

issued without opportunity for prior public notice and comment.

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

**Dated:** August 29, 2003.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regulatory Programs, National Marine  
Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-22669 Filed 9-2-03; 4:58 pm]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D.  
082803D]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of 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 Statistical Area  
610 of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This  
action is necessary to prevent exceeding  
the C season allowance of the pollock  
total allowable catch (TAC) for  
Statistical Area 610 of the GOA.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local  
time (A.l.t.), August 30, 2003, through  
1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 15, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Josh  
Keaton, 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 C season allowance of the pollock  
TAC in Statistical Area 610 of the GOA  
is 5,500 metric tons (mt) as established  
by the final 2003 harvest specifications  
for groundfish of the GOA (68 FR 9924,  
March 3, 2003). In accordance with  
§ 679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B), the Administrator,  
Alaska Region, NMFS, (Regional  
Administrator) hereby increases the C  
season pollock TAC by 6 mt, the amount  
of the A and B season pollock allowance  
in Statistical Area 610 that was not

previously taken in the A and B seasons  
and split equally between the C and D  
seasons. The revised C season allowance  
of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 610  
is therefore 5,506 mt (5,500 mt plus 6  
mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i),  
the Regional Administrator has  
determined that the revised C season  
allowance of the pollock TAC in  
Statistical Area 610 has been reached.  
Therefore, the Regional Administrator is  
establishing a directed fishing  
allowance of 5,456 mt, and is setting  
aside the remaining 50 mt as bycatch to  
support other anticipated groundfish  
fisheries. In accordance with  
§ 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional  
Administrator finds that this directed  
fishing allowance will soon be reached.  
Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting  
directed fishing for pollock in Statistical  
Area 610 of the GOA.

Maximum retainable 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. The Assistant  
Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA  
(AA), finds good cause to waive the  
requirement to provide prior notice and  
opportunity for public comment  
pursuant to the authority set forth at 5  
U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is  
contrary to the public interest. This  
requirement is contrary to the public  
interest as it would delay the closure of  
the fishery, lead to exceeding the C  
season TAC in Statistical Area 610, and  
therefore reduce the public's ability to  
use and enjoy the fishery resource.

The AA also finds good cause to  
waive the 30-day delay in the effective  
date of this action under 5 U.S.C.  
553(d)(3). This finding is based upon  
the reasons provided above for waiver of  
prior notice and opportunity for public  
comment.

This action is required by § 679.20  
and is exempt from review under  
Executive Order 12866.

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

**Dated:** August 28, 2003.

**John H. Dunnigan,**

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

[FR Doc. 03-22562 Filed 8-29-03; 3:25 pm]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D.  
082803B]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 of 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 Statistical Area  
620 of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This  
action is necessary to prevent exceeding  
the C season allowance of the pollock  
total allowable catch (TAC) for  
Statistical Area 620 of the GOA.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local  
time (A.l.t.), August 30, 2003, through  
1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 15, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Josh  
Keaton, 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 C season allowance of the pollock  
TAC in Statistical Area 620 of the GOA  
is 2,686 metric tons (mt) as established  
by the final 2003 harvest specifications  
for groundfish of the GOA (68 FR 9924,  
March 3, 2003). In accordance with  
§ 679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B), the Administrator,  
Alaska Region, NMFS, (Regional  
Administrator) hereby reduces the C  
season pollock TAC by 820 mt, the  
amount of harvest previously taken in  
excess of the A and B season pollock  
allowances in Statistical Area 620 and  
split equally between the C and D  
seasons. The revised C season allowance  
of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620  
is therefore 1,866 mt (2,686 mt minus  
820 mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i),  
the Regional Administrator has  
determined that the revised C season  
allowance of the pollock TAC in  
Statistical Area 620 has been reached.  
Therefore, the Regional Administrator is

establishing a directed fishing allowance of 1,816 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 50 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance will soon be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the GOA.

Maximum retainable 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. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is contrary to the public interest. This requirement is contrary to the public interest as it would delay the closure of the fishery, lead to exceeding the C season allowance of the pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620, and therefore reduce the public's ability to use and enjoy the fishery resource.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective

date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: August 28, 2003.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 03-22561 Filed 8-29-03; 3:25 pm]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-M**