

announced through publication in the **Federal Register**. In addition, anglers may call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9305 for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments. Anglers aboard Charter/Headboat category vessels, when engaged in recreational fishing for school, large school, and small medium BFT, are subject to the same rules as anglers aboard Angling category vessels. All BFT landed under the Angling category quota must be reported within 24 hours of landing to the NMFS Automated Landings Reporting System by calling (888) 872-8862 or, if landed in the state of North Carolina, to a reporting station prior to offloading. Information about the North Carolina harvest tagging programs, including reporting station locations, can be obtained by calling (800) 338-7804. In addition, anglers aboard permitted vessels may continue to tag and release BFT of all sizes under a tag-and-release program, provided the angler tags all BFT so caught, regardless of whether previously tagged, with conventional tags issued or approved by NMFS, returns such fish to the sea immediately after tagging with a minimum of injury, and reports the tagging, and, if the BFT was previously tagged, the information on the previous tag (50 CFR 635.26).

Classification

This action is taken under 50 CFR 635.23(b)(3). This action is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 9, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[I.D. 120899B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements; Public Workshops

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

ACTION: Notice of workshops.

SUMMARY: NMFS will present workshops on recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the Alaska groundfish fisheries.

DATES: Workshops will be held on several dates. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific dates and times.

ADDRESSES: The workshops will be held at several locations. See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION specific locations where the workshops will be held.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patsy A. Bearden, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS and the U.S. Coast Guard North Pacific Regional Fisheries Training Center will present an integrated approach to clarify and simplify NMFS 2000 recordkeeping and reporting requirements for the Alaska groundfish fisheries, to introduce the new shoreside processor electronic logbook delivery report, and to provide information on required permits and instructions on completion and submittal of the logsheets and reporting forms to record information for the American Fisheries Act, open-access groundfish, Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program, Individual Fishing Quota Program, and the at-sea scale program. Instructions on completion of fish

tickets and the Commercial Operators Annual Report will be presented by Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff. Comments from the fishing industry will be welcome on the recordkeeping and reporting program and on any related issues.

Special Accommodations

These workshops will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Patsy Bearden at 907-586-7228 at least 7 working days prior to the meeting date.

Dates of Workshops

Wednesday, December 15, 1999, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Alaska local time (A.l.t.);

Thursday, December 16, 1999, 7 p.m., A.l.t.;

Friday, December 17, 1999, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., A.l.t.;

Thursday, January 6, 2000, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Washington local time; and

Wednesday, February 9, 2000, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., A.l.t.

Location of Workshops

December 15, 1999, Bidarka Inn, 575 Sterling Highway, Homer, AK;

December 16, 1999, U.S. Coast Guard, North Pacific Regional Training Center, Kodiak, AK;

December 17, 1999, U.S. Coast Guard, North Pacific Regional Training Center, Kodiak, AK;

January 6, 2000, NMFS Alaska Fishery Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Seattle, WA; and

February 9, 2000, Westmark Shee Atika Hotel, 300 Seward Street, Sitka, AK.

Dated: December 9, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

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