

uncertain about the ultimate destination of the property will not be accepted.

(B) Prior to release of the property for import into a country that does not issue an Import Certificate or Delivery Verification, the Purchaser agrees to submit a notification of consignee to the Seller who in turn will forward it, via the plant clearance officer, to the Trade Security Resident Office for approval of the destination and consignee.

(C) Within 60 calendar days after release of the property, the Purchaser agrees to submit to the Trade Security Control Resident Office a Delivery Verification issued by the government that issued the Import Certificate.

(D) Within 90 calendar days after release of the property for import into a country that does not issue an Import Certificate or Delivery Verification, the Purchaser agrees to submit to the Trade Security Control Resident Office evidence of the arrival of the property at the approved destination and delivery to the approved consignee. Such evidence may consist of a receipted copy of the bill of lading, a Landing Certificate issued by the country of import, or other valid documentary evidence identifying the final destination and consignee.

(E) Failure of the Purchaser or any subsequent purchaser to submit a required Delivery Verification or other documentary evidence of the arrival and delivery may be cause for administrative action to be taken against the Purchaser or subsequent purchaser which could result in the denial of future contracts with the United States Government.

(e) *Subcontracts.* The Contractor shall include this clause in all contracts with its subcontractors or suppliers at any tier, except contracts for commercial items, when Government property will be furnished to the subcontractor, or when the subcontractor will acquire or fabricate property that might become Government property under the subcontract. The clause shall not be modified other than to identify the contracting parties.

(End of clause)

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 600 and 648

[I.D. 052797F]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Applications for Experimental Fishing Permits (EFPs)

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

ACTION: Notification of experimental fishery proposals; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notice to announce that the Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), is considering approval of two experimental fishing proposals that would permit vessels to conduct operations otherwise restricted by regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The experimental fisheries would involve a longline fishery for white hake (*Urophycis tenuis*) in deep water and an Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*) longline fishery in northern Gulf of Maine waters. Provisions under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notice to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposed experimental fisheries.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 20, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D., Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed Longline Experimental Fisheries."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dana Hartley, Fishery Management Specialist, 508-281-9226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A request for an exemption to fish with white hake using longline gear in three designated deepwater areas of the northwestern Atlantic was submitted by Ms. Barbara Stevenson. An experimental fishery permit would authorize vessels to evaluate area, gear, and season to determine bycatch of regulated multispecies. A request for an exemption for a longline halibut fishery in the Gulf of Maine that would allow NMFS to investigate area and gear, and to collect basic biological information about halibut in this area was submitted by Mr. Steve Rosen. These fisheries were initially requested by industry members seeking an exemption from the days-at-sea restrictions of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. Such exemptions may be authorized by the Regional Administrator on a long-term basis if sufficient data exist to show that a fishery would have a bycatch rate of less than 5 percent of regulated multispecies. The Regional Administrator has concluded that the existing bycatch data on these two fisheries is insufficient and seeks comment on his proposal to authorize them as experimental fisheries to investigate operational controls that may allow these fisheries to become exempted in the future. Therefore, comments are requested on these

proposals as experimental fishery projects. Both proposed experimental fisheries would be of limited duration. The hake fishery would not exceed 1 year and the halibut fishery would operate for 6 months. After 1 year, both fisheries will be reviewed by the New England Fishery Management Council to determine whether or not they would be appropriate for exempted fisheries. The white hake project would not allow for the landing of any regulated multispecies other than white hake, whereas the halibut project would not allow the landing of any regulated multispecies.

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

Dated: May 29, 1997.

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. 052997B]

RIN: 0648-AJ36

Amendment 49 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of an amendment to a fishery management plan; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 49 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area for Secretarial review. Amendment 49 would require all vessels fishing for groundfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area to retain all pollock and Pacific cod beginning January 1, 1998, and all rock sole and yellowfin sole beginning January 1, 2003. Amendment 49 also would establish minimum utilization standards for all at-sea processors; for pollock and Pacific cod beginning January 1, 1998, and for rock sole and yellowfin sole beginning January 1, 2003. Comments from the public are requested.

DATES: Comments on Amendment 49 must be submitted on or before August 4, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on Amendment 49 should be submitted to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, Attn: Lori Gravel, or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th. Street, Juneau, AK. Copies of Amendment 49 and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis prepared for the amendment are available from NMFS at the above address, or by calling the Alaska Region, NMFS, at 907-586-7228.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Lind, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any fishery management plan (FMP) or plan amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving an FMP or amendment, immediately publish a document announcing that the FMP or amendment is available for

public review and comment. NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the FMP or amendment.

Amendment 49 is the result of over 3 years of specific discussions and analyses of alternative solutions to the discard problem occurring in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska. The expressed intent of the Council is to implement a program that "would provide an incentive for fishermen to avoid unwanted catch, increase utilization of fish that are taken, and thus reduce discards of whole fish." While such discards are counted against the overall total allowable catch established for each species and therefore do not represent a direct biological concern, they do represent foregone harvest opportunities for other fishing operations which might otherwise target and utilize those fish. In addition, high levels of discards represent an important social policy issue, one that the fishing industry and the Council feel the necessity to address.

In September 1996, after extensive debate and public testimony, the Council approved an Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU) program as Amendment 49 to the

Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area. The retention requirement adopted by the Council would require full retention of pollock and Pacific cod beginning January 1, 1998, and full retention of rock sole and yellowfin sole beginning January 1, 2003. The utilization requirement adopted by the Council would require that all IR/IU species either be (1) processed at sea subject to minimum recovery rates and/or requirements to be specified by regulation, or (2) delivered in their entirety to onshore processing plants for which similar minimum requirements are implemented through state regulations.

NMFS will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the proposed amendment. A proposed rule to implement Amendment 49 is scheduled to be published within 15 days of this document.

Dated: May 30, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,

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

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