

Purchasers will therefore not be affected. This decision does not impose any burdens on Vector. It does relieve the company from being subject to an infeasible standard for MY 1998 and from having to pay civil penalties for noncompliance with that standard. Since the price of 1998 Vector automobiles were not affected by this decision, the purchasers are not affected.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 531

Energy conservation, Fuel economy, Imports, Motor vehicles.

In consideration of the foregoing, 49 CFR Part 531 is amended as set forth below:

PART 531—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 531 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 32902, Delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

2. Section 531.5(b) is amended by republishing paragraph (b) introductory text and adding paragraph (b)(13) to read as follows:

§ 531.5 Fuel economy standards.

* * * * *

(b) The following manufacturers shall comply with the standards indicated below for the specified model years:

* * * * *

(13) Vector Aeromotive Corporation.

Model year	Average fuel economy standard (miles per gallon)
1998	12.1

* * * * *

Issued on: March 5, 1999.

L. Robert Shelton,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 990304061-9061-01; I.D. 022599B]

RIN 0648-AL63

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; 1999 Harvest Guideline

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

ACTION: 1999 harvest guideline for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) crustacean fishery.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces a 1999 harvest guideline of 243,100 lobsters (spiny and slipper lobsters combined) for the NWHI crustacean fishery, which opens on July 1, 1999. The harvest guideline applies to the entire NWHI. The intent of this action is to prevent overfishing and achieve the objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for the Crustacean Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (FMP).

DATES: Effective July 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of background material pertaining to this action may be obtained from Alvin Katekaru, Pacific Islands Area Office (PIAO), Southwest Region, NMFS, 2570 Dole St., Honolulu, HI 96822 or Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alvin Katekaru at 808-973-2985 or Kitty Simonds at 808-522-8220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Amendment 9 to the FMP, the Southwest Regional Administrator, NMFS (Regional Administrator), sets the annual harvest guideline for the NWHI crustacean fishery. The guideline is 13 percent of the estimated exploitable lobster population (spiny and slipper lobsters combined). This harvest rate is associated with a 10-percent risk of overfishing. As described in Amendments 7 and 9 to the FMP, the total NWHI population of exploitable lobsters is estimated from commercial logbook lobster catch and effort data. The harvest guideline represents the total allowable mortality of lobsters in the fishery regardless of lobster size or reproductive condition. The Regional Administrator will close the fishery when the harvest guideline is estimated

to be reached. The harvest guideline for the 1999 NWHI lobster fishery is 243,100 lobsters, based on an estimated total exploitable population of about 1,870,000 spiny and slipper lobsters (both species combined).

Under Amendment 9 to the FMP, the Regional Administrator is required to announce a harvest guideline for the entire NWHI. However, the Regional Administrator has a reason to believe that, if the 1999 lobster harvest is not limited for certain fishing banks, the local lobster populations may be at risk of overexploitation. The Council and fishing industry also concur with this assessment. The Council established bank-specific harvest guidelines for the 1998 lobster season to prevent the potential risk of overexploiting the lobster population at Necker Island, Gardner Pinnacles, and Maro Reef.

Those bank-specific guidelines ended on December 31, 1998. On December 2, 1998, the Council voted to recommend permanent bank-specific harvest guidelines for Necker Island, Gardner Pinnacle, Maro Reef, and all other remaining NWHI lobster grounds combined during the 1999 fishing year and subsequent years. NMFS is working with the Council to develop separate proposed and final rules for those bank-specific guidelines.

The PIAO will monitor landings and issue timely reports of the level of cumulative catch information and of the amount of the harvest guideline remaining. Fishermen are advised to contact the PIAO (see **ADDRESSES**) periodically to stay abreast of any changes and of the progress of the fishery toward attaining the harvest guideline. Under the procedures in 50 CFR 660.50(b)(3), NMFS will announce the date upon which the harvest guideline will be reached and the date when the fishery will be closed.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR part 660 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA), NOAA, finds that, because this document merely announces a harvest guideline resulting from the nondiscretionary application of the objective harvest guideline formula in Amendment 9 to the FMP, no useful purpose would be served by providing prior notice and opportunity for public comment. Accordingly, the AA finds good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive as unnecessary the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

Because prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required for

this action by 5 U.S.C. 553, or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, are inapplicable.

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

Dated: March 5, 1999.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 981222313-8320-02; I.D. 030399B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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 Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to fully utilize the 1999 interim harvest specification of Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District, including the 1999 critical habitat percentage of the interim harvest specification of Atka mackerel established for this District.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 7, 1999, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., April 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone 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. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 1999 interim TAC for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District is 9,520 metric tons (mt), of which no more than 7,616 mt may be harvested from critical habitat (64 FR 3446,

January 22, 1999). See § 679.20(c)(2)(ii)(A) and 679.22(a)(8)(iii)(B). The directed fishery for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District was closed to reserve amounts anticipated to be needed for incidental catch in other fisheries (64 FR 10398, March 4, 1999). The Steller Sea lion critical habitat in the Central Aleutian District was closed to trawl gear to prevent exceeding the percentage of the interim harvest specifications of Atka mackerel allocated to the Central Aleutian District (64 FR 8013, February 18, 1999). Fishing with trawl gear in critical habitat in the Central Aleutian District was opened concurrent with the closure of the Central Aleutian District to directed fishing for Atka mackerel (64 FR 10398, March 4, 1999). NMFS has determined that as of March 2, 1999, approximately 4,000 mt remains in the Central Aleutian Islands directed fishing allowance and 2,192 mt remains in the critical habitat percentage of the interim harvest specifications of Atka mackerel allocated to the Central Aleutian District.

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 1999 directed fishing allowance for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District and the critical habitat percentage of the interim harvest specifications of Atka mackerel established for this District have not been reached. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is reopening directed fishing for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District of the BSAI. All other closures remain in full force and effect. Steller Sea lion critical habitat in the Central Aleutian District of the BSAI is defined at 50 CFR part 226, Table 1, Table 2, and Figure 4.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately to fully utilize the 1999 interim harvest specification of Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District and the 1999 critical habitat percentage of the interim harvest specifications of Atka mackerel established for this District. Providing prior notice and opportunity for public comment for this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of 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 § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: March 5, 1999.

Richard W. Surdi,

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. 981222314-8321-02; I.D. 030599C]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the 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 pollock in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the interim 1999 pollock total allowable catch (TAC) for the Eastern Regulatory Area established by the Interim 1999 Harvest Specifications.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 6, 1999, until superseded by the Final 1999 Harvest Specification for Groundfish, which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone 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. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The Interim 1999 Harvest Specifications (64 FR 46, January 4, 1999) established the interim 1999 pollock TAC in the Eastern Regulatory Area as 1,395 metric tons (mt), in accordance with § 679.20(c)(2)(i).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the interim TAC of pollock in the Eastern Regulatory Area will soon be reached. The Regional