

(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 A season apportionment of the 2000 total allowable catch for Atka mackerel in the Central Aleutian District is 11,424 metric tons (mt), of which no more than 7,654 mt may be harvested from critical habitat (65 FR 8282, February 18, 2000). See § 679.20(c)(3)(iii) and 679.22(a)(8)(iii)(B).

In accordance with § 679.22(a)(8)(iii)(A), 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 on February 10, 2000 (65 FR 7461, February 15, 2000). NMFS has determined that as of February 12, 2000, approximately 1,500 mt remains in the critical habitat percentage of the 2000 harvest specifications of Atka mackerel allocated to the Central Aleutian District.

The Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the critical habitat percentage of the interim harvest specifications of Atka mackerel established for this District has not been caught. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening trawling in critical habitat, as defined at 50 CFR part 226, Table 1 and Table 2 in the Central Aleutian District of the BSAI. All other closures remain in full force and effect.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained

from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately to fully utilize the critical habitat percentage of the 2000 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: February 23, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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. 991128352-0012-02; I.D. 011100D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Emergency Interim Rule to Implement Major Provisions of the American Fisheries Act: Correction

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

ACTION: Emergency interim rule; revisions to 2000 harvest specifications; sideboard directed fishing closures; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the emergency interim rule to implement major provisions of the American Fisheries Act (AFA) and revise interim 2000 harvest specifications.

DATES: Effective January 21, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Lind, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fisheries off Alaska according to the Fishery Management Plans (FMPS) for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) and Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMPs are at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and at 50 CFR part 679.

Correction

In the emergency interim rule, To Implement Major Provisions of the American Fisheries Act, published in the **Federal Register** on January 28, 2000 (65 FR 4520), FR DOC 00-1832, page 4533, under Table 5—INTERIM 2000 BSAI AFA CATCHER VESSEL (CV) SIDEBOARDS. AMOUNTS ARE EXPRESSED IN METRIC TONS—Continued:

1. In the 3rd column, under “Ratio of 1995–1997 AFA CV catch to 1995–1997 TAC”, remove the fourth entry “0.7291” and add in its place “0.7703”; and in the 5th column, “2000 catcher vessel sideboards”, remove the fourth entry “30,588” and add in its place “32,316”.

2. In Table 5, add the following entry at the end of the table to read as follows:

TABLE 5.—INTERIM 200 BSAI AFA CATCHER VESSEL (CV) SIDEBOARDS. AMOUNTS ARE EXPRESSED IN METRIC TONS—CONTINUED

| Species | Fishery by area/ season/processor/ gear | Ratio of 1995–1997 AFA CV catch to 1995–1997 TAC | 2000 Initial TAC | 2000 catcher vessel side- boards |
|---------------------|---|---|---------------------|---|
| * * * * * | * BS trawl gear | * 0.0490 | * 44,755 | * 2,193 |
| Flathead Sole | | | | |

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3. In Table 6, the entry “Pollock” and footnote 1 are correctly revised to read as follows:

TABLE 6.—Interim 2000 GOA AFA Catcher Vessel (CV) Sideboards. Amounts are Expressed in Metric Tons

| Species | Apportionments and allocations by area/season/processor/gear | Ratio of 1995–1997 AFA CV catch to 1995–1997 TACX | 2000 TAC | 2000 catcher vessel sideboard |
|----------------------|--|---|----------|-------------------------------|
| Pollock ¹ | <i>A Season (W/C areas only)</i> | | | |
| | Shelikof Strait | 0.1672 | 13,991 | 2339 |
| | Shumagin (610) | 0.6238 | 7,498 | 4677 |
| | Chirikof (620) (outside Shelikof) | 0.1262 | 546 | 69 |
| | Kodiak (630) (outside Shelikof) | 0.1984 | 5,325 | 1056 |
| | <i>B Season (W/C areas only)</i> | | | |
| | Shelikof Strait | 0.1672 | 6,996 | 1170 |
| | Shumagin (610) | 0.6238 | 3,749 | 2339 |
| | Chirikof (620) (outside Shelikof) | 0.1262 | 273 | 34 |
| | Kodiak (630) (outside Shelikof) | 0.1984 | 2,662 | 528 |
| | <i>C Season (W/C areas only)</i> | | | |
| | Shumagin (610) | 0.6238 | 11,505 | 7177 |
| | Chirikof (620) | 0.1262 | 6,847 | 864 |
| | Kodiak (630) | 0.1984 | 9,008 | 1787 |
| | <i>D Season (W/C areas only)</i> | | | |
| | Shumagin (610) | 0.6238 | 9,588 | 5981 |
| Chirikof (620) | 0.1262 | 5,706 | 720 | |
| Kodiak (630) | 0.1984 | 7,506 | 1489 | |
| * | * | * | * | * |

¹ Pollock sideboards amounts are based on pollock harvest restrictions implemented under the emergency interim rule published February 25, 2000 (65 FR 3892) that implements Steller sea lion RPA measures for the BSAI and GOA pollock fisheries.

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Dated: February 23, 2000.

Andrew A. Rosenberg,
 Deputy Asst. Administrator for Fisheries,
 National Marine Fisheries Service.
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