

In accordance with regulations at § 679.64(b)(4), PSC bycatch limits for non-exempt AFA catcher vessels in the GOA are based on the ratio of aggregate

retained groundfish catch by non-exempt AFA catcher vessels in each PSC target category from 1995 through 1997, relative to the retained catch of all

vessels in that fishery from 1995 through 1997. These amounts are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—INTERIM 2004 NON-EXEMPT AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT CATCHER VESSEL PROHIBITED SPECIES CATCH (PSC) LIMITS FOR THE GOA

PSC species	Target fishery	Ratio of 1995–1997 non-exempt AFA CV retained catch to total retained catch	2004 interim PSC limit (mt)	2004 non-exempt AFA catcher vessel PSC limit (mt)
Halibut (mortality in mt)	shallow water targets	0.340	409	139
	deep water targets	0.070	91	6

Directed Fishing Closures

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), if the Regional Administrator determines that any allocation or apportionment of a target species or “other species” category apportioned to a fishery or, with respect to pollock and Pacific cod, to an inshore or offshore component

allocation, will be reached, the Regional Administrator may establish a directed fishing allowance for that species or species group. If the Regional Administrator establishes a directed fishing allowance, and that allowance is or will be reached before the end of the fishing year, NMFS will prohibit directed fishing for that species or

species group in the specified GOA regulatory area or district (§ 679.20(d)(1)(iii)).

The Regional Administrator has determined that the TAC amounts in Table 4 are necessary as incidental catch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries for the 2004 fishing year.

TABLE 4.—INCIDENTAL CATCH NEEDED TO SUPPORT OTHER DIRECTED FISHERIES IN THE GOA IN 2004.
[Amounts are in metric tons]

Target	Regulatory area	Gear/component	Amount
Atka Mackerel	entire GOA	all	150
Thornyhead Rockfish	entire GOA	all	500
Shortraker Rougheye Rockfish	entire GOA	all	405
Other Rockfish	entire GOA	all	248
Sablefish	entire GOA	trawl	401
Pollock	entire GOA	all/offshore	0

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Regional Administrator establishes the directed fishing allowances for the above species or species groups as zero. Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), NMFS immediately is prohibiting directed fishing for those species, areas, gear types, and components listed in Table 4. These closures will remain in effect until superseded by the final 2004 harvest specifications.

Regulations at § 679.64(b)(5) provide for management of AFA catcher vessel

groundfish harvest limits and PSC bycatch limits using directed fishing closures and PSC closures according to procedures set out at §§ 679.20(d)(1)(iv), 679.21(d)(8) and 679.21(e)(3)(v). The Regional Administrator has determined that in addition to the closures listed above, many of the non-exempt AFA catcher vessel sideboard amounts listed in Table 2 are necessary as incidental catch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries for the 2004 fishing year. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iv) the Regional

Administrator establishes these amounts as directed fishing allowances. The Regional Administrator finds that many of these directed fishing allowances will be reached before the end of the year. Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing by non-exempt AFA catcher vessels in the GOA for the species and specified areas in Table 5. These closures will remain in effect until superseded by the final 2004 harvest specifications.

TABLE 5.—2004 NON-EXEMPT AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT CATCHER VESSEL SIDEBOARD DIRECTED FISHING CLOSURES IN THE GOA

Species	Regulatory area district	Gear
Pacific cod	Eastern GOA	all
Deep-water flatfish	Western and Eastern GOA	all
Rex sole	Western and Eastern GOA	all
Flathead sole	Eastern GOA	all
Shallow-water flatfish	Eastern GOA	all
Arrowtooth flounder	Eastern GOA	all
Pacific ocean perch	Western GOA	all
Northern rockfish	Western GOA	all
Pelagic shelf rockfish	entire GOA	all
Demersal shelf rockfish	SEO District	all