

[Federal Register: September 1, 1994]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
[I.D. 080494A]

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; **King** and **Tanner Crab** Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Notice of approval of amendments to fishery management plans.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces approval of Amendment 30 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), Amendment 27 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Area, and Amendment 3 to the FMP for the Commercial **King Crab** and **Tanner Crab** Fisheries of the BSAI. These amendments incorporate the provisions of the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan (Research Plan) into each FMP to provide a standard application of the Research Plan and associated observer coverage throughout applicable fisheries.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 15, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the FMP amendments and environmental assessment prepared for the North Pacific Fisheries Research Plan are available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510; telephone 907-271-2809.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim S. Rivera, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any FMP or FMP amendment it prepares to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for review and approval, disapproval, or partial disapproval. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) submitted Amendments 30, 27, and 3 for Secretarial approval on May 17, 1994. A notice of availability and request for comments on the amendments was published May 24, 1994, at 59 FR 26780; comments were requested through July 18, 1994. Because there are no regulatory changes required by the proposed FMP amendments, no proposed rule was published.

Amendments 30, 27, and 3 revise language in the FMPs for GOA groundfish, BSAI area groundfish, and BSAI **king** and **Tanner crab**, respectively, to reflect the development of the Research Plan and to indicate that observer requirements under those FMPs are as specified under the Research Plan.

The Research Plan was prepared by the Council under section 313 of the Magnuson Act, as amended by section 404 of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act, Pub. L. 102-582, and is intended to provide an industry-funded observer program and to promote management, conservation, and scientific understanding of groundfish, halibut, and **crab** resources off Alaska. A final rule, regulatory amendment, to

implement the Research Plan has been prepared and, when approved, will be published in the Federal Register. Amendments 30, 27, and 3, which bring the FMPs into conformance with the Research Plan, were approved August 15, 1994. No comments were received on these amendments during the comment period.

Classification

This action does not involve rulemaking and is exempt from OMB review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 15, 1994.

Nancy Foster, Ph.D.,
Deputy Assistant Administrative for Fisheries, National Marine
Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 94-21648 Filed 8-31-94; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F