

Dated: February 22, 2007.

David I. Maurstad,

*Director, Mitigation Division, Federal
Emergency Management Agency, Department
of Homeland Security.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 070213032-7032-01; I.D.
022807A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; modification of
a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reopening directed
fishing for pollock in Statistical Area
630 of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) for 24
hours. This action is necessary to fully
use the A season allowance of the 2007
total allowable catch (TAC) of pollock
specified for Statistical Area 630 of the
GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local
time (A.l.t.), March 1, 2007, through
1200 hrs, A.l.t., March 2, 2007.
Comments must be received at the
following address no later than 4:30
p.m., A.l.t., March 15, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Sue
Salveson, Assistant Regional
Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries
Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, Attn:
Ellen Sebastian. Comments may be
submitted by:

- Mail to: P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK
99802;

- Hand delivery to the Federal
Building, 709 West 9th Street, Room
420A, Juneau, Alaska;

- FAX to 907-586-7557;

- E-mail to 630pollock2@noaa.gov
and include in the subject line of the e-
mail comment the document identifier:
"g63plkro4" (E-mail comments, with or
without attachments, are limited to 5
megabytes); or

- Webform at the Federal
eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the
instructions at that site for submitting
comments.

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.

NMFS closed the directed fishery for
pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the
GOA under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) on
January 22, 2007 (72 FR 2793, January
23, 2007). The fishery was subsequently
reopened on February 6, 2007 and
closed on February 8, 2007 (72 FR 5346,
February 6, 2007), reopened on
February 12, 2007 and closed on
February 14, 2007 (72 FR 7353,
February 15, 2007), and reopened on
February 20, 2007 and closed on
February 22, 2007 (72 FR 8132,
February 23, 2007).

NMFS has determined that
approximately 2,850 mt of pollock
remain in the directed fishing allowance
in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA.
Therefore, in accordance with
§ 679.25(a)(1)(i), (a)(2)(i)(C) and
(a)(2)(iii)(D), and to fully utilize the A
season allowance of the 2007 TAC of
pollock in Statistical Area 630, NMFS is
terminating the previous closure and is
reopening directed fishing for pollock in
Statistical Area 630 of the GOA. In
accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the
Regional Administrator finds that this
directed fishing allowance will be
reached after 24 hours. Consequently,
NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for
pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the
GOA after the 24 hours, effective 1200
hrs, A.l.t., March 2, 2007.

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) and 679.25(c)(1)(ii) as
such requirement is impracticable and
contrary to the public interest. This
requirement is impracticable and
contrary to the public interest as it
would prevent NMFS from responding
to the most recent fisheries data in a
timely fashion and would delay the
opening of pollock in Statistical Area
630 of the GOA. NMFS was unable to
publish a notice providing time for
public comment because the most

recent, relevant data only became
available as of February 27, 2007.

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.

Without this inseason adjustment,
NMFS could not allow the fishery for
pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the
GOA to be harvested in an expedient
manner and in accordance with the
regulatory schedule. Under
§ 679.25(c)(2), interested persons are
invited to submit written comments on
this action to the above address until
March 15, 2007.

This action is required by § 679.25
and § 679.20 and is exempt from review
under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: February 28, 2007.

James P. Burgess,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 070213032-7032-01; I.D.
112206B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; 2007 and 2008 Final Harvest Specifications for Groundfish

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

ACTION: Final rule; closures.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces 2007 and
2008 final harvest specifications,
reserves and apportionments thereof,
Pacific halibut prohibited species catch
(PSC) limits, and associated
management measures for the
groundfish fishery of the Gulf of Alaska
(GOA). This action is necessary to
establish harvest limits and associated
management measures for groundfish
during the 2007 and 2008 fishing years
and to accomplish the goals and
objectives of the Fishery Management
Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of
Alaska (FMP). The intended effect of
this action is to conserve and manage
the groundfish resources in the GOA in