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flexibility analysis prepared for the amendments are available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510; telephone: 907-271-2809.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David C. Harn, Fishery Management Biologist, Alaska Region, NMFS at 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 for review and approval, disapproval, or partial disapproval. The Magnuson Act also requires that the Secretary, upon reviewing the plan or amendment, immediately publish a notice in the Federal Register that the plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve these amendments.

The three FMPs and a companion regulatory amendment for the halibut fishery would establish a 3-year moratorium on the entry of new vessels into the groundfish fishery of the GOA and BSAI, the king and Tanner crab fishery of the BSAI, and halibut fishery in and off of Alaska. The purpose of the moratorium is to curtail increases in harvesting capacity and provide industry stability, while the Council assesses long-term management alternatives for its comprehensive management plan.

The moratorium would be implemented through the issuance of Federal vessel permits for groundfish in the GOA and BSAI, Federal vessel permits for crab in the BSAI, and International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) vessel permits for halibut in the Convention waters in and off of Alaska. Vessel permits for these fisheries would be issued only to vessels that had a historical landing in a moratorium fishery from January 1, 1980, to February 9, 1992.

The companion regulatory amendment would effect changes to rules governing the harvest of Pacific halibut by U.S. fishermen in and off of Alaska. The Council does not have an FMP for halibut. The domestic fishery for halibut in and off Alaska is managed by the IPHC, as provided by the Convention between the United States and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea (Convention), and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act. The Convention and the Halibut Act

authorize the respective Regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Magnuson Act to develop regulations that are in addition to, but not in conflict with, regulations adopted by the IPHC affecting the U.S. halibut fishery. Under this authority, the Council may develop, for approval by the Secretary, limited access policies for the Pacific halibut fishery in Convention waters in and off of Alaska.

"Convention waters" means the maritime areas off the west coast of the United States and Canada as described in Article I of the Convention (see 16 U.S.C. 773(d)). The Council acted under this authority in recommending its proposed moratorium for the halibut fishery. Regulations governing the harvesting of Pacific halibut are set forth at 50 CFR parts 301 and 676.

Regulations proposed by the Council to implement these amendments are scheduled to be published within 15 days of this document.

Dated: May 8, 1994.

David S. Crockett,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 94-11549 Filed 5-9-94; 2:26 pm]

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50 CFR Part 676

[D. 050484A]

Limited Access Management of Federal Fisheries In and Off of Alaska

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of amendments to fishery management plans and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 30 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) and Amendment 34 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) for Secretarial review; comments are requested from the public. Amendment 30 would raise the sablefish Community Development Quota (CDQ) reserve allocation limit from 12 percent to 33 percent. This action is intended to allow total allocation of the sablefish CDQ reserve.

DATES: Comments on the FMP amendments must be submitted by July 8, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the FMP amendments must be submitted to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, 709 W. 9th, room 453, Juneau, AK 99801 or P.O. Box 21608, Juneau, AK 99802. Attention: Lori J. Gravel. Copies of the amendments and the regulatory impact review prepared for the amendments are available from the Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Lepore, Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Alaska Region, NMFS, at 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) requires that each Regional Fishery Management Council submit any fishery management plan or plan amendment it prepares to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for review and approval, disapproval, or partial disapproval. The Magnuson Act also requires that the Secretary, upon reviewing the plan or amendment, immediately publish a notice that the plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the amendment for implementation.

Amendment 30 to the FMP for the Groundfish Fishery of the BSAI would raise the allocation limit of sablefish community development quota reserve for qualified applicants from 12 percent to 33 percent. The 33 percent limit would ensure that NMFS would be able to allocate 100 percent of the sablefish CDQ reserves to qualified CDQ applicants. Implementation of Amendment 30 would not change the amount of sablefish available for harvest by fishermen participating in the Pacific halibut and sablefish individual fishing quota programs. The sablefish CDQ reserve, 20 percent of the annual fixed gear total allowable catch of sablefish for each management area in the BSAI, would be the same under the proposed action as it is under the current FMP text. Amendment 34 to the FMP for Groundfish of the GOA would correct the inadvertent inclusion of the CDQ program in that FMP by removing and reserving Section 4.4.1.1.8 *Community Development Quotas*. Copies of the amendments may be obtained from the Council (see ADDRESSES).

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Dated: May 6, 1994.

Richard H. Schaefer,

Director of Office of Fisheries, Conservation
and Management, National Marine Fisheries
Service.

[FR Doc. 94-11495 Filed 5-8-94; 2:28 pm]

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