

Remove	Add
Figs .....	Fig
Goats, fat .....	Goat, fat
Horses, meat .....	Horse, meat
Macadamia nuts .....	Nut, macadamia
Pineapples .....	Pineapple
Pumpkins .....	Pumpkin
Tomatoes .....	Tomato

h. Section 180.304 is amended as follows:

i. By revising paragraph (a) introductory text.

**§ 180.304 Oryzalin; tolerances for residues.**

(a) Tolerances are established for residues of the herbicide oryzalin (3,5-dinitro-N<sup>4</sup>,N<sup>4</sup>-dipropylsulfanilamide) in or on the following raw agricultural commodities:

\* \* \* \* \*

ii. In the table in paragraph (a), by removing the terms listed in the first column below and adding in place thereof in alphabetical order the term listed in the second column to read as follows:

Remove	Add
Figs .....	Fig
Kiwifruits .....	Kiwifruit
Nuts .....	Nut, tree, group
Olives .....	Olive

**§ 180.346 [Amended]**

i. In § 180.346(a) by removing the entry for "rice straw."

**§ 180.355 [Amended]**

j. Section 180.355 is amended as follows:

i. In the table to paragraph (a), by removing the entries for "beans, lima (succulent)"; "mint, spent hay"; and "peanuts, forage"; and removing the terms listed in the first column below and adding in place thereof in alphabetical order the terms listed in the second column.

Remove	Add
Beans (except soy-beans), dried.	Bean, dry, seed
Beans (exc. soy-beans), dried, vine	Cowpea, hay
Beans (exc. soy-beans), forage.	Cowpea, forage
Beans, succulent .....	Bean, succulent
Bohemian chili pep-	Pepper, nonbell
pers.	

Remove	Add
Cattle, mbyp .....	Cattle, meat byprod- ucts
Corn, fodder .....	Corn, field, stover
Corn, forage .....	Corn, field, forage
Corn, fresh (inc. sweet K+CWHR).	Corn, sweet, kernel plus cob with husks removed
Corn, grain .....	Corn, field, grain
Eggs .....	Egg
Peanuts .....	Peanut
Peanuts, hay .....	Peanut, hay
Peas (dried) .....	Pea, dry, seed
Peas (dried), vine hays.	Pea, field, hay
Peas, forage .....	Pea, field, vines
Peas, succulent .....	Pea, succulent
Poultry, mbyp .....	Poultry, meat byprod- ucts
Rice .....	Rice, grain

ii. Section 180.355 is further amended by adding alphabetically an entry to the table in paragraph (a) for corn, pop, grain to read as follows:

**§ 180.355 Bentazon; tolerances for residues.**

(a) \* \* \*

Commodity	Parts per million
* * *	* *
Corn, pop, grain	0.05
* * *	* *

**PART 185—[AMENDED]**

2. In part 185:

a. The authority citation for part 185 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 346a and 348.

b. By revising § 185.2500 to read as follows:

**§ 185.2500 Diquat.**

A food additive regulation of 0.5 part per million is established for residues of diquat in potato, granules/flakes and potato, chips.

c. In § 185.2700, the table is revised to read as follows:

**§ 185.2700 Ethephon.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Food	Parts per million
Barley, pearled barley and bar- ley, bran	5.0
Sugarcane, molasses	1.5

Food	Parts per million
Wheat, bran, wheat, middlings, and wheat, shorts	5.0

**PART 186—[AMENDED]**

3. In part 186:

a. The authority citation for part 186 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 21 U.S.C. 342, 348, and 371.

**§ 186.2700 [Amended]**

b. In § 186.2700(a) by revising the term "wheat, milling fractions, except flour" to read "wheat, milled byproducts".

[FR Doc. 99-18608 Filed 7-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

**GENERAL SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION**

**41 CFR Part 102-2**

RIN 3090-AG83

**Federal Management Regulation (FMR)**

**AGENCY:** Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

**ACTION:** Interim rule.

**SUMMARY:** This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (the Act), as amended. In support of the Act's original intent of efficiently managing Government assets, GSA is improving its regulatory system by establishing the Federal Management Regulation (FMR) as the successor regulation to the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR). The FMR will provide Federal managers with the regulatory materials they need to efficiently manage real and personal property and administrative services. Non-regulatory FMR bulletins will provide related FMR materials.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* July 21, 1999.

*Comment Date:* Your comments must reach us by September 20, 1999 to be considered in the formulation of a final rule.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Ms. Sharon A. Kiser, Regulatory Secretariat (MVRs), Federal Acquisition Policy Division, General Services Administration, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405.

Send comments by e-mail to: RIN.3090-AG83@gsa.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sharon A. Kiser, Regulatory Secretariat, 202-208-7312.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Background**

*What Content Changes Will Be Part of the Transition From the FPMR to the FMR?*

GSA will update, streamline, eliminate and clarify FPMR contents before transferring them to the FMR. The FMR will then contain a refined set of policies and regulatory requirements on managing property and administrative services.

Non-regulatory materials, such as guidance, procedures, information and standards now in the FPMR, will be removed from the regulation and will be available in separate documents, such as customer service guides, handbooks, brochures, Internet websites, and FMR bulletins. The FMR will specify how to find this additional information; e.g., ordering and billing information. Content changes will bring the FMR into conformance with recommendations from the National Partnership for Reinventing Government to reduce regulations and to use plain language.

*Is the FMR's Style Different From That in the FPMR?*

Yes, the FMR is written in a "plain language" regulatory style. This style is directed at the reader and uses a question and answer format, active voice, shorter sentences, and, where appropriate, pronouns such as, but not limited to, we, you and I. These changes comply with the National Partnership for Reinventing Government's recommendations to make regulations more efficient and easier to understand.

*Does the Deviation Policy in the FMR Differ From That in the FPMR?*

Yes, there are changes in the deviation policy. The new approach consists of both informal discussions about deviating from the FMR and formal correspondence requesting deviation authority. Because the FMR consists primarily of set policies and mandatory requirements, FMR deviations should occur infrequently and under unique circumstances. Agencies should pursue deviations first by informally consulting with appropriate GSA officials about whether a deviation is needed and whether it would be in accordance with governing statutes, Executive orders, or other controlling policies. If informal consultations indicate that a formal deviation is needed and can be allowed, agencies must request it from GSA in

writing. The written request must fully explain the reasons for the deviation and how it will be in the Government's best interests.

*Will the Conversion From the FPMR to the FMR Occur All at Once or Incrementally?*

The conversion from the FPMR to the FMR will occur incrementally as the regulations are rewritten.

*Must Agencies Reference Both the FPMR and the FMR During This Conversion?*

Yes. Given an incremental conversion of content from the FPMR to the FMR, both regulations will exist concurrently. Depending on the subject matter, you may need to read both documents to obtain all related material. However, except for parts 101-1 of the FPMR and 102-2 of the FMR, the same content will not appear in both regulations. These two parts will exist concurrently. The general provisions of part 101-1 of the FPMR (including the FPMR deviation procedures) will apply to any aspects of the FPMR not yet replaced by the FMR. The general provisions at 102-2 (including the rewritten deviation procedures) will apply to new material in the FMR.

**B. Executive Order 12866**

GSA has determined that this interim rule is not a significant regulatory action for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993.

**C. Regulatory Flexibility Act**

Since its primary purpose is to establish the structure for a new regulation, the FMR, the interim rule is not expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612. Additionally, since this interim rule applies to matters concerning agency management and personnel, no proposed rule is required.

**D. Paperwork Reduction Act**

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the interim rule does not impose recordkeeping or information collection requirements, or the collection of information from offerors, contractors, or members of the public which require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under 44 U.S.C. 501-517.

**E. Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act**

This interim rule is exempt from Congressional review prescribed under 5 U.S.C. 801 since it relates solely to agency management and personnel.

**F. Determination to Issue an Interim Rule**

Publication for public comment is not required under the Administrative Procedures Act because the rule relates solely to agency management and personnel, and, therefore, GSA could issue it as a final rule. However, GSA would like to receive comments about this action before publishing it as a final rule. An interim rule provides two benefits. First, it gives agencies a chance to comment on aspects of the new regulation. Second, by making the FMR's contents effective immediately, it establishes the structure for use by GSA in publishing additional parts of the regulation that have already been approved.

**List of Subjects in 41 CFR Part 102**

Government property management.

Dated: June 24, 1999.

**David J. Barram,**

*Administrator of General Services.*

For the reasons set forth in the preamble and under the authority of 40 U.S.C. 486(c), Title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended by establishing chapter 102 to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 102—FEDERAL MANAGEMENT REGULATION**

**SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL**

- Part
- 102-1 General [Reserved]
- 102-2 Federal management regulation system
- 102-3 Advisory committee management [Reserved]
- 102-4 Nondiscrimination in Federal financial assistance programs [Reserved]
- 102-5-102-30 [Reserved]

**SUBCHAPTER B—PERSONAL PROPERTY**

- 102-31 General [Reserved]
- 102-32 Management of personal property [Reserved]
- 102-33 Management of aircraft [Reserved]
- 102-34 Motor vehicle management [Reserved]
- 102-35 Disposition of personal property [Reserved]
- 102-36 Transfer of excess personal property [Reserved]
- 102-37-102-70 [Reserved]

**SUBCHAPTER C—REAL PROPERTY**

- 102-71 General [Reserved]
- 102-72 Delegation of authority [Reserved]
- 102-73 Real estate acquisition [Reserved]
- 102-74 Facility management [Reserved]
- 102-75 Disposition of real property [Reserved]
- 102-76 Design and construction [Reserved]
- 102-77 Art-in-architecture [Reserved]
- 102-78 Historic preservation [Reserved]
- 102-79 Assignment and utilization of space [Reserved]
- 102-80 Safety and environmental management [Reserved]

- 102-81 Security [Reserved]
- 102-82 Utility services [Reserved]
- 102-83 Centralized services in Federal buildings and complexes [Reserved]
- 102-84 Annual real property inventories [Reserved]
- 102-85—102-115 [Reserved]

#### SUBCHAPTER D—TRANSPORTATION

- 102-116 General [Reserved]
- 102-117 Transportation management [Reserved]
- 102-118—102-140 [Reserved]

#### SUBCHAPTER E—TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

- 102-141 General [Reserved]
- 102-142—102-170 [Reserved]

#### SUBCHAPTER F—TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- 102-171 General [Reserved]
- 102-172 Telecommunications management policy [Reserved]
- 102-173—102-190 [Reserved]

#### SUBCHAPTER G—ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS

- 102-191 General [Reserved]
- 102-192 Mail management [Reserved]
- 102-193 Records management [Reserved]
- 102-194 Standard and optional forms program [Reserved]
- 102-195 Interagency reports management program [Reserved]
- 102-196 Federal facility ridesharing [Reserved]
- 102-197—102-220 [Reserved]

#### SUBCHAPTER H—SUBCHAPTER Z [RESERVED]

#### SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL

### PART 102-2—FEDERAL MANAGEMENT REGULATION SYSTEM

#### Subpart A—Regulation System

Sec.

##### General

- 102-2.5 What is the Federal Management Regulation (FMR)?
- 102-2.10 What is the FMR's purpose?
- 102-2.15 What is the authority for the FMR system?
- 102-2.20 Which agencies are subject to the FMR?
- 102-2.25 When are other agencies involved in developing the FMR?
- 102-2.30 Where and in what formats is the FMR published?
- 102-2.35 How is the FMR distributed?
- 102-2.40 May an agency issue implementing and supplementing regulations for the FMR?

##### Numbering

- 102-2.45 How is the FMR numbered?
- 102-2.50 How do I number my agency's implementing regulations?
- 102-2.55 How do I number my agency's supplementing regulations?

##### Deviations

- 102-2.60 What is a deviation from the FMR?
- 102-2.65 When may agencies deviate from the FMR?

- 102-2.70 What are individual and class deviations?
- 102-2.75 What timeframes apply to deviations?
- 102-2.80 What steps must an agency take to deviate from the FMR?
- 102-2.85 What are the reasons for writing to GSA about FMR deviations?
- 102-2.90 Where should my agency send its correspondence on an FMR deviation?
- 102-2.95 What information must agencies include in their deviation letters to GSA?
- 102-2.100 Must agencies provide GSA with a follow-up analysis of their experience in deviating from the FMR?
- 102-2.105 What information must agencies include in their follow-up analysis?
- 102-2.110 When must agencies provide their follow-up analysis?

#### Non-Regulatory Material

- 102-2.115 What kinds of non-regulatory material does GSA publish outside of the FMR?
- 102-2.120 How do I know whom to contact to discuss the regulatory requirements of programs addressed in the FMR?
- 102-2.125 What source of information can my agency use to identify materials that describe how to do business with GSA?

#### Subpart B—Forms

- 102-2.130 Where are FMR forms prescribed?
- 102-2.135 How do agencies obtain forms prescribed by the FMR?

#### Subpart C—Plain Language Regulatory Style

- 102-2.140 What elements of plain language appear in the FMR?
- 102-2.145 To what do pronouns refer when used in the FMR?

**Authority:** 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

#### Subpart A—Regulation System

##### General

#### § 102-2.5 What is the Federal Management Regulation (FMR)?

The Federal Management Regulation (FMR) is the successor regulation to the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR). It contains updated regulatory policies originally found in the FPMR. However, it does not contain FPMR material that described how to do business with the General Services Administration (GSA). "How to" materials on this and other subjects are available in customer service guides, handbooks, brochures and Internet websites provided by GSA. (See § 102-2.125.)

#### § 102-2.10 What is the FMR's purpose?

The FMR prescribes policies concerning property management and related administrative activities. GSA issues the FMR to carry out the Administrator of General Services' functional responsibilities, as established by statutes, Executive

orders, Presidential memoranda, Circulars and bulletins issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and other policy directives.

#### § 102-2.15 What is the authority for the FMR system?

The Administrator of General Services prescribes and issues the FMR under the authority of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 486(c), as well as other applicable Federal laws and authorities.

#### § 102-2.20 Which agencies are subject to the FMR?

The FMR applies to executive agencies unless otherwise extended to Federal agencies in various parts of this chapter. The difference between the two terms is that Federal agencies include executive agencies plus establishments in the legislative or judicial branch of the Government. See paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section for the definitions of each term.

(a) *What is an executive agency?* An executive agency is any executive department or independent establishment in the executive branch of the Government, including any wholly-owned Government corporation. (See 40 U.S.C. 472(a).)

(b) *What is a Federal agency?* A Federal agency is any executive agency or any establishment in the legislative or judicial branch of the Government (except the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Architect of the Capitol and any activities under that person's direction). (See 40 U.S.C. 472(b).)

#### § 102-2.25 When are other agencies involved in developing the FMR?

Normally, GSA will ask agencies to collaborate in developing parts of the FMR.

#### § 102-2.30 Where and in what formats is the FMR published?

Proposed rules are published in the **Federal Register**. FMR bulletins are published in looseleaf format. FMR interim and final rules are published in the following formats—

(a) **Federal Register** under the "Rules and Regulations" section.

(b) Loose-leaf. (See § 102-2.35.)

(c) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which is an annual codification of the general and permanent rules published in the **Federal Register**. The CFR is available on line and in a bound-volume format.

(d) Electronically on the Internet.

#### § 102-2.35 How is the FMR distributed?

(a) A liaison appointed by each agency provides GSA with their

agency's distribution requirements of the looseleaf version of the FMR. Agencies must submit GSA Form 2053, Agency Consolidated Requirements for GSA Regulations and Other External Issuances, to—General Services Administration, Office of Communications (X), 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405.

(b) Order **Federal Register** and Code of Federal Regulations copies of FMR

material through your agency's authorizing officer.

**§ 102–2.40 May an agency issue implementing and supplementing regulations for the FMR?**

Yes, an agency may issue implementing regulations (see § 102–2.50) to expand upon related FMR material and supplementing regulations (see § 102–2.55) to address subject material not covered in the FMR. The Office of the Federal Register assigns

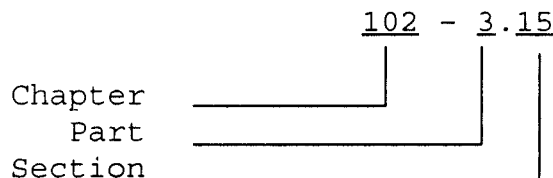
chapters in Title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations for agency publication of implementing and supplementing regulations.

**Numbering**

**§ 102–2.45 How is the FMR numbered?**

(a) All FMR sections are designated by three numbers. The following example illustrates the chapter (it's always 102), part, and section designations:

BILLING CODE 6820–34–P



BILLING CODE 6820–34–C

(b) In the looseleaf version, the month, year, and number of FMR amendments appear at the bottom of each page.

**§ 102–2.50 How do I number my agency's implementing regulations?**

The first three-digit number represents the chapter number assigned to your agency in Title 41 of the CFR. The part and section numbers correspond to FMR material. For example, if your agency is assigned Chapter 130 in Title 41 of the CFR and you are implementing § 102–2.60 of the FMR, your implementing section would be numbered § 130–2.60.

**§ 102–2.55 How do I number my agency's supplementing regulations?**

Since there is no corresponding FMR material, number the supplementing material "601" or higher. For example, your agency's supplementing regulations governing special services to states might start with § 130–601.5.

**Deviations**

**§ 102–2.60 What is a deviation from the FMR?**

A deviation from the FMR is an agency action or policy that is inconsistent with the regulation. (The deviation policy for the FPMR is in 41 CFR part 101–1.)

**§ 102–2.65 When may agencies deviate from the FMR?**

Because, it consists primarily of set policies and mandatory requirements, deviation from the FMR should occur infrequently. However, to address unique circumstances or to test the effectiveness of potential policy changes, agencies may be able to deviate

from the FMR after following the steps described in § 102–2.80.

**§ 102–2.70 What are individual and class deviations?**

An individual deviation is intended to affect only one action. A class deviation is intended to affect more than one action (e.g., multiple actions, the actions of more than one agency, or individual agency actions that are expected to recur).

**§ 102–2.75 What timeframes apply to deviations?**

Timeframes vary based on the nature of the deviation. However, deviations cannot be open-ended. When consulting with GSA about using an individual or class deviation, you must set a timeframe for the deviation's duration.

**§ 102–2.80 What steps must an agency take to deviate from the FMR?**

(a) Consult informally with appropriate GSA program personnel to learn more about how your agency can work within the FMR's requirements instead of deviating from them. The consultation process may also highlight reasons why an agency would not be permitted to deviate from the FMR; e.g., statutory constraints.

(b) Formally request a deviation, if consultations indicate that your agency needs one. The head of your agency or a designated official should write to GSA's Regulatory Secretariat to the attention of a GSA official in the program office that is likely to consider the deviation. (See the FMR bulletin that lists contacts in GSA's program offices and § 102–2.90.) The written request must fully explain the reasons for the deviation, including the benefits that the agency expects to achieve.

**§ 102–2.85 What are the reasons for writing to GSA about FMR deviations?**

The reasons for writing are to:

(a) Explain your agency's rationale for the deviation. Before it can adequately comment on a potential deviation from the FMR, GSA must know why it is needed. GSA will compare your need against the applicable policies and regulations.

(b) Obtain clarification from GSA as to whether statutes, Executive orders, or other controlling policies, which may not be evident in the regulation, preclude deviating from the FMR for the reasons stated.

(c) Establish a timeframe for using a deviation.

(d) Identify potential changes to the FMR.

(e) Identify the benefits and other results that the agency expects to achieve.

**§ 102–2.90 Where should my agency send its correspondence on an FMR deviation?**

Send correspondence to: General Services Administration, Regulatory Secretariat (MVRs), Office of Governmentwide Policy, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405.

**§ 102–2.95 What information must agencies include in their deviation letters to GSA?**

Agencies must include:

(a) The title and citation of the FMR provision from which the agency wishes to deviate;

(b) The name and telephone number of an agency contact who can discuss the reason for the deviation;

(c) The reason for the deviation;

(d) A statement about the expected benefits of using the deviation (to the extent possible, expected benefits should be stated in measurable terms);

(e) A statement about possible use of the deviation in other agencies or Governmentwide; and

(f) The duration of the deviation.

**§ 102–2.100 Must agencies provide GSA with a follow-up analysis of their experience in deviating from the FMR?**

Yes, agencies that deviate from the FMR must also write to the relevant GSA program office at the Regulatory Secretariat's address (see § 102–2.90) to describe their experiences in using a deviation.

**§ 102–2.105 What information must agencies include in their follow-up analysis?**

In your follow-up analysis, provide information that may include, but should not be limited to, specific actions taken or not taken as a result of the deviation, outcomes, impacts, anticipated versus actual results, and the advantages and disadvantages of taking an alternative course of action.

**§ 102–2.110 When must agencies provide their follow-up letters?**

(a) For an individual deviation, once the action is complete.

(b) For a class deviation, at the end of each twelve-month period from the time you first took the deviation and at the end of the deviation period.

**Non-Regulatory Material**

**§ 102–2.115 What kinds of non-regulatory material does GSA publish outside of the FMR?**

As GSA converts the FPMR to the FMR, non-regulatory materials in the FPMR, such as guidance, procedures, standards, and information, that describe how to do business with GSA, will become available in separate documents. These documents may include customer service guides, handbooks, brochures, Internet websites, and FMR bulletins. GSA will eliminate non-regulatory material that is no longer needed.

**§ 102–2.120 How do I know whom to contact to discuss the regulatory requirements of programs addressed in the FMR?**

Periodically, GSA will issue for your reference an FMR bulletin that lists program contacts with whom agencies can discuss regulatory requirements. At a minimum, the list will contain organization names and telephone numbers for each program addressed in the FMR.

**§ 102–2.125 What source of information can my agency use to identify materials that describe how to do business with GSA?**

The FMR establishes policy; it does not specify procedures for the

acquisition of GSA services. However, as a service to users during the transition from the FPMR to the FMR and as needed thereafter, GSA will issue FMR bulletins to identify where to find information on how to do business with GSA. References include customer service guides, handbooks, brochures, Internet websites, etc.

**Subpart B—Forms**

**§ 102–2.130 Where are FMR forms prescribed?**

In any of its parts, the FMR may prescribe forms and the requirements for using them.

**§ 102–2.135 How do agencies obtain forms prescribed by the FMR?**

For copies of the forms prescribed by in the FMR, do any of the following:

(a) Write to us at: General Services Administration, National Forms and Publications Center (7CPN), Warehouse 4, Dock No. 1, 501 West Felix Street, Fort Worth, TX 76115.

(b) Send e-mail messages to: NFPC@gsa-7FDepot.

(c) Visit our web site at: [www.gsa.gov/forms/forms.htm](http://www.gsa.gov/forms/forms.htm).

**Subpart C—Plain Language Regulatory Style**

**§ 102–2.140 What elements of plain language appear in the FMR?**

The FMR is written in a “plain language” regulatory style. This style is easy to read and uses a question and answer format directed at the reader, active voice, shorter sentences, and, where appropriate, personal pronouns.

**§ 102–2.145 To what do pronouns refer when used in the FMR?**

Throughout its text, the FMR may contain pronouns such as, but not limited to, we, you, and I. When pronouns are used, each subchapter of the FMR will indicate whether they refer to the reader, an agency, GSA, or some other entity. In general, pronouns refer to who or what must perform a required action.

[FR Doc. 99–18556 Filed 7–20–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–34–P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 990115017–9193–02; I.D. 011199A]

RIN 0648–AM08

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Steller Sea Lion Protection Measures for the Pollock Fisheries off Alaska; Extension of an Expiration Date**

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

**ACTION:** Extension and revision of emergency interim rule; revision to 1999 final harvest specifications; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** On January 22, 1999, NMFS published an emergency rule, effective through July 19, 1999, that implemented reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) identified by NMFS to avoid the likelihood that the pollock fisheries off Alaska will jeopardize the continued existence of the western population of Steller sea lions, or adversely modify its critical habitat. This action revises and extends the emergency rule through December 31, 1999. This action also revises the 1999 final harvest specifications for the pollock fisheries off Alaska. This emergency rule extension is necessary to prevent the pollock fisheries from jeopardizing the western population of Steller sea lions or adversely modifying its critical habitat until permanent protection measures can be implemented.

**DATES:** The expiration date of the emergency interim rule published January 22, 1999 (64 FR 3437) is extended from July 19, 1999, to December 31, 1999. The amendments in this action are effective from January 20, 1999, to December 31, 1999. Comments must be received by August 16, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent 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 the Biological Opinion (BO) on the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) pollock fisheries, the Atka mackerel fishery of the Aleutian Islands Subarea (AIS), and the revised Environmental Assessment