

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 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 15, 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. 970619143-7143-01; I.D. 070997D]

RIN 0648-AC68

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Define Fishing Trip in Groundfish Fisheries; Correction

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

ACTION: Correction to final regulations.

SUMMARY: NMFS is correcting a section of regulations that contain an inadvertent error that was introduced during a recent revision to regulations that pertain to the groundfish fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. This action corrects regulations defining a fishing trip.

DATES: Effective July 21, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan J. Salvesson, 907-586-7228

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 1997 (62 FR 35109), that revised the definition of fishing trip with respect to monitoring compliance with groundfish directed closures.

As published, the instructions to revise the regulations contained an inadvertent error that resulted in the removal of two definitions of fishing trip with respect to the Individual Fishing Quota program and a vessel used to process or deliver fish. NMFS is correcting this error as follows and makes no substantive changes.

In § 679.2, the definition of "fishing trip" (page 35111) did not contain the amendatory instruction indicating that only definition (1) was affected, and two existing definitions were removed in error. This action restates the definition of "fishing trip."

Correction of Publication

Accordingly, the publication of June 30, 1997, of the final regulations (I.D. 061097A), which was the subject of FR Doc. 97-17046, is corrected as follows:

§ 679.2 [Corrected]

On page 35111, in the first column, amendatory instruction number 2 is corrected to read as follows:

2. In § 679.2, the definition of "Fishing trip" is revised to read as follows:

§ 679.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

Fishing trip means:

(1) With respect to monitoring compliance with groundfish directed fishing closures, an operator of a vessel

is engaged in a fishing trip from the time the harvesting, receiving, or processing of groundfish is begun or resumed in an area after the effective date of a notification prohibiting directed fishing in the same area under § 679.20 or § 679.21 until:

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

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

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

(2) With respect to the IFQ program, the period beginning when a vessel operator commences harvesting IFQ species and ending when the vessel operator lands any species.

(3) With respect to Part E of this part, one of the following periods:

(i) For a vessel used to process groundfish or a catcher vessel used to deliver groundfish to a mothership, a weekly reporting period during which one or more fishing days occur.

(ii) For a catcher vessel used to deliver fish to other than a mothership, the time period during which one or more fishing days occur, that starts on the day when fishing gear is first deployed and ends on the day the vessel offloads groundfish, returns to an Alaskan port, or leaves the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent waters of the State of Alaska.

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Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, 1801 *et seq.*, and 3631 *et seq.*

Dated: July 16, 1997.

David L. Evans,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-19114 Filed 7-18-97; 8:45 am]

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