

this subpart, the Act, or any other rules implemented under the Act.

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50 CFR Part 663

[Docket No. 941265-4365; I.D. 071995B]

Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; End of Whiting Regular Season

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

ACTION: Fishing restrictions.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the end of the regular season for the Pacific whiting (whiting) fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California and the reimposition of a 10,000-lb (4,536-kg) trip limit coastwide. This action is authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan that governs the harvest of groundfish in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. This action is intended to keep landings close to the 1995 harvest guideline for whiting, while allowing small quantities to be landed by fresh fish and bait fisheries and as bycatch in other fisheries.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective from 0001 hours (local time), July 24, 1995, until the effective date of the 1996 annual specifications and management measures, which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this action should be sent to Mr. William Stelle, Jr., Director, Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700, Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or Ms. Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Director, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. Information relevant to these actions has been compiled in aggregate form and is available for public review during business hours at the office of the Director, Northwest Region, NMFS (Regional Director).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson 206-526-6140; or Rodney R. McInnis 310-980-4040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At its October 1994 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended that a 10,000-lb (4,536-kg) trip limit apply to landings of whiting after the end of the regular season (when the harvest guideline is reached) (60 FR 2339, January 9, 1995).

At-sea processing of whiting was prohibited on May 4, 1995 (60 FR 24572, May 9, 1995) when 107,000 metric tons (mt) (60 percent of the 178,400 mt harvest guideline) was projected to have been taken (102,624 mt for at-sea processing and 3,932 mt for shore-based processing). The remaining 71,844 mt of the harvest guideline was reserved for delivery to shore-based processors.

Based on the best available information on current and projected rates of landings, the Regional Director has determined that approximately 168,346 mt of whiting has been caught through July 16, 1995, and that at a rate of about 1,200 mt delivered shoreside per day, the 178,400 mt harvest guideline would be reached on July 24, 1995. Therefore, the regular season ends and the 10,000-lb (4,536-kg) trip limit for whiting resumes at 0001 hours (local time), July 24, 1995. Because at-sea processing of whiting is prohibited, this trip limit applies only to vessels delivering shoreside. The trip limit is intended to accommodate small bait and fresh fish markets and the bycatch of whiting in other fisheries.

NMFS Action

NMFS announces the following change to the 1995 fishery specifications and management measures for whiting published at paragraph IV.F.(1)(b) (60 FR 2343, January 9, 1995) as follows:

(b) No more than 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) of whiting may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed, per vessel per fishing trip.

Classification

The determination to take this action is based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which the determination is based are available for public inspection at the office of the Regional Director (see **ADDRESSES**) during business hours. This action was recommended by the Council at its October 1994 meeting, and was announced in the annual specifications and management measures on January 9, 1995 (60 FR 2331). There was an opportunity for public comment at the August and October 1994 Council meetings. Supporting documents (catch projections) were available for public inspection prior to, and at, the June 1995 Council meeting. Because of the need for immediate action, and because the public had an opportunity to comment on the action at Council meetings, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this action to be published without affording a prior opportunity for public comment or a 30-

day delayed effectiveness period. This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 663.23(b)(3) and (c)(1)(i)(I), and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: July 21, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95-18432 Filed 7-24-95; 11:55 am]

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50 CFR Part 672

[Docket No. 950206041-5041-01; I.D. 072095B]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; "Other Rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting the retention of "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catches of "other rockfish" in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the "other rockfish" total allowable catch (TAC) in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 21, 1995, until 12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew N. Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR parts 620 and 672.

In accordance with § 672.20(c)(1)(ii), the TAC for "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area was established by the final 1995 harvest specifications of groundfish (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995) as 370 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(c)(3), that the TAC for "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached. Therefore,