

provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number. The collection of this information has been approved by OMB under OMB control number 0648-0203 for Federal fishing permits. The public reporting burden for applications for exempted fishery permits is estimated at 1 hour per response; the burden for reporting by exempted fishing permittees is estimated at 30 minutes per response. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and revising the collection of information. Send comments regarding these burden estimates or any other aspect of the data requirements, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to NMFS (see ADDRESSES) and to OMB, Washington, DC 20503 (ATTN: NOAA Desk Officer).

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

Dated: December 28, 1998.

**Gary C. Matlock,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-34786 Filed 12-29-98; 2:24 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 981222314-8321-02; I.D. 121698B]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Interim 1999 Harvest Specifications

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

**ACTION:** Interim 1999 harvest specifications for groundfish and associated management measures.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues interim 1999 total allowable catch (TAC) amounts for each category of groundfish and specifications for prohibited species bycatch allowances for the groundfish fishery of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to conserve and manage the groundfish resources in the GOA and is intended to implement the goals and objectives of the Fishery

Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP).

**DATES:** Effective 0001 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 1, 1999, until the effective date of the final 1999 harvest specifications for GOA groundfish, which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** The preliminary 1999 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report, dated September 1998, is available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252, telephone 907-586-7237. The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement as well as an Environmental Assessment prepared for this action and the final 1999 GOA groundfish specifications may be obtained from the Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99801-21668, Attn: Lori Gravel.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 679 that implement the FMP govern the groundfish fisheries in the GOA. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared the FMP, and NMFS approved it under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). General regulations that also pertain to the U.S. fisheries appear at 50 CFR part 600.

The Council met October 7 to 12, 1998, to review scientific information concerning groundfish stocks. At that meeting, the Council adopted the preliminary SAFE Report for the 1999 GOA groundfish fisheries. The preliminary SAFE Report, dated September 1998, provides an update on the status of stocks. Copies of the preliminary SAFE Report are available for public review from the Council (see ADDRESSES). The Council recommended a preliminary total TAC of 327,046 metric tons (mt) and a preliminary total acceptable biological catch of 548,650 mt for the 1999 fishing year.

Under § 679.20(c)(1)(ii), NMFS published in the December 30, 1998 **Federal Register**, the proposed initial harvest specifications for groundfish and associated management measures in the GOA for the 1999 fishing year. That action discusses in detail the 1999 specification process, as well as 1999 proposed specifications, reserves, apportionments for groundfish, and PSC limits.

This action provides interim harvest specifications and apportionments

thereof of GOA groundfish for the 1999 fishing year that will become available on January 1, 1999, and remain in effect until superseded by the final 1999 harvest specifications. NMFS notes that the Council, at its December 1998 meeting, requested NMFS to implement, by emergency interim rule, conservation measures to mitigate impacts of the GOA pollock fishery on Steller sea lions and their critical habitat. Prior to the opening of the 1999 pollock trawl fisheries, NMFS will implement measures necessary to ensure that the pollock trawl fisheries do not jeopardize the continued existence, or adversely modify the critical habitat, of Steller sea lions. NMFS will revise the pollock interim specifications accordingly.

##### Establishment of Interim TACs

Regulations at § 679.20(c)(2) require that one-fourth of each proposed TAC and apportionment thereof (not including the reserves and the first seasonal allowance of pollock), one-fourth of the proposed halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) amounts, and the proposed first seasonal allowance of pollock become available for harvest at 0001 hours, A.l.t., January 1, on an interim basis and remain in effect until superseded by the final harvest specifications.

On December 16, 1998, NMFS approved portions of Amendment 51 to the FMP, which allocate 100 percent of the pollock TAC and 90 percent of the Pacific cod TAC to vessels catching pollock and Pacific cod for processing by the inshore component. Ten percent of the Pacific cod TAC is allocated to vessels catching Pacific cod for processing by the offshore component.

The reserves for the GOA are 20 percent of the TAC amounts for pollock, Pacific cod, flatfish species, and the "other species" category. The GOA groundfish TAC amounts have been fully utilized since 1987. NMFS expects this trend to continue in 1999, and, with the exception of Pacific cod, has proposed reapportioning all the reserves to TAC.

The Pacific cod fishery in the GOA has become increasingly difficult to manage. The increased number of participants, unexpected increases in harvest rates, and unexpected shifts to other management areas and targets in the GOA have resulted in overharvests of Pacific cod in some areas. Therefore, NMFS proposed to initially reserve 20 percent of the Pacific cod TACs in the GOA as a management buffer to prevent exceeding the Pacific cod TAC.

With the exception of Pacific cod, the interim TAC amounts contained in Table 1 to this part reflect the

reapportionment of reserves back to the TAC.

**Interim 1999 GOA Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Apportionments**

Table 1 to this part provides interim TAC amounts, interim TAC allocations of Pacific cod to the inshore and

offshore components, the first seasonal allowance of pollock in the combined Western and Central regulatory areas, and interim sablefish TAC apportionments to hook-and-line and trawl gear. These interim TAC amounts and apportionments become effective at 0001 hours, A.L.t., January 1, 1999. This

table also lists inshore/offshore allocations of Pacific cod that will be effective under the final rule implementing the inshore/offshore allocations of Pacific cod authorized under Amendment 51 to the FMP that was approved by NMFS on December 16, 1998.

TABLE 1.—INTERIM 1999 TAC AMOUNTS OF GROUNDFISH FOR THE COMBINED WESTERN/CENTRAL (W/C), WESTERN (W), CENTRAL (C), AND EASTERN (E) REGULATORY AREAS, AND IN THE WEST YAKUTAT (WYAK), SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (SEO), AND GULFWIDE (GW) DISTRICTS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA (GOA);<sup>1,2</sup> THE FIRST SEASONAL ALLOWANCES OF POLLOCK IN THE COMBINED W/C REGULATORY AREAS; INTERIM SABLEFISH TAC APPORTIONMENTS TO HOOK-AND-LINE (H/L) AND TRAWL (TRW) GEAR

Species	Area	Interim TAC (mt)
Pollock <sup>3,4</sup>	W (610)	7,450
	C (620)	12,510
	C (630)	9,830
	Subtotal .....	29,790
	W/C	1,395
	E	31,185
Total .....		
Pacific cod <sup>5</sup>		
Inshore .....	W	4,171
Offshore .....	W	436
Inshore .....	C	7,510
Offshore .....	C	834
Inshore .....	E	211
Offshore .....	E	23
Total .....		12,523
Flatfish, Deep-water <sup>6</sup>		
	W	85
	C	923
	E	785
Total .....		1,793
Rex sole		
	W	298
	C	1,373
	E	618
Total .....		2,288
Flathead sole		
	W	500
	C	1,250
	E	510
Total .....		2,260
Flatfish, Shallow-water <sup>7</sup>		
	W	1,125
	C	3,238
	E	295
Total .....		4,658
Arrowtooth flounder		
	W	1,250
	C	6,250
	E	1,250
Total .....		8,750
Sablefish <sup>8,9,10</sup>		
H/L .....	W	N/A(368)
TRW .....	W	92
H/L .....	C	N/A(1,264)
TRW .....	C	316
TRW .....	E	75
H/L .....	WYak	N/A(543)
H/L .....	SEO	N/A(872)

TABLE 1.—INTERIM 1999 TAC AMOUNTS OF GROUND FISH FOR THE COMBINED WESTERN/CENTRAL (W/C), WESTERN (W), CENTRAL (C), AND EASTERN (E) REGULATORY AREAS, AND IN THE WEST YAKUTAT (WYAK), SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (SEO), AND GULFWIDE (GW) DISTRICTS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA (GOA);<sup>1,2</sup> THE FIRST SEASONAL ALLOWANCES OF POLLOCK IN THE COMBINED W/C REGULATORY AREAS; INTERIM SABLEFISH TAC APPORTIONMENTS TO HOOK-AND-LINE (H/L) AND TRAWL (TRW) GEAR—Continued

Species	Area	Interim TAC (mt)
Total .....		3,530
Pacific ocean perch <sup>11</sup>		
	W	453
	C	1,650
	E	592
Total .....		2,694
Shorthead/rougheye <sup>12</sup>		
	W	40
	C	242
	E	115
Total .....		397
Rockfish, northern <sup>13</sup>		
	W	210
	C	1,037
	E	3
Total .....		1,250
Rockfish, other <sup>14 15</sup>		
	W	5
	C	162
	E	375
Total .....		542
Rockfish, pelagic shelf <sup>16</sup>		
	W	155
	C	815
	E	250
Total .....		1,220
Rockfish, demersal shelf SEO <sup>17</sup>	SEO	140
Thornyhead rockfish		
	W	63
	C	178
	E	260
Total .....		500
Atka mackerel		
	GW	150
Other species <sup>18</sup> .....		3,893
GOA Total Interim TAC .....		78,462
(Interim TAC amounts have been rounded.)		

<sup>1</sup> Reserves have been reapportioned back to each species TAC and are reflected in the interim TAC amounts except for Pacific cod. (See § 679.20(a)(2).)

<sup>2</sup> See § 679.2 for definitions of regulatory area and statistical area. See Figure 3b to part 679 for a description of regulatory district.

<sup>3</sup> Pollock is apportioned to three statistical areas in the combined Western/Central Regulatory Area, and is further divided into three allowances of 25 percent, 35 percent, and 40 percent. The first allowances are in effect on an interim basis as of January 1, 1999. In the Eastern Regulatory Area, pollock is not divided into less than annual allowances, and one-fourth of the TAC is available on an interim basis.

<sup>4</sup> Under Amendment 51 of the FMP approved by NMFS on December 16, 1998, the pollock TAC in all regulatory areas will be allocated 100 percent to vessels catching groundfish for processing by the inshore component after subtraction of amounts that are determined by the Regional Administrator, NMFS, to be necessary to support the bycatch needs of the offshore component in directed fisheries for other groundfish species. At this time, these bycatch amounts are unknown and will be determined during the fishing year. (See § 679.20(a)(6)(ii)).

<sup>5</sup> The Pacific cod TAC in all regulatory areas is allocated 90 percent to vessels catching groundfish for processing by the inshore component and 10 percent to vessels catching groundfish for processing by the offshore component. (See § 679.20(a)(6)(iii).)

<sup>6</sup> "Deep-water flatfish" means Dover sole, Greenland turbot and deepsea sole.

<sup>7</sup> "Shallow-water flatfish" means flatfish not including "deep-water flatfish", flathead sole, rex sole, or arrowtooth flounder.

<sup>8</sup> Sablefish TAC amounts for each of the regulatory areas and districts are assigned to hook-and-line and trawl gear. In the Central and Western Regulatory Areas, 80 percent of the TAC is allocated to hook-and-line gear and 20 percent to trawl gear. In the Eastern Regulatory Area, 95 percent of the TAC is assigned to hook-and-line gear. Five percent is allocated to trawl gear and may only be used as bycatch to support directed fisheries for other target species. (See § 679.20(a)(4).)

<sup>9</sup>The sablefish hook-and-line (H/L) gear fishery is managed under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program and is subject to regulations contained in subpart D of 50 CFR part 679. Annual IFQ amounts are based on the final TAC amount specified for the sablefish H/L gear fishery as contained in the final specifications for groundfish. Under § 679.7(f)(3), retention of sablefish caught with H/L gear is prohibited unless the harvest is authorized under a valid IFQ permit and IFQ card. In 1999, IFQ permits and IFQ cards will not be valid prior to the effective date of the 1999 final specifications. Thus, fishing for sablefish with H/L gear will not be authorized under these interim specifications. Nonetheless, interim amounts are shown in parentheses to reflect assignments of one-fourth of the proposed TAC amounts among gear categories and regulatory areas in accordance with § 679.20(c)(2)(i). See § 679.40 for guidance on the annual allocation of IFQ.

<sup>10</sup>Sablefish caught in the GOA with gear other than hook-and-line or trawl gear must be treated as prohibited species and may not be retained.

<sup>11</sup>"Pacific ocean perch" means *Sebastes alutus*.

<sup>12</sup>"Shortraker/rougheye rockfish" means *Sebastes borealis* (shortraker) and *S. aleutianus* (rougheye).

<sup>13</sup>"Northern rockfish" means *Sebastes polyspinis*.

<sup>14</sup>"Other rockfish" in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and in the West Yakutat District means slope rockfish and demersal shelf rockfish. The category "other rockfish" in the Southeast Outside District means slope rockfish.

<sup>15</sup>"Slope rockfish" means *Sebastes aurora* (aurora), *S. melanostomus* (blackgill), *S. paucispinis* (bocaccio), *S. goodei* (chilipepper), *S. crameri* (darkblotch), *S. elongatus* (greenstriped), *S. variegatus* (harlequin), *S. wilsoni* (pygmy), *S. proriger* (redstripe), *S. zacentrus* (sharpchin), *S. jordani* (shortbelly), *S. brevispinis* (silverygrey), *S. diploproa* (splitnose), *S. saxicola* (stripetail), *S. miniatus* (vermilion), *S. babcocki* (redbanded), and *S. reedi* (yellowmouth).

<sup>16</sup>"Pelagic shelf rockfish" includes *Sebastes ciliatus* (dusky), *S. entomelas* (widow), and *S. flavidus* (yellowtail). "Offshore Pelagic shelf rockfish" includes *S. ciliatus* (dusky), *S. entomelas* (widow), and *S. flavidus* (yellowtail).

<sup>17</sup>"Demersal shelf rockfish" means *Sebastes pinniger* (canary), *S. nebulosus* (china), *S. caurinus* (copper), *S. maliger* (quillback), *S. helvomaculatus* (rosethorn), *S. nigrocinctus* (tiger), and *S. ruberrimus* (yelloweye).

<sup>18</sup>"Other species" includes sculpins, sharks, skates, squid, and octopus. The TAC for "other species" equals 5 percent of the TAC amounts of target species.

### Interim Halibut PSC Mortality Limits

Under § 679.21(d), annual Pacific halibut PSC mortality limits are established for trawl and hook-and-line gear and may be established for pot gear. The Council recommended that the 1998 halibut mortality limits be reestablished for 1999 because no new information was available. Consistent with 1998, the Council recommended exemptions for pot gear, jig gear, and the sablefish hook-and-line fishery from halibut PSC limits for 1999. The interim PSC limits take effect on January 1, 1999, and remain in effect until superseded by the final 1999 harvest specifications. The interim halibut PSC limits are: (1) 500 mt to trawl gear, (2) 75 mt to hook-and-line gear for fisheries other than demersal shelf rockfish, and (3) 2.5 mt to hook-and-line gear for the demersal shelf rockfish fishery in the Southeast Outside District.

Regulations at § 679.21(d)(3)(iii) authorize apportionments of the trawl halibut PSC limit allowance as bycatch allowances to a deep-water species complex; comprising rex sole, sablefish, rockfish, deep-water flatfish, and arrowtooth flounder, and to a shallow-water species complex; comprising pollock, Pacific cod, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, Atka mackerel, and "other species". The interim 1999 apportionment for the shallow-water species complex is 417 mt and for the deep-water species complex is 83 mt.

NMFS will implement fishery closures for those fisheries where insufficient interim TAC exists to support a directed fishery. The closures will be implemented prior to the beginning of the 1999 fishing year.

### Classification

This action is authorized under 50 CFR 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, NMFS completed a consultation on the effects of the pollock and Atka mackerel fisheries on listed and candidate species, including the Steller sea lion, and designated critical habitat. The biological opinion prepared for this consultation, dated December 3, 1998, concludes that the pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Management Area, and the GOA jeopardize the continued existence of Steller sea lions and adversely modify their designated critical habitat. The biological opinion contains reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) to mitigate the adverse impacts of the pollock fisheries on Steller sea lions. At its December meeting, the Council recommended specific measures necessary to implement the RPAs. On December 16, 1998, NMFS issued revised reasonable and prudent alternatives based on the Council's recommendations adopted during its December meeting, which adhere to the principles identified in the December 3, 1998, Biological Opinion. Prior to the start of the 1999 pollock fishery, NMFS will implement these measures through emergency rulemaking.

NMFS also initiated consultation on the effects of the 1999 GOA groundfish fisheries (excluding pollock) on listed and candidate species, including the Steller sea lion and listed seabirds, and on designated critical habitat. The biological opinion prepared for this consultation, dated December 22, 1998, concludes that groundfish fisheries in the GOA (excluding pollock) are not likely to jeopardize the continued

existence of the listed and candidate species, or to adversely modify designated critical habitat.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (AA), NOAA, finds for good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) that the need to establish interim total allowable catch level limitations and related management measures for fisheries in the GOA, effective on January 1, 1999, makes it impracticable and contrary to the public interest to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment on this rule. Likewise, the AA finds for good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) that the need to establish interim TAC levels and other management measures in the GOA, effective on January 1, 1999, makes it impractical and contrary to the public interest to delay the effective date of the limits and measures for 30 days. Regulations at § 679.20(c)(2) require NMFS to specify interim harvest specifications to be effective on January 1 and remain in effect until superseded by the final specifications in order for the GOA groundfish fishing season to begin on January 1 (see § 679.23). Without interim specifications in effect on January 1, the groundfish fisheries would not be able to open on January 1, which would result in unnecessary closures and disruption within the fishing industry. Because the stock assessment reports and other information concerning the fisheries in the GOA became available only recently, NMFS is not able to provide an opportunity for comment on the interim specifications. NMFS anticipates that the interim specifications will be in effect for only a short period of time before they are superseded by the final specifications. The proposed 1999 harvest specifications for groundfish of the GOA have been published in the

**Federal Register** on December 30, 1998, and provide the opportunity for public comment. The interim specifications will be effective January 1, 1999.

Because these interim specifications are not required to be issued with prior notice and opportunity for public comment, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act do not apply. Consequently, no regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 28, 1998.

**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

[Docket No. 981222313-8320-02; I.D. 122198A]

#### Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Interim 1999 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish

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

**ACTION:** Interim 1999 harvest specifications for groundfish.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues interim 1999 total allowable catch (TAC) amounts for each category of groundfish, Community Development Quota (CDQ) amounts, and prohibited species catch (PSC) amounts for the groundfish fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to conserve and manage the groundfish resources in the BSAI and is intended to implement the goals and objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP).

**DATES:** The Interim Specifications are effective from 0001 hours, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), January 1, 1999, until the effective date of the final 1999 harvest specifications for BSAI groundfish, which will be published in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** The preliminary 1999 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report, dated September 1998, is available from the North Pacific

Fishery Management Council, 605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252, telephone 907-271-2809. The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement as well as the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the 1999 Groundfish Harvest Specifications is available from the Alaska Region NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668, Attn: Lori Gravel.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shane Capron, 907-586-7228.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Federal regulations at 50 CFR part 679 that govern the groundfish fisheries in the BSAI implement the FMP. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepared the FMP, and NMFS approved it, under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. General regulations that also pertain to the U.S. fisheries appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600.

The Council met in October 1998 to review scientific information concerning groundfish stocks. The Council adopted for public review the preliminary SAFE Report for the 1999 BSAI groundfish fisheries. The preliminary SAFE Report, dated September 1998, provides an update on the status of stocks. Copies of the SAFE Report are available from the Council (see **ADDRESSEES**). The preliminary TAC amounts for each species are based on the best available biological and socioeconomic information. The Council recommended a preliminary total acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 2,379,976 metric tons (mt) and a preliminary total TAC of 1,925,000 mt for the 1999 fishing year.

Under § 679.20(c)(1), NMFS published in the December 30, 1998 **Federal Register**, proposed harvest specifications for BSAI groundfish for the 1999 fishing year. That document contains a detailed discussion of the 1999 groundfish harvest specifications and of the proposed 1999 TACs, initial TACs (ITACs) and related apportionments, ABC amounts, overfishing levels, PSC amounts, and associated management measures of the BSAI groundfish fishery including detailed information on the implementation of the American Fisheries Act (AFA).

This action provides interim harvest specifications and apportionments thereof for BSAI groundfish for the 1999 fishing year that will become available on January 1, 1999, and remain in effect until superseded by the final 1999 harvest specifications.

NMFS notes that the Council at its December 1998, meeting requested NMFS to implement an emergency interim rule establishing conservation measures to mitigate impacts of the BSAI pollock fishery on Steller sea lions and their critical habitat. NMFS is currently preparing an emergency rule to implement parts of the Council's recommendations as well as other measures necessary to ensure that the pollock trawl fishery does not jeopardize the continued existence, or adversely modify the critical habitat, of Steller sea lions. These emergency measures will likely revise these interim specifications for pollock.

##### Establishment of Interim TACs

Fifteen percent of the TAC for each target species or species group, except for the hook-and-line and pot gear allocation of sablefish, is automatically placed in a non-specified reserve (§ 679.20(b)(1)). The remainder is the initial TAC (ITAC). The AFA supersedes this provision for pollock because the 1999 TAC for this species is required to be fully allocated among the CDQ program, incidental catch allowance, and inshore, catcher/processor, and mothership directed fishery allowances.

Regulations at § 679.20(b)(1)(iii) require that one-half of each TAC amount placed in the non-specified reserve be allocated to the groundfish CDQ reserve, and that 20 percent of the hook-and-line and pot gear allocation of sablefish, be allocated to the fixed-gear sablefish CDQ reserve. The AFA requires that 10 percent of the pollock TAC be allocated to a pollock CDQ reserve (section 206). The groundfish and pollock CDQ reserves are not further apportioned by gear. Fifteen percent of the groundfish CDQ reserve established for squid, arrowtooth flounder, and "other species" is apportioned to a non-specific CDQ reserve. Regulations governing the use and release of the non-specific CDQ reserve are found at § 679.31(g). Regulations at § 679.21(e)(1)(i) also require that 7.5 percent of each PSC limit, with the exception of herring, be withheld as prohibited species quota (PSQ) reserve for the CDQ fisheries. Regulations governing the management of the CDQ and PSQ reserves are set forth at § 679.30 and § 679.31.

After subtraction of the CDQ reserves, the remainder of the non-specified reserve is not designated by species or species group, and any amount of the reserve may be reapportioned to a target species or the "other species" category during the year, providing that such reapportionments do not result in overfishing.