Dated: January 5, 2018.
Eric Letvin,
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Mitigation, Federal Insurance and Mitigation
Administration, Department of Homeland
Security, Federal Emergency Management
Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

50 CFR Part 216
[Docket No. 170803723–8016–01]
RIN 0648–BH09

Technical Amendment To Update
Internet Web Addresses in Marine
Mammal Protection Act and Dolphin
Protection Consumer Information Act
Regulations

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

ACTION: Final rule; technical
amendments.

SUMMARY: NMFS is hereby making
technical amendments without altering
the substance of the regulations that
govern importation into the United
States of tuna product and dolphin-safe
tuna labeling in the United States under
the Marine Mammal Protection Act
(MMPA), and the Dolphin Protection
Consumer Information Act (DPCIA).
The intent of this action is to update existing
regulations containing Uniform
Resource Locator (URL) addresses, more
commonly referred to as internet web
page addresses. The URL updates are
necessary because NMFS is revising all
agency URLs under the NOAA Fisheries
Web Modernization Project. These
changes are solely administrative in
nature.

DATES: This final rule is effective
January 26, 2018.

ADDRESSES: 501 West Ocean Boulevard,
Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
William Jacobson, NMFS West Coast
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.

FOR THE REASONS SET OUT IN THE
PREAMBLE, 50 CFR part 216 is amended
as follows:

PART 216—REGULATIONS
GOVERNING THE TAKING AND
IMPORTING OF MARINE MAMMALS

1. The authority citation for 50 CFR
part 216 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq., unless
otherwise noted.

Subpart C—General Exceptions

2. In § 216.24, revise introductory text
of paragraph (f)(3) to read as follows:

§ 216.24 Taking and related acts incidental
to commercial fishing operations by tuna
purse seine vessels in the eastern tropical
Pacific Ocean.

(3) Disposition of Fisheries
Certificates of Origin. The FCO
described in paragraph (f)(4) of this
section may be obtained from the
Administrator, West Coast Region, or
downloaded from the internet at https://
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/
Subpart H—Dolphin Safe Tuna Labeling

3. The authority citation for 50 CFR part 216, subpart H, continues to read as follows:


4. In § 216.91, revise paragraph (a)(3)(ii)(B), introductory text of paragraph (a)(3)(iv), and introductory text of paragraph (a)(3)(v) to read as follows:

§ 216.91 Dolphin-safe labeling standards.

(a) * * * *

(ii) * * * *

(B) The Captain of the vessel has completed the NMFS Tuna Tracking and Verification Program dolphin-safe captain’s training course. The NMFS Tuna Tracking and Verification Program dolphin-safe captain’s training course is available on the website of the NMFS Tuna Tracking and Verification Program at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/dolphin-safe.

(iv) For tuna caught in a fishery where the Assistant Administrator has determined that observers participating in a national or international observer program are qualified and authorized to issue observer statements for purposes of the dolphin-safe labeling program, and where such an observer is on board the vessel, a written statement executed by the observer, or by an authorized representative of a nation participating in the observer program based on information from the observer. Any determination by the Assistant Administrator shall be announced in a notice published in the Federal Register. Determinations under this paragraph (a)(3)(iv) will also be publicized on the website of the NMFS Tuna Tracking and Verification Program (https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/dolphin-safe). The written statement shall certify that:

* * * *

5. In § 216.95, revise paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 216.95 Official mark for “Dolphin-safe” tuna products.

(b) Location and size of the official mark. The official mark on labels must allow the consumer to identify the official mark and be similar in design and scale to figure 1. A full color version of the official mark is available at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/dolphin-safe-official-mark.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 161020985–7181–02]

RIN 0648–XF949

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 meters (m)) length overall (LOA) using hook-and-line or pot gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2018 Pacific cod total allowable catch allocated as a directed fishing allowance to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI will soon be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 23, 2018, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh Keaton, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (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. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 2018 Pacific cod total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI is 5,027 metric tons (mt) as established by the final 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (82 FR 11826, February 27, 2017), inseason adjustment (82 FR 60329, December 20, 2017), and reallocation (83 FR 2932, January 22, 2018).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 2018 Pacific cod TAC allocated as a directed fishing allowance to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI will soon be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI.

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. This requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay the closure of directed fishing for Pacific cod by catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of January 19, 2017.