

mailers may opt to receive a notice of new address or reason for nondelivery by placing the endorsement "Return Service Requested" on all First-Class Mail. Consistent with DMM F010.5.1, undeliverable as addressed (UAA) pieces bearing this endorsement are returned to the mailer. Under present standards, the "Return Service Requested" endorsement does not provide forwarding service.

Since the implementation of the "Return Service Requested" option on July 1, 1997, the Postal Service has received requests from some mailers who use the "Return Service Requested" endorsement to have the service provide forwarding of temporary address changes. These mailers would prefer that UAA pieces destined for customers who have submitted temporary change-of-address notices to the Postal Service be forwarded to the customer rather than returned to the mailer. This change will improve customer satisfaction for these mailers by forwarding the piece to the temporary address instead of returning it to the mailer with the reason for nondelivery. Under current Postal regulations and the Privacy Act, temporary change-of-address information is not provided to mailers, therefore, this change also benefits the Postal Service by eliminating the need to return pieces bearing address correction information which would be of no use or value to the sender.

To accommodate those First-Class mailers who currently use the "Return Service Requested" endorsement, and who want pieces forwarded to the temporary address, the Postal Service has agreed to implement a new endorsement, "Temp—Return Service Requested", which would allow mailpieces to be forwarded to a temporary address when a temporary change-of-address notice is on file. This endorsement will only provide forwarding for temporary change-of-address, and does not apply to permanent change-of-address. Since this option is available only to First-Class Mailers, it is reasonable to conclude that all mailers who elect this option will be aware of the nature of the service provided and the consequences in the event a piece bearing the endorsement is undeliverable as addressed. This change is accordingly effective August 1, 1998.

The Postal Service is soliciting comments on this final rule.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553 (b), (c)) regarding proposed

rulemaking by 39 U.S.C. 410(a), the Postal Service invites comments on the following revisions of the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations. See 39 CFR Part 111.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Postal service.

For the reasons discussed above, the Postal Service hereby adopts the following amendments to the Domestic Mail Manual, which is incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations (see 39 CFR part 111):

PART 111—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR Part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

2. Revise the following sections of the Domestic Mail Manual as set forth below:

F Forwarding and Related Services

F010 Basic Information

* * * * *

5.0 Class Treatment for Ancillary Services

5.1 Priority Mail and First-Class Mail

[Revise the table in 5.1 as follows to add the new endorsement:]

* * * * *	
"Temp—Return Service Requested".	Piece returned with new address or reason for non-delivery attached; no charge. If temporary change-of-address, piece forwarded; no charge; no separate notice of new temporary change-of-address provided.
* * * * *	

An appropriate amendment to 39 CFR 111.3 will be published to reflect these changes.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

[FR Doc. 98–19464 Filed 7–17–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Procurement and Property Management

48 CFR Parts 401, 402, 403, 407, 408, 409, 411, 416, 419, 422, 424, 425, 432, 434, 436, and 452

[AGAR Case 96–03]

RIN 0599–AA00

Agriculture Acquisition Regulation; Miscellaneous Amendments

AGENCY: Office of Procurement and Property Management, USDA

ACTION: Direct final rule; Confirmation of effective date.

SUMMARY: This document confirms the effective date of the direct final rule that makes miscellaneous clerical or procedural amendments to the Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR).

EFFECTIVE DATE: The direct final rule published on May 15, 1998 (63 FR 26993–26996) is effective July 14, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph J. Daragan, USDA Office of Procurement and Property Management, Procurement Policy Division, STOP 9303, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9303, (202) 720–5729.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a direct final rule published on May 15, 1998 (63 FR 26993–26996), we notified the public of our intent to make a number of clerical or procedural amendments to the AGAR. We intended to amend the AGAR to reflect changes in the Federal Acquisition Regulation through Federal Acquisition Circular 97–01 and to correct minor errors and omissions in the reissuance of the AGAR published on October 15, 1996 (61 FR 53645–53677).

We solicited comments concerning the direct final rule for a 30 day comment period ending June 15, 1998. We stated that the effective date of the proposed amendment would be July 14, 1998, unless we received adverse comments or notice of intent to submit adverse comments by the close of the comment period.

We received neither adverse comments nor notice of intent to submit adverse comments by June 15, 1998. Therefore, the direct final rule is effective on July 14, 1998, as scheduled.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 15th day of July, 1998.

W. R. Ashworth,

Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management.

[FR Doc. 98-19462 Filed 7-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XE-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 071698E]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the Western 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 pelagic shelf rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1998 total allowable catch (TAC) of pelagic shelf rockfish in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 17, 1998, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

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 pursuant to the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii), the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (63 FR 12027, March 12, 1998) established the amount of the 1998 TAC of pelagic shelf rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska as 620 metric tons (mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 1998 TAC for pelagic shelf rockfish will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is

establishing a directed fishing allowance of 520 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 100 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 pelagic shelf rockfish in the Western 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 1998 TAC of pelagic shelf rockfish for the Western 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 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 17, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19503 Filed 7-17-98; 2:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 071698I]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the Eastern 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 pelagic shelf rockfish in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1998 total

allowable catch (TAC) of pelagic shelf rockfish in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 19, 1998, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS 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. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The amount of the 1998 TAC of pelagic shelf rockfish in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska was established by the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (63 FR 12027, March 12, 1998) as 1,000 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 1998 TAC for pelagic shelf rockfish in the Eastern Regulatory Area will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 800 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 200 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 pelagic shelf rockfish in the Eastern Regulatory Area.

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 1998 TAC of pelagic shelf rockfish for the Eastern 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.