

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. This determination will be published in the Federal Register. 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, finds 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 4, 1996.  
Bruce Morehead,  
*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-F**

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 960129018-6018-01; I.D. 100496B]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern rockfish in the Western 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 northern rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the northern rockfish total allowable catch (TAC) in this area.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 6, 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

subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii), the northern rockfish TAC for the Western Regulatory Area was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4304, February 5, 1996) as 640 metric tons (mt). The directed fishery for northern rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area opened on July 1, 1996 (61 FR 34377, July 2, 1996) and was closed under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) on July 11, 1996 (61 FR 37226, July 17, 1996) and reopened on October 1, 1996 (61 FR 50458, September 26, 1996).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), established in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1) a directed fishing allowance for northern rockfish of 600 mt, with consideration that 40 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in this area. The Regional Director has determined that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area.

The maximum retainable bycatch amounts are specified at § 679.20(e) and apply at any time during a trip.

#### 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 4, 1996.

Gary C. Matlock,  
*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
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