

beginning September 1, 1999, and will close at 11:30 p.m. local time September 30, 1999, and will remain closed through December 31, 1999. NMFS will continue to monitor landings and will close the fishery if landings indicate that the quota will be exceeded, as required under § 635.28(b).

During a closure, retention of, fishing for, possessing or selling LCS are prohibited for persons fishing aboard vessels issued a limited access permit under § 635.4. After September 30, 1999, the sale, purchase, trade, or barter of carcasses and/or fins of LCS harvested by a person aboard a vessel that has been issued a permit under § 635.4 are prohibited, except for those that were harvested, offloaded, and sold, traded, or bartered prior to the closure and were held in storage by a dealer or processor.

Commercial fishing for pelagic and small coastal sharks may continue until further notice. When quotas are projected to be reached, the AA will file notice of closure at the Office of the Federal Register. Those vessels that have not been issued a limited access permit under § 635.4 may not sell sharks and are subject to the recreational retention limits and size limits specified at §§ 635.22(c) and 635.20(d). The recreational fishery is not affected by this action.

#### Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR part 635 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 26, 1999.

#### Gary C. Matlock

*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. 990304063-9063-01; I.D. 082699E]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock by Vessels Catching Pollock for Processing by the Inshore Component 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 inshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1999 B season pollock total allowable catch (TAC) specified to the inshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), August 26, 1999, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 15, 1999.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI 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.

In accordance with Section 206(b)(1) of the American Fisheries Act, 50 percent of the remainder of the pollock TAC in the BSAI after the subtraction of the allocation to the pollock Community

Development Quota and the subtraction of allowances for the incidental catch of pollock by vessels harvesting other groundfish species, shall be allocated as a directed fishing allowance to catcher vessels harvesting pollock for processing by the inshore component. In accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(C)(1), the Bering Sea pollock TAC allocated for processing by the inshore component is divided into four seasonal allowances. The final 1999 amount for B season pollock in the Bering Sea subarea is 125,885 metric tons (64 FR 12103, March 11, 1999) and (64 FR 39087, July 21, 1999).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, finds that this directed fishing allowance soon will be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the inshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e) and (f).

#### Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to prevent exceeding the final 1999 B season pollock TAC specified to the inshore component in the Bering Sea subarea of the BSAI. A delay in the effective date 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: August 26, 1999.

#### Bruce C. Morehead,

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