

setting aside the remaining 200 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 closing directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 620 June 9, 1997, until 1200 hrs, A.I.t., September 1, 1997.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types 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 1997 second seasonal allowance of TAC for pollock in Statistical Area 620. The fleet will soon take the second seasonal allowance of TAC for pollock. Further delay would only result in overharvest which would disrupt the FMP's objective of apportioning seasonal pollock harvests throughout the year. 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)(3), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

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

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

Dated: June 6, 1997.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*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. 961126334-7025-02; I.D. 053097C]

##### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska

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

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is prohibiting the directed fishery for pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the second seasonal

allowance of total allowable catch (TAC) for pollock in this area.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.I.t.), June 9, 1997, until 1200 hrs, A.I.t., September 1, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

**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 GOA (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The final specification of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA was established by Final 1997 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (62 FR 8179, February 24, 1997) as 24,550 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(A). In accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(B) and § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(B)(2), the second seasonal allowance of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 630 is 5,265 mt. As of May 24, 1997, 8,754 mt of pollock has been harvested from Statistical Area 630. This amount represents a combination of the amounts taken during the first season and into the second.

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the second seasonal allowance of TAC for pollock in Statistical Area 630 soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 5,065 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 200 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 630 from June 9, 1997, until 1200 hours, A.I.t., September 1, 1997.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types 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 of the 1997 second seasonal allowance of TAC for pollock in Statistical Area 630. The fleet will

soon take the second seasonal directed fishing allowance of TAC for pollock. Further delay would only result in overharvest which would disrupt the FMP's objective of apportioning seasonal pollock harvests throughout the year. 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)(3), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

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

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

Dated: June 6, 1997.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*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. 961126334; I.D. 060697B]

##### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska, Nearshore Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the Central 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 nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish total allowable catch (TAC) in the Central Regulatory Area.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.I.t.), June 7, 1997, until 2400 hrs, A.I.t., December 31, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

**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-Stevens 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 final specification of nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish total allowable catch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska was established by the Final 1997 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish of the GOA (62 FR 8179, February 24, 1997) as 260 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administration), has determined that the nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish TAC in the Central Regulatory Area will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 160 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 100 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 the nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area. The nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish assemblage consists of black rockfish and blue rockfish.

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

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately to prevent overharvesting of the 1997 TAC for nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to public interest. The fleet will soon take the directed fishing allowance for nearshore pelagic shelf rockfish.

Further delay would only result in overharvest and disrupt the FMP's objective of allowing incidental catch to be retained throughout the year. 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)(3), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

#### **Classification**

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

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

Dated: June 6, 1997.

**Rebecca Lent,**

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