

and standards incorporated by reference, and made various clarifications and grammatical corrections. The other amendments made by the direct final rule became effective on May 4, 1998.

DATES: The removal of the amendment is effective July 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments should identify the docket number (RSPA-97-2251). Persons should submit the original document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room Number 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays when the facility is closed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eben M. Wyman, (202) 366-0918, or by e-mail (eben.wyman@rspa.dot.gov), regarding the subject matter of this Notice; or the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-4453, for copies of this final rule or other material in the docket. Further information can be obtained by accessing OPS' Internet Home Page at: ops.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Partial Withdrawal

Under Clarifications of the direct final rule, § 192.614(c)(5) requires operators to "Provide for temporary marking of buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity before, as far as practical, the activity begins." RSPA believed that this requirement could be confusing to the reader in terms of interpreting the meaning of "as far as practical." Therefore, RSPA amended the paragraph to require temporary marking of buried pipelines before excavation activities begins "except in emergency situations."

Based on a comment to this clarification, RSPA is removing this change from this direct final rule. The comment was based on the interpretation of the phrase "as far as practical." RSPA did not mean to distort the language of the regulation, only to clarify that operators would not be responsible for marking in an emergency situation. However, based on feedback from the pipeline industry and other regulatory parties within RSPA, it was determined that the original language better served the reader of the

regulation. RSPA plans to issue an interpretation of the language in § 192.614 to clarify its meaning.

PART 193—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 192 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60102, 60104, 60108, 60109, 60110, 60113, 60118; and 49 CFR 1.53.

2. Paragraph (c)(5) of § 192.614 is revised to read as follows:

§ 192.614 Damage prevention program.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(5) Provide for temporary marking of buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity before, as far as practical, the activity begins.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 10, 1998.

Kelley S. Coyner,

Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-18910 Filed 7-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Parts 190 and 192

[Docket No. RSPA-97-2251; Amdt Nos. 190-8; 191-13; 192-84; 193-15; 194-2; 195-61; 198-3; 199-17]

RIN 2137-AD03

Pipeline Safety: Periodic Updates to Pipeline Safety Regulations (1997)

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Corrections to direct final rule.

SUMMARY: This document makes minor corrections to a direct final rule titled, "Periodic Updates to the Pipeline Safety Regulations" (63 FR 7721), published on February 17, 1998. The final rule updated references to voluntary specifications and standards incorporated by reference, and made various clarifications and grammatical corrections.

DATES: This correction is effective July 20, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eben M. Wyman, (202) 366-0918, or by e-mail (eben.wyman@rspa.dot.gov), regarding the subject matter of this Notice; or the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-4453, for copies of this final rule or other material in the docket. Further information can be obtained by

accessing OPS' Internet Home Page at: ops.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Need for Corrections

1. The direct final rule incorrectly listed the amendment numbers for Part 190 and Part 192 at the beginning of the direct final rule. The correct amendment numbers are 190-8, and 192-84.

2. In updating the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Designation 2513, the direct final rule inadvertently removed the reference to the ASTM 2513-87 edition for § 192.63(a)(1). This document corrects this reference to reflect the appropriate standard, ASTM Designation D 2513 "Standard Specification of Thermoplastic Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings" (D 2513-87 edition for § 192.63(a)(1), otherwise D 2513-96a).

RSPA regrets any confusion this error may have caused.

Correction of Publication

Accordingly, the publication on February 17, 1998, of the final rule (63 FR 7721) is corrected as follows:

1. On page 7721, in the first column, in the docket number, amendment number "190-7" is corrected to read "190-8" and amendment number "172-83" is corrected to read "192-84."

2. On page 7723, in the second column, under paragraph C (10), the words "D 2513-87 edition for § 192.63(a)(1), otherwise" are added before "D 2513-96a."

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 10, 1998.

Kelley S. Coyner,

Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 071398D]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Eastern Regulatory Area 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 Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1998 total allowable catch (TAC) of Pacific ocean perch in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 14, 1998, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 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.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii), the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (63 FR 12027, March 12, 1998) established the amount of the 1998 TAC of Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska as 2,366 metric tons (mt). The directed fishery for Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern Regulatory Area was closed under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) on July 6, 1998, (63 FR 37071, July 9, 1998) and reopened on July 12, 1998, (to be published on July 16, 1998).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 1998 TAC for Pacific ocean perch will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 2,116 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 250 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 has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for Pacific ocean perch in the Eastern Regulatory Area of 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 1998 TAC of Pacific ocean perch for the Eastern Regulatory Area of the GOA. A delay in the effective date 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 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 14, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19162 Filed 7-14-98; 4:04 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 071398C]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area 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 northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the 1998 total allowable catch (TAC) of northern rockfish in this area.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 14, 1998, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1998.

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 amount of the 1998 TAC of northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska was established by the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (63 FR 12027, March 12, 1998) as 4,150 metric tons (mt), determined in accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), has determined that the 1998 TAC for northern rockfish will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 3,650 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 has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for northern rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area.

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 1998 TAC of northern rockfish for the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. A delay in the effective date 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 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: July 14, 1998.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19161 Filed 7-14-98; 4:04 pm]

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