

as 6,760 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has established a directed fishing allowance of 5,760 mt, and set aside the remaining 1,000 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. The fishery for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA was closed to directed fishing under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) on July 11, 1999, (64 FR 37884, July 14, 1999).

NMFS has determined that as of July 24, 1999, 900 mt remain in the directed fishing allowance. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA.

Classification

All other closures remain in full force and effect. This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to allow full utilization of the Pacific ocean perch TAC. Providing prior notice and opportunity for public comment for this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action cannot be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 4, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 990304062-9060-01; I.D. 080399C]

Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Deep-water Species Fishery by Vessels using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for species that comprise the deep-water species fishery by vessels using trawl gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to fully utilize the third seasonal apportionment of the 1999 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified to the deep-water species fishery in the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time, August 6, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smoker, 907-586-7280

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 by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management 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 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance for the GOA trawl deep-water species fishery, which is defined at § 679.21(d)(3)(iii)(B), was established by the Final 1999 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (64 FR 12094, March 11, 1999) for the third season, the period July 4, 1999, through September 30, 1999, as 400 metric tons.

The fishery for the deep-water species fishery by vessels using trawl gear in the GOA was closed under § 679.21(d)(7)(i) on July 21, 1999, (64 FR 40293, July 26, 1999).

NMFS has determined that as of July 24, 1999, 180 metric tons remain in the third seasonal apportionment of the Pacific halibut bycatch mortality allowance specified for the GOA trawl deep-water species fishery. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening directed fishing for species that comprise the deep-water species fishery that are not otherwise closed to directed fishing in the GOA.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e) and (f).

Classification

All other closures remain in full force and effect. This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to allow full utilization of the third seasonal apportionment of the 1999 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified to the deep-water species fishery in the GOA. Providing prior notice and opportunity for public comment for this action is impracticable

and contrary to the public interest. Further delay would only disrupt the FMP objective of maximizing groundfish harvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action cannot be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.21 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 4, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 071699A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area

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

ACTION: Modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska management area (GOA). This action is necessary to fully utilize the 1999 total allowable catch (TAC) of northern rockfish in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time, August 6, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smoker, 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 by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management 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 amount of the 1999 TAC of northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska was established by the Final 1999

Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (64 FR 12094, March 11, 1999) as 4,150 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has established a directed fishing allowance of 3,650 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 500 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. The fishery for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA was closed to directed fishing under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) on July 19, 1999, (64 FR 39090, July 21, 1999).

NMFS has determined that as of July 24, 1999, 700 mt remain in the directed fishing allowance. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA.

Classification

All other closures remain in full force and effect. This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to allow full utilization of the northern rockfish TAC. Providing prior notice and opportunity for public comment for this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action cannot be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 4, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 990115017-9017-01; I.D. 011199A]

RIN 0648-AM08

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures for the Pollock Fisheries off Alaska; Correction

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

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the emergency interim rule to implement reasonable and prudent alternatives to avoid the likelihood that the pollock fisheries off Alaska will jeopardize the continued existence of the western population of Steller sea lions or adversely modify their critical habitat that was published in the **Federal Register** on January 22, 1999.

DATES: Effective August 10, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Lind, 907-586-7650.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An emergency interim rule was published in the **Federal Register** on January 22, 1999 (64 FR 3437), implementing reasonable and prudent alternatives to avoid the likelihood that the pollock fisheries off Alaska will jeopardize the continued existence of the western population of Steller sea lions or adversely modify their critical habitat. An extension and revision of the emergency interim rule was subsequently published in the **Federal Register** on July 21, 1999 (64 FR 39087).

Need for Correction

In FR Doc. 99-1378, published on January 22, 1999 (64 FR 3437), incomplete seasonal references concerning protective measures for Steller sea lions were published. This document corrects those references.

§ 679.22 [Corrected]

On page 3443, in the third column, in § 679.22, in paragraph (a)(11)(iv)(C)(2), in the first, third, and fourth lines, after "A1 and A2" insert "and C" in both places.

Dated: August 4, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Asst. Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 99-20533 Filed 8-9-99; 8:45 am]

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