

NMFS regulatory authority for fishery closures - Steller sea lion harvest control regulation:

The Steller sea lion harvest control regulation at 50 CFR § 679.20(d)(4) states that if a biological assessment of the Pacific cod stock projects that the spawning biomass in an area will be equal to or below 20 percent of the projected unfished spawning biomass during a fishing year, then the Regional Administrator will prohibit directed fishing within that area and the directed fishery will remain closed until a subsequent biological assessment projects that the spawning biomass will exceed 20 percent of the projected unfished spawning biomass during a fishing year.

Citation: 50 CFR § 679.20(d)(4).