

Table 24 to Part 226—Hydrologic Units and Counties Containing Critical Habitat for Middle Columbia River Steelhead, and Dams/Reservoirs Representing the Upstream Extent of Critical Habitat—Continued

Hydrologic Unit name	Hydrologic Unit number	Counties ¹ within Hydrologic Unit and within range of ESU	Dams/Reservoirs
Naches	17030002	Kittitas (WA), Yakima (WA)	Condit Dam
Lower Yakima	17030003	Benton (WA), Klickitat (WA), Yakima (WA)	
Middle Columbia-Lake Wallula	17070101	Gilliam (OR), Morrow (OR), Umatilla (OR), Benton (WA), Klickitat (WA), Sherman (OR), Walla Walla (WA), Yakima (WA)	
Walla Walla	17070102	Umatilla (OR), Wallowa (OR), Columbia (WA), Walla Walla (WA)	
Umatilla	17070103	Morrow (OR), Umatilla (OR), Union (OR)	
Willow	17070104	Morrow (OR), Gilliam (OR)	
Middle Columbia-Hood	17070105	Hood River (OR), Sherman (OR), Wasco (OR), Klickitat (WA), Skamania (WA)	
Klickitat	17070106	Klickitat (WA), Yakima (WA)	
Upper John Day	17070201	Crook (OR), Grant (OR), Harney (OR), Wheeler (OR)	
North Fork John Day	17070202	Grant (OR), Morrow (OR), Umatilla (OR), Union (OR), Wheeler (OR)	
Middle Fork John Day	17070203	Grant (OR)	Pelton Dam
Lower John Day	17070204	Crook (OR), Gilliam (OR), Grant (OR), Jefferson (OR), Morrow (OR), Sherman (OR), Wasco (OR), Wheeler (OR)	
Lower Deschutes	17070306	Hood River (OR), Jefferson (OR), Sherman (OR), Wasco (OR)	
Trout	17070307	Crook (OR), Jefferson (OR), Wasco (OR)	
Lower Columbia-Sandy	17080001	Multnomah (OR), Clark (WA), Skamania (WA)	
Lower Columbia-Clatskanie	17080003	Clatsop (OR), Columbia (WA), Cowlitz (WA), Wahkiakum (WA)	
Lower Columbia	17080006	Clatsop (OR), Pacific (WA), Wahkiakum (WA)	
Lower Willamette	17090012	Columbia (OR), Multnomah (OR)	

¹ Some counties have very limited overlap with estuarine, riverine, or riparian habitats identified as critical habitat for this ESU. Consult USGS hydrologic unit maps (available from USGS) to determine specific county and basin boundaries.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 991223348-9348-01; I.D. 021000C]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the Shelikof Strait Conservation Area in the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in the Shelikof Strait conservation area in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the interim 2000 pollock total allowable catch (TAC) for

the Shelikof Strait conservation area established by the 2000 Interim Specifications and amended by the emergency interim rule implementing Steller sea lion protection measures for the pollock fisheries off Alaska.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), February 13, 2000, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., March 15, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 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 interim 2000 pollock TAC in the Shelikof Strait conservation area as amended by the emergency interim rule implementing Steller sea lion protection measures for the pollock fisheries off

Alaska (65 FR 3892, January 25, 2000) and an inseason adjustment (65 FR 4892, February 2, 2000) is 13,991 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.22(b)(3)(iii)(C).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the interim TAC of pollock in the Shelikof Strait conservation area will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 13,491 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 500 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.22(b)(3)(iii)(A), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance will soon be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in the Shelikof Strait conservation area in the GOA.

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

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately to prevent overharvesting the seasonal allocation of pollock in the Shelikof Strait conservation area. Providing prior notice and an opportunity for public comment is impracticable and contrary

to the public interest. Further delay would only result in overharvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action should not 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: February 11, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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