Halibut incidental catch amounts are constrained by an annual prohibited species catch limit in the BSAI and GOA. Future halibut incidental catch levels likely will be similar to those experienced in 2009 and 2010. Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) limits are set for each of three Bering Sea pollock fisheries that when attained, result in the closure of pollock fishing. The Chinook salmon PSC limits for the Bering Sea pollock fishery were established by Amendment 91 to the FMP for Groundfish of the BSAI FMP (75 FR 53026, August 30, 2010). Salmon incidental catch limits are not yet established for the GOA. In general, salmon incidental catch amounts tend to be variable between years, making accurate prediction of future incidental take amounts difficult.

4. Number of vessels and processors participating in the PSD program. For the 2011 permit renewal, participation in the PSD program is being expanded beyond the BSAI to include GOA processors and vessels. Shoreside processors will increase from 5 to 15, and vessels delivering to shoreside processors will increase from 87 vessels to 166, with 31 of the 166 vessels participating in both the BSAI and GOA. Catcher vessels participating in the PSD program for salmon will drop slightly from 17 to 16 under the 2011 permit renewal. Catcher vessels delivering to motherships will remain at 11 vessels.

NMFS issues PSD permits to SeaShare for a 3-year period unless the permits are suspended or revoked under §679.26. The permits may not be transferred; however, they may be renewed following the application procedures in §679.26.

If the authorized distributor modifies the list of participants in the PSD program or delivery locations, the authorized distributor must submit a modified list of participants or a modified list of delivery locations to the Regional Administrator.

These permits may be suspended, modified, or revoked under 15 CFR part 904 for violation of §679.26 or other regulations in 50 CFR part 679.

Classification

This action is taken under §679.26.