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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 970429101-7101-01; I.D. 060397A]

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Closure from Cape Arago, OR, to the Oregon-California Border

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the commercial salmon fishery in the area from Cape Arago, OR, to the Oregon-California border was closed at 2400 hours, May 28, 1997. The Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the commercial quota of 5,300 chinook salmon has been reached. This action is necessary to conform to the 1997 management measures and is intended to ensure conservation of chinook salmon.

DATES: Effective 2400 hours local time, May 28, 1997, through 2400 hours local time May 31, 1997, at which time the season remains closed under the terms of the 1997 management measures. Comments will be accepted through June 26, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070. Information relevant to this action 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:

Regulations governing the ocean salmon fisheries at 50 CFR 660.409(a)(1) state that when a quota for the commercial or the recreational fishery, or both, for any salmon species in any portion of the fishery management area is projected by the Regional Administrator to be reached on or by a certain date, the Secretary will, by an inseason action issued under 50 CFR 660.411, close the commercial or recreational fishery, or

both, for all salmon species in the portion of the fishery management area to which the quota applies as of the date the quota is projected to be reached.

In the 1997 management measures for ocean salmon fisheries (62 FR 24355, May 5, 1997), NMFS announced that the commercial fishery in the area between Cape Arago, OR, and the Oregon-California border would open on April 15 and continue through May 31 or attainment of the 5,300 chinook salmon quota, whichever occurred first.

The best available information on May 27 indicated that the chinook salmon quota had been reached based on catch and effort data and projections. To provide for an orderly shutdown of the commercial fishery in this area, closure was made effective at 2400 hours, May 28. The Regional Administrator consulted with representatives of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The State of Oregon will manage the commercial fishery in state waters adjacent to this area of the exclusive economic zone in accordance with this Federal action. As provided by the inseason notification procedures of 50 CFR 660.411, actual notice to fishermen of this action was given prior to 2400 hours local time, May 28, 1997, by telephone hotline number 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 stop the fishery upon achievement of the quota, 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: June 6, 1997.

Rebecca Lent,

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. 961126334-7025-02; I.D. 053097F]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska Statistical Area 620

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

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is closing directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the second seasonal allowance of total allowable catch (TAC) for pollock in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), June 9, 1997, until 1200 hrs, A.l.t., September 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Pearson, 907-486-6919.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS 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. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The final specification of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620 of the GOA was established by the Final 1997 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (62 FR 8179, February 24, 1997) as 31,250 mt, determined in accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(A). In accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(B) and § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(B)(2) the second seasonal allowance of pollock TAC in Statistical Area 620 is 7,231 mt. As of May 24, 1997, 9,556 mt of pollock has been harvested from Statistical Area 620. This amount represents a combination of the amounts taken during the first season and into the second.

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the second seasonal allowance of TAC for pollock in Statistical Area 620 soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 7,031 mt, and is