

3. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under California, is amended by removing Channel 232B1 and adding Channel 231A at Grass Valley.

4. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under California, is amended by removing Channel 259A and adding Channel 232B1 at Jackson.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 99-30171 Filed 11-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 99040113-01; I.D. 093099B]

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Commercial Reopening from Cape Flattery to Leadbetter Point, WA

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

ACTION: Reopening; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the commercial salmon fishery in the area between Cape Alava to Leadbetter Point, WA for all salmon except chinook reopened on September 22, 1999, with the suspension of certain gear restrictions and the coho trip limit. The fishery closed as scheduled on September 30, 1999, and will not reopen. There were 12,027 coho remaining in the quota when the fishery opened. This action was necessary to conform to the 1999 management measures and is intended to ensure conservation of chinook salmon.

DATES: Reopening the commercial salmon fishery effective 0001 hours local time (l.t.), September 22, 1999, from the area between Cape Alava to Leadbetter Point, WA. Comments will be accepted through December 6, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, NOAA, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., 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 Robinson, 206-526-6140.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In the 1999 management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (64 FR 24078, May 5, 1999), NMFS announced that the commercial fishery for all salmon from Cape Flattery (48°23'00" N. lat.) to Cape Alava (48°10'00" N. lat.) West of 125°05'00" W. long. and Cape Alava to Leadbetter Point, WA, would open July 10, 1999, through the earliest of September 30, 1999, or attainment of the overall chinook quota (preseason 4,500 chinook guideline) or 20,000 coho quota. NMFS also made several other earlier inseason adjustments to this fishery which can be found in the **Federal Register** at [64 FR 42856, August 6, 1999], [64 FR October 18, 1999], and [64 FR 62127, November 16, 1999].

Salmon Inseason Actions

On September 20, 1999, the Regional Administrator consulted with representatives of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFD), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to discuss the status of catch in the commercial salmon fisheries north of Cape Falcon. During the recent 9-day opener for all salmon except chinook, from September 5, 1999, until September 13, 1999, only 337 coho were landed. With a landed catch so low, primarily caused by rough weather conditions and low fishing effort, the chinook hooking mortality impacts were also low. Therefore, a majority of the 770 chinook previously set aside to compensate for mortalities related to chinook hooked and released during the 9-day commercial opener targeting coho still remained. The States, therefore, recommended that the fishery reopen on September 22, 1999, and close as scheduled on September 30, 1999, with the continued suspension of certain gear restrictions (no more than 4 spreads per line; gear restricted to plugs 6 in (15.2 cm) or longer; flashers without hooks may be used if installed below the second spread from the top and will not be counted as a spread; and no more than one flasher per line), and the coho trip limit (where each vessel may possess, land and deliver no more than 100 coho per open period). As recommended, NMFS reopened the commercial salmon fishery in the area between Cape Alava to Leadbetter Point, WA, for all salmon except chinook on September 22, 1999, through the end of the season on September 30, 1999, with

the continued suspension of certain gear restrictions and also the suspension of the coho trip limit.

Modification of fishing seasons is authorized by regulations at 50 CFR 660.409(b)(1). All other restrictions applicable to this fishery remained in effect as announced in the annual management measures.

In making these decisions, the Regional Administrator consulted with representatives of the Council, WDFW, and ODFW. The States of Washington and Oregon will manage the commercial fisheries in State waters adjacent to this area of the EEZ in accordance with this Federal action. As provided by the inseason notification procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notification to fishermen of this action was given prior the effective date by telephone hotline numbers 206-526-6667 and 800-662-9825, and by U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners broadcasts on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 kHz. Because of the need for immediate action to make inseason adjustments to allow harvest, NMFS has determined that good cause exists for this action to be issued without affording a prior opportunity for public comment. This action does not apply to other fisheries that may be operating in other areas.

Classification

This action is authorized by 50 CFR 660.409 and 660.411 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: November 8, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-30271 Filed 11-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 990304063-9063-01; I.D. 111299B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

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

ACTION: Modification of a closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is opening directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using

trawl gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to fully utilize the 1999 halibut bycatch mortality allowance specified for the trawl Pacific cod fishery.

DATES: Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), November 16, 1999, until 2400 hrs. A.l.t., December 31, 1999, or until NMFS publishes further notice in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smoker, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI 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 Final 1999 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (64 FR 12103, March 11, 1999) established the halibut bycatch mortality allowance specified for the BSAI trawl Pacific cod fishery, which is defined at § 679.21(e)(3)(iv)(E), as 1,473 metric tons (mt).

On October 18, 1999, the fishery for Pacific cod by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI was closed to directed fishing under § 679.21(e)(7)(v), to maintain the halibut bycatch mortality within the specified allowance, (64 FR 56473, October 20, 1999). NMFS since has determined that as of November 6, 1999, 49 mt of halibut mortality remain in the 1999 halibut bycatch mortality allowance specified for the trawl Pacific cod fishery.

Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening directed fishing for Pacific cod by vessels using trawl gear in the BSAI.

Classification

All other closures remain in full force and effect. This action responds to the best available information recently

obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately in order to fully utilize the 1999 halibut bycatch mortality allowance specified for the trawl Pacific cod. Providing prior notice and opportunity for public comment for this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Further delay would only disrupt the FMP objective of utilizing the halibut bycatch mortality allowance to provide Pacific cod TAC for harvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action cannot be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: November 15, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 99-30228 Filed 11-16-99; 1:21 pm]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-F