

(4) *Terms and conditions.* The EFP will specify the amounts that may be taken as scientific samples and as compensation, the time period during which the compensation fishing must occur, management measures that NMFS will waive for a vessel fishing under the EFP, and other terms and conditions appropriate to the fishery and the collection of resource information. NMFS may require compensation fishing to occur on the same trip that the resource information is collected.

(5) *Accounting for the catch.* Samples taken under this EFP, as well as any compensation fish, count toward the current year's catch or landings.

[FR Doc. 99-23486 Filed 9-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 090299A]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central 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 retention of Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catch of Pacific ocean perch in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the amount of the 1999 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific ocean perch in this area has been achieved.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 3, 1999, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Pearson 907-481-1780 or tom.pearson@noaa.gov.

**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 amount of the 1999 TAC of Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA was established as 6,760 metric tons by the Final 1999 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (64 FR 12094, March 11, 1999). See § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the amount of the 1999 TAC for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been achieved. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(b).

#### Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately to prevent overharvesting the amount of the 1999 TAC for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The fleet has taken the amount of the 1999 TAC for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. Further delay would only result in overharvest. 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: September 2, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-23443 Filed 9-3-99; 3:50 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 090199C]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Central 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 retention of northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catch of northern rockfish in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the amount of the 1999 total allowable catch (TAC) of northern rockfish in this area has been achieved.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 3, 1999, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Pearson 907-481-1780 or tom.pearson@noaa.gov.

**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 amount of the 1999 TAC of northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA was established as 4,150 metric tons by the Final 1999 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (64 FR 12094, March 11, 1999). See § 679.20(c)(3)(ii). In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the amount of the 1999 TAC for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been achieved. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(b).