

l.t., September 15, 1996, at which time the season remains closed under the terms of the preseason announcement of the 1996 management measures. Comments will be accepted through October 9, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Regional Director, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070, or Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Regional Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4132. Information relevant to this action has been compiled in aggregate form and is available for public review during business hours at the Northwest Regional Office or Southwest Regional Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson, 206-526-6140, or Rodney R. McInnis, 310-980-4030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations governing the ocean salmon fisheries at 50 CFR 660.409(a)(1) state that when a quota for the commercial or the recreational fishery, or both, for any salmon species in any portion of the fishery management area is projected by the Regional Director to be reached on or by a certain date, NMFS will, by an inseason action issued under 50 CFR 660.411, close the commercial or recreational fishery, or both, for all salmon species in the portion of the fishery management area to which the quota applies as of the date the quota is projected to be reached.

In the annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (61 FR 20175, May 6, 1996), NMFS announced that the 1996 commercial fishery in the area between the Oregon-California border and Humboldt South Jetty, CA, would open on September 1 and continue through September 15 or attainment of the 6,000 chinook salmon quota, whichever occurred first.

The best available information on September 12, 1996, indicated that catch and effort data and projections supported closure of the commercial fishery in the area between the Oregon-California border and Humboldt South Jetty, CA, at midnight, September 14, 1996.

The Regional Director consulted with representatives of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding this closure. The State of California will manage the commercial fishery in state waters adjacent to this area of the exclusive economic zone in accordance with this Federal action. As provided by the inseason action

procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice to fishermen of this action was given prior to 2400 hours local time, September 14, 1996, by telephone hotline number 206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825 and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 kHz. Because of the need for immediate action to stop the fishery upon achievement of the quota, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this action to be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment. This action does not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409 and 660.411 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: September 19, 1996.

Gary C. Matlock,
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-24512 Filed 9-24-96; 8:45 am]

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 091996A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; "Other Rockfish" Species Group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for the "other rockfish" species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska. This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the "other rockfish" species group total allowable catch (TAC) in the Eastern Regulatory Area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 22, 1996, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS 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 Fishery Conservation and Management

Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR parts 620 and 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii), the "other rockfish" species group TAC for the Eastern Regulatory Area was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 750 metric tons (mt).

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1), that the "other rockfish" species group TAC in the Eastern Regulatory Area soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator has established a directed fishing allowance of 700 mt, with consideration that 50 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the Eastern Regulatory Area. The Regional Administrator has determined that the directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for the "other rockfish" species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e).

Classification

This action is taken under § 679.20 and is exempt from OMB review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: September 19, 1996.

Gary C. Matlock,
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.
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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 091896A]

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 1996 pollock total allowable catch (TAC) in this area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 19, 1996, until 2400 hrs, December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS 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 Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 1996 pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620 was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 12,840 metric tons (mt). (See § 679.20(c)(3).)

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1), that the 1996 pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620 soon will be reached. The Regional Administrator established a directed fishing allowance of 11,340 mt, and has set aside the remaining 1,500 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. Consequently, NMFS is

prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 620.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found at § 679.20(e).

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 672.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866..

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

Dated: September 19, 1996.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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