the categorical exclusions; (iv) related requirements for determining when NEPA applies to USPS actions and for the application of categorical exclusions; and (v) a provision for emergency circumstances. Going forward, USPS will maintain the remainder of its NEPA procedures—which apply only to USPS's internal processes—in a Handbook separate from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This interim final rule requests comments on this action and related matters to inform USPS's decision-making. USPS has decided to extend the public comment period for 15 days to allow for additional review and submission time. Therefore, the public comment period for the notice of proposed rulemaking will now close on November 9, 2026.

Daria Schildkraut,

Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2026–21699 Filed 10–22–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305–0067; RTID 0648–XF991]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of 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 Pacific cod by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2026 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific cod allocated to catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 21, 2026, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Abby Jahn, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone 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 annual 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA not participating in the cooperative fishery of the Rockfish Program is 7,782 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 Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has determined that the annual 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA will be, or has been, reached. Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i) and (d)(1)(ii)(B), the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 5,782 mt and is setting aside the remaining 2,000 mt as incidental catch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. The Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance will be or has been reached. Consequently, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific cod caught by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA to prevent exceeding this sector's annual allocation of Pacific cod TAC.

While this closure is effective the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip. This closure does not apply to fishing by vessels participating in the cooperative fishery of the Rockfish Program in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA.

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 the catch of Pacific cod in a timely fashion and would delay the closure of Pacific cod by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data regarding catch of Pacific cod by catcher vessels using trawl gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA only became available as of October 20, 2026.

There is good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to establish an effective date less than 30 days after date of publication. 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 20, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–21680 Filed 10–21–26; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305–0067; RTID 0648–XG002]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 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 pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the annual 2026 total allowable catch (TAC) of pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 21, 2026 through 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Abby Jahn, 907–586–7228.

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 and recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under