

In accordance with § 672.20(c)(1)(ii)(B), the allocation of Pacific cod for the inshore component in the Central Regulatory Area was established by the Final 1995 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (60 FR 8470, February 14, 1995) as 41,085 metric tons (mt). The inshore component fishery was previously closed (60 FR 15521, March 24, 1995). That closure was terminated on September 1, 1995 (60 FR 46067, September 5, 1995).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined, in accordance with § 672.20(c)(2)(ii), that the allocation of Pacific cod total allowable catch for the inshore component in the Central Regulatory Area soon will be reached. The Regional Director established a directed fishing allowance of 39,585 mt, with consideration that 1,500 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the Central Regulatory Area. The Regional Director has determined that the directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by operators of vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the inshore component in the Central Regulatory Area.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 672.20(g).

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 672.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 11, 1995.

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

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50 CFR Part 677

[Docket No. 950929240-5240-01; I.D. 092195B]

North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan; Amendment to Final 1995 Specifications

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

ACTION: Final specifications for 1995; amendment.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues an amendment to the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan (Research Plan) final specifications for 1995. The specifications are used to calculate fees to be paid by participants in the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) management area groundfish fishery, BSAI area king and Tanner crab fisheries, and Pacific halibut fishery in convention waters off Alaska (Research Plan fisheries). This action clarifies the standard ex-vessel price used to calculate the 1995 fee assessment for all BSAI blue king crab fisheries.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 11, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim S. Rivera, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1995 Research Plan final specifications were published in the Federal Register on December 1, 1994 (59 FR 61556). Standard ex-vessel prices for species harvested in Research Plan fisheries are included in the specifications and are used to calculate Research Plan fees. The final specifications for 1995 include a standard ex-vessel price for St. Matthew Island blue king crab but do not include a standard ex-vessel price for Pribilof Island blue king crab. When the final specifications were published, a Pribilof Island blue king crab fishery opening was not anticipated. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the managing agency for BSAI king and Tanner crab, recently notified the crab industry of a September 15, 1995, Pribilof red and blue king crab fishery

opening. This action clarifies that the blue king crab 1995 standard ex-vessel price for St. Matthew Island blue king crab also applies to other BSAI blue king crab fisheries. This price will be used in accordance with regulations at 50 CFR 677.6(b)(iii) to calculate a Research Plan fee. The amended 1995 standard ex-vessel prices for BSAI king crab are:

King crab species	Price per pound, round weight (\$/lb)
Bristol Bay red	5.00
Adak red	5.00
Pribilof red	6.80
Norton Sound red	2.20
Blue	4.30
Dutch Harbor brown	3.00
Adak brown	3.00
<i>Lithodes cousei</i>	2.00

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, for good cause finds, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), that prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are unnecessary because this rule merely clarifies that an existing specification, issued pursuant to such procedures, applies throughout the fishery. Further, due to the fact that the Pribilof Island blue crab fishery opened on September 15, the need to provide industry with clear instructions that reflect the 1995 fee collection program authorized under the Research Plan, constitutes good cause to waive the 30-day delay in effective date under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(2).

This action is taken under authority of 50 CFR 677.11, as published at 59 FR 46126, September 6, 1994, and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Dated: October 10, 1995.

Rolland A. Schmitten,
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service.
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