

calendar year, or until additional quota becomes available, effective on October 2, 1996.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12286.

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

Dated: October 2, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-25642 Filed 10-2-96; 4:30 pm]

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 093096D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements in the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice of change in recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that Daily Production Reports (DPRs) must be submitted by processor vessels using trawl gear that catch or receive rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* and shoreside processing facilities that receive rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* from vessels using trawl gear in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the total allowable catches (TACs) for rockfish species and species groups in the GOA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: From 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.L.T.), October 1, 1996, through the duration of the 1996 directed rockfish fisheries in the GOA or until the Director, Alaska Region, NMFS determines the supplementary reporting requirements are no longer necessary or until directed fishing for trawl gear is closed. This determination will be published in the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew N. Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska 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.

Pursuant to § 679.5(j) the Regional Director is requiring processor vessels using trawl gear that catch or receive rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* and shoreside processing facilities that receive rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* from vessels using trawl gear as defined at § 679.2 in the GOA to submit DPRs in addition to weekly processor reports.

The remainder of the TAC for rockfish species of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* under § 679.20(a)(2) will become available for directed fishing 1200 hrs, A.L.T., October 1, 1996, as the fourth quarterly allowance of Pacific halibut prohibited species catch limits for trawl gear becomes available. These rockfish amounts are expected to be rapidly harvested, and the Regional Director has determined that requiring DPRs is necessary to avoid exceeding TAC.

DPRs must include all information required by § 679.5(j)(4) for groundfish harvested from the applicable reporting areas. Processors must submit the required information on the "Alaska Groundfish Processor Daily Production Report" form that was distributed to participants in the groundfish fishery with their 1996 Federal fisheries permit. The form also may be obtained from the Regional Director by calling Mary Furuness at 907-586-7228. Processors must transmit completed DPRs to the Regional Director by facsimile transmission to number 907-586-7131, no later than 12 hours after the end of the day the groundfish was processed.

If and when the Regional Director determines that these reports are no longer necessary, he may terminate the requirement. Criteria used to assess the need for the reports include the stability of effort and harvest rates in the fishery, and remaining amounts.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, has found that reasons justifying promulgation of this action also make it impracticable and contrary to the public interest to provide notice and opportunity for prior comment or to delay for 30 days its effective date. Intense fishing effort without DPRs could result in industry's exceeding these allocations.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 1, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 96-25587 Filed 10-02-96; 9:33 am]

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50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129019-6019-01; I.D. 100196B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Yellowfin Sole by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing the directed fishery for yellowfin sole by vessels using trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1996 bycatch mortality allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to the trawl yellowfin sole fishery in the BSAI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.L.T.), October 2, 1996, until 2400 hours, A.L.T., December 31, 1996.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (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 bycatch mortality allowance of Pacific halibut for the BSAI trawl yellowfin sole fishery, which is defined at § 679.21(e)(3)(iv)(B)(1), was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5, 1996) as 820 metric tons.

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined, in accordance with § 679.21(e)(7)(iv), that the 1996 bycatch mortality allowance of Pacific halibut apportioned to the trawl yellowfin sole fishery in the BSAI has been caught. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for yellowfin sole by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI.

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

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 679.21 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: October 2, 1996.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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