

Federalism

The Department has considered this final rule under the requirements of Executive Order 13132, Federalism. The agency has made an assessment that the rule conforms with the federalism principles set out in this Executive order; would not impose any compliance costs on the States; and would not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Based on a review of the comments received on the proposed rule, the Department has determined that no additional consultation is needed with State and local governments prior to adopting this final rule, because virtually all comments received from State and local governments supported the proposed rule.

Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments

This final rule has Tribal implications as defined by Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. Forest Service line officers in the field have contacted Tribes to ensure their awareness of this rulemaking, provide an overview of this final rule, and conduct government-to-government dialog with interested Tribes. A letter from the Alaska Regional Forester (Region 10) was sent on July 15, 2003, to Tribal officials via e-mail notifying them that the proposed rule to temporarily exempt the Tongass from the prohibitions of the roadless rule was published in the **Federal Register** that same day. A follow up informational meeting was requested and held with Sitka Tribal officials. One comment was received on the proposed rule from the Metlakatla Indian Community regarding the catastrophic economic and social losses due to the shutdown of the Tongass was in reference to the roadless rule. This final rule to temporarily exempt the Tongass from the prohibitions of the roadless rule would potentially reduce the social and economic impacts the Tribe noted. Therefore, the Department has determined that there could be substantial future direct effects to one or more Tribes, and that these effects are anticipated to be positive.

Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public

This final rule does not contain any record keeping or reporting requirements, or other information

collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320, and therefore imposes no paperwork burden on the public. Accordingly, the review provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) and implementing regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 do not apply.

Government Paperwork Elimination Act Compliance

The Department of Agriculture is committed to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (44 U.S.C 3504), which requires Government agencies to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible.

List of Subjects in 36 CFR Part 294

National Forests, Navigation (air), Recreation and recreation areas, Wilderness areas.

■ Therefore, for the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Department of Agriculture is amending part 294 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 294—SPECIAL AREAS**Subpart B—Protection of Inventoried Roadless Areas**

■ 1. The authority citation for subpart B continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 472, 529, 551, 1608, 1613; 23 U.S.C. 201, 205.

■ 2. Revise paragraph (d) of § 294.14 to read as follows:

§ 294.14 Scope and applicability.

* * * * *

(d) Until the USDA promulgates a final rule concerning application of this subpart within the State of Alaska [to which the agency originally sought public comments in the July 15, 2003, second advance notice of proposed rulemaking (68 FR 41864)], this subpart does not apply to road construction, road reconstruction, or the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest.

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Dated: December 23, 2003.

David P. Tenny,

Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment.

[FR Doc. 03–32077 Filed 12–23–03; 4:47 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**47 CFR Part 25**

[**IB Docket No. 02–34 and 00–248; FCC 03–154**]

Satellite Licensing Procedures

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule, announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: The Commission adopted rule revisions to require use of new satellite and earth station application forms. Certain rules contained new and modified information requirements and were published in the **Federal Register** on November 12, 2003. This document announces the effective date of these published rules.

DATES: The amendments to §§ 25.103, 25.111, 25.114, 25.115, 25.117, 25.118, 25.121, 25.131, 25.141, and part 25, Subpart H, published at 68 FR 63994, November 12, 2003, will become effective March 1, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Spaeth, International Bureau, Satellite Policy Branch, (202)418–1539.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 1, 2003, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirement contained in §§ 25.103, 25.111, 25.114, 25.115, 25.117, 25.118, 25.121, 25.131, 25.141, and part 25, Subpart H pursuant to OMB Control No. 3060–0678. Accordingly, the information collection requirement contained in these rules will become effective on March 1, 2004.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 25

Satellites.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–31968 Filed 12–29–03; 8:45 am]

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

[Docket No. 031126295 3295 01; I.D. 121703A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Shortraker/Rougheye and Northern Rockfish in the Bering Sea Subarea and "Other Species" in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Community Development Quota (CDQ) reserve amounts of shortraker/rougheye rockfish and northern rockfish in the Bering Sea subarea and "other species" in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 2004 interim CDQ reserve amounts of shortraker/rougheye rockfish, northern rockfish, and "other species" in these areas.

DATES: Effective 0001 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 1, 2004, until superseded by the notice of Final 2004 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the BSAI, which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (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 2004 interim CDQ reserve amounts of shortraker/rougheye rockfish and northern rockfish in the Bering Sea subarea and "other species" in the BSAI are 3 metric tons (mt), 2 mt, and 606 mt respectively, as established by the Interim 2004 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish in the BSAI (68 FR 68265, December 8, 2003).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 2004 interim CDQ reserve amounts of shortraker/rougheye rockfish and northern rockfish in the Bering Sea subarea and "other species" in the BSAI will be necessary as incidental catch to support other anticipated groundfish CDQ fisheries for the 2004 fishing year. Consequently, the Regional Administrator is establishing directed fishing allowances of zero mt. Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for CDQ reserve amounts of shortraker/rougheye rockfish and northern rockfish in the Bering Sea subarea and "other species" in the BSAI.

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 impracticable and contrary to the public interest as it would prevent the Agency from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay the closure of the interim CDQ reserve amounts of shortraker/rougheye rockfish and northern rockfish in the Bering Sea subarea and "other species" in the BSAI.

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 section 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: December 22, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 03-32074 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

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