; 4:15 pm]

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