

which qualify as small entities under the guidelines of the Small Business Administration. The rule will decrease the amount of time an applicant has to file the requisite proof of financial responsibility upon approval of applicant's license application, from two years to 120 days. The modifications in the rule will simplify the OTI licensing application process and increase administrative efficiency, while further serving to safeguard the shipping public from unlicensed operators. The rule imposes no new or additional cost burden on persons applying for an OTI license, nor will it have a harmful effect on the general public, the U.S. economy, or any of the regulated entities under the jurisdiction of the Commission. In its NPRM, the Commission stated its intention to certify this rulemaking. No comments from interested parties contested the Commission's certification. Thus, the rule is hereby certified.

The rule contains no additional information collection or recordkeeping requirements. Therefore, the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, do not apply.

#### List of Subjects in 46 CFR Part 515

Common carriers, Exports, Non-vessel-operating common carriers, Ocean transportation intermediaries, Financial responsibility requirements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Surety bonds.

■ Accordingly, the Federal Maritime Commission amends 46 CFR part 515 as follows:

#### PART 515—LICENSING, FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AND GENERAL DUTIES FOR OCEAN TRANSPORTATION INTERMEDIARIES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 515 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 553; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 46 U.S.C. app. 1702, 1707, 1709, 1710, 1712, 1714, 1716, and 1718 (recodified October 2006 as 46 U.S.C. 305, 40102, 40104, 40501–40503, 40901–40904, 41101–41106, 41107–41109, 41301–41302, 41305–41307, 42101, and 42301–42307); Pub. L. 105–383, 112 Stat. 3411; 21 U.S.C. 862.

##### § 515.5 [Amended]

■ 2. In Sec. 515.5, remove paragraph (b)(3).

■ 3. Amend Sec. 515.25(a) by removing the fourth sentence and revising the last sentence to read as follows:

##### § 515.25 Filing of proof of financial responsibility.

(a) \* \* \* Should the applicant not file the requisite proof of financial

responsibility within 120 days of notification, the Commission will consider the application to be invalid.

\* \* \* \* \*

By the Commission.

**Bryant L. VanBrakle,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E7–19464 Filed 10–2–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730–01–P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 070213033–7033–01]

RIN 0648–XD08

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in 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 closing directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2007 halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl Pacific cod fishery category in the BSAI.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 29, 2007, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Hogan, 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 2007 halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl Pacific cod fishery category in the BSAI is 1,334 metric tons as established by the 2007 and 2008 final harvest specifications for

groundfish in the BSAI (72 FR 9451, March 2, 2007).

In accordance with § 679.21(e)(7)(v), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the 2007 halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl Pacific cod fishery category in the BSAI has been caught. Consequently, NMFS is closing directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using trawl 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 directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of September 27, 2007.

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 § 679.21 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: September 27, 2007.

**Emily H. Menashes**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 07–4894 Filed 9–28–07; 2:30 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S