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Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.
[FR Doc. 97-24569 Filed 9-15-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

49 CFR Parts 1002 and 1108

[STB Ex Parte No. 560]

Arbitration of Certain Disputes Subject to the Statutory Jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects the final rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 2, 1997, 62 FR 46217, allowing arbitration of certain disputes subject to the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board, to include the necessary small business impact certification.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Hanson, (202) 565-1558. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Surface Transportation Board (Board) has adopted rules providing a means for the binding, voluntary arbitration of certain disputes subject to the statutory jurisdiction of the Board. By oversight, the Board's certification that these rules will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities (set forth on page 12 of the Board's decision) was not included in the **Federal Register** notice. Accordingly, in the final rule published on September 2, 1997 (62 FR 46217), make the following correction:

On page 46217, in the first column, at the end of the last complete paragraph add the following sentence: "The Board certifies that these rules will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities."

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-24409 Filed 9-15-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 285

[I.D. 090897C]

Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna General Category

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS has determined that the 1997 Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABT) September period General category subquota will be attained by September 13, 1997. Therefore, the General category fishery for September will be closed effective at 11:30 p.m. on September 13, 1997. This action is being taken to prevent overharvest of the adjusted 195 metric tons (mt) subquota for the September period.

DATES: Effective 11:30 p.m. local time on September 13, 1997, through September 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin, 301-713-2347, or Pat Scida, 508-281-9260.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of ABT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 285. Section 285.22 subdivides the U.S. quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) among the various domestic fishing categories.

General Category Closure

NMFS is required, under § 285.20(b)(1), to monitor the catch and landing statistics and, on the basis of these statistics, to project a date when the catch of ABT will equal the quota and publish a **Federal Register** announcement to close the applicable fishery.

Implementing regulations for the Atlantic tuna fisheries at 50 CFR 285.22 provide for a subquota of 187 mt of large medium and giant ABT to be harvested from the regulatory area by vessels permitted in the General category during the period beginning September 1 and ending September 30. Due to an underharvest of 8 mt in the June-August period subquota, the September period subquota was adjusted to 195 mt. Based on reported catch and effort, NMFS projects that this revised subquota will

be reached by September 13, 1997. Therefore, fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing large medium or giant ABT by vessels in the General category must cease at 11:30 p.m. local time September 13, 1997. For the remainder of September, previously designated restricted-fishing days are waived, and anglers aboard General category vessels may fish under rules applicable for the Angling category. The General category will reopen October 1, 1997 with a quota of 72 mt for the October-December period. Note that this October-December period subquota includes a 10-mt set aside for the New York Bight fishery. If necessary, the October-December period subquota will be adjusted based on actual landings from the current period.

The intent of this closure is to prevent overharvest of the September period subquota established for the General category.

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 285.20(b) and 50 CFR 285.22 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*

Dated: September 10, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-24578 Filed 9-11-97; 2:56 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961126334-7025-02; I.D. 091097D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 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 630 of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1997 total allowable catch (TAC) for pollock in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 12, 1997, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 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 1997 TAC for pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA was established as 24,550 metric tons (mt) by the Final 1997 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (62 FR 8179, February 24, 1997), determined in accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(A).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 1997 TAC for pollock in Statistical Area 630 will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 24,050 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 500 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 630 of the GOA.

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 the 1997 TAC for pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA. Providing prior notice and an opportunity for public comment is impracticable and contrary to public interest. The fleet will soon take the directed fishing allowance for pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA. Further delay would only result in overharvest which would disrupt the FMP's objective of providing sufficient pollock as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. 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), 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: September 10, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 97-24519 Filed 9-11-97; 2:54 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 091097C]

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

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing directed fishing for pollock by trawl vessels using nonpelagic trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1997 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery category.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.L.T.), September 11, 1997, A.L.T., December 31, 1997.

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-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 1997 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the BSAI pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery category, which is defined at § 679.21(e)(3)(iv)(F), was established by the Final 1997 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the BSAI (62 FR 7168, February 18, 1997) as 350 metric tons.

In accordance with § 679.21(e)(7)(iv), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the 1997 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery in the BSAI has been caught. Consequently, NMFS is closing directed fishing for pollock by trawl vessels using nonpelagic trawl gear in the BSAI.

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 1997 Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery category in the BSAI. Providing prior notice and an opportunity for public comment for this action is impracticable and contrary to public interest. The fleet has taken the Pacific halibut bycatch allowance specified for the trawl pollock/Atka mackerel/"other species" fishery category in the BSAI. 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), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

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

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

Dated: September 10, 1997.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

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