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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 260305-0066; RTID 0648-XG161]

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 Amendment 80 (A80) trawl catcher/processors 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.), [**INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER**], 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 25,231 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 64806, October 13, 2026, and 91 FR 67224, October 26, 2026).

The 2026 Pacific cod TAC specified for A80 trawl catcher/processors in the BSAI is 15,799 mt as established by the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026).

The Regional Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator) has determined that catcher vessels using trawl gear will not be able to harvest 200 mt of the 2026 Pacific cod TAC allocated to those vessels under § 679.20(a)(7)(ii)(A)(*9*). The Regional Administrator has also determined that A80 trawl catcher/processors have the capability to harvest an additional 200 mt of Pacific cod TAC.

Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(a)(7)(iii)(B), NMFS reallocates 200 mt of Pacific cod from catcher vessels using trawl gear to the annual amount specified for A80 trawl catcher/processors.

The harvest specifications for 2026 Pacific cod TAC included in the final 2026 and 2027 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (91 FR 11750, March 10, 2026) and reallocations (91 FR 64806, October 13, 2026, and 91 FR 67224, October 26, 2026) are revised as follows: 25,031 mt to catcher vessels using trawl gear and 15,999 mt to A80 trawl catcher/processors.

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 TAC by the sector 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 November 5, 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: November 5, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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