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Regulatory Flexibility Certification

In this present Order, the Commission promulgates no additional final rules, and our action does not affect the previous analysis.

Synopsis of Order on Reconsideration

1. BellSouth Corporation (BellSouth), AT&T Corp. (AT&T), and Sprint Communications Company (Sprint) filed petitions for reconsideration and/or clarification of the Commission's order denying BellSouth's application for authority to provide in-region, interLATA services in the state of Louisiana pursuant to section 271 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act). For the reasons discussed below, we deny these petitions.

2. With respect to the issues on which reconsideration is sought, no petitioner raises arguments that would cause us to change our decision to deny BellSouth's application to provide long distance service in the state of Louisiana. Section 271's statutory framework requires the Commission to evaluate complex issues arising in the relevant state's local telecommunications market as it transitions to competitive market conditions. In this context, the Commission frequently relies upon its specialized judgment and expertise to render informed decisions and predictions about market conditions. Having done so in this case, the Commission finds that the petitioners have not raised any new facts or arguments that warrant reconsideration of the Second BellSouth Louisiana Order. Therefore, there is no reason to reconsider our initial analysis.

3. As to the range of issues for which the petitioners seek further guidance for future section 271 applications, we believe that we have provided sufficient guidance on the requirements of section 271. The Second BellSouth Louisiana Order followed four prior orders addressing section 271 applications, including a prior application by BellSouth for Louisiana. Each of these orders informed parties of the requirements of section 271. Moreover, the Commission recently approved Bell Atlantic's section 271 application to

provide long distance services in New York. In the order approving that application, the Commission included a comprehensive recitation of the requirements for in-region, interLATA entry under section 271.

4. The petitions for reconsideration and/or clarification filed in the captioned docket *are Denied*.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-18187 Filed 7-18-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 000211039-0039-01; I.D. 071400B]

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 directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2000 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific ocean perch in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 15, 2000, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Pearson, 907-481-1780, fax 907-481-1781 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 the Groundfish Fishery 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 2000 TAC of Pacific ocean perch for the Central Regulatory Area was established as 9,240 metric tons (mt) in

the Final 2000 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (65 FR 8298, February 18, 2000). See § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 2000 TAC for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 8,240 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 1000 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA.

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 to prevent overharvesting the 2000 TAC of Pacific ocean perch for the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Further delay would only result in overharvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action should not 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: July 14, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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