

(2) Allow the called party to determine the interexchange carrier, even if the service originates outside the independent LEC's local exchange areas.

**Local Exchange Carrier.** The term local exchange carrier means any person that is engaged in the provision of telephone exchange service or exchange access. Such term does not include a person insofar as such person is engaged in the provision of a commercial mobile service under section 332(c), except to the extent that the Commission finds that such service should be included in the definition of that term.

**§ 64.1903 Obligations of all incumbent independent local exchange carriers.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, an incumbent independent LEC providing in-region, interstate, interexchange services or in-region international interexchange services shall provide such services through an affiliate that satisfies the following requirements:

(1) The affiliate shall maintain separate books of account from its affiliated exchange companies. Nothing in this section requires the affiliate to maintain separate books of account that comply with Part 32 of this title;

(2) The affiliate shall not jointly own transmission or switching facilities with its affiliated exchange companies. Nothing in this section prohibits an affiliate from sharing personnel or other resources or assets with an affiliated exchange company; and

(3) The affiliate shall acquire any services from its affiliated exchange companies for which the affiliated exchange companies are required to file a tariff at tariffed rates, terms, and conditions. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the affiliate from acquiring any unbundled network elements or exchange services for the provision of a telecommunications service from its affiliated exchange companies, subject to the same terms and conditions as provided in an agreement approved under section 252 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

(b) The affiliate required in paragraph (a) of this section shall be a separate legal entity from its affiliated exchange companies. The affiliate may be staffed by personnel of its affiliated exchange companies, housed in existing offices of its affiliated exchange companies, and use its affiliated exchange companies' marketing and other services, subject to paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

(c) An incumbent independent LEC that is providing in-region, interstate, domestic interexchange services or in-region international interexchange services prior to April 18, 1997, but is

not providing such services through an affiliate that satisfies paragraph (a) of this section as of April 18, 1997, shall comply with the requirements of this section no later than April 18, 1998.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 961126334-7025-02; I.D. 062497B]

**Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; "Other Rockfish" Species Group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska**

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

**ACTION:** Modification of a closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is opening directed fishing for the "other rockfish" species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to fully utilize the total allowable catch (TAC) of "other rockfish" in that area.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 1, 1997, until 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew Smoker, 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-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 annual TAC for the "other rockfish" species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA, was established by the Final 1997 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (62 FR 8179, February 24, 1997) as 1,500 metric tons (mt) pursuant to § 679.20(c)(3)(ii). The Final 1997 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA also closed directed fishing for "other rockfish" in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA (see § 679.20(d)(1)(iii)) in anticipation that the TAC would be needed as incidental catch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries during 1997. NMFS

has determined that as of June 14, 1997, 1,383 mt remain in the directed fishing allowance.

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the 1997 directed fishing allowance of the "other rockfish" species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA has not been reached. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening directed fishing for the "other rockfish" species group in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA.

All other closures remain in full force and effect.

**Classification**

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

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

Dated: June 27, 1997.

**Bruce Morehead,**

*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. 062497C]

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska**

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

**ACTION:** Modification of a closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is opening directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to fully utilize the total allowable catch (TAC) of northern rockfish in that area.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 1, 1997, until 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew Smoker, 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