

attached to each buoy, tags for each buoy must be shown, upon request, to authorized agents. On a trip where a vessel takes and retains groundfish in the EEZ with the subject gear, all buoys are required to be marked either directly on the buoy or with a tag attached to the buoy with a single, exclusive gear-specific mark, as described in this paragraph (b)(1).

(i) Permanent buoy markings for bottom longline gear must be the capital letters “GL,” be legible, be at least 3 inches (7.7 cm) in height, and a gear-specific mark for pot gear may not be present. Tags used to mark buoys attached to bottom longline gear must be brown and large enough to accommodate a letter “GL” engraved that is at least 1.75 inches (4.5 cm) in height.

(ii) Permanent buoy markings for pot gear must use the capital letters “GP,” be legible, be at least 3 inches (7.7 cm) in height, and a gear-specific mark for bottom longline gear may not be present. Tags used to mark buoys attached to pot/trap gear must be orange and large enough to accommodate a letter “GP” engraved that is at least 1.75 inches (4.5 cm) in height.

(2) All vertical lines (as defined at § 660.11) of the subject gears in this paragraph (b)(2) must have gear-specific marks. Marks must be continuous in at least the top 20 fm (37 m) of the vertical line, measured from the main buoy down towards the groundline.

(i) Manufactured line in a gear-specific color scheme must be used for the marked portion of the line. Lines must be both brown and blue for use with bottom longline gear. Lines must be both orange and blue for use with pot gear. At least one-third of strands in marked line must be in one of the listed colors, and the remainder of the strands in the other color. Presence of any third color, besides white, is prohibited in the portion of the line required to be marked.

(ii) Until January 11, 2030, the colors specified in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section may be applied by temporary methods such that the colors are clearly visible and in continuous, alternating bands of 18–28 inches (46–71 cm) each, over the entire portion of the line required to be marked in this paragraph (b)(2)(ii). Marking is continuous if no more than 6 inches of the original, unmarked line color shows through. If any amount less than 6 inches of original line is visible it may not be in the full circumference of the line.

■ 8. Amend § 660.330 by:

■ a. Revising paragraphs (b) introductory text and (b)(2)(i) and (iii); and

■ b. Adding paragraph (b)(2)(v).

The revisions and addition read as follows:

§ 660.330 Open access fishery—management measures.

* * * * *

(b) *Gear restrictions.* Open access gear is defined at § 660.11, and includes but is not limited to, bottom longline, trap or pot, hook-and-line (fixed or mobile), set net (anchored gillnet or trammel net, which are permissible south of 38° N. lat. only), spear and non-groundfish trawl gear (trawls used to target non-groundfish species: pink shrimp or ridgeback prawns, and, south of Pt. Arena, CA (38°57.50' N. lat.), California halibut or sea cucumbers). Restrictions for gears used in the open access fisheries are as follows:

* * * * *

(2) * * *

(i) *Fixed gear.* Fixed gear (bottom longline, trap or pot, set net and stationary hook-and-line gear, including commercial vertical hook-and-line gear) must be attended at least once every 7 days and is subject to the identification requirements described at § 660.319. Vessels fishing with bottom longline and snap gears as defined at § 660.11, are subject to the requirements of the Seabird Avoidance Program described in § 660.21. Vessels fishing with bottom longline or pot and trap gears in the directed open access fishery, as defined at § 660.11, are subject to the gear identification and marking requirements described in § 660.319.

* * * * *

(iii) *Traps or pots must have escape panels.* (A) Traps or pots must have escape panels constructed with number 30 or smaller untreated cotton twine in such a manner that an opening at least 8 inches (20.3 cm) in diameter results when the twine deteriorates, and the resulting opening is positioned within 3 inches (7.7 cm) from the bottom of the pot.

(B) A collapsible pot (defined at § 660.11) is exempt from the placement requirements for escape panels described in this section. Instead, a collapsible pot must have one of the following:

(1) An escape panel placed anywhere on the mesh of the collapsible pot, constructed with number 30 or smaller untreated cotton twine and in such a manner that an opening at least 8 inches (20.3 cm) in diameter results when the twine deteriorates.

(2) One door on the pot must measure at least 8 inches (20.3 cm) in diameter and be attached with number 30 or smaller untreated cotton thread.

* * * * *

(v) *Surface line.* Surface line, defined at § 660.11, that is used with bottom longline or pot gear may not exceed 10 fm (18.3 m) in length, measured from the terminal end to the main buoy.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 2026–20873 Filed 10–9–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305–0066; RTID 0648–XG100]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod 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; reallocation.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reallocating the projected unused amounts of Pacific cod from catcher vessels using trawl gear to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 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 allow the 2026 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific cod in the BSAI to be harvested.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 13, 2026, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Olson, 907–206–5813.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP) prepared and recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens 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 2026 Pacific cod TAC specified for catcher vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI is 26,056 mt as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026).

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC specified for catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3

m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI is 4,207 metric tons (mt) as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026) and reallocations (91 FR 16583, April 2, 2026 and 91 FR 55499, August 28, 2026).

The Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (the Administrator) has determined that catcher vessels using trawl gear will not be able to harvest 350 mt of the 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(7)(ii)(A)(9). The Administrator has also determined that catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear have the capability to harvest an additional 350 mt of Pacific cod TAC.

Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(a)(7)(iii)(A), NMFS reallocates 350 mt of Pacific cod from catcher vessels using trawl gear to the annual amount specified for catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear.

The harvest specifications for 2026 Pacific cod TAC included in final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026) and reallocations (91 FR 16583, April 2, 2026 and 91 FR 55499, August 28, 2026) are revised as follows: 25,706 mt to catcher vessels using trawl gear and 4,557 mt to catcher vessels less than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA using hook-and-line or pot gear.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR part 679, which was issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest, as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data on Pacific cod catch in a timely fashion and would not allow for the full harvest of the Pacific cod TACs by the sectors with harvesting capability. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data on the catch of Pacific cod by sectors operating in the BSAI and the capability of certain sectors to harvest additional TAC only became available as of October 7, 2026.

There is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action. This

finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

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

Dated: October 8, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–20860 Filed 10–9–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305–0067; RTID 0648–XG099]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; reallocation.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reallocating the projected unused amounts of Pacific cod from catcher vessels using trawl gear and catcher/processors using trawl gear to catcher vessels using hook-and-line gear and vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to allow the 2026 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific cod to be harvested in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 13, 2026, through 2400 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Adam Zaleski, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the GOA (FMP) prepared and recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens 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 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is

2,506 metric tons (mt), as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (91 FR 11902, March 11, 2026).

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher/processors using trawl gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is 157 mt, as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (91 FR 11902, March 11, 2026).

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher vessels using hook-and-line gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is 91 mt, as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (91 FR 11902, March 11, 2026).

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to vessels using pot gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA is 2,480 mt, as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (91 FR 11902, March 11, 2026).

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (the Administrator) has determined that catcher vessels using trawl gear will not be able to harvest 550 mt of the 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(12)(i)(A)(3) and that catcher/processors using trawl gear will not be able to harvest 100 mt of the 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(12)(i)(A)(4). The Administrator has also determined that catcher vessels using hook-and-line gear have the capability to harvest an additional 250 mt of Pacific cod TAC and vessels using pot gear have the capability to harvest an additional 400 mt of Pacific cod TAC.

Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(a)(12)(ii)(B), NMFS apportions 550 mt of Pacific cod from catcher vessels using trawl gear and 100 mt of Pacific cod from catcher/processors using trawl gear to the annual amount specified for catcher vessels using hook-and-line gear and to the annual amount specified for vessels using pot gear.

The harvest specifications for 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the GOA included in the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the GOA (91 FR 11902, March 11, 2026) is revised as follows: 1,956 mt to catcher vessels using trawl gear, 57 mt to catcher/processors using trawl gear, 341 mt to catcher vessels using hook-and-line gear, and 2,880 mt to vessels using pot gear.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR