

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (d)(1)(ii)(D)—Continued

IFQ species	Area	2023 shorebased trawl allocation (mt)	2024 shorebased trawl allocation (mt)
Longspine thornyhead	North of 34°27' N lat	2,129.23	2,002.88
Pacific cod	Coastwide	1,039.30	1,039.30
Pacific halibut (IBQ) ^a	North of 40°10' N lat	TBD	TBD
Pacific ocean perch	North of 40°10' N lat	2,956.14	2,832.64
Pacific whiting ^a	Coastwide	159,681.38	TBD
Petrale sole	Coastwide	3,063.76	2,863.76
Sablefish	North of 36° N lat	3,893.50	3,559.38
Sablefish	South of 36° N lat	970.00	889.00
Shortspine thornyhead	North of 34°27' N lat	1,146.67	1,117.22
Shortspine thornyhead	South of 34°27' N lat	50	50
Splitnose rockfish	South of 40°10' N lat	1,494.70	1,457.60
Starry flounder	Coastwide	171.86	171.86
Widow rockfish	Coastwide	11,509.68	10,367.68
Yellowtail rockfish	North of 40°10' N lat	3,761.84	3,668.56
Other Flatfish complex	Coastwide	4,142.09	4,152.89
Shelf Rockfish complex	North of 40°10' N lat	694.70	691.65
Shelf Rockfish complex	South of 40°10' N lat	163.02	163.02
Slope Rockfish complex	North of 40°10' N lat	894.43	874.99
Slope Rockfish complex	South of 40°10' N lat	417.1	414.58

^a Managed through an international process. These allocations will be updated when announced.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 230224–0053; RTID 0648–XD009]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Jig Gear in the Central 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 retention of Pacific cod by vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary because the 2023 total allowable catch of Pacific cod apportioned to vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached.

DATES: Effective 12 p.m. Alaska local time (A.l.t.), June 10, 2023, through 12 a.m., A.l.t., December 31, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Obren Davis, 907–581–7241.

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 2023 Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) apportioned to vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA is 111 metric tons (mt) as established by the final 2023 and 2024 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (88 FR 13238, March 2, 2023).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS has determined that the 2023 Pacific cod TAC apportioned to vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that Pacific cod caught by vessels using jig gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(a).

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 prohibiting the retention of Pacific cod by vessels using jig gear in the Central 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 May 24, 2023.

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: May 25, 2023.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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