

**PART 1813—SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES**

4–5. In section 1813.301–73, paragraph (a) is revised to read as follows:

**1813.301–73 Program officials.**

(a) The Langley Research Center, Office of Procurement (Code AG), is the agency program coordinator.

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**PART 1815—CONTRACTING BY NEGOTIATION**

6. Section 1815.203–71 is revised to read as follows:

**§ 1815.203–71 Headquarters reviews.**

For RFPs requiring Headquarters review and approval, the procurement officer shall submit an electronic copy of the RFP to the Associate Administrator for Procurement (Code HS). Any significant information relating to the RFP or the planned evaluation methodology omitted from the RFP itself should also be provided.

**PART 1816—TYPES OF CONTRACTS**

7. In section 1816.505, paragraph (b)(4) is redesignated as paragraph (b)(6).

8. In section 1816.506–70, the reference “(See NHB 9501.2)” is revised to read “(see NPG 9501.2, NASA Contractor Financial Management Reporting System)”.

**PART 1837—SERVICE CONTRACTING**

9. In section 1837.203, the reference “(see NMI 3304.1, Employment of Experts and Consultants)” is revised to read “(see NPD 3000.1, Management of Human Resources)”.

**PART 1842—CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT SERVICES**

10. In section 1842.202, paragraph (b)(1) is redesignated as (b)(i).

**PART 1847—TRANSPORTATION**

11. Section 1847.200–70 is revised to read as follows:

**1847.200–70 Charter of aircraft.**

When acquiring aircraft by charter, contracting officers shall comply with NPG 7900.3, Aircraft Operations Management.

**PART 1852—SOLICITATION PROVISIONS AND CONTRACT CLAUSES**

12. Section 1852.211–70 is removed.

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 635**

[I.D. 091599A]

**Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna**

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

**ACTION:** Adjustment of General category daily retention limit on previously designated restricted-fishing days.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has determined that the Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) General category restricted-fishing day (RFD) schedule should be adjusted, i.e., certain RFDs should be waived, in order to allow for maximum utilization of the General category quota. Therefore, NMFS increases the daily retention limit from zero to one large medium or giant BFT on the following previously-designated RFDs for 1999: September 19, 20, 26, and 27, and October 1.

**DATES:** Effective September 16, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Pat Scida or Brad McHale, 978–281–9260.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of BFT by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. General category effort controls (including time-period subquotas and RFDs) are specified annually under §§ 635.23(a) and 635.27(a). The 1999 General category effort controls were implemented June 1, 1999 (64 FR 29806, June 3, 1999).

**Adjustment of Daily Retention Limit for Selected Dates**

Under § 635.23 (a)(4), NMFS may increase or decrease the daily retention limit of large medium and giant BFT over a range from zero (on RFDs) to a maximum of three per vessel to allow for maximum utilization of the quota for BFT.

Based on a review of dealer reports, daily landing trends, and the availability of BFT on the fishing grounds, NMFS has determined that adjustment to the RFD schedule, and, therefore, an increase of the daily retention limit for selected, previously designated RFDs, is necessary. Therefore, NMFS adjusts the daily retention limit for September 19, 20, 26, and 27, and October 1, to one large medium or giant BFT per vessel. October 1 was designated as an RFD to facilitate enforcement of the October reopening after an anticipated closure in September. However, since the September subquota will most likely not be reached, it is no longer necessary for October 1 to be an RFD. Note that NMFS is not waiving the “market-smart” RFDs on Wednesdays in September that correspond to Japanese market closures (September 22 and 29).

The intent of this adjustment is to allow for maximum utilization of the General category quota (specified under § 635.27(a)) in order to help achieve optimum yield in the fishery, to collect a broad range of data for stock monitoring purposes, and to be consistent with the objectives of the HMS FMP.

**Classification**

This action is taken under § 635.23(a)(4) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 16, 1999.

**Gary C. Matlock,**

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

[FR Doc. 99–24566 Filed 9–16–99; 2:01 pm]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 660**

[Docket No. 981231333–8333–01; I.D. 091399D]

**Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Fixed Gear Sablefish Mop-Up**

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

**ACTION:** Announcement of fixed gear sablefish mop-up fishery; fishing restrictions, request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces adjustments to the management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. This action establishes beginning and ending dates and the cumulative period landings limit for the mop-up portion of the limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery. These actions are intended to provide for harvest of the remainder of the sablefish available to the 1999 limited entry, fixed gear primary sablefish fishery. This action applies only in waters north of 36° N. lat.

**DATES:** The fixed gear sablefish mop-up fishery will begin at 1201 hours local time (l.t.), September 20, 1999, and will end at 1200 hours l.t., September 25, 1999, at which time the limited entry daily trip limit fishery resumes. The daily trip limits for the fixed gear sablefish fishery will remain in effect, unless modified, superseded or rescinded, until the effective date of the 2000 annual specifications and management measures for the Pacific coast groundfish fishery, which will be published in the **Federal Register**. Comments will be accepted until October 6, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to William Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region (Regional Administrator), NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Bldg. 1, Seattle WA 98115-0070; or Rodney McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Yvonne deReynier, Northwest Region, NMFS, 206-526-6140.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery consists of a "primary" fishery, composed of the "regular" fishery described here, during which most of the fixed gear sablefish allocation is taken, and then a "mop-up" fishery, during which the remainder of the amount available to the primary fishery is taken.

The regulations at 50 CFR 660.323(a)(2) provide a season structure for the limited entry, fixed gear primary (regular + mop-up) sablefish fishery. During the regular season, each vessel with a limited entry permit with a sablefish endorsement that is registered for use with that vessel may land up to the cumulative trip limit for the tier to which the permit is assigned. For the August 16-25, 1999, regular season, participants fished under the following tier limits: Tier 1, 84,800 lb (40,823 kg); Tier 2, 38,300 lb (17,373 kg); Tier 3, 22,000 lb (9,979 kg). Other than the

large, tiered cumulative limits, the only trip limit in this fishery was for sablefish smaller than 22 inches (56 cm). The 1999 regular season started at noon on August 16, 1999, and lasted until noon on August 25, 1999.

Preseason estimates of the likely total harvest in the regular season fishery were conservative in order to minimize the risk of the fishery exceeding its total allocation. Because of the conservative projections, the regular fishery was not expected to harvest all of the limited entry, fixed gear allocation for north of 36° N. lat. in excess of that required for the daily trip limit fishery. The Regional Administrator is authorized to announce a mop-up fishery for any excess, if it is large enough, about 3 weeks after the end of the regular season and consisting of one cumulative trip limit for each vessel (50 CFR 660.323(a)(2)(v)). Approximately 3 weeks are needed for the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Groundfish Management Team to compile all of the landings receipts from the regular season and to calculate the amount available for the mop-up season, if any. This action establishes the 1999 mop-up fishery for limited entry, fixed gear permit holders with sablefish endorsements.

The 1999 limited entry nontrawl sablefish allocation is 2,516 mt (5,546,824 lb), of which 2,137 mt (4,711,315 lb) is available to the primary (regular + mop-up) season. The best available information on September 8, 1999, indicated that approximately 2,085 mt (4,596,527 lb) of sablefish were landed during the regular season. Therefore, 52 mt (114,788 lb) remain available to the mop-up fishery. The Regional Administrator, after consulting with Council representatives via telephone on September 9, 1999, has determined that the mop-up fishery will occur, and that a cumulative trip limit of 1,100 lb (499 kg) (round weight) in a 5-day period (September 20 - September 25, 1999) would give limited entry permit holders with sablefish endorsements the opportunity to harvest the remainder of the sablefish available to the primary fishery without exceeding the amount of sablefish set aside for that fishery. The 5-day time frame for the 1999 fishery is shorter than in past years (2 weeks in 1997 and 1998,) because the cumulative limit amount is relatively small, and leaving the mop-up fishery open for an overly long period would unnecessarily limit the number of daily trip limit fishing days available to limited entry permit holders without sablefish endorsements. The same trip limit for sablefish smaller than 22 inches (56 cm) total length, or

15.5 inches (39 cm) for sablefish that are headed that was in effect during the regular season is in effect during the mop-up season.

Only limited entry permit holders with sablefish endorsements may participate in the mop-up fishery. No vessel may land more than one cumulative limit. There is no limited entry, daily trip limit fishery during the mop-up fishery period. Therefore, holders of limited entry permits without sablefish endorsements may not land any sablefish during the mop-up period. Similarly, once a vessel with a sablefish endorsed limited entry permit has been used to land its 1,100 lb (499 kg) cumulative trip limit in the mop-up fishery, it may not be used to land more sablefish until the daily trip limits resume at 1201 hours on September 25, 1999. Also, acquiring additional limited entry permits does not entitle a vessel to more than one cumulative limit.

Following the mop-up fishery, daily trip limits are reimposed until the end of the year, or until modified. The next opportunity for the Council to recommend modifications to the daily trip limit fishery will be at its September 13-17, 1999, meeting. The sablefish daily trip limit for the limited entry fishery north of 36° N. lat. after the mop-up season is 300 lb (136 kg) per day, with no more than 2,100 lb (953 kg) cumulative per calendar month. Since the daily trip limits apply to a 24-hour day starting at 0001 hours, but the mop-up fishery begins and ends at 1200 hours, it will be lawful for a vessel in the limited entry fishery to land a daily trip limit between 0001 hours and 1200 hours on September 20, 1999, just before the start of the mop-up season, and between 1201 hours and 2400 hours on September 25, 1999, following the mop-up season.

A daily trip limit is the maximum amount that may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed per vessel in 24 consecutive hours, starting at 0001 hours local time. Only one landing of groundfish may be made in that 24-hour period. Daily trip limits may not be accumulated. If a trip lasts more than 1 day, only one daily trip limit is allowed. Daily trip limits were in effect until the closed period before the regular season, and went back into effect after the post-season closure ended on August 26, 1999. A cumulative trip limit is the maximum amount of sablefish that may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed per vessel in a specified period of time, with no limit on the number of landings or trips.

**NMFS Actions**

NMFS announces the dates of the fixed gear sablefish limited entry mop-up fishery. All other provisions remain in effect. In the January 8, 1999 **Federal Register** (64 FR 1316), annual management measures, paragraph IV.B.(6)(d)(i) is revised to read as follows:

- IV. \* \* \*
- B. \* \* \*
- (6) \* \* \*
- (d) \* \* \*

(i) *Mop-Up Season.* The mop-up season will begin at 12 noon l.t. on September 20, 1999, and end at noon on September 25, 1999. The cumulative trip limit for the mop-up fishery is 1,100 lb (499 kg). No vessel may be used to take more than one mop-up cumulative trip limit. (Note: The States of Washington, Oregon, and California use a conversion factor of 1.6 to convert dressed sablefish to its round-weight equivalent. Therefore, 1,100 lb (499 kg) round weight corresponds to 688 lb (312 kg) for dressed sablefish.)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Classification**

This action is authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, which governs the harvest of groundfish in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The determination to take these actions is based on the most recent data available. Because of the need for immediate action to start the mop-up fishery for sablefish, NMFS has determined that providing an opportunity for public notice and comment would be impractical and contrary to public interest. Delaying this rule could push the mop-up season into inclement autumn weather. Therefore, the agency believes that good cause exists for this document to be published without affording a prior opportunity for public comment or a 30-day delayed effectiveness period.

These actions are taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.323(a)(2), and are exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: September 15, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-24487 Filed 9-20-99; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 990304063-9063-01; I.D. 091499F]

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area**

**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 Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). 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 17, 1999, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 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.

The amount of the 1999 TAC of Pacific ocean perch in the Western Aleutian District of the BSAI was established as 5,753 metric tons by the Final 1999 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the BSAI (64 FR 12103, March 11, 1999). See § 679.20(c)(3)(iii).

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 Western Aleutian District of the BSAI has been achieved. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of Pacific ocean perch in the Western Aleutian District of the BSAI 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 Western Aleutian District of the BSAI. 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 Western Aleutian District of the BSAI. 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 15, 1999.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 99-24565 Filed 9-16-99; 2:01 pm]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 091599E]

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 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 Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the third seasonal allowance of pollock total allowable catch (TAC) in this area and to close the C season fishery.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), September 16, 1999, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 21, 1999.

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