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 4. Table Five of § 706.2 is amended by revising the entry for the USS DENVER to read as follows:

**§ 706.2 Certifications of the Secretary of the Navy under Executive Order 11964 and 33 U.S.C. 1605.**

\* \* \* \* \*

TABLE FIVE

Vessel	No.	Masthead lights not over all other lights and obstructions. annex 1, sec. 2(f)	Forward masthead light not in forward quarter of ship. annex 1, sec. 3(a)	After masthead light less than 2 ship's length aft of forward masthead light. annex 1, sec. 3(a)	Percentage horizontal separation attained
USS DENVER .....	LPD 9	N/A	N/A	X	54.7

Dated: November 21, 1997.  
**R.R. Pixa,**  
*Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Admiralty).*  
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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 971208296-7296-01; I.D. 022098A]

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Offshore Component of Pollock in the Bering Sea Subarea**

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

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea (BS) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the proposed first seasonal allowance of pollock apportioned to vessels harvesting pollock for processing by the offshore component in the BS.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), February 20, 1998, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., April 15, 1998.

**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. processors 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)(2)(ii), the proposed first seasonal allowance of pollock for vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the BS of the BSAI was established as 280,946 metric tons (mt) by the Interim 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the BSAI (62 FR 65626, December 15, 1998).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the proposed first seasonal allowance of pollock for vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the BS has been reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 253,946 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 27,000 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 has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI.

This closure is effective from February 20, 1998, through 1200 hrs, A.l.t., April 15, 1998. Under § 679.20(a)(5)(i), the second seasonal allowance of pollock TAC will become available for directed fishing at 1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 1, 1998. 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 in order to prevent overharvesting the proposed first seasonal allowance of pollock for vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the BS of the BSAI. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The fleet has already taken the proposed first seasonal allowance of pollock for vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the BS of the BSAI. 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 can not 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 § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: February 20, 1998.

**Gary C. Matlock,**

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

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