

[Federal Register: October 6, 1994]

=====

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**50 CFR Part 675**

[I.D. 092694A]

Groundfish of 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 (FMP) and request for comments.

-----

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the North Pacific Fishery Management Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 21a to the FMP for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public. The amendment would establish an area around the Pribilof Islands closed to trawl fishing to protect crab, seabird and marine mammal populations.

DATES: Comments on the FMP amendment should be submitted by November 29, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the FMP amendment should be submitted to Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Region, NMFS., P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802 Attn: Lori Gravel, or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK. Copies of Amendment 21a and the environmental assessment/regulatory impact review prepared for the amendment are available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen R. Varosi, 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 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 receiving an FMP or amendment, immediately publish a notice that the FMP 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 FMP or amendment.

If approved, Amendment 21a would establish an area closed to

fishing with trawl gear. The area surrounds the waters off St. Paul, St. George, Walrus and Otter Islands (the Pribilof Islands in the BSAI), to protect habitat areas of importance to blue king and Korean hair crab, seabird and marine mammal populations.

Dated: September 29, 1994

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

[FR Doc. 94-24683 Filed 9-30-94; 4:11 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P