

shackled, tied, or otherwise connected to a sled, door, or other device that spreads the net, or to a tow rope, cable, pole, or extension, either on board or attached to a shrimp trawler.

(2) *Certified BRDs*. The following BRDs are certified for use in the South Atlantic EEZ. Specifications of these certified BRDs are contained in Appendix D of this part.

- (i) Extended funnel.
- (ii) Expanded mesh.
- (iii) Fisheye.
- (iv) Gulf fisheye.
- (v) Jones-Davis.

(3) *Certification of additional BRDs*.

(i) A person who proposes a BRD for certification for use in the South Atlantic EEZ must submit an application to test such BRD, conduct the testing, and submit the results of the test in accordance with the *Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Protocol Manual*, which is available from the RA upon request.

(ii) For a new BRD to be certified, it must be statistically demonstrated that in testing under the *Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Protocol Manual* the BRD can reduce the total weight of finfish taken as bycatch by at least 30 percent.

(iii) If a BRD meets the certification criterion, as determined under the testing protocol, NMFS will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** adding the BRD to the list of certified BRDs in paragraph (g)(2) of this section and providing the specifications for the newly certified BRD, including any special conditions deemed appropriate based on the certification testing results.

(4) *Limited exemption*. A rock or penaeid shrimp trawler that is authorized by the RA to test a BRD in the EEZ for possible certification, has such written authorization on board, and is conducting such test in accordance with the *Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Protocol Manual* is granted a limited exemption from the BRD requirement specified in paragraph (g)(1) of this section. The exemption from the BRD requirement is limited to those trawls that are being used in the certification trials. All other trawls rigged for fishing must be equipped with certified BRDs.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 12. In Table 4 of Appendix A to Part 622—South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper, the section heading, Serranidae—Sea Basses and Groupers, and the species listed under that heading are revised to read as follows:

#### Appendix A to Part 622—Species Tables

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Table 4 of Appendix A to Part 622—South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper

\* \* \* \* \*

##### Serranidae—Groupers

Rock hind, *Epinephelus adscensionis*  
Graysby, *Epinephelus cruentatus*  
Speckled hind, *Epinephelus*

##### *drummondhayi*

Yellowedge grouper, *Epinephelus flavolimbatus*

Coney, *Epinephelus fulvus*

Red hind, *Epinephelus guttatus*

Goliath grouper, *Epinephelus itajara*

Red grouper, *Epinephelus morio*

Misty grouper, *Epinephelus*

##### *mystacinus*

Warsaw grouper, *Epinephelus nigrurus*

Snowy grouper, *Epinephelus niveatus*

Nassau grouper, *Epinephelus striatus*

Black grouper, *Mycteroperca bonaci*

Yellowmouth grouper, *Mycteroperca*

##### *interstitialis*

Gag, *Mycteroperca microlepis*

Scamp, *Mycteroperca phenax*

Tiger grouper, *Mycteroperca tigris*

Yellowfin grouper, *Mycteroperca*

##### *venenosa*

##### Serranidae—Sea Basses

Bank sea bass, *Centropristis ocyurus*

Rock sea bass, *Centropristis*

##### *philadelphica*

Black sea bass, *Centropristis striata*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PART 622—[Nomenclature change]

13. In part 622, revise all references to “jewfish” to read “goliath grouper” wherever it appears.

[FR Doc. 05–23929 Filed 12–9–05; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 041126332–5039–02; I.D. 120705A]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels 60 feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall and Longer Using Hook-and-line Gear 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; closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels 60 feet (18.3 meters (m)) length overall (LOA) and longer using hook-and-line gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian

Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2005 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific cod specified for catcher vessels 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA and longer using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), December 7, 2005, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Josh Keaton, 907–586–7228.

**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 2005 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher vessels 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA and longer using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI is 230 metric tons as established by the 2005 and 2006 final harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (70 FR 8979, February 24, 2005), the reallocation on October 5, 2005 (70 FR 58983, October 11, 2005) and the reallocation on November 21, 2005 (70 FR 71039, November 25, 2005). See § 679.20(c)(3)(iii) and (c)(5), and (a)(7)(i)(C).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the 2005 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher vessels 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA and longer using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA and longer using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI.

After the effective date of this closure the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

#### Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is 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 delay the closure of Pacific cod by catcher vessels 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA and longer using hook-and-line gear in the BSAI.

The AA 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.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: December 7, 2005.

**Alan D. Risenhoover,**

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

[FR Doc. 05-23926 Filed 12-7-05; 2:16 pm]

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