www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/goarat/default.htm.

Consequently, in accordance with § 679.82(b)(6), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, deems it appropriate to not open directed fishing for northern rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and pelagic shelf rockfish for catcher vessels participating in the limited access rockfish fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA because there are insufficient allocations to support directed fishing.

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. Notice and comment is unnecessary because there are insufficient allocations to support directed fishing and therefore the Regional Administrator has no discretion for any action other than to prohibit directed fishing.

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 § 679.20 and § 679.82 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: June 30, 2011.

Margo Schulze-Haugen,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–17042 Filed 7–1–11; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 101126522–0640–02]

RIN 0648–XA539

Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Catcher/Processors in the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for species that comprise the shallow-water species fishery for catcher/processors subject to sideboard limits established under the Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Rockfish Program in the GOA. This action is necessary because the 2011 Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) sideboard limit specified for the shallow-water species fishery for catcher/processors subject to sideboard limits established under the Central GOA Rockfish Program in the GOA is insufficient to support directed fishing for the shallow-water species fisheries.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 1, 2011, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., July 31, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Whitney, 907–586–7269.

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 under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. processors in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 2011 Pacific halibut PSC sideboard limit specified for the shallow-water species fishery for catcher/processors subject to sideboard limits established under the Central GOA Rockfish Program in the GOA is 11 metric tons, for the period 1200 hrs, A.l.t., July 1, 2011, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., July 31, 2011, as established by § 679.82(d), the final 2011 and 2012 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA (75 FR 11111, March 1, 2011), and as posted as the Catcher/Processor Sideboards at *http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/goarat/default.htm.*

In accordance with § 679.82(d)(9)(i)(B), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the 2011 Pacific halibut PSC sideboard limit specified for the shallow-water species fishery for catcher/processors subject to sideboard limits established under the Central GOA Rockfish Program in the GOA is insufficient to support directed fishing for the shallow-water species fisheries. Consequently, in accordance with § 679.82(d)(9)(ii)(A), NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for species that comprise the shallow-water species fishery for catcher/processors subject to sideboard limits established under the Central GOA Rockfish Program in the GOA. The species and species groups that comprise the shallow-water species fishery for the sideboard limit are shallow-water flatfish and flathead sole.

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. Notice and comment is unnecessary because there is insufficient halibut PSC sideboard limit to support a directed fishery and therefore the Regional Administrator has no discretion for any action other than to prohibit directed fishing.

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 § 679.20 and § 679.82 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: June 30, 2011.

Margo Schulze-Haugen,

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

[FR Doc. 2011–17043 Filed 7–1–11; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P