

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 216 and 300

[Docket No. 200728–0201]

RIN 0648–BJ23

International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions for Silky Shark, Fish Aggregating Devices, and Observer Safety in the Eastern Pacific Ocean

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

ACTION: Final rule; date of effectiveness for collection-of-information requirements.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of collection-of-information requirements contained in regulations published in a final rule on May 18, 2020. The final rule implements three resolutions adopted by the Members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in 2018 and 2019: Resolution C–19–01 (*Amendment to Resolution C–18–05 on the Collection and Analyses of Data on Fish-Aggregating Devices*); Resolution C–19–05 (*Amendment to the Resolution C–16–06 Conservation Measures for Shark Species, with Special Emphasis on the Silky Shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), for the Years 2020 and 2021*); and Resolution C–18–07 (*Resolution on Improving Observer Safety at Sea: Emergency Action Plan*). The final rule also implements a resolution adopted by Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP): Resolution A–18–03 (*On Improving Observer Safety At Sea: Emergency Action Plan*). The intent of this final rule is to inform the public of the effectiveness of the collection-of-information requirements associated with silky shark reporting, fish aggregating device (FAD) reporting, and observer reporting included in the final rule.

DATES: This final rule is effective August 17, 2020. The amendments to §§ 216.24, 300.22(a)(3)(i), 300.24(ff), (gg), (hh), 300.27(f), and 300.29 published at 85 FR 29666 (May 18, 2020) are effective on August 17, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Copies of supporting documents are available via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket NOAA–NMFS–2019–0149, or contact Rachael

Wadsworth, NMFS WCR SFD, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Building 1, Seattle, WA 98115, or WCR.HMS@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachael Wadsworth, NMFS at 562–980–4036.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS implemented decisions of the IATTC and AIDCP in the eastern Pacific Ocean under the authority of the Tuna Conventions Act (16 U.S.C. 951 *et seq.*) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*).

Background

NMFS issued a final rule to implement three IATTC Resolutions and one AIDCP Resolution on silky shark, data collection for FADs, and observer safety. The rule applies to U.S. commercial fishing vessels that fish for tuna or tuna-like species in the IATTC Convention Area. The IATTC Convention Area is defined as waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean within the area bounded by the west coast of the Americas and by 50° N latitude, 150° W longitude, and 50° S latitude.

The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on May 18, 2020 (85 FR 29666), and associated regulations are found at 50 CFR parts 216 and 300. The requirements of that final rule related to the retention prohibition on silky shark caught on longline vessels became effective June 17, 2020, and the remaining amendments that included collection-of-information requirements were delayed. OMB approved the collection-of-information requirements for the remaining amendments contained in the final rule on June 12, 2020, under OMB Control Number 0648–0214 and 0648–0148.

Accordingly, this final rule announces the approval and effective date of those remaining amendments related to FAD, silky shark, and observer safety collection-of-information requirements found in Subpart C of 50 CFR parts 216 and 300.

Classification*Administrative Procedure Act*

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and opportunity for public comment for this action because notice and comment would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. This action simply provides notice of OMB's approval of the reporting requirements at issue, which has already occurred, and renders those requirements effective. Thus, this action does not involve any further exercise of agency discretion by NMFS or OMB. Moreover, the public has had prior notice and the

opportunity to comment on the collection-of-information requirements. NMFS published the proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 4250; January 24, 2020), with comments accepted until February 24, 2020. NMFS received one comment during the comment period. This comment was outside the scope of the action and is not relevant to this rule. The final rule was published on May 18, 2020 (85 FR 29666), and indicated that this final rule would be published announcing the effective date for the revised reporting requirements upon OMB approval.

There is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date for the collection-of-information requirements. This final rule relieves some of the reporting requirements for captains of purse seine vessels, allows NMFS to collect data related to silky shark regulations, and implements reporting requirements intended to improve observer safety at sea. In addition, the final rule is necessary for the United States to satisfy its obligations as a member of the IATTC and Party to the AIDCP. Accordingly, waiver of the 30-day delay in effective date is necessary to improve compliance with the requirements of the IATTC and AIDCP, the failure of which would be contrary to the public interest.

Executive Order 12866

This final rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This final rule contains collection of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) and which OMB approved under OMB Control Number 0648–0214 and 0648–0148 on June 12, 2020.

Specifically, captains of U.S. purse seine vessels are only required to collect FAD data (OMB Control No. 0648–0148) when an observer is not onboard, and captains are still required to provide the observer with the FAD identification number. The public reporting burden for these requirements is estimated to average 1 minute per form. The requirement to report silky shark surrendered or donated is also estimated to average 1 minute per form, and the reporting related to observer safety on purses seine vessels is estimated to average 5 minutes per reporting incident. Public reporting burden for amendments to the supporting

statement for the Pacific Islands Region Logbook Family of Forms (OMB Control No. 0648–0214) for reporting related to observer safety on longline vessels is estimated to average 5 minutes per reporting incident. These estimates include time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, and no person shall be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection-of-information subject to the requirements of the PRA, unless that collection-of-information displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 951 *et seq.*

Dated: July 28, 2020.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

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

[FR Doc. 2020–16730 Filed 8–14–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 200227–0066; RTID 0648–XA383]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; reallocation.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reallocating the projected unused amount of Pacific cod from vessels using jig gear and catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 meters (m)) length overall (LOA) using hook-and-line gear to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) length overall using hook-and-line or pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) management area. This action is necessary to allow the 2020 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific cod to be harvested.

DATES: Effective August 14, 2020, through 2400 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), December 31, 2020.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (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 2020 Pacific cod TAC specified for vessels using jig gear in the BSAI is 1,278 metric tons (mt) as established by the final 2020 and 2021 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (85 FR 13553, March 9, 2020) and reallocation (85 FR 4601, January 27, 2020).

The 2020 Pacific cod TAC specified for catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI is 277 mt as established by the final 2020 and 2021 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (85 FR 13553, March 9, 2020).

The 2020 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI is 3,433 mt as established by final 2020 and 2021 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (85 FR 13553, March 9, 2020) and reallocation (85 FR 4601, January 27, 2020).

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, (Regional Administrator) has determined that jig vessels will not be able to harvest 1,100 mt of the 2020 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(7)(ii)(A)(1) and catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear will not be able to harvest 274 mt of the 2020 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(7)(ii)(A)(3).

Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(a)(7)(iv)(C), NMFS apportions 1,100 mt of Pacific cod from the jig gear apportionment to the annual amount specified for catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear. Also, in accordance with § 679.20(a)(7)(iii)(A), NMFS reallocates 274 mt from the catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear apportionment to the annual amount specified for catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear.

The harvest specifications for 2020 Pacific cod included in final 2020 and 2021 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (85 FR 13553, March 9, 2020) and reallocation (85 FR

4601, January 27, 2020) are revised as follows: 178 mt to vessels using jig gear, 3 mt to catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line gear, and 4,807 mt to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear.

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. This requirement is 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 allow for harvests that exceed the originally specified apportionment of the Pacific cod TAC.

NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of August 7, 2020.

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

Dated: August 12, 2020.

Kelly Denit,

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

[FR Doc. 2020–17924 Filed 8–14–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 200227–0066; RTID 0648–XA385]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; apportionment of reserves; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS apportions amounts of the non-specified reserve to the initial total allowable catch (ITAC) of Aleutian Islands (AI) Greenland turbot, AI trawl sablefish, Bering Sea (BS) trawl