

that the rule does not unduly burden the judicial system and meets the requirements of Sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of the Order.

The Office of Management and Budget has approved the collection of information contained in this final rule as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and has assigned clearance number 1018-0093 which expires on February 28, 2001. The Service will collect information through the use of the Service's form 3-200-45. The likely respondents will be sport hunters who wish to import trophies of polar bears taken while hunting in Canada. The Service will use the information to review permit applications and make decisions, according to criteria established in statutes and regulations, on the issuance or denial of permits. The applicant must respond to obtain a permit. A single response is required to obtain a benefit. The Service estimates the public reporting burden for this collection of information to vary from 15 minutes to 1.5 hours per response, with an average of 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The estimated number of likely respondents is less than 150, yielding a total annual reporting burden of 75 hours or less.

The Service prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the final rule published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 7302) on February 18, 1997, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and concluded in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on a review and evaluation of the information contained within the EA that there would be no significant impact on the human environment as a result of this regulatory action and that the preparation of an environmental impact statement on this action is not required by Section 102(2) of NEPA or its implementing regulations. Based on the review of current information and comments received on the February 2, 1998, proposed rule, the Service has determined that this EA is still current. The FONSI has been revised to reflect the regulatory actions taken by the Service to approve the Lancaster Sound and Norwegian Bay polar bear populations for issuance of permits to import personal sport-hunted polar bear trophies. The issuance of individual marine mammal permits is categorically excluded under 516 DM6, Appendix 1.

The Service has evaluated possible effects on Federally recognized Tribes

and determined that there will be no adverse effects to any Tribe.

References Cited

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- Taylor, M.K., D.P. DeMaster, F.L. Bunnell, and R.E. Schweinsburg. 1987. Modeling the sustainable harvest of female polar bears. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 51:811-820.
- Testa, J.W. 1997. Importation of Polar Bear Trophies from Canada under the 1994 Amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Report prepared for the Marine Mammal Commission, Washington, D.C. 9 pp.
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List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 18

Administrative practice and procedure, Alaska, Imports, Indians, Marine mammals, Oil and gas exploration, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, the Service hereby amends Part 18 of chapter I of Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations to read as follows:

PART 18—MARINE MAMMALS

1. The authority citation for part 18 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*

2. Amend § 18.30 by revising paragraph (i)(1) introductory text to read as follows:

§ 18.30 Polar Bear sport-hunted trophy import permits.

* * * * *

(i) *Findings.* * * *

(1) We have determined that the Northwest Territories, Canada, has a monitored and enforced sport-hunting program that meets issuance criteria of paragraphs (d) (4) and (5) of this section for the following populations: Southern Beaufort Sea, Northern Beaufort Sea, Viscount Melville Sound (subject to the lifting of the moratorium in this population), Western Hudson Bay, M'Clintock Channel, Lancaster Sound, and Norwegian Bay, and that:

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Dated: December 16, 1998.

Stephen C. Saunders,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[I.D. 122898F]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Community Development Quota Program

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

ACTION: Approval of amendments to the 1998 through 2000 Multispecies Community Development Plans.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the approval of recommendations made by the State of Alaska (State) for the amendments to the 1998 through 2000 Multispecies Community Development Plans (CDPs) under the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program. This action is necessary to announce NMFS's decision to approve the State's recommendation and is intended to further the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

DATES: Approval of the amendments to the CDPs and the 1999 CDQ and prohibited species quota (PSQ) allocations are effective January 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the findings made by NMFS in approving the State's recommendations may be obtained from the Alaska Region, National Marine

Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668,
Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sally Bibb, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The current pollock CDPs and pollock CDQ allocations expire on December 31, 1998. Under the regulations implementing the multispecies (MS) CDQ Program (63 FR 8356, February 19, 1998 and 63 FR 30381, June 4, 1998), pollock will be combined with the other groundfish species and managed under the MS CDQ regulations through the MS CDPs. NMFS initially approved the 1998 through 2000 MS CDPs on March 25, 1998, for Pacific halibut, fixed gear sablefish, and crab. Amendments to the 1998 through 2000 MS CDPs, which NMFS approved on September 16, 1998, added allocations for all groundfish species except pollock and fixed gear sablefish and for the prohibited species quotas. At that time, 1998 through 2000 allocation recommendations were approved for all groundfish and prohibited species, except arrowtooth flounder, squid, "other species," chinook salmon PSQ, and non-chinook salmon PSQ, which were approved for 1998 only. The State recommended that 1999 and 2000 allocation recommendations for these five CDQ and PSQ categories be made at the same time the allocation recommendations were made for pollock CDQ so that bycatch needs associated with the pollock CDQ and fixed gear sablefish CDQ, both of which are being integrated into the MS CDQ Program in 1999, could be addressed.

Eligible western Alaska communities submitted six applications for amendments to the MS CDPs for pollock and the related bycatch species to the

State under 50 CFR 679.30. The State conducted a public hearing on September 15, 1998, and consulted the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) concerning the proposed amendments to the MS CDPs during the Council's October 1998 meeting. The Council concurred in the State's recommendations to NMFS. The State conducted a second public hearing on November 16, 1998, to discuss possible changes to its allocation recommendations as a result of the State's determination that one of the CDQ groups had not submitted a complete application.

NMFS received the State's recommended allocations of pollock CDQ and related bycatch species on November 19, 1998. These recommendations are for 1999 allocations only so that the State can assess the impact of the American Fisheries Act on the pollock CDQ fisheries prior to making pollock CDQ allocation recommendations for 2000. In reviewing the proposed amendments to the MS CDPs, the State determined that one of the CDQ groups had not included one of its CDQ investments as a CDQ project. Therefore, the State determined that only five of the six proposed CDP amendments were complete. However, the State is recommending that all of the proposed amendments to the MS CDPs, and the associated CDQ and PSQ allocation percentages for 1999, be approved. It acknowledges that current disagreements about the definition of a CDQ project remain unresolved. The State intends to conduct a comprehensive review of the CDQ Program to address this issue. Upon completion of this review, the State will make recommendations for regulatory amendments, if necessary.

In approving the State's recommendations for the 1999 percentage allocations of pollock CDQ and other related bycatch species CDQ and PSQ, NMFS recognizes that further clarification of the definition of a CDQ project is needed. NMFS further recognizes that all of the CDPs must be reviewed to ensure that this definition is consistently applied. This type of review cannot be conducted in time for NMFS to make determinations and for the CDQ groups to revise and re-submit current CDPs prior to the start of the 1999 pollock CDQ fisheries next month. Therefore, NMFS agrees to accept the State's recommendations that the amendments to the 1998 through 2000 MS CDPs be approved to add the percentage allocations of pollock and other associated bycatch species for 1999.

Prior to review of the next CDQ or PSQ allocation recommendations for 2000, NMFS will review all current CDPs to determine whether CDQ investments are properly categorized as CDQ projects. The CDQ groups will be requested to amend their CDPs if necessary. In addition, NMFS will consult with the Council and the State to determine whether proposed regulatory amendments are necessary to clarify the definition of a CDQ project.

NMFS is approving the State's recommended percentage allocation for squid in 1999. Although squid likely will be removed from the CDQ Program in 1999 under an emergency rule implementing the American Fisheries Act, approval of this percentage allocation is necessary so that it will be in place if the emergency rule expires.

The allocations to each CDQ group are presented in the table below. NMFS's findings regarding this decision are also available (see **ADDRESSES**).

SELECTED MULTISPECIES GROUND FISH AND PROHIBITED SPECIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA ALLOCATIONS FOR 1999

Species or Species Group	APICDA (percent)	BBEDC (percent)	CBSFA (percent)	CVRF (percent)	NSEDC (percent)	YDFDA (percent)
Pollock	16	21	5	22	22	14
Arrowtooth Flounder	18	21	9	16	16	20
Squid	16	21	5	22	22	14
Other Species	19	22	9	14	15	21
Chinook Salmon PSQ	16	21	5	22	22	14
Non-chinook Salmon PSQ	16	21	5	22	22	14

APICDA = Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

BBEDC = Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

CBSFA = Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

CVRF = Coastal Villages Region Fund

NSEDC = Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

YDFDA = Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association

PSQ = prohibited species quota

Dated: January 5, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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