

(2) At the close of delivery activities, which may include weighing, boxing or containerizing, and transfer to cold storage or processing, the company must provide a copy of the processor's receiving report to the NMFS representative, if present. If a NMFS representative is not present, the company must submit a copy of the processor's receiving report to the Administrator, Southwest Region, electronically, by mail, or by fax within 5 working days. The processor's receiving report must contain, at a minimum: date of delivery, catcher vessel name and flag, trip number and dates, storage container number(s), "dolphin-safe" or "non-dolphin-safe" designation of each container, species, product description, and weight of tuna in each container.

(3) Tuna canning companies will report on a monthly basis the amounts of ETP-caught tuna that are removed from cold storage. This report may be submitted in conjunction with the monthly report required in paragraph (c)(5) of this section. This report must contain:

- (i) The date of removal;
- (ii) Storage container number(s) and "dolphin-safe" or "non-dolphin-safe" designation of each container; and
- (iii) Details of the disposition of fish (for example, canning, sale, rejection, etc.).

(4) During canning activities, "non-dolphin-safe" tuna may not be mixed in any manner or at any time in its processing with any "dolphin-safe" tuna or tuna products and may not share the same storage containers, cookers, conveyers, tables, or other canning and labeling machinery.

(5) Canned tuna processors must submit a report to the Administrator, Southwest Region, of all tuna received at their processing facilities in each calendar month whether or not the tuna is actually canned or stored during that month. Monthly cannery receipt reports must be submitted electronically or by mail before the last day of the month following the month being reported. Monthly reports must contain the following information:

(i) *Domestic receipts*: species, condition (round, loin, dressed, gilled and gutted, other), weight in short tons to the fourth decimal, ocean area of capture (eastern tropical Pacific, western Pacific, Indian, eastern and western Atlantic, other), catcher vessel, trip dates, carrier name, unloading dates, and location of unloading.

(ii) *Import receipts*: In addition to the information required in paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section, a copy of the

FCO for each imported receipt must be provided.

(d) *Tracking imports*. All tuna products, except fresh tuna, that are imported into the United States must be accompanied by a properly certified FCO as required by § 216.24(f).

(e) *Verification requirements*.—(1) *Record maintenance*. Any exporter, transshipper, importer, or processor of any tuna or tuna products containing tuna harvested in the ETP must maintain records related to that tuna for at least 3 years. These records include, but are not limited to: FCO and required certifications, any report required in paragraph (a) and (b) of this section, invoices, other import documents, and trip reports.

(2) *Record submission*. Within 30 days of receiving a written request from the Administrator, Southwest Region, any exporter, transshipper, importer, or processor of any tuna or tuna products containing tuna harvested in the ETP must submit to the Administrator any record required to be maintained under paragraph (e)(1) of this section.

(3) *Audits and spot-checks*. Upon request of the Administrator, Southwest Region, any such exporter, transshipper, importer, or processor must provide the Administrator, Southwest Region, timely access to all pertinent records and facilities to allow for audits and spot-checks on caught, landed, and processed tuna.

(f) *Confidentiality of proprietary information*. Information submitted to the Assistant Administrator under this section will be treated as confidential in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 "Protection of Confidential Fisheries Statistics."

8. In subpart H, § 216.96 is added and reserved to read as follows:

§ 216.96 Official mark [Reserved]

[FR Doc. 99-33632 Filed 12-30-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 300

[I.D. 111099A]

Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders

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

ACTION: Inseason orders.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes the Fraser River salmon inseason orders regulating fisheries in U.S. waters. The orders were issued by the Fraser River Panel (Panel) of the Pacific Salmon Commission (Commission) and subsequently approved and issued by NMFS during the 1999 sockeye and pink salmon fisheries within the Fraser River Panel Area (U.S.). These orders established fishing times, areas, and types of gear for U.S. treaty Indian and all-citizen fisheries during the period the Commission exercised jurisdiction over these fisheries. Due to the frequency with which inseason orders are issued, publication of individual orders is impracticable. The 1999 orders are therefore being published in this document to avoid fragmentation.

DATES: Each of the following inseason orders was effective upon announcement on telephone hotline numbers as specified at 50 CFR 300.97(b)(1). Comments will be accepted through January 18, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., BIN C15700-Bldg. 1, Seattle, WA 98115-0070. Information relevant to this document is available for public review during business hours at the Office of the Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Robinson, 206-526-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada Concerning Pacific Salmon was signed at Ottawa on January 28, 1985, and subsequently was given effect in the United States by the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act (Act) at 16 U.S.C. 3631-3644.

Under authority of the Act, Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 300 subpart F provide a framework for implementation of certain regulations of the Commission and inseason orders of the Commission's Panel for sockeye and pink salmon fisheries in the Fraser River Panel Area (U.S.). These regulations apply to fisheries for sockeye and pink salmon in the Fraser River Panel Area (U.S.) during the period each year when the Commission exercises jurisdiction over these fisheries.

The regulations close the Fraser River Panel Area (U.S.) to sockeye and pink salmon fishing unless opened by Panel regulations or by inseason orders of NMFS that give effect to Panel orders. During the fishing season, NMFS may issue orders that establish fishing times and areas consistent with the annual

Commission regime and inseason orders of the Panel. Such orders must be consistent with domestic legal obligations. The Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, issues the inseason orders. Official notice of these inseason actions of NMFS is provided by two telephone hotline numbers described at 50 CFR 300.97(b)(1). Inseason orders must be published in the *Federal Register* as soon as practicable after they are issued. Due to the frequency with which inseason orders are issued, publication of individual orders is impractical. The 1999 orders are therefore being published in this document to avoid fragmentation.

The following inseason orders were adopted by the Panel and issued for U.S. fisheries by NMFS during the 1999 fishing season. The times listed are local times, and the areas designated are Puget Sound Management and Catch Reporting Areas as defined in the Washington State Administrative Code at Chapter 220-22.

Order No. 1999-1: Issued 5:00 p.m., July 23, 1999

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Open for drift gillnets from 12:00 noon July 25 to 12:00 noon July 28.

Order No. 1999-2: Issued 11:00 a.m. July 28, 1999

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Open for drift gillnets from 12:00 noon July 28 to 12:00 noon July 31.

Order No. 1999-3: Issued 5:00 p.m., July 30, 1999

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Drift gillnet open from 12:00 noon August 1 to 12:00 noon August 3.

Order No. 1999-4: Issued 9:00 a.m. August 3, 1999

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5, and 6C: Open for drift gillnets from 12:00 noon August 3 to 12:00 noon August 7.

Order No. 1999-5: Issued 5:00 p.m., August 6, 1999

Treaty Indian Fishery

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C: Closed for drift gillnets from 6:00 p.m. August 6 to 12:00 noon August 7.

Order No. 1999-6: Issued at 5:00 p.m., September 10, 1999.

United States Fraser River Panel Area Waters

Areas 4B, 5 and 6C, relinquish regulatory control effective September 12.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 300.97, and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 3636(b).

Dated: December 27, 1999.

George H. Darcy,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-34033 Filed 12-30-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 991223349-9349-01; I.D. 122199A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Interim 2000 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish

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

ACTION: Interim 2000 harvest specifications for groundfish; associated management measures.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues interim 2000 total allowable catch (TAC) amounts for each category of groundfish, Community Development Quota (CDQ) amounts, and prohibited species catch (PSC) amounts for the groundfish fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). Without interim specifications in effect on January 1, the groundfish fisheries would not be able to open on that date, which would result in unnecessary closures and disruption within the fishing industry. This action is necessary to conserve and manage the groundfish resources of the BSAI and is intended to implement the goals and objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective 0001 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 1,

2000, until the effective date of the final 2000 harvest specifications for BSAI groundfish, which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for this action and the Preliminary 2000 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report, dated September 1999, is available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, West 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99510-2252 (907-271-2809).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shane Capron, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 679 implement the FMP and govern the groundfish resources of the BSAI. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared the FMP, and NMFS approved it, under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. General regulations that also pertain to the U.S. fisheries appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600.

The Council met in October 1999 to review scientific information concerning groundfish stocks. The Council adopted for public review the preliminary SAFE Report for the 2000 BSAI groundfish fisheries. The preliminary SAFE Report, dated September 1999, provides an update on the status of stocks. Copies of the SAFE Report are available from the Council (see **ADDRESSEES**). The Council recommended a proposed total acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 2,247,846 mt and a proposed total TAC of 2 million metric tons (mt) for the 2000 fishing year. The proposed TAC amounts for each species were based on the best available biological and socioeconomic information.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(1), NMFS published in the **Federal Register** proposed harvest specifications and associated management measures for groundfish in the BSAI for the 2000 fishing year (64 FR 69464 December 13, 1999). That document contains a detailed discussion of the proposed 2000 TACs, initial TACs (ITACs) and related apportionments, ABC amounts, overfishing levels, PSC amounts, and associated management measures of the BSAI groundfish fishery.

This action provides interim harvest specifications and apportionments thereof for the 2000 fishing year that will become available on January 1, 2000, and remain in effect until superseded by the final 2000 harvest