

TABLE 5B—FINAL 2011 GEAR SHARES AND SEASONAL ALLOWANCES OF THE BSAI PACIFIC COD TAC—Continued
[Amounts are in metric tons]

Gear sector	Percent	Share of gear sector total	Share of sector total	Seasonal apportionment	
				Dates	Amount
Amendment 80	13.4	27,277	n/a	Jan 20–Apr 1	20,458
				Apr 1–Jun 10	6,819
				Jun 10–Nov 1	0
Alaska Groundfish Cooperative ²	n/a	n/a	5,079	Jan 20–Apr 1	3,809
				Apr 1–Jun 10	1,270
				Jun 10–Nov 1	0
Alaska Seafood Cooperative ²	n/a	22,198	Jan 20–Apr 1	16,649
				Apr 1–Jun 10	5,550
				Jun 10–Nov 1	0
Jig	1.4	2,850	n/a	Jan 1–Apr 30	1,710
				Apr 30–Aug 31	570
				Aug 31–Dec 31	570

¹ The ICA for the hook-and-line and pot sectors will be deducted from the aggregate portion of Pacific cod TAC allocated to the hook-and-line and pot sectors. The Regional Administrator approves an ICA of 500 mt for 2011 based on anticipated incidental catch in these fisheries.

² Two Amendment 80 cooperatives have formed for 2011, rather than a single cooperative. The Alaska Groundfish Cooperative category replaces a category designated as “Amendment 80 limited access.” Table 5b is updated to reflect this change.

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 require harvests lower than the appropriate allocations for Pacific cod, based on the best scientific information available. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of December 15, 2010, and additional time for prior public comment would result in conservation concerns for the ESA-listed Steller sea lions.

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.

Under § 679.25(c)(2), interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this action to the above address until January 20, 2011.

This action is required by § 679.22 and § 679.25 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: December 29, 2010.

Emily H. Menashes,

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

[FR Doc. 2010–33306 Filed 12–30–10; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 0910131362–0087–02]

RIN 0648–XA119

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2011 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; inseason adjustment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS is adjusting the 2011 total allowable catch (TAC) amounts for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) pollock and Pacific cod fisheries. This action is necessary because NMFS has determined these TACs are incorrectly specified, and will ensure the GOA pollock and Pacific cod TACs are the appropriate amounts based on the best available scientific information for pollock and Pacific cod in the GOA. This action is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 5, 2011, until the effective date of the final 2011 and 2012 harvest specifications for GOA groundfish, unless otherwise modified or superseded through publication of a notification in the **Federal Register**.

Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., January 20, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to James W. Balsiger, Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian. You may submit comments, identified by RIN 0648–XA119, by any one of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submissions:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- *Mail:* P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

- *Fax:* (907) 586–7557.

- *Hand delivery to the Federal Building:* 709 West 9th Street, Room 420A, Juneau, AK.

All comments received are a part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in

Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Obren Davis, 907-586-7228.

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 (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 final 2010 and 2011 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (75 FR 11749, March 12, 2010) set the 2011 pollock TAC at 109,105 metric tons (mt) and the 2011 Pacific cod TAC at 73,719 mt in the GOA. In December 2010, the Council recommended a 2011 pollock TAC of 96,215 mt for the GOA, which is less than the 109,105 mt

established by the final 2010 and 2011 GOA harvest specifications. The Council also recommended a 2011 Pacific cod TAC of 65,100 mt for the GOA, which is less than the 73,719 mt established by the final 2010 and 2011 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA. The Council's recommended 2011 TACs, and the area and seasonal apportionments, are based on the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation report (SAFE), dated November 2010, which NMFS has determined is the best available scientific information for these fisheries.

Steller sea lions occur in the same location as the pollock and Pacific cod fisheries and are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Pollock and Pacific cod are a principal prey species for Steller sea lions in the GOA. The seasonal apportionment of pollock and Pacific cod harvest is necessary to ensure the groundfish fisheries are not likely to cause jeopardy of extinction or adverse modification of critical habitat for

Steller sea lions. The regulations at § 679.20(a)(5)(iv) specify how the pollock TAC will be apportioned. The regulations at § 679.20(a)(6)(ii) and § 679.20(a)(12)(i) specify how the Pacific cod TAC shall be apportioned.

In accordance with § 679.25(a)(2)(i)(B), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that, based on the November 2010 SAFE report for this fishery, the current GOA pollock and Pacific cod TACs are incorrectly specified. Consequently, pursuant to § 679.25(a)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator is adjusting the 2011 GOA pollock TAC to 96,215 mt and the 2011 GOA Pacific cod TAC to 65,100 mt.

Pursuant to § 679.20(a)(5)(iv), Table 6 of the final 2010 and 2011 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (75 FR 11749, March 12, 2010) is revised for the 2011 pollock TACs in the Western, Central, and Eastern GOA consistent with this adjustment.

TABLE 6—FINAL 2011 DISTRIBUTION OF POLLOCK IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN REGULATORY AREAS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA; PERCENTAGE SEASONAL BIOMASS DISTRIBUTION, AREA APPORTIONMENTS; AND SEASONAL ALLOWANCES OF ANNUAL TAC

[Values are rounded to the nearest metric ton]

Season	Shumagin (Area 610)		Chirikof (Area 620)		Kodiak (Area 630)		Total ¹
	mt	%	mt	%	mt	%	
A (Jan 20–Mar 10)	4,786	22.62%	11,895	56.22%	4,475	21.15%	21,159
B (Mar 10–May 31)	4,786	22.62%	14,231	67.26%	2,139	10.11%	21,158
C (Aug 25–Oct 1)	8,729	41.25%	5,619	26.55%	6,812	32.19%	21,158
D (Oct 1–Nov 1)	8,729	41.25%	5,619	26.55%	6,812	32.19%	21,158
Annual Total	27,030		37,364		20,237		84,631

¹ The West Yakutat and Southeast Outside District pollock TACs (2,339 and 9,245, respectively) are not allocated by season and are not included in the total pollock TACs shown in this table.

Note: As established by § 679.23(d)(2)(i) through (iv), the A, B, C, and D season allowances are available from January 20 to March 10, March 10 to May 31, August 25 to October 1, and October 1 to November 1, respectively. The amounts of pollock for processing by the inshore and offshore components are not shown in this table.

Pursuant to § 679.20(a)(6)(ii) and § 679.20(a)(12)(i), Table 8 of the final 2010 and 2011 harvest specifications for

groundfish in the GOA (75 FR 11749, March 12, 2010) is revised for the 2011 Pacific cod TACs in the Western,

Central, and Eastern GOA consistent with this adjustment.

TABLE 8—FINAL 2011 SEASONAL APPORTIONMENTS AND ALLOCATION OF PACIFIC COD TAC AMOUNTS IN THE GULF OF ALASKA; ALLOCATIONS FOR PROCESSING BY THE INSHORE AND OFFSHORE COMPONENTS

[Values are rounded to the nearest metric ton]

Regulatory area	Season	TAC	Component allocation ¹	
			Inshore (90%)	Offshore (10%)
Western	Annual	22,785	20,506	2,279
	A season (60%)	13,671	12,303	1,367
	B season (40%)	9,114	8,202	911
Central	Annual	40,362	36,326	4,036
	A season (60%)	24,217	21,795	2,422
	B season (40%)	16,145	14,530	1,614
Eastern	Annual	1,953	1,758	195
	Total	65,100	58,590	6,510

¹ Seasonal apportionments may not total precisely due to due to rounding.

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

allow for harvests that exceed the appropriate allocations for Pacific cod based on the best scientific information available. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of December 15, 2010, and additional time for prior public comment would result in conservation concerns for the ESA-listed Steller sea lions.

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.

Under § 679.25(c)(2), interested persons are invited to submit written comments on this action to the above address until January 20, 2011.

This action is required by § 679.22 and § 679.25 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: December 29, 2010.

Emily H. Menashes,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-33308 Filed 12-30-10; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P