

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 679**

[I.D. 072898A]

RIN 0648-AL22

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program

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

ACTION: Notice of availability, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 45 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) for Secretarial review. This amendment would reauthorize the allocation of pollock to the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program and would reorganize the FMP so that all text addressing the CDQ Program is in a single section. This action is necessary

to further the objectives of the FMP. Comments from the public are requested.

DATES: Comments on Amendment 45 must be submitted by October 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the FMP amendment should be submitted to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel, or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK. Copies of Amendment 45, the environmental assessment and the regulatory impact review prepared for the proposed action are available from NMFS, at the above address, or by calling the Alaska Region, NMFS at 907-586-7228.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Bibb, NMFS, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any fishery management plan amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, after receiving a fishery management plan or amendment, immediately publish a

document in the **Federal Register** that the fishery management plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. This action constitutes such notice for Amendment 45 to the FMP.

Amendment 45 was adopted by the Council at its June 1998 meeting. If approved by NMFS, this amendment would allocate 7.5 percent of the total allowable catch of pollock in the BSAI to the CDQ Program. This action is necessary to continue the annual allocation of pollock to the CDQ program that was initially approved by NMFS in 1992.

NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the proposed amendment. A proposed rule to implement Amendment 45 has been submitted for Secretarial review and approval. The proposed rule to implement this amendment is scheduled to be published within 15 days of this document.

Dated: July 30, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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