

that brown shrimp will be leaving the Texas estuaries later than normal. This information and other data meeting the FMP's criteria indicate that beginning the closure on June 1, 1996, is necessary to provide adequate protection of small brown shrimp emigrating from the Texas estuaries.

Accordingly, the time and date as provided at 50 CFR 658.26(a) for beginning the Texas closure is changed from 30 minutes after sunset May 15, 1996, to 30 minutes after sunset on June 1, 1996. During the closure, the area described at 50 CFR 658.26(a) is closed to all trawl fishing, except that a vessel may trawl for royal red shrimp beyond the 100-fathom (183-m) depth contour. The waters of Texas will also be closed commencing at 30 minutes after sunset on June 1, 1996.

The termination date of the Texas closure may be adjusted to conform to the termination date of the closure in the waters of Texas. If adjusted, notification of the revised termination date will be published in the Federal Register.

**Classification**

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 658.26(b) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: May 10, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,  
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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**50 CFR Part 672**

[Docket No. 950727194-6118-03; I.D. 062795C]

**Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements; General Limitations**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule; technical amendment.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues a technical amendment to the final rule implementing regulations for recordkeeping and reporting under the authority of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI). This action corrects the definition for "fishing trip."

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 16, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Patsy A. Bearden, 907-586-7228.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The final rule implementing recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the GOA and BSAI was published in the Federal Register on February 13, 1996 (61 FR 5608). The rule consolidated and revised recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries, including revisions to various definitions for the term, "fishing trip." Several very similar definitions for the term had existed previously and were to be reconciled and consolidated into one definition for the term in the final rule. The definition for "fishing trip" used to calculate maximum retainable bycatch amounts and retention of pollock roe in the GOA were found at § 672.20(h)(2) and (i)(4). Similar but slightly different definitions for this term as it applied to the BSAI also were found at § 675.20(i)(2) and (j)(4). Inadvertently, the reconciled definition in the final rule did not include some of the language of the original definitions.

The final rule implementing the recordkeeping and reporting requirements specified that an operator of a vessel is engaged in a fishing trip from the time the harvesting, receiving, or processing is begun or resumed until the transfer or offloading of all groundfish product, the vessel leaves the area where fishing activity commenced, or the end of a weekly reporting period, whichever occurs first. NMFS is amending the regulation to correct that definition to specify that a single fishing trip in an area continues until the offload or transfer of all groundfish or groundfish product, the vessel enters or leaves an area to which a directed fishing prohibition applies, or the end of a weekly reporting period, whichever occurs first. This change is based on language from earlier definitions and is designed to add additional precision and clarity concerning when a fishing trip begins and ends.

**Classification**

Because this technical amendment makes only minor, non-substantive corrections to an existing rule, notice and public procedure thereon and a delay in effective date would serve no purpose. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) and (d), notice and public procedure thereon and a delay in effective date are unnecessary.

Because this rule is being issued without prior comment, it is not subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act

requirement for a regulatory flexibility analysis and none has been prepared.

This rule makes minor technical changes to a rule that has been determined to be not significant under E.O. 12866. No changes in the regulatory impact previously reviewed and analyzed will result from implementation of this technical amendment.

**List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 672**

Fisheries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements

Dated: May 9, 1996.

Gary Matlock,

Program Management Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service.

For reasons set out in the preamble 50 CFR part 672 is amended to read as follows:

**PART 672—GROUND FISH OF THE GULF OF ALASKA**

1. The authority citation for part 672 continues to read as follows:

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

2. In § 672.20, paragraph (h)(2) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 672.20 General limitations.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(h) \* \* \*

(2) *Fishing trip.* For purposes of this section, an operator of a vessel is engaged in a single fishing trip in an area from the time the harvesting, receiving, or processing of groundfish is begun or resumed until:

(i) The offload or transfer of all groundfish or groundfish product from that vessel;

(ii) The vessel enters or leaves an area to which a directed fishing prohibition applies; or

(iii) The end of a weekly reporting period, whichever comes first.

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[FR Doc. 96-12240 Filed 5-15-96; 8:45 am]

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**50 CFR Part 672**

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 051096D]

**Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska**

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

**ACTION:** Closure.