

[Federal Register: February 10, 1994]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
50 CFR Parts 672 and 675
[Docket No. 940225-4025; I.D. 012494B!]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

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

ACTION: Emergency interim rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that an emergency exists in groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). Management measures must be implemented to prevent overfishing of GOA thornyhead rockfish and Pacific ocean perch (POP) and to limit unnecessarily high bycatch amounts of these rockfish species and Pacific halibut in the GOA trawl fisheries in a manner that will reduce the likelihood of premature fishery closures. These measures include revising regulations applicable to the management and monitoring of the GOA halibut bycatch limit established for trawl gear fisheries, revising directed fishing standards, and adjustment of BSAI flatfish seasons to provide for additional fishing opportunities in the BSAI early in the fishing year. This action is necessary to respond to new information applicable to the management of GOA halibut and rockfish species and to avoid premature fishery closures. This action is intended to further the goals and objectives contained in the fishery management plans for the groundfish fisheries off Alaska.

DATES: Effective February 7, 1994 through May 11, 1994. Comments are invited on this action until February 25, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802, Attention: Lori Gravel. Copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for a proposed regulatory amendment, which will follow and implement the actions taken under the emergency rule, may be obtained from the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan J. Salvesson, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Fishing for groundfish by U.S. vessels in the exclusive economic zone of the GOA and the BSAI is managed by the Secretary of Commerce according to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the GOA and the FMP for the Groundfish Fishery of the BSAI. The FMPs were prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.) (Magnuson Act), and are implemented by regulations governing the U.S. groundfish fisheries at 50 CFR parts 672 and 675. General regulations that also pertain to U.S. fisheries are codified at 50 CFR part 620.

Management problems can arise that need to be addressed quicker than is feasible in the normal procedures provided by the Magnuson Act for FMP amendments and implementing regulations. Section 305(c) of the Magnuson Act authorizes the Secretary to issue emergency regulations to address such situations. Emergency regulations may remain in effect for 90 days with a possible 90-day extension.

At its September 1993 meeting, the Council requested NMFS to prepare a rulemaking that would implement several management measures to prevent some GOA trawl fisheries from taking a disproportionate amount of the GOA halibut bycatch limit established for the trawl fisheries, thus causing premature closure of other trawl fisheries. These proposed emergency measures were presented to the Council in September 1993 by GOA and BSAI trawl industry

representatives as an alternative to controversial FMP amendments that were considered by the Council that would establish a super exclusive registration program for vessels participating in the GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries. These alternative measures were intended to address the competition for the halibut bycatch limit established for the GOA trawl fisheries (Sec. 672.20(f)) and included (1) the establishment of two GOA trawl fishery categories that would be eligible to receive separate apportionments of the halibut bycatch limit, (2) revision of directed fishing standards to eliminate unnecessarily high halibut bycatch rates that can result from covert targeting on groundfish species for which directed fishing is closed, and (3) adjustment of the season opening date for the BSAI yellowfin sole and ``other flatfish'' fisheries from May 1 to January 20. The intent of the recommended season adjustment is to provide for additional fishing opportunities in the BSAI early in the year and reduce the incentive for trawl vessel operators to move from the BSAI to the GOA after the rock sole roe fishery is closed, typically by the end of February. NMFS intends to prepare a proposed rule and publish it in the Federal Register for public review and comment.

At its December 1993 meeting, the Council requested NMFS to implement the above management measures immediately under an emergency interim rule, by less than a unanimous vote. This request was in response to new information from some affected fishermen about the management of GOA halibut bycatch and total allowable catch (TAC) amounts specified for thornyhead rockfish and Pacific ocean perch (POP).

Several fishermen furnished information on practices of other fishermen in the affected fisheries that are inconsistent with Conservation of Pacific halibut bycatch. This information was given in the form of testimony, which was presented to the Council orally and in writing. These are permissible means of constructing an administrative record to undergird the Council's determinations.

Overfishing concerns exist for thornyhead rockfish and POP that will require conservative management of the TAC amounts specified for these species to avoid reaching overfishing levels and premature closure of other groundfish fisheries that take thornyhead rockfish or POP as bycatch. The Council heard concerns about the effect of premature trawl closures brought about from proposed halibut bycatch restrictions or overfishing on the GOA trawl fisheries and the communities that depend on them.

Management measures to avert these problems must be implemented early in the fishing season to avoid serious problems affecting inseason monitoring and management of the thornyhead rockfish and POP TACs and the halibut bycatch limit established for GOA trawl fisheries.

Implementing these measures under emergency interim rulemaking will provide immediate benefits to the public that outweigh the value of postponement for public review and comment. NMFS concurs with the Council's recommendation to implement the following measures by an emergency interim rule while a regulatory amendment is reviewed, which would put these measures in place.

A. Establish two GOA trawl fishery categories for purposes of apportioning the GOA halibut bycatch limit established for the trawl gear fisheries (Sec. 672.20(f)). These two categories are the (1) shallow water fishery complex (the Alaska pollock, Pacific cod, Atka mackerel, shallow water flatfish, flathead sole, and ``other species'' trawl fisheries), and (2) the deep water fishery complex (the deepwater flatfish, rex sole, arrowtooth flounder, sablefish, and rockfish trawl fisheries);

B. Revise the method for calculating retainable amounts of groundfish species under directed fishing standards (Secs. 672.20(h) and 675.20(i)). Revised methods will prohibit using retained amounts of arrowtooth flounder or groundfish species closed to directed fishing as a basis for calculating retainable amounts of other groundfish species that are closed to directed fishing; and

C. Adjust the opening date for the BSAI yellowfin sole and ``other flatfish'' fisheries from May 1 to January 20. As a result of this season

adjustment, directed fishing standards governing retainable amounts of flatfish species at Sec. 675.20(h) (2) also are revised. A fuller description of, and justification for, each of these measures follow.

Establishment of Two GOA trawl Categories for Purposes of Apportioning the Halibut Bycatch Mortality Limit

Existing regulations at Sec. 672.20(f) establish a framework process for the annual specification of separate Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for "trawl" and "fixed gear" fisheries, and for apportioning those limits by season. Although these regulations limit the bycatch of Pacific halibut in the GOA groundfish trawl fisheries, they have resulted in conflict among, and preemption of, groundfish trawling operations in the GOA as different trawl fishery components compete for shares of the available halibut PSC limit. This occurs due to seasonal variations in halibut bycatch rates and amounts experienced in the different trawl fisheries and the lack of trawl fishery categories in regulations that could receive separate apportionments of the halibut PSC limit.

Under existing regulations, it is possible for the activities of one group of trawl vessels used to fish for a particular groundfish species or species complex to take a disproportionate amount of the halibut bycatch limit. This can cause the premature attainment of the halibut PSC limit and closure of all trawling operations in the GOA, except for trawling for pollock with pelagic trawl gear. Such closures may leave significant amounts of economically important TAC unharvested, idling vessels and crew, and disrupting processing and fishing support sectors, fishery dependent communities, and intermediate and final markets. Even if the total trawl PSC limit is not reached prematurely, the threat that at any point in time in the fishing year it may be, can force other user groups to incur unnecessary costs, alter fishing plans, or undertake inefficient or undesirable fishing decisions.

Many of the potentially adverse impacts of the present framework process used to manage halibut bycatch in the GOA trawl fisheries would be avoided or reduced if the GOA trawl PSC limit is apportioned between competing fishery categories. Fishery data from the GOA trawl fisheries indicate that the variation in halibut bycatch rates and associated bycatch mortality in these fisheries appears to be relatively well demarcated by the following operational categories: (1) Those vessels fishing for species in the "shallow water species complex" (Alaska pollock, Pacific cod, shallow water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, or "other species"), and (2) those vessels fishing for species in the "deep water species complex" (sablefish, rockfish, deep water flatfish, and arrowtooth flounder). Although the Council's action on this management measure included the flathead sole fishery in the deep water complex, 1993 fishery data show that over 65 percent of the total GOA flathead sole harvest was associated with fisheries in the shallow water complex. Therefore, NMFS is including the flathead sole fishery in the shallow water complex. The shallow water and deep water complexes are associated with inshore and offshore trawl operations, respectively.

Based on Council recommendations at its September and December 1993 meetings, the emergency rule apportions the 1994 GOA halibut trawl PSC limit among fisheries and seasons as set forth below:

Apportionment of the 2000 metric ton (mt) halibut bycatch mortality limit established for the 1994 GOA trawl fisheries among the shallow and deep water trawl fishery complexes and seasons. Seasons open and close at 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), except that the first season opens at 00:01 hours, A.l.t., January 20, and the last season ends at 12 midnight, A.l.t., December 31.

Season	Shallow complex (metric tons)	Deep complex (metric tons)	Total (metric tons)
- Jan. 20-Mar. 31.....	500	100	600
Mar. 31-Jun. 30.....	100	300	400

Jun. 30-Sep. 30.....	200	400	600
Sep. 30-Dec. 31.....	(\1\)	(\1\)	400

\1\No apportionment.			

Attainment of a seasonal (quarterly) bycatch allowance by a fishery complex will result in directed fishing closures for each species within that fishery complex for the remainder of the quarter, except that when the halibut bycatch allowance, or seasonal apportionment thereof, specified for the shallow water complex is reached, directed fishing for pollock with pelagic trawl gear may continue subject to other regulatory provisions. Any overages or shortfalls of a quarterly bycatch allowance will be accounted for in the subsequent quarterly allowance.

A detailed justification for the fishery and seasonal apportionments of the 1994 halibut PSC limit is described in the EA prepared for this management measure (see ADDRESSES). In summary, the apportionments implemented under this emergency rule reflect the recommendations presented to the Council at its September and December 1993 meetings by an ad hoc industry working group responsible for developing this management measure. These apportionments are intended to accommodate seasonal bycatch requirements in a manner that optimizes the 1994 halibut PSC limit established for trawl gear relative to anticipated trawl fishing patterns and 1994 groundfish TACs.

Revision of the Methodology Used To Calculate Retainable Amounts of Groundfish Under Directed Fishing Standards

The emergency rule amends Secs. 672.20(h) and 675.20(i) to address problems with the current regulatory provisions for calculation of ``retainable'' bycatch amounts of groundfish species for which directed fishing is closed. Current regulations provide for an overly liberal computation of retainable amounts of groundfish bycatch species because the basis for bycatch retention inappropriately includes species not open for directed fishing. This compromises the intent of using directed fishing standards to restrict bycatch of species after directed fishery closures, effectively allowing unlimited bycatch retention.

An associated concern exists that some vessel operators deliberately target on arrowtooth flounder only to provide a basis for retaining allowable amounts of high valued groundfish species for which directed fishing is closed. In this case, arrowtooth flounder is harvested solely for the purpose of providing ``directed catch'' against which ``retainable bycatch'' quantities may be calculated and accumulated. Subsequently, the arrowtooth flounder directed catch is discarded and only the economically valuable bycatch, authorized on the basis of the quantity of the arrowtooth harvest, are actually retained for processing. This practice effectively subverts the ``bycatch only'' intent of fishery closures and associated directed fishing standards at Secs. 672.20 and 675.20. Furthermore, trawl operations for arrowtooth flounder experience relatively high bycatch rates of halibut and contribute to the premature attainment of the halibut PSC limit, further aggravating the competition for halibut as bycatch in the Alaska trawl fisheries and increasing the potential for costly trawl fishery closures.

Adjustment of Season Opening Dates for the BSAI Flatfish Fisheries

Under the emergency rule, the opening date for the yellowfin sole and ``other flatfish'' fisheries is adjusted from May 1 to January 20, the beginning of the trawl fishing year in the Bering Sea (Sec. 675.23(d)). The directed fishing standard for flatfish species (Sec. 675.20(h)(2)) is changed to accommodate this season change and allow sufficient bycatch amounts of rock sole, yellowfin sole, arrowtooth flounder, or ``other flatfish'' in the flatfish fisheries, while allowing for fishing operations to minimize the discard waste of these species. The proposed change to the directed fishing standard for these flatfish species also would establish species specific standards, rather than aggregate standards for all flatfish species closed to directed fishing. The intent of this action is to simplify directed fishing standards, and reduce discard waste by increasing the retainable amounts of

flatfish species closed to directed fishing relative to other flatfish species that are open to directed fishing.

The purpose of the season adjustment for the yellowfin sole and ``other flatfish'' fisheries is to provide the BSAI trawl industry with viable fishing alternatives, reduce the need for, and likelihood of, significant movement of fishing capacity from the BSAI to the GOA, reduce competition for GOA halibut bycatch under the halibut bycatch restrictions established for the GOA trawl fisheries, and reduce the likelihood that displacement of Bering Sea trawl effort into the GOA may preempt fishing opportunities for GOA operations later in the fishing year by exhausting the GOA trawl halibut PSC limit, thus necessitating GOA-wide trawl closures. This action also will reduce the likelihood that bycatch amounts of GOA thornyhead rockfish and POP will reach overfishing levels, resulting in costly fishery closures.

The original purpose for delaying directed fishing for yellowfin sole and ``other flatfish'' species until May 1 was to prevent the joint venture processing (JVP) and domestic annual processing (DAP) fisheries from taking a disproportionate share of their respective red king crab or halibut bycatch allowances established for Bycatch Limitation Zones 1 or 2H (defined at Sec. 675.2), before available amounts of yellowfin sole and other groundfish species were harvested. Early attainment of red king crab or halibut bycatch allowances because of high bycatch rates experienced in the early spring flatfish fisheries resulted in premature fishery closures that prevented available amounts of flatfish and other groundfish species from being harvested. Delaying the opening of the yellowfin sole and ``other flatfish'' fisheries until May 1 allowed the DAP fisheries to utilize the bulk of the available zone 1 PSC limits in the rock sole and Pacific cod fisheries from January through April, optimizing their catch of allocated groundfish species.

The flatfish fisheries have changed substantially since the May 1 starting date was implemented. JVP fisheries no longer operate in the EEZ off Alaska. The domestic industry has developed profitable new markets for products from the ``other flatfish'' complex. In addition, the yellowfin sole and rock sole/``other flatfish'' fisheries are allocated separate bycatch allowances that may be seasonally apportioned to optimize the groundfish harvest within the established prohibited species bycatch restrictions.

The May 1 opening date of the yellowfin sole and ``other flatfish'' fisheries now has the effect of preventing domestic fishermen from harvesting these resources at the beginning of the fishing year, when few other fishing opportunities exist. This has contributed, for example, to a situation in which the available TAC for the ``other flatfish'' complex has been underutilized in recent years. In 1991, only about 47 percent of the TAC for this species group was harvested. In 1992 and 1993, that figure dropped to 38 percent and 45 percent, respectively. While these resources have been underutilized, despite an expressed interest in accessing them at the beginning of the fishing year, retention of the May 1 opening has forced BSAI trawl fishermen to either move into the GOA deepwater flatfish fishery, which opens in January, or cease fishing until May 1.

The rock sole fishery in the Bering Sea currently opens at the beginning of the fishing year to allow the lucrative ``roe'' fishery to be conducted. This fishery typically closes in late-February or early-March when the rock sole are spawned out. Seasonal halibut bycatch restrictions can close other fisheries (e.g., Pacific cod during 1991 and 1992), leaving, as noted above, few alternative fishing opportunities for the BSAI groundfish fleet. Flathead sole, one of the species in the Bering Sea ``other flatfish'' category, produce roe, which matures just after rock sole roe matures. Markets for roe-bearing flathead sole have emerged, making this fishery a natural extension of that for roe-bearing rock sole in the Bering Sea. Other markets for these flatfish species, including a domestic fillet market, are under development.

Under the emergency rule, opening the BSAI yellowfin sole fishery and the ``other flatfish'' fishery at the beginning of the 1994 trawl season (January 20) will provide vessel operators fishing in the Bering Sea with the

opportunity to participate in a potentially profitable, developing fishery. This opportunity is expected to reduce the need for vessels to move into the GOA trawl fisheries early in the fishing year, thus potentially decreasing pressure on the GOA halibut PSC limit, reducing the likelihood of rockfish bycatch amounts reaching overfishing levels in the GOA trawl fisheries, and diminishing the probability of preemption of existing GOA groundfish fisheries through early closure.

NMFS concurs that the above regulatory measures must be implemented by emergency rulemaking to prevent overfishing of thornyhead rockfish and POP stocks and premature attainment of the halibut trawl PSC limit, thus reducing the likelihood of costly fishery closures. Such closures would result in significant direct economic loss to nearly all segments of the GOA trawl industry due to foregone groundfish harvests and closure of processing operations. Social costs associated with such closures include increased unemployment and reduced cash flow through business and communities that support and depend upon the GOA groundfish fisheries. Comments on this action are invited through February 25, 1994 (see ADDRESSES). Classification The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), has determined that this rule is necessary to respond to an emergency situation and that it is consistent with the Magnuson Act and other applicable laws. This rule is not subject to review under E.O. 12866. The AA finds that the reasons justifying promulgation of this rule on an emergency basis also make it impracticable and contrary to the public interest to provide notice and opportunity for prior comment or to delay for 30 days its effective date under sections 553(b) and (d) of the Administrative Procedure Act. The management measures implemented under this emergency rule must be implemented as soon as possible to respond to testimony at the Council's September and December 1993 meetings concerning the developing competition between GOA trawl fisheries for the halibut bycatch mortality limit and the potential for overfishing of thornyhead rockfish and POP. This action is necessary to allocate the GOA halibut PSC limit between trawl fisheries, limit the influx of BSAI trawl effort into the GOA after the BSAI rock sole roe fishery ends in late February, and prevent an associated increase in thornyhead, POP, and halibut bycatch amounts. Decreased bycatch of these species under the emergency rule will diminish the potential for premature fishery closures, decrease foregone groundfish harvests, and increase fishery revenues under existing overfishing and halibut bycatch restrictions. This rule is exempt from the procedures of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, because it is issued without opportunity for prior public comment. This rule will be implemented in a manner that is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the approved coastal management program of the State of Alaska. This determination has been submitted under section 307 of the Coastal zone Management Act for review by the responsible State agency. An EA was prepared for the regulatory amendment that will follow this action (see ADDRESSES).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Parts 672 and 675
Fisheries, Recordkeeping and reporting.

Dated: February 4, 1994.

Nancy Foster, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 50 CFR parts 672 and 675 are amended as follows:

PART 672--GROUND FISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

1. The authority citation for part 672 continues to read as follows:
Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

2. In Sec. 672.20, paragraphs (f)(1)(i) and (h)(1) are suspended from February 7, 1994 until May 11, 1994 and new paragraphs (f)(3) and (h)(3) are added from February 7, 1994 until May 11, 1994 as follows:

Sec. 672.20 General limitations.

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(f) * * *

(3) trawl gear fisheries.

(i) Apportionment of the Halibut PSC limit to trawl gear fisheries. The halibut PSC limit for trawl gear specified under paragraph (f) (2) of this section is apportioned into bycatch allowances and seasonal apportionments thereof, specified in paragraph (f) (3) (iii) of this section, for fishery categories defined in paragraph (f) (3) (ii) of this section, based on each category's proportional share of the anticipated bycatch mortality of halibut during a fishing year and the need to optimize the amount of total groundfish harvested under the non-trawl halibut PSC limit. The sum of all halibut bycatch allowances will equal the halibut PSC limit specified at paragraph (f) (2) of this section.

(ii) For purposes of apportioning the trawl halibut PSC limit among fisheries, the following fishery categories are specified and defined in terms of round-weight equivalents of those groundfish species for which a TAC has been specified under Sec. 672.20 (a) and (c):

(A) Shallow water species fishery. Fishing with trawl gear during any weekly reporting period that results in a retained aggregate catch of pollock, Pacific cod, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and "other species" that is greater than the retained amount of any other groundfish species or species group.

(B) Deep water species fishery. Fishing with trawl gear during any weekly reporting period that results in a retained catch of groundfish and is not a shallow water species fishery as defined under paragraph (f) (3) (ii) (A) of this section.

(iii) 1994 emergency interim bycatch allowances and seasonal apportionments thereof. The halibut PSC limit specified for vessels using trawl gear under paragraph (f) (2) of this section is apportioned among trawl fishery categories and season under this paragraph (f) (3) as follows:

Season	Shallow water species complex (metric tons)	Deep water species complex (metric tons)	Total (metric tons)
- Jan. 20--Mar. 31.....	500	100	600
Mar. 31--Jun. 30.....	100	300	400
Jun. 30--Sep. 30.....	200	400	600
Sep. 30--Dec. 31.....	(\1\)	(\1\)	400

- \1\No apportionment.

(iv) Attainment of a Pacific halibut trawl fishery bycatch allowance. If, during the fishing year, the Regional Director determines that U.S. fishing vessels participating in either of the trawl fishery categories listed in paragraphs (f) (3) (ii) (A) or (B) of this section will catch the Pacific halibut bycatch allowance, or seasonal apportionment thereof, specified for that fishery category in paragraph (f) (3) (iii) of this section, NMFS will close the entire Gulf of Alaska to directed fishing with trawl gear for each species and/or species group that comprises that fishery category, except that when the halibut bycatch allowance or seasonal apportionment thereof specified for the shallow water species fishery is reached, fishing for pollock by vessels using pelagic trawl gear may continue, consistent with other provisions of this part.

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(h) * * *

(3) Calculations.

(i) In making any determination concerning directed fishing under paragraph (g) of this section, the amount or percentage of any species, species group or any fish or fish products will be calculated in round weight equivalents.

(ii) Arrowtooth flounder or any groundfish species for which directed fishing is closed may not be used to calculate retainable amounts of other groundfish species under paragraph (g) of this section.

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PART 675--GROUND FISH FISHERY OF THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA

3. The authority citations for 50 CFR part 675 continue to read as follows:
Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

4. In Sec. 675.20, paragraphs (h)(2), (h)(6), and (i)(1) are suspended from February 7, 1994 until May 11, 1994, and new paragraphs (h)(7), (h)(8) and (i)(3) are added from February 7, 1994 until May 11, 1994, as follows:

Sec. 675.20 General limitations.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

(7) Yellowfin sole, rock sole, arrowtooth flounder, or ``other flatfish''. The operator of a vessel is engaged in directed fishing for yellowfin sole, rock sole, arrowtooth flounder, or ``other flatfish'' if he retains at any time during a trip an amount of one of these species equal to or greater than 35 percent of the amount of the other respective species retained at the same time on the vessel during the same trip, plus 20 percent of any groundfish species other than yellowfin sole, rock sole, or ``other flatfish'' retained at the same time on the vessel during the same trip.

(8) Other. Except as provided under paragraphs (h)(1) through (7) of this section, the operator of a vessel is engaged in directed fishing for a specific species or species group if he retains at any particular time during a trip that species or species group in an amount equal to or greater than 20 percent of the amount of all other fish species retained at the same time on the vessel during the same trip.

(i) * * *

(3) Calculations.

(i) In making any determination concerning directed fishing under paragraph (h) of this section, the amount or percentage of any species, species group or any fish or fish products will be calculated in round weight equivalents.

(ii) Arrowtooth flounder or any groundfish species for which directed fishing is closed may not be used to calculate retainable amounts of other groundfish species under paragraph (h) of this section.

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5. In Sec. 675.23, paragraph (c) is suspended from February 7, 1994 until May 11, 1994 and new paragraph (f) is added from February 7, 1994 until May 11, 1994, as follows:

Sec. 675.23 Seasons.

* * * * *

(f) Directed fishing for arrowtooth flounder and Greenland turbot is authorized from 12 noon Alaska local time, May 1 through 12 midnight, Alaska local time, December 31, subject to the other provisions of this part.