

§679.83 Rockfish Program entry level fishery

§ 679.83 Rockfish Program entry level fishery.

(a) *Rockfish entry level fishery*

(1) General.

A rockfish entry level harvester and rockfish entry level processor may participate in the rockfish entry level fishery as follows:

(i) Trawl catcher vessels. Trawl catcher vessels participating in the rockfish entry level fishery may collectively harvest, prior to September 1, an amount not greater than 50 percent of the total allocation to the rockfish entry level fishery as calculated under § 679.81(a)(2). Allocations to trawl catcher vessels shall be made first from the allocation of Pacific ocean perch available to the rockfish entry level fishery. If the amount of Pacific Ocean perch available for allocation is less than the total allocation allowable for trawl catcher vessels in the rockfish entry level fishery, then northern rockfish and pelagic shelf rockfish shall be allocated to trawl catcher vessels.

(ii) Longline gear vessels. Longline gear vessels participating in the rockfish entry level fishery may collectively harvest, prior to September 1, an amount not greater than 50 percent of the total allocation to the rockfish entry level fishery as calculated under § 679.81(a)(2). Allocations of Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, and pelagic shelf rockfish to longline gear vessels shall be made after the allocation to trawl catcher vessels.

(iii) Secondary species allocations. Secondary species shall not be allocated to the rockfish entry level fishery. Secondary species shall be managed based on a MRA for the target species as described in Table 10 to this part.

(iv) Halibut PSC allocations--trawl vessels. Halibut PSC from trawl vessels in the rockfish entry level fishery shall be accounted against the allocation to the deep water species fishery complex for that seasonal apportionment. If the Halibut PSC allocation in the deep water fishery complex has been achieved or exceeded for that seasonal apportionment, the rockfish entry level fishery for trawl vessels will be closed until deep water species fishery complex halibut PSC is available.

(v) Halibut PSC allocations--longline gear vessels. Halibut PSC from longline gear vessels in the rockfish

entry level fishery shall be accounted against the allocation to the other non-trawl fishery category for that seasonal apportionment. If the Halibut PSC allocation in the other non-trawl fishery category has been reached or exceeded for that seasonal apportionment, the rockfish entry level fishery for longline gear vessels will be closed until deep water species fishery complex halibut PSC is available.

(2) Reallocation among trawl and longline gear vessels.

Any allocation of Pacific ocean perch, northern rockfish, or pelagic shelf rockfish that has not been harvested by 1200 hours, A.l.t. on September 1, may be harvested by either trawl or longline gear vessels in the rockfish entry level fishery.

(3) Opening of the rockfish entry level fishery.

The Regional Administrator maintains the authority to not open the rockfish entry level fishery if he deems it appropriate for conservation or other management measures. Factors such as the total allocation, anticipated harvest rates, and number of participants will be considered in making any such decision.

(b) *[Reserved]*