

(B) Previously approved on July 7, 1982 and now deleted without replacement Rules 401 to 407, 410 to 411, 415 to 416, and 418 to 424.

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(138) * * *

(ii) * * *

(D) Previously approved on November 18, 1983 and now deleted without replacement Rule 521.

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(197) * * *

(i) * * *

(E) El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District.

(I) Rules 501, 523, 524, and 525 adopted on April 26, 1994.

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(225) * * *

(i) * * *

(C) * * *

(3) Rule 520 adopted on June 27, 1995.

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3. Section 52.232 is amended by removing and reserving paragraph (a)(15).

[FR Doc. 00-2177 Filed 2-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 1

[CI Docket 95-6; FCC 99-407]

Use of Notices of Apparent Liability and Facts Underlying Notices of Apparent Liability in Subsequent Proceedings

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; denial of petition for reconsideration.

SUMMARY: This document provides further interpretation of section 504(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The Federal Communications Commission reiterated that it would continue its policy of not using the mere issuance of or failure to pay a Notice of Apparent Liability to the prejudice of a party. The Commission concluded, however, that using the underlying facts of a prior violation that shows a pattern of non-compliant behavior against a licensee in a subsequent renewal, forfeiture, transfer, or other proceeding does not cause the prejudice that Congress sought to avoid in section 504(c). This document also reverses the Commission's prior statement that no statutory violation can be deemed to be minor for purposes of making

downward adjustments to forfeiture amounts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacqueline Ellington, Enforcement Bureau, (202) 418-1160.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the *Memorandum Opinion and Order* denying reconsideration of *The Commission's Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment Of Section 1.80 of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines*, CI Docket 95-6, adopted December 21, 1999 and released December 28, 1999.

The complete text of this *Memorandum Opinion and Order* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Public Reference Center Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text may also be purchased from the Commission's duplication contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036; telephone (202) 857-3800, facsimile (202) 857-3805.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2141 Filed 2-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 991223348-9348-01; I.D. 012700D]

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: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 630 outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the interim 2000 pollock total allowable catch (TAC) for Statistical Area 630 outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area established by the 2000 Interim Specifications and amended by the emergency interim rule implementing Steller sea lion protection measures for the pollock fisheries off Alaska.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 27, 2000, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., March 15, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smoker, 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 interim 2000 pollock TAC in Statistical Area 630 outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area as amended by the emergency interim rule implementing Steller sea lion protection measures for the pollock fisheries off Alaska (65 FR 3892, January 25, 2000) is 4,278 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.20(c)(2)(i).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the interim TAC of pollock in Statistical Area 630 outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 3,778 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 500 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 630 outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area in the GOA.

Maximum retainable bycatch 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. It must be implemented immediately to prevent overharvesting the seasonal allocation of pollock in Statistical Area 630 outside the Shelikof Strait conservation area. Providing prior notice and an opportunity for public comment is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Further delay would only result in overharvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action should not 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: January 27, 2000.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 00-2166 Filed 1-27-00; 5:01 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 9912223348-9348-01; I.D. 012700C]

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

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

ACTION: Inseason adjustment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS is adjusting the interim 2000 total allowable catch (TAC) of pollock in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska (W/C GOA). This action is necessary to adjust the harvest of pollock, that, based on the best available scientific information, has been found by NMFS to be incorrectly specified.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 27, 2000, until 1200 hrs A.l.t. July 19, 2000. Comments must be received at the following address no later than 4:30 p.m., A.l.t., February 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, Attn: Lori Gravel. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet. Hand delivery or courier delivery of comments may be sent to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Room 453, Juneau, AK 99801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smoker, 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 interim 2000 pollock TAC in the W/C GOA as amended by the emergency interim rule implementing Steller sea lion protection measures for the pollock fisheries off Alaska (65 FR 3892, January 25, 2000) are as follows: Western Regulatory Area (610) 5,465 metric tons (mt), Central Regulatory Area (620 outside Shelikof Strait) 3,252 mt, Central Regulatory Area (630 outside Shelikof Strait) 4,278 mt, and Shelikof Strait 14,366 mt.

In accordance with § 679.25(a)(2)(i)(B), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), is adjusting the interim TAC for pollock in the W/C GOA based on the best available scientific information and a determination that the current interim TACs are incorrectly specified.

On January 20, 2000, NFMS stock assessment scientists developed a revised procedure for more accurately allocating the pollock interim TAC by time and area in the Western and Central Regulatory areas as authorized under the emergency interim rule implementing Steller sea lion protection measure. To allocate TAC in Shelikof Strait the revised procedure uses the most recent winter Shelikof Strait acoustic survey (1998) and updated 1998 estimates of GOA pollock biomass west of 140° W. long. For the three areas outside of Shelikof Strait (Statistical area 610, Statistical area 620 outside Shelikof Strait, and Statistical area 630 outside Shelikof Strait) the distribution of pollock biomass is averaged from the last four summer surveys. The method of using the average distribution from the last four summer trawl surveys for purposes of spatial allocation was advocated by the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team, reflected in the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report dated November 1999, and accepted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. However, the revised procedure distinguishes the management areas inside and outside Shelikof Strait more accurately than the previous method used to determine the allocation of TAC among areas of the W/C GOA under the interim harvest specification published with the emergency rule implementing Steller sea lion protection measures (65 FR 3892, January 25, 2000).

Based upon this information the Regional Administrator has determined

that the current interim pollock TACs specified for the W/C GOA are incorrect. He is correcting the estimate of total GOA pollock biomass west of 140° W. long, from 933,000 mt to 958,000 mt as reflected in the most recent SAFE report, dated November 1999. After the interim harvest amount for the Shelikof Strait is calculated using the procedure set forth in the emergency rule implementing the Steller sea lion protection measures, the remainder of the combined W/C GOA pollock TAC is apportioned to those areas outside the Shelikof Strait as described above. This results in percentage apportionments of the remainder of the combined W/C GOA pollock TAC equal to 56.09 percent, 4.08 percent, and 39.83 percent to Statistical areas 610, 620 (outside Shelikof Strait), and 630 (outside Shelikof Strait), respectively. Table 5 in the emergency rule implementing Steller Sea lion protection measures specified interim pollock TACs for the W/C GOA and is accordingly corrected to read:

TABLE 5.—REVISED FIRST SEASONAL ALLOWANCES OF POLLOCK IN THE WESTERN (W) AND CENTRAL (C) REGULATORY AREAS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA (GOA)

Area	A season interim TAC (mt)
Species: Pollock ¹	
W (610)	7,498
C (620 outside Shelikof Strait)	546
C (630 outside Shelikof Strait)	5,325
Shelikof Strait	13,991
Total	27,360

¹ The pollock catch limit for the Shelikof Strait conservation zone is determined by calculating the ratio of the most recent estimate of pollock biomass in Shelikof Strait (489,900 mt) divided by the most recent estimate of total pollock biomass in the GOA (958,000 mt). This ratio is then multiplied by the pollock TAC in the A season for the combined Western and Central areas of the GOA (27,360 mt). The remainder of the combined W/C TAC in the A Season is apportioned among Regulatory Areas 610, 620, and 630 outside the Shelikof Strait based on the distribution of pollock outside the Shelikof Strait; 56.09%, 4.08%, and 39.83% respectively.

Classification

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds for good cause that providing prior notice and public comment or delaying the effective date of this action is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Without this inseason adjustment, the current interim seasonal allocation of pollock