

2. Section 571.304 is amended by revising S7.4(g) to read as follows:

§ 571.304 Standard No. 304, Compressed Natural Gas Fuel Container Integrity.

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S7.4 * * *

(g) The statement: "This container should be visually inspected after a motor vehicle accident or fire and at least every 36 months or 36,000 miles, whichever comes first, for damage and deterioration.

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Issued on: August 30, 1996.

Donald C. Bischoff,

Executive Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 951227306-5306-01; I.D. 082996C]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Reductions

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

ACTION: Fishing restrictions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces further restrictions to the Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries for widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish. These actions are authorized by regulations implementing the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which governs the groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. These restrictions are intended to keep landings as close as possible to the 1996 harvest guidelines for these species.

DATES: Effective from 0001 hours (local time) September 1, 1996, until the effective date of the 1997 annual specifications and management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery, which will be published in the Federal Register. Comments will be accepted through September 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to William Stelle, Jr., Director, Northwest Region (Regional Director), National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand

Point Way NE., BIN-C15700, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Director, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson at 206-526-6140; or Rodney McInnis at 310-980-4040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following changes to routine management measures for widow and yellowtail rockfishes were recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), in consultation with the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, at its August 21-23, 1996, meeting in Portland, OR.

Widow rockfish. Widow rockfish currently are managed under a 2-month cumulative trip limit of 70,000 lb (31,752 kg). The best available information at the August 1996 Council meeting indicated that 3,426 mt of widow rockfish had been taken through July 31, 1996, and that the 6,500-mt harvest guideline would be reached by mid-November 1996, if the rate of landings is not slowed. The Council recommended that the 2-month cumulative trip limit for widow rockfish be reduced in September-October 1996 from 70,000 lb (31,752 kg) to 50,000 lb (22,680 kg) coastwide to keep landings within the harvest guideline in 1996. The Council also recommended reverting to 1-month cumulative trip limits of 25,000 lb (11,340 kg) during November and December 1996 to provide greater flexibility managing this species at the end of the year. If landings are not sufficiently curtailed, trip limits may be reduced further, or landings prohibited, in November and/or December 1996.

Yellowtail rockfish. Yellowtail rockfish is one component of the *Sebastes* complex, and is managed with different harvest guidelines and trip limits north and south of Cape Lookout, OR (45°20'15" N. lat.). South of Cape Mendocino, CA (40°30' N. lat.) there is no specific harvest guideline or trip limit for yellowtail rockfish, other than the overall limit for the *Sebastes* complex. The northern harvest guideline for yellowtail rockfish (which includes the U.S. portion of the Vancouver area plus the Columbia area north of Cape Lookout) is 3,590 mt, and the southern harvest guideline (for the Columbia area south of Cape Lookout plus the Eureka area) is 2,580 mt.

The best available information at the August 1996 Council meeting indicated that 2,139 mt of yellowtail rockfish had been taken north of Cape Lookout

through July 31, 1996, and that the 3,590-mt harvest guideline for this area would be reached by late October or early November if the rate of landings is not slowed. The Council recommended an immediate reduction in the 2-month cumulative trip limit, from 32,000 lb (14,515 kg) to 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) for yellowtail rockfish north of Cape Lookout in September-October 1996. In addition, as for widow rockfish, the Council recommended reverting to 1-month cumulative trip limits, that are half the 2-month cumulative trip limits, during November and December 1996 to provide greater flexibility managing this species at the end of the year. The 1-month cumulative trip limits also apply to the *Sebastes* complex and canary rockfish, another major component of the complex, north of Cape Mendocino, for consistency with the limits for yellowtail rockfish. Consistency is necessary to accommodate special provisions implemented by the States of Oregon and Washington that enable fishers to operate on both sides of Cape Lookout and keep the larger, southern limit for yellowtail rockfish and the *Sebastes* complex. These provisions would be impossible to implement if a 1-month limit applied north of the line and a 2-month limit applied south. If landings are not sufficiently curtailed, trip limits may be reduced further, or landings prohibited, in November and/or December 1996.

At its October 1996 meeting, the Council will review the progress of these and other groundfish fisheries and may recommend changes to the limits announced herein. Any changes approved by NMFS will be announced in the Federal Register.

NMFS action. NMFS concurs with the Council's recommendations, which are intended to keep landings of widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish within their 1996 harvest guidelines.

The 60-percent monthly limits in the limited entry fishery apply only in conjunction with 2-month cumulative trip limits, and therefore are not a part of the 1-month cumulative trip limits established for November and December 1996.

The trip limit changes apply to both the limited entry and open access fisheries, including exempt trawl gear used to harvest pink shrimp and prawns. In addition, as stated in the annual management measures at 61 FR 279 (January 4, 1996), "A vessel operating in the open access fishery must not exceed any trip limit, frequency limit, and/or size limit for the open access fishery; or for the same gear and/or subarea in the limited entry fishery; or, in any calendar month, 50

percent of any 2-month cumulative trip limit for the same gear and/or subarea in the limited entry fishery, called the '50-percent monthly limit.'"

The annual management measures published at 61 FR 279, January 4, 1996, as amended, are modified as follows:

1. Paragraphs IV.B.(1) and (2) of the annual management measures for widow rockfish are revised to read as follows:

B.(1) Limited entry fishery.

(a) *September-October 1996.* The cumulative trip limit for widow rockfish is 50,000 lb (22,680 kg) per vessel for the 2-month period. The 60-percent monthly limit is 30,000 lb (13,608 kg).

(b) *November-December 1996.* The cumulative trip limit for widow rockfish is 25,000 lb (11,340 kg) per vessel per 1-month period.

(2) *Open access fishery.* Within the limits at paragraph IV.I. for the open access fishery, the cumulative monthly trip limit for widow rockfish during September-December 1996 is 25,000 lb (11,340 kg) per vessel per 1-month period.

2. Paragraphs IV.C.(2)(a)(i) and (ii) of the annual management measures for yellowtail rockfish and the *Sebastes* complex are revised to read as follows:

C.(2)(a) Cumulative trip limits.

(i) North of Cape Lookout.

(A) *September-October 1996.* The cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex taken and retained north of Cape Lookout is 70,000 lb (31,752 kg) per vessel for the 2-month period. Within this cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex, no more than 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) may be yellowtail rockfish taken and retained north of Cape Lookout, and no more than 18,000 lb (8,165 kg) may be canary rockfish.

(B) *November-December 1996.* The cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex taken and retained north of Cape Lookout is 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) per vessel per 1-month period. Within this cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex, no more than 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) may be yellowtail rockfish taken and retained north of Cape Lookout, and no more than 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) may be canary rockfish.

(ii) Cape Lookout to Cape Mendocino.

(A) *September-October 1996.* The cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex taken and retained between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino remains at 100,000 lb (45,359 kg) per vessel for the 2-month period. Within this cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex, no more than 70,000 lb (31,752 kg) may be yellowtail rockfish taken and retained between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino, and no

more than 18,000 lb (8,165 kg) may be canary rockfish.

(B) *November-December 1996.* The cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex taken and retained between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino is 50,000 lb (22,680 kg) per vessel per 1-month period. Within this cumulative trip limit for the *Sebastes* complex, no more than 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) may be yellowtail rockfish taken and retained between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino, and no more than 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) may be canary rockfish.

3. Paragraph IV.C.(2)(a)(iv) of the annual management measures for yellowtail rockfish and the *Sebastes* complex is revised to read as follows:

(iv) The 60-percent monthly limits for September-October 1996 are: For the *Sebastes* complex, 42,000 lb (19,051 kg) north of Cape Lookout, 60,000 lb (27,216 kg) between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino, and 120,000 lb (54,431 kg) south of Cape Mendocino; for yellowtail rockfish, 12,000 lb (5,443 kg) north of Cape Lookout, and 42,000 lb (19,051 kg) between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino; for bocaccio, 36,000 lb (16,329 kg) south of Cape Mendocino; and, for canary rockfish, 10,800 lb (4,899 kg) coastwide.

4. Paragraph IV.C.(3)(b) of the annual management measures for yellowtail rockfish and the *Sebastes* complex is revised to read as follows:

C.(3)(b) *Open access fishery.* If smaller than the limits at paragraph IV.I. of the annual management measures, the following cumulative monthly trip limits apply (within the limits at paragraph IV.I.) during September-December 1996: For the *Sebastes* complex, 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) north of Cape Lookout, 50,000 lb (22,680 kg) between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino, and 100,000 lb (45,359 kg) south of Cape Mendocino; for yellowtail rockfish, 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) north of Cape Lookout, and 35,000 lb (15,876 kg) between Cape Lookout and Cape Mendocino; for bocaccio, 30,000 lb (13,608 kg) south of Cape Mendocino; and, for canary rockfish, 9,000 lb (4,082 kg) coastwide.

Classification

These actions are authorized by the regulations implementing the FMP. The determination to take these actions is based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which the determinations are based are available for public inspection at the office of the Director, Northwest Region, NMFS (see ADDRESSES) during business hours. Because of the need for immediate action to slow the rate of harvest of widow and yellowtail rockfishes, and

because the public had an opportunity to comment on the action at the August 1996 Council meeting, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this document to be published without affording a prior opportunity for public comment or a 30-day delayed effectiveness period. These actions are taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.323(b)(1)(i), and are exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 30, 1996.

Donald J. Leedy

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

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960502124-6190-02; I.D. 083096D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Scallop Fishery; Closure in Registration Area D

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the scallop fishery in all districts of Scallop Registration Area D (Yakutat) other than District 16. This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the scallop total allowable catch (TAC) in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 4, 1996, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The scallop fishery in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for Scallop Fishery off Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing for scallops is governed by regulations appearing at 50 CFR parts 600 and 679.

In accordance with § 679.62(b) the 1996 scallop TAC for all districts of Scallop Registration Area D other than District 16 was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Scallops (61 FR 38099, July 23, 1996) as 195,000 lb (88,451 kg) shucked meat.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with 679.62(c), that the scallop TAC for all districts of Scallop Registration Area D