

issued without opportunity for prior public notice and comment.

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

Dated: August 29, 2003.

Rebecca Lent,

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs, National Marine
Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-22669 Filed 9-2-03; 4:58 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D.
082803D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 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 pollock in Statistical Area
610 of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This
action is necessary to prevent exceeding
the C season allowance of the pollock
total allowable catch (TAC) for
Statistical Area 610 of the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), August 30, 2003, through
1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 15, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh
Keaton, 907-586-7228.

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 in accordance
with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50
CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The C season allowance of the pollock
TAC in Statistical Area 610 of the GOA
is 5,500 metric tons (mt) as established
by the final 2003 harvest specifications
for groundfish of the GOA (68 FR 9924,
March 3, 2003). In accordance with
§ 679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B), the Administrator,
Alaska Region, NMFS, (Regional
Administrator) hereby increases the C
season pollock TAC by 6 mt, the amount
of the A and B season pollock allowance
in Statistical Area 610 that was not

previously taken in the A and B seasons
and split equally between the C and D
seasons. The revised C season allowance
of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 610
is therefore 5,506 mt (5,500 mt plus 6
mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i),
the Regional Administrator has
determined that the revised C season
allowance of the pollock TAC in
Statistical Area 610 has been reached.
Therefore, the Regional Administrator is
establishing a directed fishing
allowance of 5,456 mt, and is setting
aside the remaining 50 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 will soon be reached.
Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting
directed fishing for pollock in Statistical
Area 610 of the GOA.

Maximum retainable 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. The Assistant
Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA
(AA), finds good cause to waive the
requirement to provide prior notice and
opportunity for public comment
pursuant to the authority set forth at 5
U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is
contrary to the public interest. This
requirement is contrary to the public
interest as it would delay the closure of
the fishery, lead to exceeding the C
season TAC in Statistical Area 610, and
therefore reduce the public's ability to
use and enjoy the fishery resource.

The AA also finds good cause to
waive the 30-day delay in the effective
date of this action under 5 U.S.C.
553(d)(3). This finding is based upon
the reasons provided above for waiver of
prior notice and opportunity for public
comment.

This action is required by § 679.20
and is exempt from review under
Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: August 28, 2003.

John H. Dunnigan,

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

[FR Doc. 03-22562 Filed 8-29-03; 3:25 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 021122286-3036-02; I.D.
082803B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 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 pollock in Statistical Area
620 of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This
action is necessary to prevent exceeding
the C season allowance of the pollock
total allowable catch (TAC) for
Statistical Area 620 of the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), August 30, 2003, through
1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 15, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh
Keaton, 907-586-7228.

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 in accordance
with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50
CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The C season allowance of the pollock
TAC in Statistical Area 620 of the GOA
is 2,686 metric tons (mt) as established
by the final 2003 harvest specifications
for groundfish of the GOA (68 FR 9924,
March 3, 2003). In accordance with
§ 679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B), the Administrator,
Alaska Region, NMFS, (Regional
Administrator) hereby reduces the C
season pollock TAC by 820 mt, the
amount of harvest previously taken in
excess of the A and B season pollock
allowances in Statistical Area 620 and
split equally between the C and D
seasons. The revised C season allowance
of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620
is therefore 1,866 mt (2,686 mt minus
820 mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i),
the Regional Administrator has
determined that the revised C season
allowance of the pollock TAC in
Statistical Area 620 has been reached.
Therefore, the Regional Administrator is

establishing a directed fishing allowance of 1,816 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 50 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 will soon be reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the GOA.

Maximum retainable 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. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is contrary to the public interest. This requirement is contrary to the public interest as it would delay the closure of the fishery, lead to exceeding the C season allowance of the pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620, and therefore reduce the public's ability to use and enjoy the fishery resource.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective

date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: August 28, 2003.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 03-22561 Filed 8-29-03; 3:25 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M