NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 08/30/2010

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 08/30/2010

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201008-0648-011
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: American Fisheries Act: Vessel and Processor Permit Applications
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0393
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 08/31/2013 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	44	157	119
New	76	181	124
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	32	24	5
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
American Fisheries Act: Vessel Replacement Application	NA	AFA Application for Replacement Vessel	
AFA Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit Application	NA	AFA Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit Application	
Contract Fishing by Non-Member Vessels			50 CFR 679.62
Chinook PSQ Allocation Application For Eligibility	NA	Application for approval as an entity to receive transferable chinook salmon PSC allocation	
Transfer Chinook PSQ Allocation	NA	Application to transfer chinook salmon PSC	

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PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/NMFS

2. OMB control number b. [ ] None
a. 0648 - 0393

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [ ] New Collection
b. [✔] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [ ] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [ ] Three years from approval date b. [✔] Other Specify:____/____

7. Title American Fisheries Act: Vessel and Processor Permit Applications

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)

9. Keywords "Fisheries," "Fishing" and "Fishing Vessels"

10. Abstract

In response to the American Fisheries Act (AFA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) developed a management program for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) pollock complete with a set of permits. This revision incorporates the Chinook Prohibited Species Quota (PQS) Program into the collection. The Chinook PSQ Program is established to promote reduction of Chinook salmon PSQ in the BSAI pollock fishery to the extent practicable while achieving optimum yield in the pollock fishery. The focus of the Chinook PSQ Program is the BSAI pollock fishery because this trawl fishery catches up to 95 percent of the Chinook salmon taken as PSQ in the BSAI groundfish fisheries. Non-Chinook salmon PSQ reduction measures will also remain in effect.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. x Individuals or households d. ___ Farms
b. P Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [ ] Voluntary
b. [✔] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents 61
b. Total annual responses 76
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically 80 %
c. Total annual hours requested 181
d. Current OMB inventory 157
e. Difference 24
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change 24
2. Adjustment

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M) 0
c. Total annualized cost requested 0
d. Current OMB inventory 0
e. Difference 0
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change
2. Adjustment

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management
b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research
c. ___ General purpose statistics g. P Regulatory or compliance
d. ___ Audit

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [ ] Recordkeeping b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [✔] Reporting
1. [✔] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [✔] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [✔] Other (describe) may provide revisions

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[ ] Yes [✔] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Patsy A. Bearden
Phone: (907) 586-7008

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

- (i) Why the information is being collected;
- (ii) Use of information;
- (iii) Burden estimate;
- (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
- (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
- (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature signed by James P. Burgess	Date 02/26/2010
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature signed by Sarah Brabson	Date 02/27/2010

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT: VESSEL AND PROCESSOR PERMIT APPLICATIONS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0393

INTRODUCTION

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) and the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). The American Fisheries Act, 16 U.S.C. 1851 imposed major structural changes on the BSAI pollock fishery. Regulations implementing the FMPs appear at 50 CFR part 679.

This collection-of-information is revised to support a new program, the Chinook Salmon Prohibited Species Catch Program (Chinook PSC Program), in conjunction with RIN 0648-AX89.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The Chinook PSC Program is established to promote reduction of Chinook salmon PSC in the Bering Sea pollock fishery to the extent practicable while achieving optimum yield in the pollock fishery. The focus of the Chinook PSC Program is the Bering Sea pollock fishery because this trawl fishery catches up to 95 percent of the Chinook salmon taken as PSC in the BSAI groundfish fisheries. Non-Chinook salmon PSC reduction measures will also remain in effect.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

Under Amendment 91, the PSC limit would be 60,000 Chinook salmon if some or all of the pollock industry participates in an industry-developed contractual arrangement, called an incentive plan agreement (IPA) that establishes an incentive program to minimize bycatch at all levels of Chinook salmon abundance. A 47,591 Chinook salmon PSC limit would apply fleet-wide if industry does not form any IPAs. This PSC limit of 47,591 Chinook salmon is the approximate 10-year average Chinook salmon bycatch from 1997 to 2006.

NMFS would issue transferable Chinook salmon PSC allocations under either the 60,000 or 47,591 Chinook salmon PSC limits to eligible entities representing the catcher/processor sector, the mothership sector, inshore cooperatives, and Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups. Transferable allocations would provide the pollock fleet the flexibility to maximize the harvest

of pollock while maintaining Chinook salmon bycatch at or below the PSC limit. Transfers are a voluntary request, initiated by the entity transferring Chinook salmon PSC allocations, to NMFS to move a specific amount of a Chinook salmon PSC from a transferor's (sender's) account to a transferee's (receiver's) account. NMFS's approval is required for any transfer.

Transferability is expected to mitigate the variation in the distribution or encounter rates of Chinook salmon among the recipients of the transferable allocations in a given season by allowing recipients to accrue a larger portion of the PSC allocations in order to harvest their full pollock allocation or to transfer surplus allocation to other sectors, including post-delivery transfers. Transferable allocations would provide the Bering Sea pollock fleet the flexibility to fully harvest the pollock total allowable catch while maintaining the overall Chinook salmon PSC at or below the PSC limit.

NMFS may issue transferable Chinook salmon PSC allocations annually to the following four AFA sectors:

AFA Sector:	**Eligible Participants are:**
One entity formed to represent the AFA catcher/processor sector	AFA catcher vessels delivering to AFA catcher/processors
One entity formed to represent the AFA mothership sector	AFA catcher vessels harvesting pollock for processing by AFA motherships
Seven AFA inshore cooperatives	AFA catcher vessels harvesting pollock for processing by AFA inshore processors
CDQ entities	Six CDQ entities

Chinook salmon PSC allocations may be transferred to any other entity eligible to receive transferable Chinook salmon PSC allocation. Transferable allocations would allow the salmon allocation holder to obtain more salmon within an allocation period (e.g., the A season) or to transfer salmon to another sector, cooperative, or CDQ group in a season. The transfer process would require the different pollock entities to monitor their respective members' salmon PSC to ensure the sector's collective salmon allocation was not exceeded. An entity could be subject to enforcement actions if its sector exceeded its annual salmon PSC cap.

NMFS may issue transferable Chinook salmon PSC allocations to the entities, if these entities meet all of the applicable requirements. Transfers of Chinook salmon bycatch allocations among eligible entities are subject to the following restrictions:

- Entities receiving transferable allocations under the 60,000 PSC limit may only transfer to and from other entities receiving allocations under the 60,000 PSC limit.

- Entities receiving transferable allocations under the 47,591 PSC limit may only transfer to and from other entities receiving allocations under the 47,591 PSC limit.

- Chinook salmon PSC allocations may not be transferred between A season and B season, among entities from one entity's A season allocation to another entity's B season

allocation, or from any entity's B season allocation to that entity's A season allocation or any other entity's A season allocation.

If an entity's allocation account balance falls below zero in a season, the entity may receive transfers of Chinook salmon PSC to cover overages for that season. Transfers are allowed to cover overages from all fishing trips including Chinook salmon PSC from fishing trips in progress at the time the account balance first falls below zero. Post delivery transfers are limited to the amount of Chinook salmon PSC necessary to bring the entity's account balance to zero. If an entity is unable to achieve a zero balance, overages will be assessed after June 25 for the A season allocations and December 1 for the B season allocations.

a. Application for Approval as an Entity Eligible to Receive Transferable Chinook Salmon PSC Allocations.

CDQ groups and inshore cooperatives do not have to submit anything to NMFS to be authorized to receive transferable allocations of Chinook PSC. The CDQ groups already receive transferable allocations of Chinook and non-Chinook PSC under the current CDQ Program (since 1999). These groups are known to NMFS and they have a "NMFS Person ID. Inshore cooperatives already are permitted by NMFS to receive pollock allocations.

Two entities need to submit the application to be authorized to receive transferable allocations of Chinook: (1) an entity representing the catcher/processor sector, and (2) an entity representing the mothership sector. Neither of these sectors currently are recognized as a legal entity by NMFS to receive allocations or be responsible for overages.

NMFS will approve an entity to receive transferable Chinook salmon PSC allocations if a complete application and authorization contract are received by NMFS by November 1. The initial application and authorization contract must be submitted by November 1 of the year before the Chinook salmon PSC allocations are effective. Once submitted, the authorization contract attached to the application is valid until amended or revoked by the parties to the contract.

Additions or deletions to the vessels represented by the entity may be done one time per year for subsequent years by submitting an amended contract and revised vessel information by the deadline, unless additions or deletions are as a result of a replacement vessel under paragraph 679.21(f)(7) of this section. An amendment to the contract related to a replacement vessel may be made at any time upon submission of an amended application and a copy of the AFA permit issued under § 679.4 for the replacement vessel.

An initial or amended application and contract must be received by NMFS no later than 1700 hours A.l.t. on November 1 of the year prior to the fishing year for which the Chinook salmon PSC allocations are effective.

The authorization contract authorizes the entity to act on behalf of the vessel owner for purposes of receiving and transferring Chinook salmon PSC allocations and to be responsible for receiving legal papers on behalf of the vessel owners in the sector. This authorization to represent the sector members is needed under both the 60,000 and the 47,591 PSC limit. This contract is

different from the Incentive Plan Agreement (IPA), which is a contract among vessel owners and CDQ groups to participate in an incentive plan they have developed to minimize bycatch. The IPA applies only under the 60,000 cap.
The contract must document that:

- All parties to the contract agree that the entity, the entity's representative, and the entity's agent for service of process named in the application represent them for purposes of receiving transferable allocations of Chinook salmon PSC allocations.

- The entity's representative and agent for service of process are authorized to act on behalf of the parties to the contract.

- The applicant is certified including signatures and printed names and date of signature for the owners of each of the AFA permitted vessels identified in the application. (The names of the vessel owners signing the contract must be the same as the names of on the United States Coast Guard (USCG) vessel documentation.)

The applicant must submit a paper copy of the application with all information fields accurately filled in.

Application for Approval as an Entity Eligible to Receive Transferable Chinook Salmon PSC Allocation
Contact information.
Name and NMFS person ID of entity
Name of entity's representative and Name of agent for service of process if different from representative
Permanent business mailing address and temporary business mailing address (if applicable)
Business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address of the entity's representative.
Certification.
Signature and printed name of entity's representative
Signature and printed name of agent for service of process, if different from representative
Date of signature(s)
Vessel information for each AFA permitted vessel that the entity will represent.
Vessel name
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) vessel registration number
Federal Fisheries Permit number
AFA permit number
Attachment: Authorization Contract

Approval as an Entry Eligible to Receive Transferable Chinook Salmon PSC Allocation, Respondent	
Estimated number of respondents	**2**
1 mothership entity	
1 catcher/processor entity	
Total annual responses	**2**
1 response per year	
Total burden hours = 8 hr	**16 hr**
Total personnel cost	**$400**
Total miscellaneous cost (3.02)	**$3**
Mail (1.26 x 2 = 2.52)	
Photocopy (5 pages x 0.05 x 2 = 0.50)	

Approval as an Entry Eligible to Receive Transferable Chinook Salmon PSC Allocations, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	**2**
Total burden hours = 2 hr	**4**
Total personnel cost	**$100**
Total miscellaneous cost	**0**

b. Application for Transfer of Bering Sea Chinook Salmon PSC Allocation

A higher level of salmon PSC accountability is required in order to carry out entity-to-entity transfers or seasonal rollovers. Enforcement costs would be greater for transferable allocations and rollovers than those that would be expected for fishery level caps.

Potential Number of Transferable Chinook Salmon PSC Allocations

Entities That Could Receive Transferable Allocations					
	Catcher/Processor Sector	**Mothership Sector**	**Inshore Co-Ops**	**CDQ**	**Total Transferable**
A Season	1	1	7	6	15
B Season	1	1	7	6	15
Annual total	2	2	14	12	30

Including the two new sectors, there would be a maximum of 15 different Chinook salmon PSC accounts each season. Separate allocations would be made for the A season and the B season for a total of up to 30 transferable PSC allocation accounts each year. This number of transferable PSC accounts could exist under either the 60,000 Chinook salmon PSC limit or the 47,591 Chinook salmon PSC limit.

The entity receiving a transferable Chinook salmon PSC allocation from NMFS would be authorized to transfer all or a portion of the entity's salmon PSC allocation to another entity or receive a transfer from another entity (authorized to sign transfer request forms), and be responsible for any penalties assessed for exceeding the entity's salmon PSC allocation.

Transfers are a voluntary request to NMFS, initiated by the entity transferring surplus Chinook salmon allocations, to move a specific amount of a Chinook salmon PSC allocation from one entity's account to another entity's account. NMFS would review the transferring entity's catch account to ensure sufficient salmon was available to transfer; therefore, NMFS's approval would be required before a transaction could be completed. Transfers to eligible entities could occur at anytime in a season but transfers cannot be made between the B and A seasons.

Requests for transfers may be submitted to NMFS either electronically or non-electronically through a form available on the NMFS Alaska Region website (http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov).

NMFS will design computer programs to review the transferor's catch account during a transfer request to ensure sufficient Chinook salmon is available to transfer and, if it were, to make that transfer effective immediately.

NMFS will evaluate overages of Chinook salmon PSC on June 25 for the A season and on December 1 for the B season. This would provide entities 15 days after the end of the A season and 30 days after the end of the B season to obtain post delivery transfers to reduce or eliminate any overages. NMFS proposes that 15 days after the A season is an appropriate amount of time to provide for post delivery transfers because most A season pollock fishing is completed well before the end of the season on June 10. NMFS needs to resolve A season account balances relatively quickly so that any necessary adjustments can be made to the B season account balances before B season pollock fishing begins.

NMFS would allow 30 days after the end of the B season for post delivery transfers because pollock fishing will cease for the remainder of the year on November 1. NMFS does not need to make further adjustments to account balances within a specified period of time at the end of the year. If, after allowing for post-delivery transfers to cover an overage, an entity exceeded its Chinook salmon PSC allocation, the entity would be subject to an enforcement action for violating NMFS regulations.

Application for Transfer of Bering Sea Chinook Salmon PSC Allocations

Non-Electronic

- Identification of transferor
  - Name and NMFS person ID
  - Permanent (and temporary, if applicable) Business Mailing Address
  - Business Telephone No., Business Fax No, and Business E-mail address:
- Identification of transferee
  - Name and NMFS person ID
  - Permanent (and temporary, if applicable) Business Mailing Address
  - Business Telephone No., Business Fax No, and Business E-mail address:
- Chinook Salmon PSC transferred
  - Number of Chinook salmon
  - Date of Transfer
  - Whether A Season or B Season

Electronic

- Identification of transferor
  - Transferor selects the transferee.
  - NMFS person ID, password and Transfer
- Chinook PSC Amount Transferred
  - Number of Chinook PSC
  - Date of Transfer
  - Whether A Season or B Season
- Identification of Transferee.
  - Transferee accepts transfer
  - NMFS person ID, password, and Transfer Key

Transfer Bering Sea Chinook Salmon PSC Allocation, Respondents	
Total number of respondents 15 per season.	**15**
Total number of responses (2) Separate allocations for A season and B season	**30**
Total time burden 15/60 = 0.25 hr x 30 = 7.5 hr	**8 hr**
Total personnel cost (25 x 8)	**$200**
Total miscellaneous cost (1.50) Online to NMFS (0.05 x 30 = 1.50)	**$2**

Transfer Bering Sea Chinook Salmon PSC Allocation, Federal Government	
Total number of responses	**30**
Total time burden = 0.25 hr x 30 = 7.5 hr	**8 hr**
Total personnel cost ($25)	**$200**
Total miscellaneous cost	**0**

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the following paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

Forms may be downloaded from the NMFS Alaska Region Web site **http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov.** The Application for Transfer of Chinook PSC allocation may be submitted online at this Web site. The Application for Eligibility to Receive Transferable PSC has an attachment with original signatures and must be mailed to the Regional Administrator, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, or sent by courier to the Office of the Regional Administrator, 709 West 9th St., Juneau, AK 99801.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

No duplication exists with other information collections.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

The proposed action applies only to those entities that participate in the directed pollock trawl fishery in the Bering Sea. The only small entities that are directly regulated by this action are the six western Alaska CDQ organizations, and the impact is not significant.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

The purpose of the proposed action is to minimize Chinook salmon PSC to the extent practicable while achieving optimum yield from the pollock fishery. The proposed action is necessary to ensure long-term conservation and abundance of salmon, maintain a healthy marine ecosystem, provide maximum benefit to fishermen and communities that depend on salmon and pollock, and comply with the Magnuson–Stevens Act. If the information were not collected annually, NMFS would be unable to achieve these goals.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

No special circumstances exist.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

NMFS Alaska Region will submit a proposed rule Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) 0648-AX89 coincident with this submission, requesting comments from the public.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift is provided under this program.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

As stated on the forms, the information collected is confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It is also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

This information collection does not involve information of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

Estimated total respondents: 61, increased from 44. Estimated total responses: 76, increased from 44. Estimated total burden: 181, increased from 157 hr. Estimated total personnel costs: $4,513, increased from $3,913.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

Estimated total miscellaneous costs: $124, increased from $119.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Estimated total burden: 39, increased from 27 hr. Estimated total personnel cost: $975, increased from $675.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

Program Change. This action describes new management measures to minimize Chinook salmon PSC in the Bering Sea pollock fisheries.

Application for Approval as an Entity to Receive Transferable Chinook Salmon PSC Allocations (New)

an increase of 2 respondents and responses, 2 instead of 0
an increase of 16 hr burden, 16 instead of 0
an increase of $400 personnel costs, $400 instead of $0

Application for Transfer of Chinook Salmon PSC Allocations (New)

an increase of 15 respondents, 15 instead of 0
an increase of 30 responses, 30 instead of 0
an increase of 8 hr burden, 8 instead of 0
an increase of $200 personnel costs, $200 instead of $0
an increase of $2 miscellaneous costs, $2 instead of $0

These already existing information collections are not changed:

Application for AFA Permit for Replacement Vessel: 1 respondent and response, 30 minutes' burden (rounded to 1 hour), $13 personnel costs and $6 miscellaneous costs.

Application for AFA Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit: 8 respondents and responses, 16 hours' burden, $400 personnel costs and $45 miscellaneous costs.

Contract Fishing by Non-Member Vessels: 35 respondents and responses, 140 hours' burden, $3,500 personnel cost and $68 miscellaneous costs.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The results of this collection-of-information will not be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

Not applicable.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

Not applicable.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL AS AN ENTITY TO RECEIVE TRANSFERABLE CHINOOK SALMON PSC ALLOCATION

U.S. Dept. of Commerce/NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Sustainable Fisheries Division
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668
Fax: 907-586-7131
Telephone: 907-586-7228

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION CONTRACT ATTACHMENT

An authorization contract containing the following information must be attached:

- Information that documents that all vessel owners party to the contract agree that the entity, the entity's representative, and the entity's agent for service of process named in this application represent them for purposes of receiving transferable allocations of Chinook salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC).
- A statement that the entity's representative and agent for service of process are authorized to act on behalf of the vessel owners party to the contract and are responsible to comply with all applicable requirements of this part.

BLOCK A – CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Name of Entity:		2. NMFS Person ID:
3. Name of Entity's Representative	4. Name of Agent for Service of Process, if different from representative	
5. Permanent Business Mailing Address:	6. Temporary Business Mailing Address (if applicable):	
7. Business Telephone No.:	8. Business Fax No.:	9. Business E-mail address:

BLOCK B – AFFIRMATION

[__] (*Check if Applicable*)

I claim, swear, and affirm that each eligible vessel owner, from whom I received written notification, requesting to join this sector entity has been allowed to join this sector entity subject to the same terms and conditions that have been agreed on by, and are applicable to, all other parties to the sector entity.

BLOCK C – CERTIFICATION		
Under penalty of perjury, I certify by my signature below that I have examined the information and the claims provided on this application and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information presented here is true, correct, and complete.		
1. Printed Name of Representative:	2. Signature of Representative:	3. Date Signed:
4. Printed Name of Agent for Service of Process (if different from Representative):	5. Signature of Agent:	6. Date Signed:

BLOCK D – VESSEL IDENTIFICATION		
For each AFA permitted vessel that the entity will represent, provide the following information. Attach additional sheet if necessary.		
Name of vessel	ADF&G No.	Federal Fisheries Permit No.

Instructions

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL AS AN ENTITY TO RECEIVE TRANSFERABLE CHINOOK SALMON PSC ALLOCATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

An authorization contract containing the following information must be attached:

- Information that documents that all vessel owners party to the contract agree that the entity, the entity's representative, and the entity's agent for service of process named in this application represent them for purposes of receiving transferable allocations of Chinook salmon Prohibited Species Catch (PSC).

- A statement that the entity's representative and agent for service of process are authorized to act on behalf of the vessel owners party to the contract and are responsible to comply with all applicable requirements of this part.

Once submitted, the contract attached to this application is valid until amended or revoked by the parties to the contract.

Deadlines.

- The initial application and contract must be received by **October 1**.

- Additions or deletions to the vessel owners party to the contract or the list of vessels represented by the entity must be received by **December 1**.

Additionally

- Retain a copy of completed application for your records.

- Submit the completed application online at:

Website: http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/

- If you have any questions, or if you need any assistance in completing the application, please call NMFS Sustainable Fisheries at **907-586-7228.**

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

BLOCK A – CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Name of Entity: Legibly print or type the name of the entity requesting transfer.

2. NMFS Person ID. NMFS will assign this number, if necessary.

3. Name of Entity's Representative. Name of representative of entity.

4. Name of Agent for Service of Process, if different from representative.

5. Permanent Business Mailing Address: number, street, city, state, and zip code or post office box number

6. Temporary Business Mailing Address (if applicable): If appropriate, enter the temporary business mailing

address (the address to which the transfer documentation should be sent, if different from the permanent address).

7. Business Telephone Number, including area code.

8. Business Fax Number, including area code.

9. Business E-mail address.

BLOCK B – AFFIRMATION
Check (Y) this box if applicable.

BLOCK C – CERTIFICATION

1. Enter printed name and signature of the Representative, and date signed.

2. Enter printed name and signature of Agent for Service of Process (if different from the Representative), and date signed.

BLOCK D – VESSEL INFORMATION

For each AFA permitted vessel that the entity will represent, provide the following information. Attach additional sheet if necessary.

1. Vessel Name
2. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Vessel Registration Number of vessel
3. Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) Number of vessel

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 8 hours per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching the existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) Notwithstanding any other 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 Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number; 2) This information is mandatory and is required to manage commercial fishing efforts under 50 CFR part 679 and under section 402(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq*.) as amended in 2006; 3) Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. They are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF BERING SEA CHINOOK SALMON PSC ALLOCATIONS

U.S. Dept. of Commerce/NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Sustainable Fisheries Division
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668
Fax: 907-586-7131
Telephone: 907-586-7228

This application for transfer of Bering Sea Chinook salmon PSC must be received **by NMFS by June 25** for the ***A season*** and **by December 1** for the ***B season***.

BLOCK A – IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSFEROR		
1. Name of Transferor:		2. NMFS Person ID:
3. Permanent Business Mailing Address:	4. Temporary Business Mailing Address (if applicable):	
5. Business Telephone No.:	6. Business Fax No.:	7. Business E-mail address:

BLOCK B – IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSFEREE		
1. Name of Transferee:		2. NMFS Person ID:
3. Permanent Business Mailing Address:	4. Temporary Business Mailing Address (if applicable):	
5. Business Telephone No.:	6. Business Fax No.:	7. Business E-mail address:

BLOCK C – CHINOOK SALMON PSC AMOUNT TRANSFERRED			
Date of Transfer	Number of Chinook salmon	A Season ☑	B Season ☑

Instructions

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF CHINOOK SALMON PSC ALLOCATIONS

NMFS will issue Bering Sea Chinook salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) allocations to the catcher/processor sector entity, the mothership sector entity, inshore cooperatives, and CDQ groups. NMFS will issue separate PSC allocations for the A season and the B season. PSC remaining from the A season could be used in the B season ("rollover").

The entity receiving a transferable Chinook salmon PSC allocation from NMFS is authorized to transfer all or a portion of the entity's salmon PSC allocation to another entity or receive a transfer from another entity (authorized to sign transfer request forms), and be responsible for any penalties assessed for exceeding the entity's salmon PSC allocation.

Transfers are a voluntary request to NMFS, initiated by the entity transferring surplus Chinook salmon allocations, to move a specific amount of a Chinook salmon PSC allocation from one entity's account to another entity's account. NMFS will review the transferring entity's catch account to ensure sufficient salmon is available to transfer. Transfers to eligible entities may occur at any time in a season but transfers cannot be made between the B and A seasons. Entities may receive transfers of PSC to cover overages ("post-delivery transfers").

Requests for transfers may be submitted to NMFS either electronically or non-electronically through a form available on the NMFS Alaska Region website (http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov). NMFS will design computer programs to review the transferor's catch account during a transfer request to ensure sufficient Chinook salmon is available to transfer and, if it were, to make that transfer effective immediately.

NMFS will notify the transferor and transferee once the application has been received and approved. A transfer of PSC is not effective until approved by NMFS.

Type or print legibly in ink; retain a copy of completed application for your records.

When complete

Mail application to: **NMFS Alaska Region**
Sustainable Fisheries Division
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Or fax to: **907-586-7131**

Or submit online to: **http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov**

If you need additional information regarding transfers of PSC, contact Sustainable Fisheries Division at 907-586-7228. Also, regulations at 50 CFR part 679, Subpart C, are available at NMFS Alaska Region web site at http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

Enter the following information for each transfer.

BLOCK A – IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSFEROR

1. Name of Transferor
2. NMFS Person ID
3. Permanent Business Mailing Address
4. Temporary Business Mailing Address (if applicable)
5. Business Telephone No.
6. Business Fax No.
7. Business E-mail address

BLOCK B – IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSFEREE

1. Name of Transferee
2. NMFS Person ID
3. Permanent Business Mailing Address
4. Temporary Business Mailing Address (if applicable):
5. Business Telephone No.
6. Business Fax No.
7. Business E-mail address:

BLOCK C – CHINOOK PSC AMOUNT TRANSFERRED

1. Date of transfer
2. Number of Chinook Salmon
3. Indicate whether A Season or B Season

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching the existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) Notwithstanding any other 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 Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number; 2) This information is mandatory and is required to manage commercial fishing efforts under 50 CFR part 679, under section 402(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq*.) as amended in 2006; 3) Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. They are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND POLICY 16 U.S.C. 1801

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) The fish off the coasts of the United States, the highly migratory species of the high seas, the species which dwell on or in the Continental Shelf appertaining to the United States, and the anadromous species which spawn in United States rivers or estuaries, constitute valuable and renewable natural resources. These fishery resources contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of the Nation and provide recreational opportunities.

104-297

(2) Certain stocks of fish have declined to the point where their survival is threatened, and other stocks of fish have been so substantially reduced in number that they could become similarly threatened as a consequence of (A) increased fishing pressure, (B) the inadequacy of fishery resource conservation and management practices and controls, or (C) direct and indirect habitat losses which have resulted in a diminished capacity to support existing fishing levels.

(3) Commercial and recreational fishing constitutes a major source of employment and contributes significantly to the economy of the Nation. Many coastal areas are dependent upon fishing and related activities, and their economies have been badly damaged by the overfishing of fishery resources at an ever-increasing rate over the past decade. The activities of massive foreign fishing fleets in waters adjacent to such coastal areas have contributed to such damage, interfered with domestic fishing efforts, and caused destruction of the fishing gear of United States fishermen.

(4) International fishery agreements have not been effective in preventing or terminating the overfishing of these valuable fishery resources. There is danger that irreversible effects from overfishing will take place before an effective international agreement on fishery management jurisdiction can be negotiated, signed, ratified, and implemented.

(5) Fishery resources are finite but renewable. If placed under sound management before overfishing has caused irreversible effects, the fisheries can be conserved and maintained so as to provide optimum yields on a continuing basis.

104-297

(6) A national program for the conservation and management of the fishery resources of the United States is necessary to prevent overfishing, to rebuild overfished stocks, to insure conservation, to facilitate long-term protection of essential fish habitats, and to realize the full potential of the Nation's fishery resources.

95-354

(7) A national program for the development of fisheries which are underutilized or not utilized by the United States fishing industry, including bottom fish off Alaska, is necessary to assure that our citizens benefit from the employment, food supply, and revenue which could be generated thereby.

101-627

(8) The collection of reliable data is essential to the effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the fishery resources of the United States.

104-297

(9) One of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats. Habitat considerations should receive increased attention for the conservation and management of fishery resources of the United States.

104-297

(10) Pacific Insular Areas contain unique historical, cultural, legal, political, and geographical circumstances which make fisheries resources important in sustaining their economic growth.

109-479

(11) A number of the Fishery Management Councils have demonstrated significant progress in integrating ecosystem considerations in fisheries management using the existing authorities provided under this Act.

109-479

(12) International cooperation is necessary to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and other fishing practices which may harm the sustainability of living marine resources and disadvantage the United States fishing industry.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is therefore declared to be the purposes of the Congress in this Act—

99-659, 101-627, 102-251

(1) to take immediate action to conserve and manage the fishery resources found off the coasts of the United States, and the anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources of the United States, by exercising (A) sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing all fish within the exclusive economic zone established by Presidential Proclamation 5030, dated March 10, 1983, and (B) exclusive fishery management authority beyond the exclusive economic zone over such anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources[, and fishery resources in the special areas]*;

(2) to support and encourage the implementation and enforcement of international fishery agreements for the conservation and management of highly migratory species, and to encourage the negotiation and implementation of additional such agreements as necessary;

104-297

(3) to promote domestic commercial and recreational fishing under sound conservation and management principles, including the promotion of catch and release programs in recreational fishing;

(4) to provide for the preparation and implementation, in accordance with national standards, of fishery management plans which will achieve and maintain, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery;

101-627

(5) to establish Regional Fishery Management Councils to exercise sound judgment in the stewardship of fishery resources through the preparation, monitoring, and revision of such plans under circumstances (A) which will enable the States, the fishing industry, consumer and environmental organizations, and other interested persons to participate in, and advise on, the establishment and administration of such plans, and (B) which take into account the social and economic needs of the States;

95-354, 96-561, 104-297

(6) to encourage the development by the United States fishing industry of fisheries which are currently underutilized or not utilized by United States fishermen, including bottom fish off Alaska, and to that end, to ensure that optimum yield determinations promote such development in a non-wasteful manner; and

104-297

(7) to promote the protection of essential fish habitat in the review of projects conducted under Federal permits, licenses, or other authorities that affect or have the potential to affect such habitat.

(c) POLICY.—It is further declared to be the policy of the Congress in this Act—

(1) to maintain without change the existing territorial or other ocean jurisdiction of the United States for all purposes other than the conservation and management of fishery resources, as provided for in this Act;

(2) to authorize no impediment to, or interference with, recognized legitimate uses of the high seas, except as necessary for the conservation and management of fishery resources, as provided for in this Act;

101-627, **104-297**

(3) to assure that the national fishery conservation and management program utilizes, and is based upon, the best scientific information available; involves, and is responsive to the needs of, interested and affected States and citizens; considers efficiency; draws upon Federal, State, and academic capabilities in carrying out research, administration, management, and enforcement; considers the effects of fishing on immature fish and encourages development of practical measures that minimize bycatch and avoid unnecessary waste of fish; and is workable and effective;

(4) to permit foreign fishing consistent with the provisions of this Act;

99-659, 101-627

(5) to support and encourage active United States efforts to obtain internationally acceptable agreements which provide for effective conservation and management of fishery resources, and to secure agreements to regulate fishing by vessels or persons beyond the exclusive economic zones of any nation;

101-627

(6) to foster and maintain the diversity of fisheries in the United States; and

104-297

(7) to ensure that the fishery resources adjacent to a Pacific Insular Area, including resident or migratory stocks within the exclusive economic zone adjacent to such areas, be explored, developed, conserved, and managed for the benefit of the people of such area and of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS 16 U.S.C. 1802

As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(1) The term "anadromous species" means species of fish which spawn in fresh or estuarine waters of the United States and which migrate to ocean waters.

104-297

(2) The term "bycatch" means fish which are harvested in a fishery, but which are not sold or kept for personal use, and includes economic discards and regulatory discards. Such term does not include fish released alive under a recreational catch and release fishery management program.

104-297

(3) The term "charter fishing" means fishing from a vessel carrying a passenger for hire (as defined in section 2101(21a) of title 46, United States Code) who is engaged in recreational fishing.

104-297

(4) The term "commercial fishing" means fishing in which the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are intended to enter commerce or enter commerce through sale, barter or trade.

SEC. 303. CONTENTS OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS 16 U.S.C. 1853

95-354, 99-659, 101-627, 104-297

(a) REQUIRED PROVISIONS.—Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, shall—

(1) contain the conservation and management measures, applicable to foreign fishing and fishing by vessels of the United States, which are—

(A) necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, and to protect, restore, and promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery;

(B) described in this subsection or subsection (b), or both; and

(C) consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, regulations implementing recommendations by international organizations in which the United States participates (including but not limited to closed areas, quotas, and size limits), and any other applicable law;

(2) contain a description of the fishery, including, but not limited to, the number of vessels involved, the type and quantity of fishing gear used, the species of fish involved and their location, the cost likely to be incurred in management, actual and potential revenues from the fishery, any recreational interest in the fishery, and the nature and extent of foreign fishing and Indian treaty fishing rights, if any;

(3) assess and specify the present and probable future condition of, and the maximum sustainable yield and optimum yield from, the fishery, and include a summary of the information utilized in making such specification;

(4) assess and specify—

(A) the capacity and the extent to which fishing vessels of the United States, on an annual basis, will harvest the optimum yield specified under paragraph (3),

(B) the portion of such optimum yield which, on an annual basis, will not be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States and can be made available for foreign fishing, and

(C) the capacity and extent to which United States fish processors, on an annual basis, will process that portion of such optimum yield that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States;

109-479

(5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, charter fishing, and fish processing in the fishery, including, but not limited to, information regarding the type and quantity of fishing gear used, catch by species in numbers of fish or weight thereof, areas in which fishing was engaged in, time of fishing, number of hauls, economic information necessary to meet the requirements of this Act, and the estimated processing capacity of, and the actual processing capacity utilized by, United States fish processors;

(6) consider and provide for temporary adjustments, after consultation with the Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery; except that the adjustment shall not adversely affect conservation efforts in other fisheries or discriminate among participants in the affected fishery;

(7) describe and identify essential fish habitat for the fishery based on the guidelines established by the Secretary under section 305(b)(1)(A), minimize to the extent practicable adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing, and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitat;

(8) in the case of a fishery management plan that, after January 1, 1991, is submitted to the Secretary for review under section 304(a) (including any plan for which an amendment is submitted to the Secretary for such review) or is prepared by the Secretary, assess and specify the nature and extent of scientific data which is needed for effective implementation of the plan;

109-479

(9) include a fishery impact statement for the plan or amendment (in the case of a plan or amendment thereto submitted to or prepared by the Secretary after October 1, 1990) which shall assess, specify, and analyze the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, economic, and social impacts, of the conservation and management measures on, and possible mitigation measures for—

(A) participants in the fisheries and fishing communities affected by the plan or amendment;

(B) participants in the fisheries conducted in adjacent areas under the authority of another Council, after consultation with such Council and representatives of those participants; and

(C) the safety of human life at sea, including whether and to what extent such measures may affect the safety of participants in the fishery;

(10) specify objective and measurable criteria for identifying when the fishery to which the plan applies is overfished (with an analysis of how the criteria were determined and the relationship of the criteria to the reproductive potential of stocks of fish in that fishery) and, in the case of a fishery which the Council or the Secretary has determined is approaching an overfished condition or is overfished, contain conservation and management measures to prevent overfishing or end overfishing and rebuild the fishery;

(11) establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable and in the following priority—

(A) minimize bycatch; and

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

109-479

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery, including its economic impact, and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors;

109-479

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate, taking into consideration the economic impact of the harvest restrictions or recovery benefits on the fishery participants in each sector, any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery and;

109-479

(15) establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, **104-297**

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.—Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may—

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to—

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

109-479

(2)(A) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(B) designate such zones in areas where deep sea corals are identified under section 408, to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas; and

(C) with respect to any closure of an area under this Act that prohibits all fishing, ensure that such closure—

(i) is based on the best scientific information available;

(ii) includes criteria to assess the conservation benefit of the closed area;

(iii) establishes a timetable for review of the closed area's performance that is consistent with the purposes of the closed area; and

(iv) is based on an assessment of the benefits and impacts of the closure, including its size, in relation to other management measures (either alone or in combination with such measures), including the benefits and impacts of limiting access to: users of the area, overall fishing activity, fishery science, and fishery and marine conservation;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the—

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

109-479

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery and take into account the different circumstances affecting fisheries from different States and ports, including distances to fishing grounds and proximity to time and area closures;

109-479

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account—

(A) present participation in the fishery;

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;

(C) the economics of the fishery;

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries;

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities;

(F) the fair and equitable distribution of access privileges in the fishery; and

(G) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research;

109-479

(12) include management measures in the plan to conserve target and non-target species and habitats, considering the variety of ecological factors affecting fishery populations; and

(14)[sic][15] prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

97-453, **104-297**

(c) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Proposed regulations which the Council deems necessary or appropriate for the purposes of—

(1) implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary simultaneously with the plan or amendment under section 304; and

(2) making modifications to regulations implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment may be submitted to the Secretary at any time after the plan or amendment is approved under section 304.

[15] So in original.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 104(b), MSA § 303 note **16 U.S.C. 1853 note**

EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICATION TO CERTAIN SPECIES.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(10)[16]—

(1) shall, unless otherwise provided for under an international agreement in which the United States participates, take effect—

(A) in fishing year 2010 for fisheries determined by the Secretary to be subject to overfishing; and

(B) in fishing year 2011 for all other fisheries; and

(2) shall not apply to a fishery for species that have a life cycle of approximately 1 year unless the Secretary has determined the fishery is subject to overfishing of that species; and

(3) shall not limit or otherwise affect the requirements of section 301(a)(1) or 304(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(1) or 1854(e), respectively).

109-479

SEC. 303A. LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE PROGRAMS. **16 U.S.C. 1853a**

(a) IN GENERAL.—After the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, a Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve, for a fishery that is managed under a limited access system, a limited access privilege program to harvest fish if the program meets the requirements of this section.

(b) NO CREATION OF RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST.—Limited access privilege, quota share, or other limited access system authorization established, implemented, or managed under this Act—

(1) shall be considered a permit for the purposes of sections 307, 308, and 309;

(2) may be revoked, limited, or modified at any time in accordance with this Act, including revocation if the system is found to have jeopardized the sustainability of the stock or the safety of fishermen;

(3) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such limited access privilege, quota share, or other such limited access system authorization if it is revoked, limited, or modified;

(4) shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested by the holder; and

(5) shall be considered a grant of permission to the holder of the limited access privilege or quota share to engage in activities permitted by such limited access privilege or quota share.

[16] Section 104(a)(10) of P.L. 109-479 added section 303(a)(15).

(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any limited access privilege program to harvest fish submitted by a Council or approved by the Secretary under this section shall—

(A) if established in a fishery that is overfished or subject to a rebuilding plan, assist in its rebuilding;

(B) if established in a fishery that is determined by the Secretary or the Council to have over-capacity, contribute to reducing capacity;

(C) promote—

(i) fishing safety;

(ii) fishery conservation and management; and

(iii) social and economic benefits;

(D) prohibit any person other than a United States citizen, a corporation, partnership, or other entity established under the laws of the United States or any State, or a permanent resident alien, that meets the eligibility and participation requirements established in the program from acquiring a privilege to harvest fish, including any person that acquires a limited access privilege solely for the purpose of perfecting or realizing on a security interest in such privilege;

(E) require that all fish harvested under a limited access privilege program be processed on vessels of the United States or on United States soil (including any territory of the United States);

(F) specify the goals of the program;

(G) include provisions for the regular monitoring and review by the Council and the Secretary of the operations of the program, including determining progress in meeting the goals of the program and this Act, and any necessary modification of the program to meet those goals, with a formal and detailed review 5 years after the implementation of the program and thereafter to coincide with scheduled Council review of the relevant fishery management plan (but no less frequently than once every 7 years);

(H) include an effective system for enforcement, monitoring, and management of the program, including the use of observers or electronic monitoring systems;

(I) include an appeals process for administrative review of the Secretary's decisions regarding initial allocation of limited access privileges;

(J) provide for the establishment by the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, for an information collection and review process to provide any additional information needed to determine whether any illegal acts of anti-competition, anti-trust, price collusion, or price fixing have occurred among regional fishery associations or persons receiving limited access privileges under the program; and

(K) provide for the revocation by the Secretary of limited access privileges held by any person found to have violated the antitrust laws of the United States.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of paragraph (1)(E) if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the fishery has historically processed the fish outside of the United States; and

(B) the United States has a seafood safety equivalency agreement with the country where processing will occur.

(3) FISHING COMMUNITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a fishing community shall—

(I) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;

(II) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;

(III) consist of residents who conduct commercial or recreational fishing, processing, or fishery-dependent support businesses within the Council's management area; and

(IV) develop and submit a community sustainability plan to the Council and the Secretary that demonstrates how the plan will address the social and economic development needs of coastal communities, including those that have not historically had the resources to participate in the fishery, for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

(ii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section for any person who fails to comply with the requirements of the community sustainability plan. Any limited access privileges denied or revoked under this section may be reallocated to other eligible members of the fishing community.

(B) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible communities under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—

(i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;

(ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;

(iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;

(iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;

(v) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the community sustainability plan; and

(vi) the potential for improving economic conditions in remote coastal communities lacking resources to participate in harvesting or processing activities in the fishery.

(4) REGIONAL FISHERY ASSOCIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in a limited access privilege program to harvest fish, a regional fishery association shall—

(i) be located within the management area of the relevant Council;

(ii) meet criteria developed by the relevant Council, approved by the Secretary, and published in the Federal Register;

(iii) be a voluntary association with established by-laws and operating procedures;

(iv) consist of participants in the fishery who hold quota share that are designated for use in the specific region or subregion covered by the regional fishery association, including commercial or recreational fishing, processing, fishery-dependent support businesses, or fishing communities;

(v) not be eligible to receive an initial allocation of a limited access privilege but may acquire such privileges after the initial allocation, and may hold the annual fishing privileges of any limited access privileges it holds or the annual fishing privileges that is [sic][17] members contribute; and

(vi) develop and submit a regional fishery association plan to the Council and the Secretary for approval based on criteria developed by the Council that have been approved by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH PLAN.—The Secretary shall deny or revoke limited access privileges granted under this section to any person participating in a regional fishery association who fails to comply with the requirements of the regional fishery association plan.

[17] So in original.

(C) PARTICIPATION CRITERIA.—In developing participation criteria for eligible regional fishery associations under this paragraph, a Council shall consider—

(i) traditional fishing or processing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery;

(ii) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery;

(iii) economic barriers to access to fishery;

(iv) the existence and severity of projected economic and social impacts associated with implementation of limited access privilege programs on harvesters, captains, crew, processors, and other businesses substantially dependent upon the fishery in the region or subregion;

(v) the administrative and fiduciary soundness of the association; and

(vi) the expected effectiveness, operational transparency, and equitability of the fishery association plan.

(5) ALLOCATION.—In developing a limited access privilege program to harvest fish a Council or the Secretary shall—

(A) establish procedures to ensure fair and equitable initial allocations, including consideration of—

(i) current and historical harvests;

(ii) employment in the harvesting and processing sectors;

(iii) investments in, and dependence upon, the fishery; and

(iv) the current and historical participation of fishing communities;

(B) consider the basic cultural and social framework of the fishery, especially through—

(i) the development of policies to promote the sustained participation of small owner-operated fishing vessels and fishing communities that depend on the fisheries, including regional or port-specific landing or delivery requirements; and

(ii) procedures to address concerns over excessive geographic or other consolidation in the harvesting or processing sectors of the fishery;

(C) include measures to assist, when necessary and appropriate, entry-level and small vessel owner-operators, captains, crew, and fishing communities through set-asides of harvesting allocations, including providing privileges, which may include set-asides or allocations of harvesting privileges, or economic assistance in the purchase of limited access privileges;

(D) ensure that limited access privilege holders do not acquire an excessive share of the total limited access privileges in the program by—

(i) establishing a maximum share, expressed as a percentage of the total limited access privileges, that a limited access privilege holder is permitted to hold, acquire, or use; and

(ii) establishing any other limitations or measures necessary to prevent an inequitable concentration of limited access privileges; and

(E) authorize limited access privileges to harvest fish to be held, acquired, used by, or issued under the system to persons who substantially participate in the fishery, including in a specific sector of such fishery, as specified by the Council.

(6) PROGRAM INITIATION.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), a Council may initiate a fishery management plan or amendment to establish a limited access privilege program to harvest fish on its own initiative or if the Secretary has certified an appropriate petition.

(B) PETITION.—A group of fishermen constituting more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or holding more than 50 percent of the allocation, in the fishery for which a limited access privilege program to harvest fish is sought, may submit a petition to the Secretary requesting that the relevant Council or Councils with authority over the fishery be authorized to initiate the development of the program. Any such petition shall clearly state the fishery to which the limited access privilege program would apply. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the limited access program shall be eligible to sign a petition for such a program and shall serve as the basis for determining the percentage described in the first sentence of this subparagraph.

(C) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Upon the receipt of any such petition, the Secretary shall review all of the signatures on the petition and, if the Secretary determines that the signatures on the petition represent more than 50 percent of the permit holders, or holders of more than 50 percent of the allocation in the fishery, as described by subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall certify the petition to the appropriate Council or Councils.

(D) NEW ENGLAND AND GULF REFERENDUM.—

(i) Except as provided in clause (iii) for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery, the New England and Gulf Councils may not submit, and the Secretary may not approve or implement, a fishery management plan or amendment that creates an individual fishing quota program, including a Secretarial plan, unless such a system, as ultimately developed, has been approved by more than 2⁄3 of those voting in a referendum among eligible permit holders, or other persons described in clause (v), with respect to the New England Council, and by a majority of those voting in the referendum among eligible permit holders with respect to the Gulf Council. For multispecies permits in the Gulf of Mexico, only those participants who have substantially fished the species proposed to be included in the individual fishing quota program shall be eligible to vote in such a referendum. If an individual fishing quota program fails to be approved by the requisite number of those voting, it may be revised and submitted for approval in a subsequent referendum.

(ii) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum under this subparagraph, including notifying all persons eligible to participate in the referendum and making available to them information concerning the schedule, procedures, and eligibility requirements for the referendum process and the proposed individual fishing quota program. Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, the Secretary shall publish guidelines and procedures to determine procedures and voting eligibility requirements for referenda and to conduct such referenda in a fair and equitable manner.

(iii) The provisions of section 407(c) of this Act shall apply in lieu of this subparagraph for an individual fishing quota program for the Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper fishery.

(iv) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act) does not apply to the referenda conducted under this subparagraph.

(v) The Secretary shall promulgate criteria for determining whether additional fishery participants are eligible to vote in the New England referendum described in clause (i) in order to ensure that crew members who derive a significant percentage of their total income from the fishery under the proposed program are eligible to vote in the referendum.

(vi) In this subparagraph, the term ‘individual fishing quota’ does not include a sector allocation.

(7) TRANSFERABILITY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

(A) establish a policy and criteria for the transferability of limited access privileges (through sale or lease), that is consistent with the policies adopted by the Council for the fishery under paragraph (5); and

(B) establish, in coordination with the Secretary, a process for monitoring of transfers (including sales and leases) of limited access privileges.

(8) PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SECRETARIAL PLANS.—This subsection also applies to a plan prepared and implemented by the Secretary under section 304(c) or 304(g).

(9) ANTITRUST SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the operation of any of the antitrust laws. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘antitrust laws’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act, except that such term includes section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act to the extent that such section 5 applies to unfair methods of competition.

(d) AUCTION AND OTHER PROGRAMS.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall consider, and may provide, if appropriate, an auction system or other program to collect royalties for the initial, or any subsequent, distribution of allocations in a limited access privilege program if—

(1) the system or program is administered in such a way that the resulting distribution of limited access privilege shares meets the program requirements of this section; and

(2) revenues generated through such a royalty program are deposited in the Limited Access System Administration Fund established by section 305(h)(5)(B) and available subject to annual appropriations.

(e) COST RECOVERY.—In establishing a limited access privilege program, a Council shall—

(1) develop a methodology and the means to identify and assess the management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement programs that are directly related to and in support of the program; and

(2) provide, under section 304(d)(2), for a program of fees paid by limited access privilege holders that will cover the costs of management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement activities.

(f) CHARACTERISTICS.—A limited access privilege established after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 is a permit issued for a period of not more than 10 years that—

(1) will be renewed before the end of that period, unless it has been revoked, limited, or modified as provided in this subsection;

(2) will be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have failed to comply with any term of the plan identified in the plan as cause for revocation, limitation, or modification of a permit, which may include conservation requirements established under the plan;

(3) may be revoked, limited, or modified if the holder is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing under section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have committed an act prohibited by section 307 of this Act; and

(4) may be acquired, or reacquired, by participants in the program under a mechanism established by the Council if it has been revoked, limited, or modified under paragraph (2) or (3).

(g) LIMITED ACCESS PRIVILEGE ASSISTED PURCHASE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Council may submit, and the Secretary may approve and implement, a program which reserves up to 25 percent of any fees collected from a fishery under section 304(d)(2) to be used, pursuant to section 53706(a)(7) of title 46, United States Code, to issue obligations that aid in financing—

(A) the purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by fishermen who fish from small vessels; and

(B) the first-time purchase of limited access privileges in that fishery by entry level fishermen.

(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—A Council making a submission under paragraph (1) shall recommend criteria, consistent with the provisions of this Act, that a fisherman must meet to qualify for guarantees under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) and the portion of funds to be allocated for guarantees under each subparagraph.

(h) EFFECT ON CERTAIN EXISTING SHARES AND PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, shall be construed to require a reallocation or a reevaluation of individual quota shares, processor quota shares, cooperative programs, or other quota programs, including sector allocation in effect before the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006.

(i) TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this section shall not apply to any quota program, including any individual quota program, cooperative program, or sector allocation for which a Council has taken final action or which has been submitted by a Council to the Secretary, or approved by the Secretary, within 6 months after the date of enactment of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, except that—

(A) the requirements of section 303(d) of this Act in effect on the day before the date of enactment of that Act shall apply to any such program;

(B) the program shall be subject to review under subsection (c)(1)(G) of this section not later than 5 years after the program implementation; and

(C) nothing in this subsection precludes a Council from incorporating criteria contained in this section into any such plans.

(2) PACIFIC GROUNDFISH PROPOSALS.—The requirements of this section, other than subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (c)(1) and subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall not apply to any proposal authorized under section 302(f) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 that is submitted within the timeframe prescribed by that section.

P.L. 109-479, sec. 106(e), MSA § 303A note **16 U.S.C. 1853a note**
APPLICATION WITH AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT.—Nothing in section 303A of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as added by subsection (a) [P.L. 109-479], shall be construed to modify or supersede any provision of the American Fisheries Act (46 U.S.C. 12102 note; 16 U.S.C. 1851 note; et alia).

P.L. 104-297, sec. 108(i), MSA § 303 note
EXISTING QUOTA PLANS.—Nothing in this Act [P.L.104-297] or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to require a reallocation of individual fishing quotas under any individual fishing quota program approved by the Secretary before January 4, 1995.

SEC. 304. ACTION BY THE SECRETARY 16 U.S.C. 1854

104-297

(a) REVIEW OF PLANS.—

(1) Upon transmittal by the Council to the Secretary of a fishery management plan or plan amendment, the Secretary shall—

(A) immediately commence a review of the plan or amendment to determine whether it is consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law; and

(B) immediately publish in the Federal Register a notice stating that the plan or amendment is available and that written information, views, or comments of interested persons on the plan or amendment may be submitted to the Secretary during the 60-day period beginning on the date the notice is published.

(2) In undertaking the review required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) take into account the information, views, and comments received from interested persons;

(B) consult with the Secretary of State with respect to foreign fishing; and

(C) consult with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating with respect to enforcement at sea and to fishery access adjustments referred to in section 303(a)(6).

(3) The Secretary shall approve, disapprove, or partially approve a plan or amendment within 30 days of the end of the comment period under paragraph (1) by written notice to the Council. A notice of disapproval or partial approval shall specify—

(A) the applicable law with which the plan or amendment is inconsistent;

(B) the nature of such inconsistencies; and

(C) recommendations concerning the actions that could be taken by the Council to conform such plan or amendment to the requirements of applicable law.

If the Secretary does not notify a Council within 30 days of the end of the comment period of the approval, disapproval, or partial approval of a plan or amendment, then such plan or amendment shall take effect as if approved.

104-297
SEC. 402. INFORMATION COLLECTION **16 U.S.C. 1881a**

109-479
(a) COLLECTION PROGRAMS.—

(1) COUNCIL REQUESTS.—If a Council determines that additional information would be beneficial for developing, implementing, or revising a fishery management plan or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Council may request that the Secretary implement an information collection program for the fishery which would provide the types of information specified by the Council. The Secretary shall undertake such an information collection program if he determines that the need is justified, and shall promulgate regulations to implement the program within 60 days after such determination is made. If the Secretary determines that the need for an information collection program is not justified, the Secretary shall inform the Council of the reasons for such determination in writing. The determinations of the Secretary under this paragraph regarding a Council request shall be made within a reasonable period of time after receipt of that request.

(2) SECRETARIAL INITIATION.—If the Secretary determines that additional information is necessary for developing, implementing, revising, or monitoring a fishery management plan, or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Secretary may, by regulation, implement an information collection or observer program requiring submission of such additional information for the fishery.

109-479
(b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—
(1) Any information submitted to the Secretary, a State fishery management agency, or a marine fisheries commission by any person in compliance with the requirements of this Act shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except—
(A) to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for fishery management plan development, monitoring, or enforcement;
(B) to State or Marine Fisheries Commission employees as necessary to further the Department's mission, subject to a confidentiality agreement that prohibits public disclosure of the identity of business of any person;
(C) to State employees who are responsible for fishery management plan enforcement, if the States employing those employees have entered into a fishery enforcement agreement with the Secretary and the agreement is in effect;
(D) when required by court order;
(E) when such information is used by State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission employees to verify catch under a limited access program, but only to the extent that such use is consistent with subparagraph (B);
(F) when the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person submitting such information to release such information to persons for reasons not otherwise provided for in this subsection, and such release does not violate other requirements of this Act;
(G) when such information is required to be submitted to the Secretary for any determination under a limited access program; or

(H) in support of homeland and national security activities, including the Coast Guard's homeland security missions as defined in section 888(a)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(a)(2)).

(2) Any observer information shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except in accordance with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1), or—

(A) as authorized by a fishery management plan or regulations under the authority of the North Pacific Council to allow disclosure to the public of weekly summary bycatch information identified by vessel or for haul-specific bycatch information without vessel identification;

(B) when such information is necessary in proceedings to adjudicate observer certifications; or

(C) as authorized by any regulations issued under paragraph (3) allowing the collection of observer information, pursuant to a confidentiality agreement between the observers, observer employers, and the Secretary prohibiting disclosure of the information by the observers or observer employers, in order—

(i) to allow the sharing of observer information among observers and between observers and observer employers as necessary to train and prepare observers for deployments on specific vessels; or

(ii) to validate the accuracy of the observer information collected.

(3) The Secretary shall, by regulation, prescribe such procedures as may be necessary to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act, except that the Secretary may release or make public any such information in any aggregate or summary form which does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity or business of any person who submits such information. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted or construed to prevent the use for conservation and management purposes by the Secretary, or with the approval of the Secretary, the Council, of any information submitted in compliance with any requirement or regulation under this Act or the use, release, or publication of bycatch information pursuant to paragraph (2)(A).

(c) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(1) The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to restrict the use, in civil enforcement or criminal proceedings under this Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), of information collected by voluntary fishery data collectors, including sea samplers, while aboard any vessel for conservation and management purposes if the presence of such a fishery data collector aboard is not required by any of such Acts or regulations thereunder.

(2) The Secretary may not require the submission of a Federal or State income tax return or statement as a prerequisite for issuance of a permit until such time as the Secretary has promulgated regulations to ensure the confidentiality of information contained in such return or statement, to limit the information submitted to that necessary to achieve a demonstrated conservation and management purpose, and to provide appropriate penalties for violation of such regulations.

(d) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may provide a grant, contract, or other financial assistance on a sole-source basis to a State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission for the purpose of carrying out information collection or other programs if—

(1) the recipient of such a grant, contract, or other financial assistance is specified by statute to be, or has customarily been, such State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission; or

(2) the Secretary has entered into a cooperative agreement with such State, Council, or Marine Fisheries Commission.

(e) RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) The Secretary may use the private sector to provide vessels, equipment, and services necessary to survey the fishery resources of the United States when the arrangement will yield statistically reliable results.

(2) The Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate Council and the fishing industry--

(A) may structure competitive solicitations under paragraph (1) so as to compensate a contractor for a fishery resources survey by allowing the contractor to retain for sale fish harvested during the survey voyage;

(B) in the case of a survey during which the quantity or quality of fish harvested is not expected to be adequately compensatory, may structure those solicitations so as to provide that compensation by permitting the contractor to harvest on a subsequent voyage and retain for sale a portion of the allowable catch of the surveyed fishery; and

(C) may permit fish harvested during such survey to count toward a vessel's catch history under a fishery management plan if such survey was conducted in a manner that precluded a vessel's participation in a fishery that counted under the plan for purposes of determining catch history.

(3) The Secretary shall undertake efforts to expand annual fishery resource assessments in all regions of the Nation.

104-297
SEC. 403. OBSERVERS **16 U.S.C. 1881b**

(a) GUIDELINES FOR CARRYING OBSERVERS.—Within one year after the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations, after notice and opportunity for public comment, for fishing vessels that carry observers. The regulations shall include guidelines for determining—

(1) when a vessel is not required to carry an observer on board because the facilities of such vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized; and

(2) actions which vessel owners or operators may reasonably be required to take to render such facilities adequate and safe.

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries
PART 679—FISHERIES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF ALASKA

Subpart A—General

§ 679.1 Purpose and scope.

Regulations in this part were developed by the Council under the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* (Magnuson–Stevens Act) and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (Halibut Act). Along with part 600 of this chapter, these regulations implement the following:

(a) *Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska.* (1) Regulations in this part govern commercial fishing for groundfish in the GOA by vessels of the United States (see subparts A, B, D, and E of this part).

(2) The following State of Alaska regulations are not preempted by this part for vessels regulated under this part fishing for demersal shelf rockfish in the Southeast Outside District, and which are registered under the laws of the State of Alaska: 5 AAC 28.111, fishing seasons; 5 AAC 28.130, gear; 5 AAC 28.160, harvest guidelines; 5 AAC 28.190, harvest of bait by commercial permit holders.

(b) *Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area.* Regulations in this part govern commercial fishing for groundfish in the BSAI by vessels of the United States (see subparts A, B, C, D, and E of this part).

(c) [Reserved]

(d) *IFQ Program for sablefish and halibut.* The IFQ management measures for the commercial fisheries that use fixed gear to harvest sablefish and halibut (see subparts A, B, D, and E of this part).

(1) *Sablefish.* (i) Regulations in this part govern commercial fishing for sablefish by vessels of the United States:

(A) Using fixed gear within that portion of the GOA and the BSAI over which the United States exercises exclusive fishery management authority; and

(B) Using fixed gear in waters of the State of Alaska adjacent to the BSAI and the GOA, provided that aboard such vessels are persons who currently hold sablefish quota shares, sablefish IFQ permits, or sablefish IFQ hired master permits.

(ii) Regulations in this part do not govern commercial fishing for sablefish in Prince William Sound or under a State of Alaska limited entry program.

(2) *Halibut.* Regulations in this part govern commercial fishing for halibut by vessels of the United States using fixed gear, as that term is defined in 50 CFR 679.2, in and off of Alaska.

(e) *Western Alaska CDQ Program.* The goals and purpose of the CDQ program are to allocate CDQ to eligible Western Alaska communities to provide the means for starting or supporting commercial fisheries business activities that will result in an ongoing, regionally based, fisheries-related economy.

(f) *Groundfish Observer Program* . Regulations in this part govern elements of the Groundfish Observer Program for the BSAI groundfish and GOA groundfish fisheries under the Council's authority (see subpart E of this part).

(g) *Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs.* Regulations in this part govern commercial fishing for king and Tanner crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area by vessels of the United States, and supersede State of Alaska regulations applicable to the commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutians Islands Area EEZ that are determined to be inconsistent with the FMP (see subpart A, B, and E of this part). Additional regulations governing commercial fishing for, and processing of, king and Tanner crab managed pursuant to section 313(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the Crab Rationalization Program are codified at 50 CFR part 680.

(h) *Fishery Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska.* (1) Regulations in this part govern commercial fishing for scallops in the Federal waters off Alaska by vessels of the United States (see subpart A of this part).

(2) State of Alaska laws and regulations that are consistent with the FMP and with the regulations in this part apply to vessels of the United States that are fishing for scallops in the Federal waters off Alaska.

(i) *Fishery Management Plan for the Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska (Salmon FMP).* (1) Regulations in this part govern fishing for salmon by fishing vessels of the United States in the Salmon Management Area.

(2) State of Alaska laws and regulations that are consistent with the Salmon FMP and with the regulations in this part apply to vessels of the United States that are fishing for salmon in the Salmon Management Area.

(j) *License Limitation Program (LLP).* (1) Regulations in this part implement the LLP for the commercial groundfish fisheries in the EEZ off Alaska and the LLP for the commercial crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutians Islands Area.

(2) Regulations in this part govern the commercial fishing for groundfish under the LLP by vessels of the United States using authorized gear within the GOA and the Bering Sea and Aleutians Islands Area and the commercial fishing for crab species under the LLP by vessels of the United States using authorized gear within the Bering Sea and Aleutians Islands Area.

(k) *American Fisheries Act and AI directed pollock fishery measures.* Regulations in this part were developed by NMFS and the Council under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the American Fisheries Act (AFA), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 to govern commercial fishing for BSAI pollock according to the requirements of the AFA and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004. This part also governs payment and collection of the loan, under the AFA, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and Title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, made to all those persons who harvest pollock from the directed fishing allowance allocated to the inshore component under section 206(b)(1) of the AFA.

(l) *Fishery Management Plan for Fish Resources of the Arctic Management Area.* Regulations in this part govern commercial fishing for Arctic fish in the Arctic Management Area by vessels of the United States (see this subpart and subpart B of this part).

[61 FR 31230, June 19, 1996]

Editorial Note: For Federal Register citations affecting §679.1, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 679.2 Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and in part 600 of this chapter, the terms used in this part have the following meanings:

Active/inactive periods means for longline or pot gear catcher vessel, see §679.5(c)(3)(iv)(A)(*1*); for longline or pot gear catcher/processor, see §679.5(c)(3)(iv)(B)(*1*); for trawl gear catcher vessel, see §679.5(c)(4)(iv)(A)(*1*); for trawl gear catcher/processor, see §679.5(c)(4)(iv)(B)(*1*); for shoreside processor or SFP, see §679.5(c)(5)(ii); for mothership, see §679.5(c)(6)(iv).

Adequate evidence, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means information sufficient to support the reasonable belief that a particular act or omission has occurred.

ADF&G means the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

ADF&G fish ticket number means a nine-digit number designated by one alphabet letter (i.e., G = groundfish), two numbers that identify the year (i.e., 98), followed by six numbers.

ADF&G processor code means State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Intent to operate processor license number (example: F12345).

Advanced nurse practitioner means a registered nurse authorized to practice in any state who, because of specialized education and experience, is certified to perform acts of medical diagnosis and the prescription and dispensing of medical, therapeutic, or corrective measures under regulations adopted by the state Board of Nursing.

AFA catcher vessel means a catcher vessel permitted to harvest BS pollock under §679.4(l)(3).

AFA crab processing facility means a processing plant, catcher/processor, mothership, floating processor or any other operation that processes any FMP species of BSAI crab, and that is affiliated with an AFA entity that processes pollock harvested by a catcher vessel cooperative operating in the inshore or mothership sectors of the BS pollock fishery.

AFA entity means a group of affiliated individuals, corporations, or other business concerns that harvest or process pollock in the BS directed pollock fishery.

AFA inshore processor means a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor permitted to process BS pollock under §679.4(l)(5).

AFA mothership means a mothership permitted to process BS pollock under §679.4(l)(5).

AFA trawl catcher/processor means:

(1) For purposes of BS pollock and all BSAI groundfish fisheries other than Atka mackerel, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, a catcher/processor that is permitted to harvest BS pollock under §679.4(l)(2).

(2) For purposes of BSAI Atka mackerel, flathead sole, Greenland turbot, Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, a catcher/processor that is permitted to harvest BS pollock and that is listed under §679.4(l)(2)(i).

Affiliates, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means business concerns, organizations, or individuals are affiliates of each other if, directly or indirectly, either one controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party controls or has the power to control both. Indicators of control include, but are not limited to, interlocking management or ownership, identity of interests among family members, shared facilities and equipment, common use of employees, or a business entity organized following the decertification, suspension, or proposed decertification of an observer provider that has the same or similar management, ownership, or principal employees as the observer provider that was decertified, suspended, or proposed for decertification.

Affiliation for the purpose of defining AFA entities means a relationship between two or more individuals, corporations, or other business concerns in which one concern directly or indirectly owns a 10–percent or greater interest in another, exerts control over another, or has the power to exert control over another; or a third individual, corporation, or other business concern directly or indirectly owns a 10 percent or greater interest in both, exerts control over both, or has the power to exert control over both.

(1) *What is 10-percent or greater ownership?* For the purpose of determining affiliation, 10–percent or greater ownership is deemed to exist if an individual, corporation, or other business concern directly or indirectly owns 10 percent or greater interest in a second corporation or other business concern.

(2) *What is an indirect interest?* An indirect interest is one that passes through one or more intermediate entities. An entity's percentage of indirect interest in a second entity is equal to the entity's percentage of direct interest in an intermediate entity multiplied by the intermediate entity's direct or indirect interest in the second entity.

(3) *What is control?* For the purpose of determining affiliation, control is deemed to exist if an individual, corporation, or other business concern has any of the following relationships or forms of control over another individual, corporation, or other business concern:

(i) Controls 10 percent or more of the voting stock of another corporation or business concern;

(ii) Has the authority to direct the business of the entity which owns the fishing vessel or processor. The authority to “direct the business of the entity” does not include the right to simply participate in the direction of the business activities of an entity which owns a fishing vessel or processor;

(iii) Has the authority in the ordinary course of business to limit the actions of or to replace the chief executive officer, a majority of the board of directors, any general partner or any person serving in a management capacity of an entity that holds 10 percent or greater interest in a fishing vessel or processor. Standard rights of minority shareholders to restrict the actions of the entity are not included in this definition of control provided they are unrelated to day-to-day business activities. These rights include provisions to require the consent of the minority shareholder to sell all or substantially all the assets, to enter into a different business, to contract with the major investors or their affiliates or to guarantee the obligations of majority investors or their affiliates;

(iv) Has the authority to direct the transfer, operation or manning of a fishing vessel or processor. The authority to “direct the transfer, operation, or manning” of a vessel or processor does not include the right to simply participate in such activities;

(v) Has the authority to control the management of or to be a controlling factor in the entity that holds 10 percent or greater interest in a fishing vessel or processor;

(vi) Absorbs all the costs and normal business risks associated with ownership and operation of a fishing vessel or processor;

(vii) Has the responsibility to procure insurance on the fishing vessel or processor, or assumes any liability in excess of insurance coverage;

(viii) Has the authority to control a fishery cooperative through 10–percent or greater ownership or control over a majority of the vessels in the cooperative, has the authority to appoint, remove, or limit the actions of or replace the chief executive officer of the cooperative, or has the authority to appoint, remove, or limit the actions of a majority of the board of directors of the cooperative. In such instance, all members of the cooperative are considered affiliates of the individual, corporation, or other business concern that exerts control over the cooperative; and

(ix) Has the ability through any other means whatsoever to control the entity that holds 10 percent or greater interest in a fishing vessel or processor.

Agent (1) *For purposes of permits issued under §679.4,* means a person appointed and residing within the United States who may apply for permits and may otherwise act on behalf of the owner, operator, or manager of a catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, shoreside processor, stationary floating processor, buying station, support vessel, or on behalf of the IFQ permit holders, IFQ registered buyers, or CDQ halibut permit holders.

(2) *For purposes of groundfish product distribution under §679.5(g),* means a buyer, distributor, or shipper but not a buying station, who may receive and distribute groundfish on behalf of the owner, operator, and manager of a catcher/processor, mothership, shoreside processor, or stationary floating processor.

(3) *For purposes of IFQ recordkeeping and reporting under §679.5(l),* means a person who on behalf of the Registered Buyer may submit IFQ reports.

AI directed pollock fishery means directed fishing for pollock in the AI under the allocation to the Aleut Corporation authorized at §679.20(a)(5)(iii).

Alaska local time (A.l.t.) means the time in the Alaska time zone.

Alaska Seamount Habitat Protection Areas means management areas established for the protection of seamount habitat areas of particular concern in the BSAI and GOA. See Table 22 to this part.

Alaska State waters means waters adjacent to the State of Alaska and shoreward of the EEZ off Alaska.

Aleut Corporation means the Aleut Corporation incorporated pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*).

Aleut Corporation entity means a harvester or processor selected by the Aleut Corporation and approved by NMFS to harvest or process pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery.

Aleutian Islands Subarea (AI) of the BSAI means that portion of the EEZ contained in Statistical Areas 541, 542, and 543 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protection Areas means management areas established for the protection of certain coral garden areas in reporting areas of the Aleutian Islands subarea and adjacent State waters. See Table 23 to this part.

Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area means a management area established for the protection of fish habitat in reporting areas of the Aleutian Islands subarea and adjacent State waters. See Table 24 to this part.

American Fisheries Act (AFA) means Title II—Fisheries Subtitles I and II, as cited within the Omnibus Appropriations Bill FY99 (Pub. L. 105–277).

Amendment 80 cooperative means a group of Amendment 80 QS holders who have chosen to fish cooperatively for Amendment 80 species under the requirements of subpart H to this part and who have applied for and received a CQ permit issued by NMFS to catch a quantity of fish expressed as a portion of the ITAC and crab and halibut PSC limits.

Amendment 80 fishery means an Amendment 80 cooperative or the Amendment 80 limited access fishery.

Amendment 80 initial QS pool means the sum of Amendment 80 QS units established for an Amendment 80 species in a management area based on the Amendment 80 official record and used for the initial allocation of Amendment 80 QS units and use cap calculations as described in §679.92(a).

Amendment 80 legal landing means the total catch of Amendment 80 species in a management area in the BSAI by an Amendment 80 vessel that:

(1) Was made in compliance with state and Federal regulations in effect at that time; and

(2) Is recorded on a Weekly Production Report from January 20, 1998, through December 31, 2004; and

(3) Amendment 80 species caught while test fishing, fishing under an experimental, exploratory, or scientific activity permit, or fishing under the Western Alaska CDQ Program are not considered Amendment 80 legal landings.

Amendment 80 limited access fishery means the fishery conducted in the BSAI by persons with Amendment 80 QS permits, Amendment 80 LLP licenses, or Amendment 80 vessels assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery.

Amendment 80 LLP license means:

(1) Any LLP license that is endorsed for groundfish in the Bering Sea subarea or Aleutian Islands subarea with a catcher/processor designation and that designates an Amendment 80 vessel in an approved application for Amendment 80 QS;

(2) Any LLP license that designates an Amendment 80 vessel at any time after the effective date of the Amendment 80 Program; and

(3) Any Amendment 80 LLP/QS license.

Amendment 80 LLP/QS license means an LLP license originally assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel with an Amendment 80 QS permit assigned to that LLP license.

Amendment 80 mackerel QS means Atka mackerel QS derived from Amendment 80 legal landings assigned to an Amendment 80 mackerel vessel.

Amendment 80 mackerel vessel means an Amendment 80 vessel that is not an Amendment 80 non-mackerel vessel.

Amendment 80 non-mackerel QS means Atka mackerel QS derived from Amendment 80 legal landings assigned to an Amendment 80 non-mackerel vessel.

Amendment 80 non-mackerel vessel means an Amendment 80 vessel that is less than 200 feet in length overall and that has been used to catch less than 2.0 percent of the total Amendment 80 legal landings of BSAI Atka mackerel.

Amendment 80 official record means information used by NMFS to determine eligibility to participate in the Amendment 80 Program and to assign specific catch privileges to Amendment 80 QS holders.

Amendment 80 Program means the Program implemented under subpart H of this part to manage Amendment 80 species fisheries by limiting participation in these fisheries to eligible participants.

Amendment 80 PSC means halibut and crab PSC as described in Table 35 to this part that are allocated to the Amendment 80 sector.

Amendment 80 QS holder means a person who is issued an Amendment 80 QS permit by NMFS.

Amendment 80 QS permit means a permit issued by NMFS that designates the amount of Amendment 80 QS units derived from the Amendment 80 legal landings assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel for each Amendment 80 species in a management area.

Amendment 80 QS pool means the sum of Amendment 80 QS units established for each Amendment 80 species in a management area based on the Amendment 80 official record.

Amendment 80 QS unit means a measure of the Amendment 80 QS pool based on Amendment 80 legal landings.

Amendment 80 sector means:

(1) Those Amendment 80 QS holders who own Amendment 80 vessels and hold Amendment 80 LLP licenses; or

(2) Those persons who hold Amendment 80 LLP/QS licenses.

Amendment 80 species means the following species in the following regulatory areas:

(1) BSAI Atka mackerel;

(2) Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch;

(3) BSAI flathead sole;

(4) BSAI Pacific cod;

(5) BSAI rock sole; and

(6) BSAI yellowfin sole.

Amendment 80 vessel means:

(1) The vessels listed in Column A of Table 31 to this part with the corresponding USCG Documentation Number listed in Column B of Table 31 to this part; or

(2) Any vessel that:

(i) Is not listed as an AFA trawl catcher/processor under sections 208(e)(1) through (20) of the American Fisheries Act; and

(ii) Has been used to harvest with trawl gear and process not less than 150 mt of Atka mackerel, flathead sole, Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch, rock sole, turbot, or yellowfin sole in the aggregate in the BSAI during the period from January 1, 1997, through December 31, 2002.

Ancillary product (see Table 1 to this part).

Appointed agent for service of process means an agent appointed by the members of a fishery cooperative to serve on behalf of the cooperative. The appointed agent for service of process may be the owner of a vessel listed as a member of the cooperative or a registered agent.

Arctic fish means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals, birds, Pacific salmon, and Pacific halibut.

Arctic Management Area , for purposes of regulations governing the Arctic Management Area fisheries, means all marine waters in the U.S. EEZ of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas from 3 nautical miles off the coast of Alaska or its baseline to 200 nautical miles offshore, north of Bering Strait (from Cape Prince of Wales to Cape Dezhneva) and westward to the 1990 U.S./Russia maritime boundary line and eastward to the U.S./Canada maritime boundary (see Figure 24 to this part).

Area endorsement means (for purposes of groundfish LLP) a designation on a license that authorizes a license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the designated area, subarea, or district. Area endorsements, which are inclusive of, but not necessarily the same as, management areas, subareas, or districts defined in this part, are as follows:

(1) Aleutian Islands area endorsement. Authorizes the license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the Aleutian Islands Subarea;

(2) Bering Sea area endorsement. Authorizes the license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the Bering Sea Subarea;

(3) Central Gulf area endorsement. Authorizes the license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the Central GOA regulatory area and the West Yakutat District;

(4) Southeast Outside area endorsement. Authorizes the license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the Southeast Outside District; and

(5) Western Gulf area endorsement. Authorizes the license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the Western GOA regulatory area.

Area/species endorsement means (for purposes of LLP) a designation on a license that authorizes a license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for the designated crab species in Federal waters in the designated area (see Figures 16 and 17 to this part). Area/species endorsements for crab species licenses are as follows:

(1) Aleutian Islands brown king in waters with an eastern boundary the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44' W. long.), a western boundary of the U.S.-Russian Convention Line of 1867, and a northern boundary of a line from the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N. lat.) westward to 171° W. long., then north to 55°30' N. lat., then west to the U.S.-Russian Convention line of 1867.

(2) Aleutian Islands red king in waters with an eastern boundary the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44' W. long.), a western boundary of the U.S.-Russian Convention Line of 1867, and a northern boundary of a line from the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N. lat.) westward to 171° W. long., then north to 55°30' N. lat., and then west to the U.S.-Russian Convention line of 1867.

(3) Bristol Bay red king in waters with a northern boundary of 58°39' N. lat., a southern boundary of 54°36' N. lat., and a western boundary of 168° W. long. and including all waters of Bristol Bay.

(4) Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area *C. opilio* and *C. bairdi* in Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea waters east of the U.S.-Russian Convention Line of 1867, excluding all Pacific Ocean waters east of a boundary line extending south (180°) from Scotch Cap Light.

(5) Norton Sound red king and Norton Sound blue king in waters with a western boundary of 168° W. long., a southern boundary of 61°49' N. lat., and a northern boundary of 65°36' N. lat.

(6) Pribilof red king and Pribilof blue king in waters with a northern boundary of 58°39' N. lat., an eastern boundary of 168° W. long., a southern boundary line from 54°36' N. lat., 168° W. long., to 54°36' N. lat., 171° W. long., to 55°30' N. lat., 171° W. long., to 55°30' N. lat., 173°30' E. lat., and then westward to the U.S.-Russian Convention line of 1867.

(7) St. Matthew blue king in waters with a northern boundary of 61°49' N. lat., a southern boundary of 58°39' N. lat., and a western boundary of the U.S.-Russian Convention line of 1867.

Associated processor means:

(1) *Relationship with a buying station.* A mothership or catcher/processor issued an FFP, or a shoreside processor or SFP issued an FPP, with a contractual relationship with a buying station to conduct groundfish buying station activities for that processor.

(2) *Relationship with a custom processor.* A mothership or catcher/processor issued an FFP or a shoreside processor or SFP issued an FPP, with a contractual relationship with a custom processor to process groundfish on its behalf.

At–sea operation means, for purposes of eLandings, a catcher/processor or mothership that is receiving and/or processing fish in State waters and/or in waters of the EEZ off the coast of Alaska.

Authorized distributor means a tax-exempt organization authorized by NMFS to coordinate the processing, storage, transportation, and distribution of salmon taken as incidental catch in the groundfish trawl fisheries to tax-exempt hunger relief agencies, food bank networks, and food bank distributors (see §679.26, Prohibited Species Donation Program).

Authorized fishing gear (see also §679.24 for gear limitations and Table 15 to this part for gear codes) means trawl gear, fixed gear, longline gear, pot gear, and nontrawl gear as follows:

(1) *Bottom contact gear* means nonpelagic trawl, dredge, dinglebar, pot, or hook-and-line gear.

(2) *Dinglebar gear* means one or more lines retrieved and set with a troll gurdy or hand troll gurdy, with a terminally attached weight from which one or more leaders with one or more lures or baited hooks are pulled through the water while a vessel is making way.

(3) *Dredge* means a dredge-like device designed specifically for and capable of taking scallops by being towed along the ocean floor.

(4) *Fixed gear* means:

(i) For sablefish harvested from any GOA reporting area, all longline gear and, for purposes of determining initial IFQ allocation, all pot gear used to make a legal landing.

(ii) For sablefish harvested from any BSAI reporting area, all hook-and-line gear and all pot gear.

(iii) For halibut harvested from any IFQ regulatory area, all fishing gear comprised of lines with hooks attached, including one or more stationary, buoyed, and anchored lines with hooks attached.

(5) *Hand troll gear* means one or more lines, with lures or hooks attached, drawn through the water behind a moving vessel, and retrieved by hand or hand-cranked reels or gurdies and not by any electrically, hydraulically, or mechanically powered device or attachment.

(6) *Handline gear* means a hand-held line, with one or more hooks attached, that may only be operated manually.

(7) *Hook-and-line gear* means a stationary, buoyed, and anchored line with hooks attached, or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

(8) *Jig gear* means a single, non-buoyed, non-anchored line with hooks attached, or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

(9) *Longline gear* means hook-and-line, jig, troll, and handline or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

(10) *Longline pot* means a stationary, buoyed, and anchored line with two or more pots attached, or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

(11) *Mobile bottom contact gear* means nonpelagic trawl, dredge, or dinglebar gear.

(12) *Nonpelagic trawl* means a trawl other than a pelagic trawl.

(13) *Nontrawl gear* means pot and longline gear.

(14) *Pelagic trawl gear* means a trawl that:

(i) Has no discs, bobbins, or rollers;

(ii) Has no chafe protection gear attached to the footrope or fishing line;

(iii) Except for the small mesh allowed under paragraph (14)(ix) of this definition:

(A) Has no mesh tied to the fishing line, headrope, and breast lines with less than 20 inches (50.8 cm) between knots and has no stretched mesh size of less than 60 inches (152.4 cm) aft from all points on the fishing line, headrope, and breast lines and extending passed the fishing circle for a distance equal to or greater than one half the vessel's LOA; or

(B) Has no parallel lines spaced closer than 64 inches (162.6 cm) from all points on the fishing line, headrope, and breast lines and extending aft to a section of mesh, with no stretched mesh size of less than 60 inches (152.4 cm) extending aft for a distance equal to or greater than one-half the vessel's LOA;

(iv) Has no stretched mesh size less than 15 inches (38.1 cm) aft of the mesh described in paragraph (14)(iii) of this definition for a distance equal to or greater than one-half the vessel's LOA;

(v) Contains no configuration intended to reduce the stretched mesh sizes described in paragraphs (14)(iii) and (iv) of this definition;

(vi) Has no flotation other than floats capable of providing up to 200 lb (90.7 kg) of buoyancy to accommodate the use of a net-sounder device;

(vii) Has no more than one fishing line and one footrope for a total of no more than two weighted lines on the bottom of the trawl between the wing tip and the fishing circle;

(viii) Has no metallic component except for connectors (e.g., hammerlocks or swivels) or a net-sounder device aft of the fishing circle and forward of any mesh greater than 5.5 inches (14.0 cm) stretched measure;

(ix) May have small mesh within 32 ft (9.8 m) of the center of the headrope as needed for attaching instrumentation (*e.g.,* net-sounder device); and

(x) May have weights on the wing tips.

(15) *Pot gear* means a portable structure designed and constructed to capture and retain fish alive in the water. This gear type includes longline pot and pot-and-line gear. Each groundfish pot must comply with the following:

(i) *Biodegradable panel.* Each pot used to fish for groundfish must be equipped with a biodegradable panel at least 18 inches (45.72 cm) in length that is parallel to, and within 6 inches (15.24 cm) of, the bottom of the pot, and that is sewn up with untreated cotton thread of no larger size than No. 30.

(ii) *Tunnel opening.* Each pot used to fish for groundfish must be equipped with rigid tunnel openings that are no wider than 9 inches (22.86 cm) and no higher than 9 inches (22.86 cm), or soft tunnel openings with dimensions that are no wider than 9 inches (22.86 cm).

(16) *Pot-and-line gear* means a stationary, buoyed line with a single pot attached, or the taking of fish by means of such a device.

(17) *Power troll gear* means one or more lines, with hooks or lures attached, drawn through the water behind a moving vessel, and originating from a power gurdy or power-driven spool fastened to the vessel, the extension or retraction of which is directly to the gurdy or spool.

(18) *Trawl gear* means a cone or funnel-shaped net that is towed through the water by one or more vessels. For purposes of this part, this definition includes, but is not limited to, beam trawls (trawl with a fixed net opening utilizing a wood or metal beam), otter trawls (trawl with a net opening controlled by devices commonly called otter doors), and pair trawls (trawl dragged between two vessels) and is further described as pelagic or nonpelagic trawl.

(19) *Troll gear* means one or more lines with hooks or lures attached drawn through the water behind a moving vessel. This gear type includes hand troll and power troll gear and dinglebar gear.

(20) *Snap gear* means a type of hook-and-line gear where the hook and gangion are attached to the groundline using a mechanical fastener or snap.

Authorized officer means:

(1) Any commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the USCG;

(2) Any special agent or fishery enforcement officer of NMFS;

(3) Any officer designated by the head of any Federal or state agency that has entered into an agreement with the Secretary and the Commandant of the USCG to enforce the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act or any other statute administered by NOAA; or

(4) Any USCG personnel accompanying and acting under the direction of any person described in paragraph (1) of this definition.

Basis species means any species or species group that is open to directed fishing that the vessel is authorized to harvest (see Tables 10 and 11 to this part).

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area , for purposes of regulations governing the commercial king and Tanner crab fisheries in part 680 of this Chapter, means those waters of the EEZ off the west coast of Alaska lying south of the Chukchi Sea statistical area as described in the coordinates listed for Figure 1 to this part, and extending south of the Aleutian Islands for 200 nm west of Scotch Cap Light (164° 44'36" W. long).

Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI), for purposes of regulations governing the groundfish fisheries, means the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands subareas (see Figure 1 to this part).

Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Area means a habitat protection area specified at Table 42 and Figure 16 to this part.

Bering Sea Subarea of the BSAI means that portion of the EEZ contained in Statistical Areas 508, 509, 512, 513, 514, 516, 517, 518, 519, 521, 523, 524, and 530 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Bled codend means a form of discard by vessels using trawl gear wherein some or all of the fish are emptied into the sea from the net before fish are brought fully on board.

Bogoslof District means that part of the Bering Sea Subarea contained in Statistical Area 518 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone means a management area established for the protection of the Bowers Ridge and Ulm Plateau habitat areas of particular concern in the BSAI. See Table 25 to this part.

Breast line means the rope or wire running along the forward edges of the side panels of a net, or along the forward edge of the side rope in a rope trawl.

Briefing means a short (usually 2–4 day) training session that observers must complete to fulfill endorsement requirements.

BSAI trawl limited access sector means fisheries conducted in the BSAI by persons using trawl gear and who are not:

(1) Using an Amendment 80 vessel or an Amendment 80 LLP license; or

(2) Fishing for CDQ groundfish.

Bulwark means a section of a vessel's side continuing above the main deck.

Buying station means a tender vessel or land-based entity that receives unprocessed groundfish from a vessel for delivery to a shoreside processor, stationary floating processor, or mothership and that does not process those fish.

Bycatch Limitation Zone 1 (Zone 1) means that part of the Bering Sea Subarea that is contained within the boundaries of Statistical Areas 508, 509, 512, and 516 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Bycatch Limitation Zone 2 (Zone 2) means that part of the Bering Sea Subarea that is contained within the boundaries of Statistical Areas 513, 517, and 521 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Bycatch or bycatch species means fish caught and released while targeting another species or caught and released while targeting the same species.

Bycatch rate means:

(1) For purposes of §679.21(f) with respect to halibut, means the ratio of the total round weight of halibut, in kilograms, to the total round weight, in metric tons, of groundfish for which a TAC has been specified under §679.20 while participating in any of the fisheries defined under §679.21(f).

(2) For purposes of §679.21(f) with respect to red king crab, means the ratio of number of red king crab to the total round weight, in metric tons, of BSAI groundfish for which a TAC has been specified under §679.20 while participating in the BSAI yellowfin sole and BSAI "other trawl" fisheries, as defined under §679.21(f).

Calendar day means a 24–hour period that starts at 0001 hours Alaska local time and ends at 2400 hours Alaska local time.

Catch (see 50 CFR 600.10.)

Catcher/processor (C/P) means:

(1) *With respect to groundfish recordkeeping and reporting,* a vessel that is used for catching fish and processing that fish.

(2) *With respect to subpart E of this part,* a processor vessel that is used for, or equipped to be used for, catching fish and processing that fish.

Catcher/processor vessel designation means, for purposes of the license limitation program, a license designation that authorizes the license holder:

(1) Designated on a groundfish license to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish and process license limitation groundfish on that vessel or to conduct only directed fishing for license limitation groundfish; or

(2) Designated on a crab species license to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for crab species and process crab species on that vessel or to conduct only directed fishing for crab species.

Catcher vessel (C/V) means a vessel that is used for catching fish and that does not process fish on board.

Catcher vessel designation means, for purposes of the license limitation program, a license designation that authorizes the license holder:

(1) Designated on a groundfish license to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for, but not process, license limitation groundfish on that vessel; or

(2) Designated on a crab species license to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for, but not process, crab species on that vessel.

Catcher Vessel Operational Area (CVOA) (see Figure 2 to this part and §679.22(a)(5)).

CBL means crab bycatch limit.

CDQ means community development quota and is the amount of a CDQ reserve that is allocated to a CDQ group.

CDQ allocation means a percentage of a CDQ reserve specified under §679.31 that is assigned to a CDQ group when NMFS approves a proposed CDP.

CDQ group means a qualified applicant with an approved CDP.

CDQ group number means a number assigned to a CDQ group by NMFS that must be recorded and is required in all logbooks and all reports submitted by the CDQ group, vessels harvesting CDQ, or processors taking deliveries of CDQ.

CDQ Program means the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program implemented under subpart C of this part.

CDQ project means any program that is funded by a CDQ group's assets for the economic or social development of a community or group of communities that are participating in a CDQ group, including, but not limited to, infrastructure development, CDQ investments, employment and training programs, and CDP administration.

CDQ representative means any individual who is authorized by a CDQ group to sign documents submitted to NMFS on behalf of the CDQ group.

CDQ reserve means the amount of each groundfish TAC apportioned under §679.20, the amount of each catch limit for halibut, or the amount of TAC for crab that has been set aside for purposes of the CDQ Program.

CDQ species means any species or species group that is allocated from a CDQ reserve to a CDQ group.

Central Aleutian District means that part of the Aleutian Islands Subarea contained in Statistical Area 542 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Central GOA Regulatory Area means that portion of the GOA EEZ that is contained in Statistical Areas 620 and 630 (see Figure 3 to this part).

Chinook Salmon Savings Area of the BSAI (see §679.21(e)(7)(viii) and Figure 8a and Figure 8b to this part).

Chum Salmon Savings Area of the BSAI CVOA (See §679.21(e)(7)(vii) and Figure 9 to this part.)

Civil judgment, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means a judgment or finding of a civil offense by any court of competent jurisdiction.

Clearing officer means, a NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) special agent, an OLE fishery enforcement officer, or an OLE enforcement aide.

Commercial fishing means:

(1) For purposes of the salmon fishery, fishing for salmon for sale or barter.

(2) For purposes of the Pacific halibut fishery, fishing, the resulting catch of which either is, or is intended to be, sold or bartered but does not include subsistence fishing for halibut, as defined at 50 CFR 300.61.

(3) For purposes of Arctic fish, the resulting catch of fish in the Arctic Management Area which either is, or is intended to be, sold or bartered but does not include subsistence fishing for Arctic fish, as defined in this subsection.

Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR) means the annual report of information on exvessel and first wholesale values for fish and shellfish required under Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, chapter 39.130 (see §679.5 (p)).

Commissioner of ADF&G means the principal executive officer of ADF&G.

Community Development Plan (CDP) means a business plan for the economic and social development of a specific Western Alaska community or group of communities under the CDQ program at §679.30.

Community quota entity (CQE) means a non-profit organization that:

(1) Did not exist prior to April 10, 2002;

(2) Represents at least one eligible community that is listed in Table 21 of this part; and,

(3) Has been approved by the Regional Administrator to obtain by transfer and hold QS, and to lease IFQ resulting from the QS on behalf of an eligible community.

Conviction, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means a judgment or conviction of a criminal offense by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether entered upon a verdict or a plea, and includes a conviction entered upon a plea of nolo contendere.

Cooperative quota (CQ):

(1) *For purposes of the Amendment 80 Program* means:

(i) The annual catch limit of an Amendment 80 species that may be caught by an Amendment 80 cooperative while fishing under a CQ permit;

(ii) The amount of annual halibut and crab PSC that may be used by an Amendment 80 cooperative while fishing under a CQ permit.

(2) *For purposes of the Rockfish Program* means:

(i) The annual catch limit of a primary rockfish species or secondary species that may be harvested by a rockfish cooperative while fishing under a CQ permit;

(2) The amount of annual halibut PSC that may be used by a rockfish cooperative in the Central GOA while fishing under a CQ permit (see rockfish halibut PSC in this section).

C. Opilio Crab Bycatch Limitation Zone (COBLZ) (see §679.21(e) and Figure 13 to this part.

CQ permit means a permit issued to an Amendment 80 cooperative under §679.4(o)(2) or to a rockfish cooperative under §679.4(n)(1).

Council means North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Crab species means (see also king crab and tanner crab) all crab species covered by the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs, including, but not limited to, red king crab (*Paralithodes camtschatica*), blue king crab (*Paralithodes platypus*), brown or golden king crab (*Lithodes aequispina*), scarlet or deep sea king crab (*Lithodes couesi*), Tanner or bairdi crab (*Chionoecetes bairdi*), opilio or snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*), grooved Tanner crab (*Chionoecetes tanneri*), and triangle Tanner crab (*Chionoecetes angulatus*).

Crab species license means a license issued by NMFS that authorizes the license holder designated on the license to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for crab species.

Daily reporting period or day is the period from 0001 hours, A.l.t., until the following 2400 hours, A.l.t.

Debriefing means the post-deployment process that includes a one-on-one interview with NMFS staff, a NMFS preliminary data review, observer completion of all data corrections noted, observer preparation of affidavits and reports, and completion of tasks related to biological specimens or special projects.

Decertification, as used in §679.50(j), means action taken by a decertifying official under §679.50(j)(7) to revoke indefinitely certification of observers or observer providers under this section; an observer or observer provider whose certification is so revoked is decertified.

Decertifying official, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means a designee authorized by the Regional Administrator to impose decertification.

Deep water flatfish (see Table 10 to this part pursuant to §679.20(c).)

Deployment means the period between an observer's arrival at the point of embarkation and the date the observer disembarks for travel to debriefing.

Designated contact for the Aleut Corporation means an individual who is designated by the Aleut Corporation for the purpose of communication with NMFS regarding the identity of selected AI directed pollock fishery participants and weekly reports required by §679.5.

Designated cooperative representative means an individual who is designated by the members of a fishery cooperative to fulfill requirements on behalf of the cooperative including, but not limited to, the signing of cooperative fishing permit applications; submitting catcher vessel pollock cooperative catch reports, and submitting annual cooperative fishing reports.

Designated primary processor means an AFA inshore processor that is designated by an inshore pollock cooperative as the AFA inshore processor to which the cooperative will deliver at least 90 percent of its BS pollock allocation during the year in which the AFA inshore cooperative fishing permit is in effect.

Direct financial interest means any source of income to, or capital investment or other interest held by, an individual, partnership, or corporation or an individual's spouse, immediate family member or parent that could be influenced by performance or non-performance of observer or observer provider duties.

Directed fishing means:

(1) *Unless indicated otherwise,* any fishing activity that results in the retention of an amount of a species or species group on board a vessel that is greater than the maximum retainable amount for that species or species group as calculated under §679.20.

(2) With respect to license limitation groundfish species, directed fishing as defined in paragraph (1) of this definition.

(3) With respect to crab species under this part, the catching and retaining of any crab species.

(4) With respect to the harvest of groundfish by AFA catcher/processors and AFA catcher vessels, any fishing activity that results in the retention of an amount of a species or species group on board a vessel that is greater than the maximum retainable percentage for that species or species group as calculated under §679.20.

Discard (see §600.10.)

Dockside sale means, the transfer of IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish from the person who harvested it to individuals for personal consumption, and not for resale.

Documented harvest means a lawful harvest that was recorded in compliance with Federal and state commercial fishing regulations in effect at the time of harvesting.

Donut Hole means the international waters of the Bering Sea outside the limits of the EEZ and Russian economic zone as depicted on the current edition of NOAA chart INT 813 Bering Sea (Southern Part).

Eastern Aleutian District means that part of the Aleutian Islands Subarea contained in Statistical Area 541 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Eastern GOA Regulatory Area means the Reporting Areas 649 and 659 and that portion of the GOA EEZ that is contained in Statistical Areas 640 and 650 (see Figure 3 to this part).

Economic data report (EDR) means the report of cost, labor, earnings, and revenue data required under §679.94.

eLandings means the Internet data entry system or desktop client components of the Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS) for reporting commercial fishery landings and production from waters off Alaska.

Eligible applicant means (for purposes of the LLP program) a qualified person who submitted an application during the application period announced by NMFS and:

(1) For a groundfish license or crab species license, who owned a vessel on June 17, 1995, from which the minimum number of documented harvests of license limitation groundfish or crab species were made in the relevant areas during the qualifying periods specified in §679.4(k)(4) and (k)(5), unless the fishing history of that vessel was transferred in conformance with the provisions in paragraph (2) of this definition; or

(2) For a groundfish license or crab species license, to whom the fishing history of a vessel from which the minimum number of documented harvests of license limitation groundfish or crab species were made in the relevant areas during the qualifying periods specified in §679.4(k)(4) and (k)(5) has been transferred or retained by the express terms of a written contract that clearly and unambiguously provides that the qualifications for a license under the LLP have been transferred or retained; or

(3) For a crab species license, who was an individual who held a State of Alaska permit for the Norton Sound king crab summer fishery at the time he or she made at least one harvest of red or blue king crab in the relevant area during the period specified in §679.4(k)(5)(ii)(G), or a corporation that owned or leased a vessel on June 17, 1995, that made at least one harvest of red or blue king crab in the relevant area during the period in §679.4(k)(5)(ii)(G), and that was operated by an individual who was an employee or a temporary contractor; or

(4) For a scallop license, who qualifies for a scallop license as specified at §679.4(g)(2) of this part; or

(5) Who is an individual that can demonstrate eligibility pursuant to the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 at 29 U.S.C. 794 (a).

Eligible community means:

(1) For purposes of the CDQ program, a community that is listed in Table 7 to this part or that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) The community is located within 50 nm from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured along the Bering Sea coast from the Bering Strait to the most western of the Aleutian Islands, or on an island within the Bering Sea. A community is not eligible if it is located on the GOA coast of the North Pacific Ocean, even if it is within 50 nm of the baseline of the Bering Sea;

(ii) That is certified by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92–203) to be a native village;

(iii) Whose residents conduct more than half of their current commercial or subsistence fishing effort in the waters of the BSAI; and

(iv) That has not previously deployed harvesting or processing capability sufficient to support substantial groundfish fisheries participation in the BSAI, unless the community can show that benefits from an approved CDP would be the only way to realize a return from previous investment. The community of Unalaska is excluded under this provision.

(2) For purposes of the IFQ program, a community that is listed in Table 21 to this part, and that:

(i) Is a municipality or census designated place, as defined in the 2000 United States Census, located on the GOA coast of the North Pacific Ocean;

(ii) Has a population of not less than 20 and not more than 1,500 persons based on the 2000 United States Census;

(iii) Has had a resident of that community with at least one commercial landing of halibut or sablefish made during the period from 1980 through 2000, as documented by the State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; and

(iv) Is not accessible by road to a community larger than 1,500 persons based on the 2000 United States Census.

Eligible community resident means, for purposes of the IFQ Program, any individual who:

(1) Is a citizen of the United States;

(2) Has maintained a domicile in a rural community listed in Table 21 to this part for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the time when the assertion of residence is made, and who is not claiming residency in another community, state, territory, or country, except that residents of the Village of Seldovia shall be considered to be eligible community residents of the City of Seldovia for the purposes of eligibility to lease IFQ from a CQE; and

(3) Is an IFQ crew member.

Eligible rockfish harvester means a person who is permitted by NMFS to hold rockfish QS.

Eligible rockfish processor means a person who is authorized by NMFS to receive and process primary rockfish species and secondary rockfish species harvested by a rockfish cooperative or in a rockfish limited access fishery.

Eligible vessel means, for the purposes of the CDQ Program, a fishing vessel designated by a CDQ group to harvest part or all of its CDQ allocation and approved by NMFS under §679.32(c).

Endorsement. (1) (See *area endorsement* for purposes of the groundfish LLP permits);

(2) (See *area/species endorsement* for purposes of the crab LLP permits);

(3) (See §679.4(g)(3)(ii) *area endorsements* for purposes of the scallop permit).

Experimental fishery (see *Exempted fishery,* §679.6).

Federal waters means waters within the EEZ off Alaska (see also reporting area).

Federally permitted vessel means a vessel that is named on either a Federal fisheries permit issued pursuant to §679.4(b) or on a Federal crab vessel permit issued pursuant to §680.4(k) of this chapter. Federally permitted vessels must conform to regulatory requirements for purposes of fishing restrictions in habitat conservation areas, habitat conservation zones, and habitat protection areas; for purposes of anchoring prohibitions in habitat protection areas; and for purposes of VMS requirements.

Fishery cooperative or cooperative means any entity cooperatively managing directed fishing for BS pollock and formed under section 1 of the Fisherman's Collective Marketing Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 521). In and of itself, a cooperative is not an AFA entity subject to excessive harvest share limitations, unless a single person, corporation or other business entity controls the cooperative and the cooperative has the power to control the fishing activity of its member vessels.

Fish product (See groundfish product.)

Fish product weight means the weight of the fish product in pounds or to at least the nearest thousandth of a metric ton (0.001 mt). Fish product weight is based upon the number of production units and the weight of those units. Production units include pans, cartons, blocks, trays, cans, bags, and individual fresh or frozen fish. The weight of a production unit is the average weight of representative samples of the product, and, for fish other than fresh fish, may include additives or water but not packaging. Any allowance for water added cannot exceed 5 percent of the gross product weight (fish, additives, and water).

Fishermen means persons who catch, take, or harvest fish.

Fishing circle means the circumference of a trawl intersecting the center point on a fishing line, and that is perpendicular to the long axis of a trawl.

Fishing day means (for purposes of subpart E) a 24-hour period, from 0001 hours A.l.t. through 2400 hours A.l.t., in which fishing gear is retrieved and groundfish are retained. Days during which a vessel only delivers unsorted codends to a processor are not fishing days.

Fishing line means a length of chain or wire rope in the bottom front end of a trawl to which the webbing or lead ropes are attached.

Fishing month means (for purposes of subpart E) a time period calculated on the basis of weekly reporting periods as follows: Each fishing month begins on the first day of the first weekly reporting period that has at least 4 days in the associated calendar month and ends on the last day of the last weekly reporting period that has at least 4 days in that same calendar month. Dates of each fishing month will be announced in the Federal Register published under §679.21(f)(5).

Fishing trip means: (1) Retention requirements (MRA, IR/IU, and pollock roe stripping).

(i) With respect to retention requirements of MRA, IR/IU, and pollock roe stripping, an operator of a catcher/processor or mothership processor vessel is engaged in a fishing trip from the time the harvesting, receiving, or processing of groundfish is begun or resumed in an area until:

(A) The effective date of a notification prohibiting directed fishing in the same area under §679.20 or §679.21;

(B) The offload or transfer of all fish or fish product

from that vessel;

(C) The vessel enters or leaves an area where a different directed fishing prohibition applies;

(D) The vessel begins fishing with a different type of authorized fishing gear; or

(E) The end of a weekly reporting period, whichever comes first.

(ii) With respect to retention requirements of MRA, IR/IU, and pollock roe stripping, an operator of a catcher vessel is engaged in a fishing trip from the time the harvesting of groundfish is begun until the offload or transfer of all fish or fish product from that vessel.

(2) *IFQ program.* With respect to the IFQ program, the period beginning when a vessel operator commences harvesting IFQ species and ending when the vessel operator lands any species.

(3) *Groundfish observer program.* With respect to subpart E of this part, one of the following periods:

(i) For a vessel used to process groundfish or a catcher vessel used to deliver groundfish to a monthership, a weekly reporting period during which one or more fishing days occur.

(ii) For a catcher vessel used to deliver fish to other than a mothership, the time period during which one or more fishing days occur, that starts on the day when fishing gear is first deployed and ends on the day the vessel offloads groundfish, returns to an Alaskan port, or leaves the EEZ off Alaska and adjacent waters of the State of Alaska.

(4) *For purposes of §679.7(n)(7)* , the period beginning when a vessel operator commences harvesting any Rockfish Program species and ending when the vessel operator offloads or transfers any processed or unprocessed Rockfish Program species from that vessel.

(5) *For purposes of §679.7(o)(4)* , the period beginning when a vessel operator commences harvesting any Amendment 80 species and ending when the vessel operator offloads or transfers any processed or unprocessed Amendment 80 species from that vessel.

Fishing year means 0001 hours, A.l.t., on January 1, through 2400 hours, A.l.t., on December 31 (see §679.23).

Fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve means 20 percent of the sablefish fixed gear TAC for each subarea in the BSAI for which a sablefish TAC is specified under §679.20(b)(1)(iii)(B). See also §679.31(b).

Food bank distributor means a tax-exempt organization with the primary purpose of distributing food resources to hunger relief agencies (see §679.26).

Food bank network means a tax-exempt organization with the primary purpose of coordinating receipt and delivery of food resources to its member food bank distributors or hunger relief agencies (see §679.26).

Footrope means a chain or wire rope attached to the bottom front end of a trawl and attached to the fishing line.

Forage fish (see Table 2c to this part and §679.20(i)).

Gear (see the definition for Authorized fishing gear of this section).

Gear deployment (or to set gear) (see §679.5(c)(3)(vi)(B) for longline and pot gear; see §679.5(c)(4)(vi)(B) for trawl gear).

Gear retrieval (or to haul gear) (see §679.5(c)(3)(vi)(C) for longline and pot gear; see §679.5(c)(4)(vi)(C) for trawl gear).

Groundfish means (1) FMP species as listed in Table 2ato this part.

(2) Target species and the “other species” category, specified annually pursuant to §679.20(a)(2) (See also the definitions for: *License limitation groundfish* ; *CDQ species* ; and *IR/IU species* of this section).

Groundfish CDQ fishing means fishing by an eligible vessel that results in the catch of any groundfish CDQ species, but that does not meet the definition of halibut CDQ fishing.

Groundfish license means (for purposes of the LLP program) a license issued by NMFS that authorizes the license holder designated on the license to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish.

Groundfish product or fish product means any species product listed in Tables 1, 2a, 2c, and 2d to this part.

Groundfish Retention Standard (GRS) means the retention and utilization standard for groundfish described at §679.27(j).

Gulf of Alaska (GOA) means that portion of the EEZ contained in Statistical Areas 610, 620, 630, 640, and 650 (see Figure 3 to this part).

Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Areas means management areas established for the protection of coral habitat areas of particular concern in the Gulf of Alaska. See Table 26 to this part.

Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas means management areas established for the protection of essential fish habitat on the Gulf of Alaska slope. See Table 27 to this part.

Halibut means Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*).

Halibut CDQ fishing means the following:

(1) *Catcher vessel.* The following conditions are met at all times:

(i) Halibut CDQ is retained and the weight of halibut CDQ plus halibut IFQ onboard the vessel at any time represents the largest proportion of the retained catch in round weight equivalent onboard the vessel at that time, and

(ii) For catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA, the round weight equivalent of non-CDQ groundfish does not exceed the maximum retainable amounts for these species or species groups as established in §679.20(e) and (f).

(2) *Catcher/processor.* Halibut CDQ is retained from a set and the weight of halibut CDQ plus halibut IFQ represents the largest proportion of the retained catch in round weight equivalent from that set.

Halibut CDQ reserve means the amount of the halibut catch limit for IPHC regulatory areas 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E that is reserved for the halibut CDQ program (see §679.31(b)).

Halibut PSC sideboard limit means the maximum amount of halibut PSC that may be used from July 1 through July 31 by eligible rockfish harvesters or rockfish cooperatives in the West Yakutat District, Central GOA, and Western GOA as established under §679.82(d), as applicable.

Harvesting or to harvest means the catching and retaining of any fish.

Harvest limit area for platoon managed Atka mackerel directed fishing (applicable through December 31, 2002) for the purposes of §§679.4(b)(5)(vii), 679.20(a)(8)(ii) and (iii) and 679.22(a)(12)(iv)(A), means the waters of statistical areas 542 and 543 west of 178° W long. within 20 nm seaward of sites listed in Table 24 of this part and located west of 177°57.00' W. long.

Harvest limit area (HLA) for Atka mackerel directed fishing for the purposes of §§679.4(b)(5)(vi)(B), 679.20(a)(8)(ii) and (iii), and 679.22(a)(8)(iv)(A), means the waters of statistical areas 542 and 543 that are (1) west of 178° W long. and (2) within 20 nm seaward of sites listed in Table 6 of this part that are located west of 177°57.00' W long.

Harvest zone codes (see Table 8 to this part).

Haul means the retrieval of trawl gear which results in catching fish or which does not result in catching fish; a test of trawl gear; or when non–functional gear is pulled in, even if no fish are harvested. All hauls of any type need to be recorded and numbered throughout the year, whether or not fish are caught.

Headrope means a rope bordering the top front end of a trawl.

Herring Savings Area means any of three areas in the BSAI presented in Figure 4 (see also §679.21(e)(7)(v) for additional closure information).

Hook-and-line catcher/processor means a catcher/processor vessel that is named on a valid LLP license that is noninterim and transferable, or that is interim and subsequently becomes noninterim and transferable, and that is endorsed for Bering Sea or Aleutian Islands catcher/processor fishing activity, catcher/processor, Pacific cod, and hook-and-line gear.

Hunger relief agency means a tax-exempt organization with the primary purpose of feeding economically disadvantaged individuals free of charge (see §679.26).

IFQ actual ex-vessel value means the U.S. dollar amount of all compensation, monetary or non-monetary, including any IFQ retro-payments received by an IFQ permit holder for the purchase of IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish landing(s) on his or her permit(s) described in terms of IFQ equivalent pounds.

IFQ crew member means any individual who has at least 150 days experience working as part of the harvesting crew in any U.S. commercial fishery, or any individual who receives an initial allocation of QS. For purposes of this definition, “harvesting” means work that is directly related to the catching and retaining of fish. Work in support of harvesting, but not directly involved with harvesting, is not considered harvesting crew work. For example, searching for fish, work on a fishing vessel only as an engineer or cook, or work preparing a vessel for a fishing trip would not be considered work of a harvesting crew.

IFQ equivalent pound(s) means the weight amount, recorded in pounds, for an IFQ landing and calculated as round weight for sablefish and headed and gutted weight for halibut.

IFQ fee liability means that amount of money for IFQ cost recovery, in U.S. dollars, owed to NMFS by an IFQ permit holder as determined by multiplying the appropriate standard ex-vessel value or actual ex-vessel value of his or her IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish landing(s) by the appropriate IFQ fee percentage.

IFQ fee percentage means that positive number no greater than 3 percent (0.03) determined by the Regional Administrator and established for use to calculate the IFQ cost recovery fee liability for an IFQ permit holder.

IFQ halibut means any halibut that is harvested with setline or other hook and line gear while commercial fishing in any IFQ regulatory area defined in this section.

IFQ landing means the unloading or transferring of any IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or products thereof from the vessel that harvested such fish or the removal from the water of a vessel containing IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or products thereof.

IFQ permit holder means the person identified on an IFQ permit, at the time a landing is made (*see* §679.4(d)(1)).

IFQ program means the individual fishing quota program for the fixed gear fisheries for Pacific halibut and sablefish in waters in and off Alaska and governed by regulations under this part.

IFQ regulatory area means:

(1) With respect to IFQ halibut, areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, or 4E as prescribed in the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of chapter III of this title (see also Figure 15 to this part).

(2) With respect to IFQ sablefish, any of the three regulatory areas in the GOA and any subarea of the BSAI, and all waters of the State of Alaska between the shore and the inshore boundary of such regulatory areas and subareas, except waters of Prince William Sound and areas in which sablefish fishing is managed under a State of Alaska limited entry program (see Figure 14 to this part).

IFQ retro-payment means the U.S. dollar value of a payment, monetary or non-monetary, made to an IFQ permit holder for the purchase of IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish landed at some previous time.

IFQ sablefish means any sablefish that is harvested with fixed gear, either in the EEZ off Alaska or in waters of the State of Alaska, by persons holding an IFQ permit, but does not include sablefish harvested in Prince William Sound or under a State of Alaska limited entry program.

IFQ standard ex-vessel value means the total U.S. dollar amount of IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish landings as calculated by multiplying the number of landed IFQ equivalent pounds by the appropriate IFQ standard price determined by the Regional Administrator.

IFQ standard price means a price, expressed in U.S. dollars per IFQ equivalent pound, for landed IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish determined annually by the Regional Administrator and documented in an IFQ standard price list published by NMFS.

Incidental catch or incidental species means fish caught and retained while targeting on some other species, but does not include discard of fish that were returned to the sea.

Indictment, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means indictment for a criminal offense. An information or other filing by competent authority charging a criminal offense must be given the same effect as an indictment.

Individual means a natural person who is not a corporation, partnership, association, or other such entity.

Individual fishing quota (IFQ) means the annual catch limit of sablefish or halibut that may be harvested by a person who is lawfully allocated a harvest privilege for a specific portion of the TAC of sablefish or halibut.

Initial rockfish QS pool means the sum of rockfish QS units established for a Rockfish Program fishery based on the official Rockfish Program record and used for the initial allocation of rockfish QS units and use cap calculations as described in §679.82(a).

Initial Total Allowable Catch (ITAC) means the tonnage of a TAC for an Amendment 80 species in a management area that is available for apportionment to the BSAI trawl limited access sector and the Amendment 80 sector in a calendar year after deducting from the TAC the CDQ reserve, the incidental catch allowance the Regional Administrator determines is required on an annual basis, as applicable, to account for projected incidental catch of an Amendment 80 species by non-Amendment 80 vessels engaged in directed fishing for groundfish and, for Atka mackerel, the Atka mackerel jig allocation.

Inshore component in the GOA means the following three categories of the U.S. groundfish fishery that process groundfish harvested in the GOA:

(1) Shoreside processors.

(2) Vessels less than 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA that hold an inshore processing endorsement on their Federal fisheries permit, and that process no more than 126 mt per week in round-weight equivalents of an aggregate amount of pollock and GOA Pacific cod.

(3) Stationary floating processors that hold an inshore processing endorsement on their Federal processor permit, and that process pollock and/or Pacific cod harvested in a directed fishery for those species at a single geographic location in Alaska state waters during a fishing year.

Interagency electronic reporting system (IERS) means an interagency electronic reporting system that allows fishery participants to use the Internet or desktop client software named eLandings to enter landings and production data for appropriate distribution to the ADF&G, IPHC, and NMFS Alaska Region (see §679.5(e)).

IPHC means International Pacific Halibut Commission (see part 300 of chapter III of this title).

IR/IU means the improved retention/improved utilization program set out at §679.27.

IR/IU species means any groundfish species that is regulated by a retention or utilization requirement set out at §679.27.

King crab means red king crab (*Paralithodes camtschatica*), blue king crab (*P. platypus*), brown (or golden) king crab (*Lithodes aequispina*), and scarlet (or deep sea) king crab (*Lithodes couesi*).

Landing means offloading fish.

Legal landing means a landing in compliance with Federal and state commercial fishing regulations in effect at the time of landing.

Legal landing of halibut or sablefish (see §679.40(a)(3)(v)).

Legal proceedings, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means any civil judicial proceeding to which the Government is a party or any criminal proceeding. The term includes appeals from such proceedings.

Legal rockfish landing for purposes of qualifying for the Rockfish Program means groundfish caught and retained in compliance with state and Federal regulations in effect at that time unless harvested and then processed as meal, and

(1) *For catcher vessels:* (i) The harvest of groundfish from the Central GOA regulatory area that is offloaded and recorded on a State of Alaska fish ticket during the directed fishing season for that primary rockfish species as established in Table 28 to this part; and

(ii) An amount of halibut PSC attributed to that sector during the directed fishing season for the primary rockfish species as established in Table 28 to this part.

(2) *For catcher/processors:* (i) The harvest of groundfish from the Central GOA regulatory area that is recorded on aproduction report based on harvests during the directed fishing season for that primary rockfish species as established in Table 28 to this part; and

(ii) An amount of halibut PSC attributed that sector during the directed fishing season for the primary rockfish species as established in Table 28 to this part.

Length overall (LOA) of a vessel means the centerline longitudinal distance, rounded to the nearest foot, measured between:

(1) The outside foremost part of the vessel visible above the waterline, including bulwarks, but excluding bowsprits and similar fittings or attachments, and

(2) The outside aftermost part of the vessel visible above the waterline, including bulwarks, but excluding rudders, outboard motor brackets, and similar fittings or attachments (see Figure 6 to this part).

License holder means the person who is named on a currently valid groundfish license, crab species license, or scallop license.

License limitation groundfish means target species and the “other species” category, specified annually pursuant to §679.20(a)(2), except that demersal shelf rockfish east of 140° W. longitude, sablefish managed under the IFQ program, and pollock allocated to the Aleutian Islands directed pollock fishery and harvested by vessels 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA or less, are not considered license limitation groundfish.

Licensed medical doctor means a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered in accordance with applicable Federal, state, or local laws and regulations, and is authorized to conduct the practice of medicine as defined by the state in which the person resides.

Limited Access System Administrative Fund (LASAF) means the administrative account used for depositing cost recovery fee payments into the U.S. Treasury as described in the Magnuson-Stevens Act under section 304(d)(2)(C)(i) and established under section 305(h)(5)(B).

Listed AFA catcher/processor means an AFA catcher/processor permitted to harvest BS pollock under §679.4(l)(2)(i).

LLP license originally assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel means the LLP license listed in Column C of Table 31 to this part that corresponds to the vessel listed in Column A of Table 31 to this part with the USCG Documentation Number listed in Column B of Table 31 to this part.

Logbook means Daily Cumulative Production Logbook (DCPL) or Daily Fishing Logbook (DFL) required by §679.5.

Management area means any district, regulatory area, subpart, part, or the entire GOA, BSAI, or Arctic Management Area.

Manager, with respect to any shoreside processor, stationary floating processor or land-based buying station, means the individual responsible for the operation of the shoreside processor operation or land-based buying station.

Managing organization means the organization responsible for managing all or part of a CDP.

Maximum LOA (MLOA) means:

(1) *With respect to the scallop license limitation program,* the MLOA is equal to the length overall on February 8, 1999, of the longest vessel that was:

(i) Authorized by a Federal or State of Alaska Scallop Moratorium Permit to harvest scallops;

(ii) Used by the eligible applicant to make legal landings of scallops during the scallop LLP qualification period, as specified at §679.4(g)(2)(iii) of this part.

(2) *With respect to the groundfish and crab species license limitation program,* the LOA of the vessel on June 24, 1992, unless the vessel was less than 125 ft (38.1 m) on June 24, 1992, then 1.2 times the LOA of the vessel on June 24, 1992, or 125 ft (38.1 m), whichever is less. However, if the vessel was under reconstruction on June 24, 1992, then the basis for the MLOA will be the LOA of the vessel on the date that reconstruction was completed and not June 24, 1992. The following exceptions apply regardless of how the MLOA was determined.

(i) If the vessel's LOA on June 17, 1995, was less than 60 ft (18.3 m), or if the vessel was under reconstruction on June 17, 1995, and the vessel's LOA on the date that reconstruction was completed was less than 60 ft (18.3 m), then the vessel's MLOA cannot exceed 59 ft (18 m).

(ii) If the vessel's LOA on June 17, 1995, was greater than or equal to 60 ft (18.3 m) but less than 125 ft (38.1 m), or if the vessel was under reconstruction on June 17, 1995, and the vessel's LOA on the date that reconstruction was completed was greater than or equal to 60 ft (18.3 m) but less 125 ft (38.1 m), then the vessel's MLOA cannot exceed 124 ft (37.8 m).

(iii) If the vessel's LOA on June 17, 1995, was 125 ft (38.1 m) or greater, then the vessel's MLOA is the vessel's LOA on June 17, 1995, or if the vessel was under reconstruction on June 17, 1995, and the vessel's LOA on the date that reconstruction was completed was 125 ft (38.1 m) or greater, then the vessel's MLOA is the vessel's LOA on the date reconstruction was completed.

Maximum retainable amount (MRA) (see §679.20(e)).

Mothership means:

(1) A vessel that receives and processes groundfish from other vessels; or

(2) With respect to subpart E of this part, a processor vessel that receives and processes groundfish from other vessels and is not used for, or equipped to be used for, catching groundfish.

Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure Area of the BSAI (See §679.22(a)(9) and Figure 12 to this part.)

Net-sounder device means a sensor used to determine the depth from the water surface at which a fishing net is operating.

Net weight (IFQ or CDQ halibut only). Net weight of IFQ or CDQ halibut means the weight of a halibut that is gutted, head off, and washed or ice and slime deducted.

Non-allocated or nonspecified species means those fish species, other than prohibited species, for which TAC has not been specified (e.g., grenadier, prowfish, lingcod).

Non–IFQ groundfish means groundfish, other than IFQ sablefish.

Non–individual entity means a person who is not an individual or “natural” person; it includes corporations, partnerships, estates, trusts, joint ventures, joint tenancy, and any other type of “person” other than a natural person.

NMFS investigator, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means a designee authorized by the Regional Administrator to conduct investigations under this section.

NMFS Person Identification Number means a unique number assigned by NMFS to any person who applied for, or who has been issued, a certificate, license, or permit under any fishery management program administered by the Alaska Region for purposes of the NMFS/Alaska Region Integrated Regional Data System.

Non-allocated secondary species (see *Rockfish Program species* in this section).

Non-chinook salmon means coho, pink, chum or sockeye salmon.

North Pacific fishery means any commercial fishery in state or Federal waters off Alaska.

Northern Bering Sea Research Area means a habitat research area specified at Table 43 and Figure 17 to this part.

Nunivak Island, Etolin Strait, and Kuskokwim Bay Habitat Conservation Area means a habitat protection area specified at Table 44 and Figure 21 to this part.

Observed or observed data refers to data collected by observers (see §679.21(f)(7) and subpart E of this part).

Observer means any

(1) Individual who is awarded NMFS observer certification to carry out observer responsibilities under this part, and who is employed by an observer provider for the purposes of providing observer services to vessels, shoreside processors or stationary floating processors under this part; or

(2) NMFS staff or other individual authorized by NMFS deployed, at the direction of the Regional Administrator, aboard vessels or at shoreside processors or stationary floating processors for purposes of providing observer services as required for vessels, shoreside processors or stationary floating processors under §679.50(c) or (d), or for other purposes of conservation and management of marine resources as specified by the Regional Administrator.

Observer Program Office means the administrative office of the Groundfish Observer Program located at Alaska Fisheries Science Center (see ADDRESSES, part 600).

Observer Provider means any person or commercial enterprise that is granted a permit by NMFS to provide observer services to vessels, shoreside processors, or stationary floating processors for observer coverage credit as required in subpart E of this part.

Official AFA record means the information prepared by the Regional Administrator about vessels and processors that were used to participate in the BSAI pollock fisheries during the qualifying periods specified in §679.4(l). Information in the official AFA record includes vessel ownership information, documented harvests made from vessels during AFA qualifying periods, vessel characteristics, and documented amounts of pollock processed by pollock processors during AFA qualifying periods. The official AFA record is presumed to be correct for the purpose of determining eligibility for AFA permits. An applicant for an AFA permit will have the burden of proving correct any information submitted in an application that is inconsistent with the official record.

Official License Limitation Program (LLP) record means the information prepared by the Regional Administrator about vessels that were used to participate in the groundfish or crab fisheries during qualified periods for the groundfish and crab LLP specified at §679.4(k) and in the scallop fisheries during the qualifying periods for the scallop LLP specified at §679.4(g). Information in the official LLP record includes vessel ownership information, documented harvests made from vessels during the qualification periods, and vessel characteristics. The official LLP record is presumed to be correct for the purpose of determining eligibility for licenses. An applicant for a license under the LLP will have the burden of proving the validity of information submitted in an application that is inconsistent with the official LLP record.

Official Rockfish Program record means information used by NMFS necessary to determine eligibility to participate in the Rockfish Program and assign specific harvest or processing privileges to Rockfish Program participants.

Offshore component in the GOA means all vessels not included in the definition of “inshore component in the GOA” that process groundfish harvested in the GOA.

Operate a vessel means for purposes of VMS that the fishing vessel is:

(1) Offloading or processing fish;

(2) In transit to, from, or between the fishing areas; or

(3) Fishing or conducting operations in support of fishing.

Optimum yield means:

(1) With respect to the salmon fishery, that amount of any species of salmon that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, with particular reference to food production and recreational opportunities, as specified in the Salmon FMP.

(2) *With respect to the groundfish and Arctic fisheries* , see §679.20(a)(1).

Opt–out fishery means the fishery conducted by persons who are eligible rockfish harvesters holding an LLP license endorsed for catcher/processor activity and who are not participating in a rockfish cooperative or the rockfish limited access fishery in the catcher/processor sector.

Other flatfish (see Table 11 to this part pursuant to §679.20(c).)

Other gear means gear other than authorized fishing gear.

Other rockfish (see Tables 10 and 11 to this part pursuant to §679.20(c); see also “rockfish” in this section.)

Other species is a category that consists of groundfish species in each management area that are not specified as target species (see Tables 10 and 11 to this part pursuant to §679.20(e)).

Permit means documentation granting permission to fish and includes “license” as a type of permit.

Person means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other non-individual entity (whether or not organized, or existing under the laws of any state), and any Federal, state, local, or foreign government or any entity of any such aforementioned governments.

Personal use fishing means, for purposes of the salmon fishery, fishing other than commercial fishing.

Pollock roe means product consisting of pollock eggs, either loose or in sacs or skeins.

Pot catcher/processor means a catcher/processor vessel that is named on a valid LLP license that is noninterim and transferable, or that is interim and subsequently becomes noninterim and transferable, and that is endorsed for Bering Sea or Aleutian Islands catcher/processor fishing activity, catcher/processor, Pacific cod, and pot gear.

Preponderance of the evidence, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means proof by information that, compared with that opposing it, leads to the conclusion that the fact at issue is more probably true than not.

Primary community health aide means a person who has completed the first of three levels of community health aide training offered by the Norton Sound Health Corporation at the Nome Hospital, the Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel, the Alaska Area Native Health Service in Anchorage, or another accredited training center.

Primary product (see Table 1 to this part).

Primary rockfish species (see *Rockfish Program species* in this section).

Processing, or *to process,* means the preparation of, or to prepare, fish or crab to render it suitable for human consumption, industrial uses, or long-term storage, including but not limited to cooking, canning, smoking, salting, drying, freezing, or rendering into meal or oil, but does not mean icing, bleeding, heading, or gutting.

Processor vessel means, unless otherwise restricted, any vessel that has been issued a Federal fisheries permit and that can be used for processing groundfish.

Product transfer report (PTR) (see §679.5(g)).

Program Administrator, RAM means the Program Administrator of Restricted Access Management Program, Alaska Region, NMFS.

Prohibited species means any of the species of Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*), Pacific herring (*Clupea harengus pallasi*), king crab, and Tanner crab (see Table 2b to this part), caught by a vessel issued an FFP under §679.4(b) while fishing for

groundfish in the BSAI or GOA, unless retention is authorized by other applicable laws, including the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of this title.

Prohibited species catch (PSC) means any of the species listed in Table 2b to this part.

PRR means standard product recovery rate (see Table 3 to this part).

PSD Permit means a permit issued by NMFS to an applicant who qualifies as an authorized distributor for purposes of the PSD.

PSD Program means the Prohibited Species Donation Program established under §679.26.

PSQ means prohibited species quota and is the amount of a PSQ reserve that is allocated to a CDQ group.

PSQ allocation means a percentage of a PSQ reserve specified under §679.21(e)(1)(i) and (e)(2)(ii) that is assigned to a CDQ group when NMFS approves a proposed CDP. See also §679.31(d).

PSQ reserve means the percentage of a prohibited species catch limit established under §679.21(e)(1) and (e)(2) that is allocated to the groundfish CDQ program under §679.21(e)(1)(i) and (e)(2)(ii).

PSQ species means any species or species group that has been allocated from a PSQ reserve to a CDQ group.

Qualified applicant means, for the purposes of the CDQ program:

(1) A local fishermen's organization that:

(i) Represents an eligible community or group of eligible communities;

(ii) Is incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska or under Federal law; and

(iii) Has a board of directors composed of at least 75 percent resident fishermen of the community (or group of communities); or

(2) A local economic development organization that:

(i) Represents an eligible community or group of communities;

(ii) Is incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska or under Federal law specifically for the purpose of designing and implementing a CDP; and

(iii) Has a board of directors composed of at least 75 percent resident fishermen of the community (or group of communities).

Qualified Person means:

(1) *With respect to the IFQ program,* see IFQ Management Measures at §679.40(a)(2).

(2) *With respect to the groundfish and crab species license limitation program,* a person who was eligible on June 17, 1995, to document a fishing vessel under Chapter 121, Title 46, U.S.C.

(3) *With respect to the scallop LLP,* a person who was eligible on February 8, 1999, to document a fishing vessel under Chapter 121, Title 46, U.S.C.

Quarter, or *quarterly reporting period,* means one of four successive 3-month periods, which begin at 0001 hours, A.l.t., on the first day of each quarter, and end at 2400 hours, A.l.t., on the last day of each quarter, as follows:

(1) 1st quarter: January 1 through March 31.

(2) 2nd quarter: April 1 through June 30.

(3) 3rd quarter: July 1 through September 30.

(4) 4th quarter: October 1 through December 31.

Quota share (QS) means a permit, the face amount of which is used as a basis for the annual calculation of a person's IFQ.

Reconstruction means a change in the LOA of the vessel from its original qualifying LOA.

Red King Crab Savings Area (RKCSA) of the BSAI (see §679.22(a)(3) and Figure 11 to this part).

Red King Crab Savings Subarea (RKCSS) of the BSAI (see §679.21(e)(3)(ii)(B) and Figure 11 to this part).

Regional Administrator, for purposes of this part, means the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, as defined at §600.10 of this chapter, or a designee.

Registered buyer means the person identified on a Registered Buyer permit (see §679.4(d)(3)).

Registered crab receiver (RCR) means a person issued an RCR permit, described under 50 CFR part 680, by the Regional Administrator.

Regulatory area means any of three areas of the EEZ in the GOA (see Figure 3 to this part).

Reporting area (see Figures 1 and 3 to this part) means:

(1) An area that includes a statistical area of the EEZ off Alaska and any adjacent waters of the State of Alaska;

(2) The reporting areas 300, 400, 550, and 690, which do not contain EEZ waters off Alaska or Alaska state waters; or

(3) Reporting areas 649 and 659, which contain only waters of the State of Alaska.

Representative (see §679.5(b)).

Reprocessed or rehandled product (see Table 1 to this part).

Resident fisherman means (for purposes of the CDQ Program) an individual with documented commercial or subsistence fishing activity who maintains a mailing address and permanent domicile in an eligible community and is eligible to receive an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend at that address.

Restricted AFA inshore processor means an AFA inshore processor permitted to harvest pollock under §679.4(l)(5)(i)(B).

Retain on board (see §§600.10 and 679.27 of this chapter.)

Rockfish means:

(1) *For the Gulf of Alaska:* Any species of the genera *Sebastes* or *Sebastolobus* except *Sebastes ciliatus* (dark rockfish); *Sebastes melanops* (black rockfish); and *Sebastes mystinus* (blue rockfish).

(2) *For the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area:* Any species of the genera *Sebastes* or *Sebastolobus* except *Sebastes ciliatus* (dark rockfish).

Rockfish cooperative means a group of eligible rockfish harvesters who have chosen to form a rockfish cooperative under the requirements of §679.81(i) in order to combine and harvest fish collectively under a CQ permit issued by NMFS.

Rockfish entry level fishery means the trawl and longline gear fisheries conducted under the Rockfish Program by rockfish entry level harvesters and rockfish entry level processors.

Rockfish entry level harvester means a person who is authorized by NMFS to harvest fish in the rockfish entry level fishery and who is not an eligible rockfish harvester.

Rockfish entry level processor means a person who is authorized by NMFS to receive and process fish harvested under the rockfish entry level fishery and who is not an eligible rockfish processor.

Rockfish halibut PSC means the amount of halibut PSC that may be used by a rockfish cooperative in the Central GOA as assigned on a CQ permit.

Rockfish limited access fishery means the fishery for primary rockfish species conducted by persons who are eligible rockfish harvesters or eligible rockfish processors and who are not participating in a rockfish cooperative or opt–out fishery for that applicable sector.

Rockfish Program means the program authorized under the authority of Section 802 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–199) and implemented under subpart G of this part to manage Rockfish Program fisheries.

Rockfish Program fisheries means one of following fisheries under the Rockfish Program:

(1) A rockfish cooperative in the catcher/processor sector;

(2) A rockfish cooperative in the catcher vessel sector;

(3) The limited access fishery in the catcher/processor sector;

(4) The limited access fishery in the catcher vessel sector;

(5) The opt–out fishery;

(6) The entry level trawl fishery; and

(7) The entry level longline gear fishery.

Rockfish Program species means the following species in the Central GOA regulatory area that are managed under the authority of the Rockfish Program:

(1) *Primary rockfish species* means northern rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and pelagic shelf rockfish.

(2) *Secondary species* means the following species:

(i) Sablefish not allocated to the IFQ Program;

(ii) Thornyhead rockfish;

(iii) Pacific cod for the catcher vessel sector;

(iv) Rougheye rockfish for the catcher/processor sector; and

(v) Shortraker rockfish for the catcher/processor sector.

(3) *Non-allocated secondary species* means the following species:

(i) Aggregate forage fish, Atka mackerel, arrowtooth flounder, deep water flatfish, flathead sole, other rockfish, “other species,” pollock, rex sole, shallow water flatfish, and skates;

(ii) Pacific cod for the catcher/processor sector; and

(iii) Rougheye rockfish and shortraker rockfish for the catcher vessel sector.

Rockfish Quota Share (QS) means a permit the amount of which is based on legal rockfish landings for purposes of qualifying for the Rockfish Program and that are assigned to an LLP license.

Rockfish QS pool means the sum of rockfish QS units established for the Rockfish Program fishery based on the official Rockfish Program record.

Rockfish QS unit means a measure of QS based on legal rockfish landings.

Rockfish sideboard fisheries means fisheries that are assigned a sideboard limit that may be harvested by participants in the Rockfish Program.

Round-weight equivalent means the weight of groundfish calculated by dividing the weight of the primary product made from that groundfish by the PRR for that primary product as listed in Table 3 to this part, or, if not listed, the weight of groundfish calculated by dividing the weight of a primary product by the standard PRR as determined using the best available evidence on a case-by-case basis.

Sablefish (black cod) means *Anoplopoma fimbria.* (See also *IFQ sablefish* ; *fixed gear sablefish* at §679.21(b)(5); and *sablefish as a prohibited species* at §679.24(c)(2)(ii)).

Salmon means the following species:

(1) Chinook (or king) salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*);

(2) Coho (or silver) salmon (*O. kisutch*);

(3) Pink (or humpback) salmon (*O. gorbuscha*);

(4) Sockeye (or red) salmon (*O. nerka*); and

(5) Chum (or dog) salmon (*O. keta*).

Salmon bycatch reduction intercooperative agreement (ICA) is a voluntary chum and Chinook salmon catch avoidance agreement, as described at §679.21(g) and approved by NMFS, for directed pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea subarea.

Salmon Management Area means the waters of the EEZ off the coast of Alaska (see Figure 23 to part 679), including parts of the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Beaufort Sea. The Salmon Management Area is divided into a West Area and an East Area with the border between the two at the longitude of Cape Suckling (143°53'36" W):

(1) The West Area is the area of the EEZ off the coast of Alaska west of the longitude of Cape Suckling (143°53'36" W). It includes the EEZ in the Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Beaufort Sea, as well as the EEZ in the North Pacific Ocean west of Cape Suckling.

(2) The East Area is the area of the EEZ off the coast of Alaska east of the longitude of Cape Suckling (143°53'36" W).

Scallop(s) means any species of the family Pectinidae, including, without limitation, weathervane scallops (*Patinopectin caurinus*).

Scallop license means a license issued by NMFS that authorizes the license holder to catch and retain scallops pursuant to the conditions specified on the license.

Scallop Registration Area H (Cook Inlet) means all Federal waters of the GOA west of the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148°50' W. long.) and north of the latitude of Cape Douglas (58°52' N. lat.).

Seabird means those bird species that habitually obtain their food from the sea below the low water mark.

Seabird avoidance gear (see §§679.24(e), 679.42(b)(2), and Table 19 to this part).

Secondary species (see *Rockfish Program species* in this section).

Sector for purposes of the Rockfish Program means:

(1) *Catcher/processor sector:* those eligible rockfish harvesters who hold an LLP license with a catcher/processor designation and who are eligible to receive rockfish QS that may result in CQ that may be harvested and processed at sea.

(2) *Catcher vessel sector:* those eligible rockfish harvesters who hold an LLP license who are eligible to receive rockfish QS that may result in CQ that may not be harvested and processed at sea.

Set means a string of longline gear, a string of pots, or a group of pots with individual pots deployed and retrieved in the water in a similar location with similar soak time. In the case of pot gear, when the pots in a string are hauled more than once in the same position, a new set is created each time the string is retrieved and re-deployed. A set includes a test set, unsuccessful harvest, or when gear is not working and is pulled in, even if no fish are harvested.

Shallow water flatfish (see Table 10 to this part pursuant to §679.20(c).)

Shoreside processor means any person or vessel that receives, purchases, or arranges to purchase, unprocessed groundfish, except catcher/processors, motherships, buying stations, restaurants, or persons receiving groundfish for personal consumption or bait.

Shoreside processor electronic logbook report (SPELR) (discontinued, see definition of “eLandings” under this section).

Shucking machine means any mechanical device that automatically removes the meat or the adductor muscle from the shell.

Sideboard limit for purposes of the Rockfish Program means:

(1) The maximum amount of northern rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and pelagic shelf rockfish that may be harvested by all vessels in the Rockfish Program in all areas as specified under §679.82(d) through (h), as applicable;

(2) The maximum amount of BSAI Pacific cod that may be harvested by catcher vessels in all areas as specified under §679.82(d) through (h), as applicable; or

(3) The maximum amount of halibut PSC that may be used by all vessels in all areas as specified under §679.82(d) through (h), as applicable.

Sideboard ratio for purposes of the Rockfish Program means a portion of a sideboard limit for a groundfish fishery that is assigned to the catcher vessel sector or catcher/processor sector based on the catch history of vessels in that sector.

Single geographic location (see §679.4(l)(5)(iii)).

Southeast Outside District of the GOA means that part of the Eastern GOA Regulatory Area contained in Statistical Area 650 (see Figure 3 to this part).

Sitka Pinnacles Marine Reserve means an area totaling 2.5 square nm in the GOA, off Cape Edgecumbe, in Statistical Area 650. See Figure 18 to this part.

St. Lawrence Island Habitat Conservation Area means a habitat protection area specified at Table 45 to this part.

St. Matthew Island Habitat Conservation Area means a habitat protection area specified at Table 46 to this part.

State means the State of Alaska.

Stationary floating processor (SFP) means a vessel of the United States operating as a processor in Alaska State waters that remains anchored or otherwise remains stationary in a single geographic location while receiving or processing groundfish harvested in the GOA or BSAI.

Statistical area means the part of any reporting area defined in Figures 1 and 3 to this part, contained in the EEZ.

Stretched mesh size means the distance between opposite knots of a four-sided mesh when opposite knots are pulled tautly to remove slack.

Subsistence fishing for purposes of fishing in the Arctic Management Area means the harvest of Arctic fish and Pacific salmon for non-commercial, long-term, customary and traditional use necessary to maintain the life of the taker or those who depend upon the taker to provide them with such subsistence.

Superexclusive registration area means any State of Alaska designated registration area within the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area where, if a vessel is registered to fish for crab, that vessel is prohibited from fishing for crab in any other registration area during that registration year.

Support vessel means any vessel that is used in support of other vessels regulated under this part, including, but not limited to, supplying a fishing vessel with water, fuel, provisions, fishing equipment, fish processing equipment or other supplies, or transporting processed fish. The term “support vessel” does not include processor vessels or tender vessels.

Suspending official, for purposes of subpart E of this part, means a designee authorized by the Regional Administrator to impose suspension.

Suspension, as used in §679.50, means action taken by a suspending official under §679.50(j) to suspend certification of observers or observer providers temporarily until a final decision is made with respect to decertification.

Tagged halibut or sablefish (see §679.40(g)).

Tanner crab means *Chionoecetes* species or hybrids of these species.

Target species are those species or species groups, except the “other species” category, for which a TAC is specified pursuant to §679.20(a)(2).

Tax-exempt organization means an organization that received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service recognizing tax exemption under 26 CFR part 1 (§§1.501 to 1.640).

Tender vessel (see also the definition of “buying station” under this section) means a vessel that is used to transport unprocessed fish or shellfish received from another vessel to an associated processor.

Ten percent or greater direct or indirect ownership interest for purposes of the Amendment 80 Program and Rockfish Program means a relationship between two or more persons in which one directly or indirectly owns or controls a 10 percent or greater interest in, or otherwise controls, another person; or a third person which directly or indirectly owns or controls, or otherwise controls a 10 percent or greater interest in both. For the purpose of this definition, the following terms are further defined:

(1) *Person.* A person is a person as defined in this section.

(2) *Indirect interest.* An indirect interest is one that passes through one or more intermediate persons. A person's percentage of indirect interest in a second person is equal to the person's percentage of direct interest in an intermediate person multiplied by the intermediate person's direct or indirect interest in the second person.

(3) *Controls a 10 percent or greater interest.* A person controls a 10 percent or greater interest in a second person if the first person:

(i) Controls a 10 percent ownership share of the second person; or

(ii) Controls 10 percent or more of the voting or controlling stock of the second person.

(4) *Otherwise controls.* A person otherwise controls another person, if it has:

(i) The right to direct, or does direct, the business of the other person;

(ii) The right in the ordinary course of business to limit the actions of, or replace, or does limit or replace, the chief executive officer, a majority of the board of directors, any general partner, or any person serving in a management capacity of the other person;

(iii) The right to direct, or does direct, the Rockfish Program fishery processing activities of that other person;

(iv) The right to restrict, or does restrict, the day-to-day business activities and management policies of the other person through loan covenants;

(v) The right to derive, or does derive, either directly, or through a minority shareholder or partner, and in favor of the other person, a significantly disproportionate amount of the economic benefit from the processing of fish by that other person;

(vi) The right to control, or does control, the management of, or to be a controlling factor in, the other person;

(vii) The right to cause, or does cause, the purchase or sale of fish processed by that person;

(viii) Absorbs all of the costs and normal business risks associated with ownership and operation of the other person; or

(ix) Has the ability through any other means whatsoever to control the other person.

Transfer means:

(1) *Groundfish fisheries of the GOA and BSAI.* Any loading, offloading, shipment or receipt of any IFQ sablefish or other groundfish product by a mothership, catcher/processor, shoreside processor, or stationary floating processor, including quantities transferred inside or outside the EEZ, within any state's territorial waters, within the internal waters of any state, at any shoreside processor, stationary floating processor, or at any offsite meal reduction plant.

(2) *IFQ halibut and CDQ halibut fisheries.* Any loading, offloading, or shipment of any IFQ halibut or CDQ halibut product including quantities transferred inside or outside the EEZ, within any state's territorial waters, within the internal waters of any state, at any shoreside processor, stationary floating processor, or at any offsite meal reduction plant.

Trawl test areas (see Figure 7 to this part and §679.24(d)).

Unlisted AFA catcher/processor means an AFA catcher/processor permitted to harvest BS pollock under §679.4(l)(2)(ii).

Unrestricted AFA inshore processor means an AFA inshore processor permitted to harvest pollock under §679.4(l)(5)(i)(A).

Unsorted codend is a codend of groundfish that is not brought on board a catcher vessel and that is delivered to a mothership, shoreside processor, or stationary floating processor without the potential for sorting. No other instance of catcher vessel harvest is considered an “unsorted codend.” All other catch that does not meet this definition is considered “presorted” whether or not sorting occurs.

U.S. citizen means:

(1) *General usage.* Any individual who is a citizen of the United States.

(2) *IFQ program.* (i) Any individual who is a citizen of the United States at the time of application for QS; or

(ii) Any corporation, partnership, association, or other non-individual entity that would have qualified to document a fishing vessel as a vessel of the United States during the QS qualifying years of 1988, 1989, and 1990.

U.S.-Russian Boundary means the seaward boundary of Russian waters as defined in Figure 1 to this part.

User means, for purposes of IERS and eLandings, an individual representative of a Registered Buyer; a Registered Crab Receiver; a mothership or catcher/processor that is required to have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) under §679.4; a shoreside processor or SFP and mothership that receives groundfish from vessels issued an FFP under §679.4; any shoreside processor or SFP that is required to have a Federal processor permit under §679.4; and his or her designee(s).

User identification (UserID) , for purposes of IERS and eLandings, means the string of letters and/or numbers that identifies the individual and gives him or her authorization to view and submit reports for specific operations or to otherwise use eLandings. To facilitate the management of Users and privileges and to provide for data security, a separate UserID is issued to each individual.

Vessel Activity Report (VAR) (see §679.4(k)).

Vessel length category means the length category of a vessel, based on the assigned MLOA, used to determine eligibility.

Vessel operations category (see §679.5(b)(3)).

Walrus Protection Areas (see §679.22(a)(4)).

Week–ending date means the last day of the weekly reporting period which ends on Saturday at 2400 hours, A.l.t., except during the last week of each calendar year, when it ends at 2400 hours, A.l.t., December 31.

Weekly production report (WPR) is no longer required (see §679.5(e)(9) and (10)).

Weekly reporting period means a time period that begins at 0001 hours, A.l.t., Sunday morning (except during the first week of each year, when it starts on January 1) and ends at 2400 hours, A.l.t., the following Saturday night (except during the last week of each year, when it ends on December 31).

West Yakutat District of the GOA means that part of the Eastern GOA Regulatory Area contained in Statistical Area 640 (see Figure 3 to this part).

Western Aleutian District means that part of the Aleutian Islands Subarea contained in Statistical Area 543 (see Figure 1 to this part).

Western GOA Regulatory Area means that portion of the GOA EEZ that is contained in Statistical Area 610 (see Figure 3 to this part).

Wing tip means the point where adjacent breast lines intersect or where a breast line intersects with the fishing line.

[61 FR 31230, June 19, 1996]

Editorial Note: For Federal Register citations affecting §679.2, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 679.3 Relation to other laws.

(a) *Foreign fishing for groundfish.* Regulations governing U.S. nationals fishing in the Russian fisheries are set forth in part 300 of chapter III of this title.

(b) *Domestic fishing for groundfish.* (1) The conservation and management of groundfish in waters of the territorial sea and internal waters of the State of Alaska are governed by the Alaska Administrative Code at 5 AAC Chapter 28 and by the Alaska Statutes at Title 16.

(2) Alaska Administrative Code (5 AAC 39.130) governs reporting and permitting requirements using ADF&G “Intent to Operate” and “Fish Tickets.”

(c) *Halibut.* Additional regulations governing the conservation and management of halibut are set forth in subpart E of part 300 of chapter III of this title.

(d) *King and Tanner crabs.* Additional regulations governing conservation and management of king crabs and Tanner crabs in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area are contained in 50 CFR part 680 and in Alaska Statutes at A.S. 16 and Alaska Administrative Code at 5 AAC Chapters 34, 35, and 39.

(e) *Incidental catch of marine mammals.* Regulations governing exemption permits and the recordkeeping and reporting of the incidental take of marine mammals are set forth in §216.24 and part 229 of this title.

(f) *Domestic fishing for high seas salmon.* (1) Additional regulations governing the conservation and management of salmon are set forth in §600.705 of this chapter.

(2) This part does not apply to fishing for salmon by vessels other than vessels of the United States conducted under subpart H, part 660 (West Coast Salmon Fisheries) under the North Pacific Fisheries Act of 1954, 16 U.S.C. 1021-1035, concerning fishing for salmon seaward of Washington, Oregon, and California.

(3) The Salmon Fishery east of Cape Suckling is administered in close coordination with ADF&G's administration of the State of Alaska's regulations governing the salmon troll fishery off Southeast Alaska. For State of Alaska regulations specifically governing the salmon troll fishery, see 5 Alaska Administrative Code 30 (Yakutat Area), and 5 Alaska Administrative Code 33 (Southeastern Alaska Area).

(4) Commercial fishing for salmon in the EEZ west of Cape Suckling is not allowed except in three net fisheries managed by the State of Alaska as described in Section 2.2.2 and Appendix C of the Salmon FMP. For State of Alaska regulations governing these fisheries, see 5 Alaska Administrative Code 09 (Alaska Peninsula), 5 Alaska Administrative Code 21 (Cook Inlet), and 5 Alaska Administrative Code 24 (Prince William Sound).

(5) For State of Alaska statutes and regulations governing commercial fishing, see Alaska Statutes, title 16—Fish and Game; title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, chapters 1-39.

(6) For State of Alaska statutes and regulations governing sport and personal use salmon fishing other than subsistence fishing, see Alaska Statutes, title 16—Fish and Game; 5 Alaska Administrative Codes 42.010 through 75.995.

(7) For State of Alaska statutes and regulations governing subsistence fishing, see Alaska Statutes, title 16—Fish and Game; 5 Alaska Administrative Codes 01, 02, 39, and 99.010.

(g) *Scallops.* Additional regulations governing conservation and management of scallops off Alaska are contained in Alaska Statutes A.S. 16 and Alaska Administrative Code at 5 AAC Chapter 38.

[61 FR 31230, June 19, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 35578, July 5, 1996; 62 FR 2045, Jan. 15, 1997; 62 FR 19688, Apr. 23, 1997; 63 FR 38502, July 17, 1998; 63 FR 47356, Sept. 4, 1998; 69 FR 877, Jan. 7, 2004; 70 FR 10232, Mar. 2, 2005]

§ 679.4 Permits.

(a) *Requirements.* Only persons who are U.S. citizens are authorized to receive or hold permits under this section, with the exception that an IFQ hired master permit or a CDQ hired master permit need not be held by a U.S. citizen.

(1) *What permits are available?* Various types of permits are issued for programs codified at 50 CFR parts 300 and 679. These permits are listed in the following table. The date of effectiveness for each permit is given along with certain reference paragraphs for further information.

If program permit or card type is:	Permit is in effect from issue date through the end of:	For more information, see . . .
(i) IFQ:		
(A) Registered buyer	Until expiration date shown on permit	Paragraph (d)(3)(ii) of this section
(B) Halibut & sablefish permits	Specified fishing year	Paragraph (d)(1) of this section
(C) Halibut & sablefish hired master permits	Specified fishing year	Paragraph (d)(2) of this section
(ii) CDQ Halibut		
(A) Halibut permit	Specified fishing year	Paragraph (e) of this section
(B) Halibut hired master permit	Specified fishing year	Paragraph (e) of this section
(iii) AFA:		
(A) Catcher/processor	Indefinite	Paragraph (l) of this section
(B) Catcher vessel	Indefinite	Paragraph (l) of this section
(C)Mothership	Indefinite	Paragraph (l) of this section
(D) Inshore processor	Indefinite	Paragraph (l) of this section
(E) Inshore cooperative	Calendar year	Paragraph (l) of this section
(F) Replacement vessel	Indefinite	Paragraph (l) of this section
(iv) Groundfish:		
(A) Federal fisheries	Until expiration date shown on permit	Paragraph (b) of this section
(B) Federal processor	Until expiration date shown on permit	Paragraph (f) of this section
(v) Salmon permit	Indefinite	Paragraph (h) of this section
(vi) High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA)	5 years	§300.10 of this title
(vii) License Limitation Program (LLP):		
(A) Groundfish license	Specified fishing year or interim (active until further notice)	Paragraph (k) of this section
(B) Crab license	Specified fishing year or interim (active until further notice)	Paragraph (k) of this section
(C) Scallop license	Indefinite	Paragraph (g) of this section
(viii) Exempted fisheries	1 year or less	§679.6
(ix) Research	1 year or less	§600.745(a) of this chapter
(x) Prohibited species donation program:		
(A) Salmon	3 years	§679.26
(B) Halibut	3 years	§679.26

(xi) Special Subsistence Permits:		
(A) Community Harvest Permit	1 year	§300.65 of this title
(B) Ceremonial or Educational Permit	30 days	§300.65 of this title
(xii) Rockfish Program:		
(A) CQ	Specified fishing year	§679.81(e)(4)
(B) Rockfish Limited Access Fishery	Specified fishing year	§679.81(e)(5)
(C) Optout Fishery	Specified fishing year	§679.81(e)(6)
(D) Rockfish Entry Level Fishery	Specified fishing year	§679.81(e)(7)
(xiii) Amendment 80 Program:		
(A) Amendment 80 QS permit	Indefinite	§679.90(b).
(B) CQ permit	Specified fishing year	§679.91(b).
(C) Amendment 80 limited access fishery	Specified fishing year	§679.91(b).
(xiv) Crab Rationalization Program permits	see §680.4 of this chapter	§680.4 of this chapter
(A) Crab Quota Share permit	Indefinite	§680.4(b) of this chapter
(B) Crab Processor Quota Share permit	Indefinite	§680.4(c) of this chapter
(C) Crab Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) permit	Specified fishing year	§680.4(d) of this chapter
(D) Crab Individual Processor Quota (IPQ) permit	Specified fishing year	§680.4(e) of this chapter
(E) Crab IFQ hired master permit	Specified fishing year	§680.4(g) of this chapter
(F) Registered Crab receiver permit	Specified fishing year	§680.4(i) of this chapter
(G) Federal crab vessel permit	Specified fishing year	§680.4(k) of this chapter
(H) Crab harvesting cooperative IFQ permit	Specified fishing year	§680.21(b) of this chapter

(2) *Permit and logbook required by participant and fishery.* For the various types of permits issued, refer to §679.5 for recordkeeping and reporting requirements. For subsistence permits, refer to §300.65 of this title for recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

(3) *Permit application.* (i) A person may obtain an application for a new permit or for renewal or revision of an existing permit for any of the permits under this section and must submit forms to NMFS as instructed in application instructions. With appropriate software, all permit applications may be completed online and printed from the Alaska Region website at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov* .

(ii) Upon receipt of an incomplete or improperly completed permit application, the Program Administrator, RAM, will notify the applicant of the deficiency in the permit application. If the applicant fails to correct the deficiency, the permit will not be issued. No permit will be issued to an applicant until a complete application is received.

(iii) The operator, manager, Registered Buyer, or Registered Crab Receiver must obtain a separate permit for each applicant, facility, or vessel, as appropriate to each Federal permit in

this section (§679.4) and retain a copy of each permit application, whether the application is requesting an initial permit or renewing or revising an existing permit.

(iv) The information requested on the application must be typed or printed legibly.

(v) All permits are issued free of charge.

(4) [Reserved]

(5) *Alteration.* No person may alter, erase, or mutilate any permit, card, or document issued under this section. Any such permit, card, or document that is intentionally altered, erased, or mutilated is invalid.

(6) *Disclosure.* NMFS will maintain a list of permitted processors that may be disclosed for public inspection.

(7) *Sanctions and denials.* Procedures governing sanctions and denials are found at subpart D of 15 CFR part 904. Such procedures are required for enforcement purposes, not administrative purposes.

(8) *Harvesting privilege.* Quota shares, permits, or licenses issued pursuant to this part are neither a right to the resource nor any interest that is subject to the “takings” provision of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Rather, such quota shares, permits, or licenses represent only a harvesting privilege that may be revoked or amended subject to the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law.

(9) *Permit surrender.* The Regional Administrator will recognize the voluntary surrender of a permit issued in this section, §679.4, if a permit may be surrendered and it is submitted by the person named on the permit, owner of record, or agent. Submit the original permit to Program Administrator, RAM Program, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, by certified mail or other method that provides written evidence that NMFS Alaska Region received it. The receiving date of signature by NMFS staff is the date the permit was surrendered.

(b) *Federal fisheries permit (FFP)* —(1) *Groundfish.* No vessel of the United States may be used to fish for groundfish in the GOA or BSAI unless the owner first obtains a Federal fisheries permit for the vessel, issued under this part. A Federal fisheries permit is issued without charge.

(2) *Non-groundfish.* A vessel of the United States that fishes in the GOA or BSAI for any non-groundfish species, including but not limited to halibut, crab, salmon, scallops, and herring, and that is required to retain any bycatch of groundfish under this part must obtain a Federal fisheries permit under this part.

(3) *Vessel operations categories.* An FFP authorizes a vessel owner to deploy a vessel to conduct operations in the GOA or BSAI under the following categories: Catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, tender vessel, or support vessel. A vessel may not be operated in a category other than as specified on the FFP, except that a catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, or tender vessel may be operated as a support vessel.

(4) *Duration* —(i) *Length of permit effectiveness.* An FFP is in effect from the effective date through the expiration date, unless it is revoked, suspended, surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section, or modified under §600.735 or §600.740 of this chapter.

(ii) *Surrendered permit.* An FFP permit may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. An FFP may be reissued to the permit holder of record in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered. Contact NMFS/RAM by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(iii) *Amended permit.* An owner or operator, who applied for and received an FFP, must notify NMFS of any change in the permit information by submitting an FFP application found at the NMFS website at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov* as instructed on the application form. Upon receipt and approval of a permit amendment, the Program Administrator, RAM, will issue an amended FFP.

(5) *Contents of an FFP application.* To obtain a Federal fisheries permit, the owner must complete a Federal fisheries permit application and provide the following information for each vessel to be permitted:

(i) *New or amended application?* Indicate whether application is for a new or amended Federal fisheries permit and if revision, enter the current Federal fisheries permit number.

(ii) *Owner information.* Indicate the name(s), permanent business mailing address, business telephone number, business FAX number, and business e-mail address of the owner; and if applicable, the name of any person or company (other than the owner) that manages the operations of the vessel.

(iii) *Vessel information.* Indicate the vessel name and homeport (city and state); U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) documentation number; ADF&G vessel registration number; ADF&G processor code; vessel's LOA (ft), registered length (ft), gross tonnage, net tonnage, and shaft horsepower; and whether this is a vessel of the United States.

(iv) *Area and gear information.* Indicate the type of vessel operation. If catcher/processor or catcher vessel, indicate only the gear types used for groundfish fishing. If the vessel is a catcher/processor under 125 ft (18.3 m) LOA that is intended to process GOA inshore pollock or GOA inshore Pacific cod, mark the box for a GOA inshore processing endorsement.

(v) *Signature.* The owner or agent of the owner of the vessel must sign and date the application. If the owner is a company, the agent of the owner must sign and date the application.

(vi) *Atka Mackerel, Pollock, and Pacific Cod Directed Fisheries.* (A) Indicate use of pot, hook-and-line, or trawl gear in the directed fisheries for pollock, Atka mackerel, or Pacific cod.

(B) Indicate directed fishing for Atka mackerel in the harvest limit area, as defined in §679.2.

(C) Selections for species endorsements will remain valid until an FFP is amended to remove those endorsements or the permit with these endorsements is surrendered or revoked.

(vii) (Applicable through December 31, 2002) If the vessel owner will be fishing in the harvest limit area in Statistical Areas 542 or 543 in the directed fishery for Atka mackerel.

(6) *Issuance.* (i) Except as provided in subpart D of 15 CFR part 904, upon receipt of a properly completed permit application, the Regional Administrator will issue a Federal fisheries permit required by this paragraph (b).

(ii) The Regional Administrator will send the Federal fisheries permit to the applicant with the appropriate logbooks, as provided under §679.5.

(iii) NMFS will reissue a Federal fisheries permit to any person who holds a Federal fisheries permit issued for a vessel if that vessel was used to make any legal rockfish landings and is subject to a sideboard limit as described under §679.82(d) through (h).

(iv) NMFS will reissue a Federal fisheries permit to any person who holds a Federal fisheries permit issued to an Amendment 80 vessel.

(7) *Amended application.* If the application for an amended permit required under this section designates a change or addition of a vessel operations category, the amended permit must be on board the vessel before the new type of operations begins.

(8) *Transfer.* A Federal fisheries permit issued under this paragraph (b) is not transferable or assignable and is valid only for the vessel for which it is issued.

(9) *Inspection.* (i) An original Federal fisheries permit issued under this paragraph (b) must be carried on board the vessel whenever the vessel is fishing. Photocopied or faxed copies are not considered originals.

(ii) A permit issued under this paragraph (b) must be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized officer.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) *IFQ permits, IFQ hired master permits, and Registered Buyer permits.* The permits described in this section are required in addition to the permit and licensing requirements prescribed in the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of this title and in the permit requirements of this section.

(1) *IFQ permit.* (i) An IFQ permit authorizes the person identified on the permit to harvest IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish from a specified IFQ regulatory area at any time during an open fishing season during the fishing year for which the IFQ permit is issued until the amount harvested is equal to the amount specified under the permit, or until the permit is revoked, suspended, surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section, or modified under 15 CFR part 904.

(ii) A legible copy of any IFQ permit that specifies the IFQ regulatory area and vessel length overall from which IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish may be harvested by the IFQ permit holder must be carried on board the vessel used by the permitted person to harvest IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish at all times that such fish are retained on board.

(iii) An IFQ permit may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. An annual IFQ permit will not be reissued in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered, but a new annual IFQ permit may be issued to the quota share holder of record in a subsequent fishing year. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(2) *IFQ hired master permit.* (i) An IFQ hired master permit authorizes the individual identified on the IFQ hired master permit to land IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish for debit against the specified IFQ permit until the IFQ hired master permit expires, or is revoked, suspended, surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section, or modified under 15 CFR part 904, or cancelled on request of the IFQ permit holder.

(ii) A legible copy of an IFQ hired master permit issued to an eligible individual in accordance with §679.42(i) and (j) by the Regional Administrator must be onboard the vessel that harvests IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish at all times that such fish are retained onboard by a hired master. Except as specified in §679.42(d), an individual that is issued an IFQ hired master permit must remain onboard the vessel used to harvest IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish with that IFQ hired master permit during the IFQ fishing trip and at the landing site during all IFQ landings.

(iii) Each IFQ hired master permit issued by the Regional Administrator will display an IFQ permit number and the name of the individual authorized by the IFQ permit holder to land IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish for debit against the IFQ permit holder's IFQ. In addition, IFQ hired master permits will also display the ADF&G vessel identification number of the authorized vessel.

(iv) An IFQ hired master permit may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. An IFQ hired master permit may be reissued to the permit holder of record in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(3) *Registered Buyer permit.* (i) A Registered Buyer permit authorizes the person identified on the permit to receive and make an IFQ landing by an IFQ permit holder or IFQ hired master permit holder or to receive and make a CDQ halibut landing by a CDQ permit holder or CDQ hired master permit holder at any time during the fishing year for which it is issued until the Registered Buyer permit expires, or is revoked, suspended, surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section, or modified under 15 CFR part 904.

(ii) A Registered Buyer permit is required of:

(A) Any person who receives IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish from the person(s) who harvested the fish;

(B) Any person who harvests IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish and transfers such fish in a dockside sale, outside of an IFQ regulatory area, or outside the State of Alaska.

(C) A vessel operator who submits a Departure Report (see §679.5(l)(4)).

(iii) A Registered Buyer permit is issued on a 3-year cycle by the Regional Administrator to persons that have a Registered Buyer application approved by the Regional Administrator.

(iv) A Registered Buyer permit is in effect from the first day of the year for which it is issued or from the date of issuance, whichever is later, through the end of the current NMFS 3-year cycle, unless it is revoked, suspended, surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section, or modified under §600.735 or §600.740 of this chapter.

(v) A Registered Buyer permit may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. A Registered Buyer permit may be reissued to the permit holder of record in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(4) *Issuance* . The Regional Administrator will issue IFQ permits and IFQ hired master permits annually or at other times as needed to accommodate transfers, revocations, appeals resolution, and other changes in QS or IFQ holdings, and designation of masters under §679.42.

(5) *Transfer* . The quota shares and IFQ issued under this section are not transferable, except as provided under §679.41. IFQ hired master permits and Registered Buyer permits issued under this paragraph (d) are not transferable.

(6) *Inspection* —(i) *IFQ permit and IFQ hired master permit* . (A) The IFQ permit holder must present a legible copy of the IFQ permit for inspection on request of any authorized officer or Registered Buyer receiving IFQ species.

(B) The IFQ hired master permit holder must present a legible copy of the IFQ permit and a legible copy of the IFQ hired master permit for inspection on request of any authorized officer or Registered Buyer receiving IFQ species.

(ii) *Registered Buyer permit.* A legible copy of the Registered Buyer permit must be present at the location of an IFQ landing or CDQ halibut landing and must be made available by an individual representing the Registered Buyer for inspection on request of any authorized officer.

(7) *Validity.* An IFQ permit issued under this part is valid only if the IFQ permit holder has paid all IFQ fees that are due as a result of final agency action as specified in §§679.45 and 679.5(l)(7)(ii).

(e) *Halibut CDQ permits and CDQ hired master permits* —(1) *Requirements.* (i) The CDQ group, the operator of the vessel, the manager of a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor, and the Registered Buyer must comply with the requirements of this paragraph (e) and of paragraph §679.32(f) for the catch of CDQ halibut.

(ii) The CDQ group, vessel owner or operator, and Registered Buyer are subject to all of the IFQ prohibitions at §679.7(f).

(2) *Halibut CDQ permit.* The CDQ group must obtain a halibut CDQ permit issued by the Regional Administrator. The vessel operator must have a legible copy of the halibut CDQ permit on any fishing vessel operated by, or for, a CDQ group that will have halibut CDQ onboard and must make the permit available for inspection by an authorized officer. The halibut CDQ permit is non–transferable and is issued annually until revoked, suspended, surrendered, or modified. A halibut CDQ permit may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. The halibut CDQ permit will not be reissued in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered, but a new annual halibut CDQ permit may be issued in a subsequent fishing year to the CDQ group entitled to a CDQ halibut allocation. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(3) An individual must have onboard the vessel a legible copy of his or her halibut CDQ hired master permit issued by the Regional Administrator while harvesting and landing any CDQ halibut. Each halibut CDQ hired master permit will identify a CDQ permit number and the individual authorized by the CDQ group to land halibut for debit against the CDQ group's halibut CDQ. A halibut CDQ hired master permit may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. A halibut CDQ hired master permit may be reissued to the permit holder of record in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(4) *Alteration* . No person may alter, erase, mutilate, or forge a halibut CDQ permit, hired master permit, Registered Buyer permit, or any valid or current permit or document issued under this part. Any such permit or document that has been intentionally altered, erased, mutilated, or forged is invalid.

(5) *Landings* . A person may land CDQ halibut only if he or she has a valid halibut CDQ hired master permit. The person(s) holding the halibut CDQ hired master permit and the Registered buyer must comply with the requirements of §679.5(g) and (l)(1) through (6).

(f) *Federal processor permit (FPP)* —(1) *Requirement.* No shoreside processor of the United States or stationary floating processor may receive or process groundfish harvested in the GOA or BSAI, unless the owner first obtains a Federal processor permit issued under this part. A Federal processor permit is issued without charge.

(2) *Contents of an FPP application.* To obtain an FPP, the owner must complete an FPP application and provide the following information (see paragraphs (f)(2)(i) through (v) of this section for each SFP and shoreside processor plant to be permitted):

(i) *New or amended permit.* Indicate whether application is for a new or amended FPP; and if an amended permit, provide the current FPP number. Indicate whether application is for a shoreside processor or an SFP.

(ii) *Owner information.* Indicate the name(s), permanent business mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, and business email address of all owners, and if applicable, the name of any person or company (other than the owner) who manages the operations of the shoreside processor or SFP.

(iii) *SFP information.* Indicate the vessel name; whether this is a vessel of the United States; USCG documentation number; ADF&G vessel registration number; ADF&G processor code; the vessel's LOA (ft); registered length (ft); gross tonnage; net tonnage; shaft horsepower; homeport (city and state); and whether choosing to receive a GOA inshore processing endorsement. A GOA inshore processing endorsement is required in order to process GOA inshore pollock and GOA inshore Pacific cod.

(iv) *Shoreside processor information.* Indicate the shoreside processor's name; permanent business mailing address; physical location of plant at which the shoreside processor is operating (street, city, state, zip code); whether the shoreside processor is replacing a previous processor at this facility (YES or NO, and if YES, name of previous processor); whether multiple processing businesses are using this plant; whether the owner named in paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this section owns this plant; ADF&G processor code; business telephone number; business fax number; and business e–mail address.

(v) *Signature.* The owner or agent of the owner of the shoreside processor or SFP must sign and date the application. If the owner is a company, the agent of the owner must sign and date the application.

(3) *Issuance.* Upon receipt of a properly completed permit application, the Regional Administrator will issue a Federal processor permit required by this paragraph (f).

(4) *Duration* —(i) *Length of effectiveness.* An FPP is in effect from the effective date through the date of permit expiration, unless it is revoked, suspended, surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section, or modified under §600.735 or §600.740 of this chapter.

(ii) *Surrendered permit.* An FPP may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. An FPP may be reissued to the permit holder of record in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(iii) *Amended permit.* An owner or operator, who applied for and received an FPP, must notify NMFS of any change in the permit information by submitting an FPP application found at the NMFS website at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov* . The owner or operator must submit the application as instructed on the application form. Upon receipt and approval of a permit amendment, the Program Administrator, RAM, will issue an amended FPP.

(5) *Transfer.* A Federal processor permit issued under this paragraph (f) is not transferable or assignable and is valid only for the processor for which it is issued.

(6) *Inspection.* (i) An original Federal processor permit issued under this paragraph (f) must be on site at the shoreside processor, or stationary floating processor at all times. Photocopied or faxed copies are not considered originals.

(ii) A permit issued under this paragraph (f) must be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized officer.

(g) *Scallop LLP* —(1) *General requirements.* (i) In addition to the permit and licensing requirements prescribed in this part, each vessel within the EEZ off Alaska that is catching and retaining scallops, must have an original scallop LLP license onboard at all times it is catching and retaining scallops. This scallop LLP license, issued by NMFS,

authorizes the person named on the license to catch and retain scallops in compliance with State of Alaska regulations and only with a vessel that does not exceed the maximum LOA specified on the license and the gear designation specified on the license.

(ii) A scallop LLP license may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. A surrendered scallop LLP license will cease to exist and will not be subsequently reissued. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(2) *Qualifications for a scallop LLP license.* A scallop LLP license will be issued to an eligible applicant who:

(i) Is a qualified person;

(ii) Was named on a State of Alaska scallop moratorium permit or Federal scallop moratorium permit on February 8, 1999;

(iii) Used the moratorium permit held on February 8, 1999, to make legal landings of scallops in each of any 2 calendar years during the qualification period beginning January 1, 1996, through October 9, 1998; and

(iv) Submitted a complete application for a scallop license during the application period specified pursuant to paragraph (g)(4) of this section.

(3) *Scallop license conditions and endorsements.* A scallop license authorizes the license holder to catch and retain scallops only if the vessel length and gear used do not exceed the vessel length and gear endorsements specified on the license. These endorsements will be determined as follows.

(i) The MLOA specified on the scallop license is equal to the length overall on February 8, 1999, of the longest vessel that was authorized by a Federal or State of Alaska Scallop Moratorium Permit to harvest scallops and used by the eligible applicant to make legal landings of scallops during the scallop LLP qualification period, as specified at §679.4(g)(2)(iii) of this part.

(ii) The gear specified on a scallop license will be restricted to two dredges with a combined width of no more than 20 feet (6.1 m) in all areas if the eligible applicant was a moratorium permit holder with a Scallop Registration Area H (Cook Inlet) endorsement and did not make a legal landing of scallops caught outside Area H during the qualification period specified in paragraph (g)(2)(iii) of this section.

(4) *Application for a scallop license* —(i) *General.* The Regional Administrator will issue a scallop license to an applicant if a complete application is submitted by or on behalf of the applicant during the specified application period, and if that applicant meets all the criteria for eligibility in this part. An application that is postmarked or hand delivered after the ending date for the application period for the scallop LLP specified in paragraph §679.4(g)(4)(ii) will be denied. An application form will be sent to the last known address of the person identified as an eligible applicant by the official LLP record. An application form may be requested from the Regional Administrator.

(ii) *Application Period.* January 16, 2001, through February 12, 2001.

(iii) *Contents of application.* To be complete, an application for a scallop license must be signed and dated by the applicant, or the individual representing the applicant, and contain the following information, as applicable:

(A) Scallop Moratorium Permit number under which legal landings of scallops were made during the qualification period specified in paragraph (g)(2)(iii) of this section;

(B) Name, business address, telephone number, FAX number, and social security number or tax ID number of the applicant, and whether the applicant is a U.S. citizen or a U.S. business;

(C) Name of the managing company, if any;

(D) Evidence of legal landings in the qualifying years and registration areas;

(E) For the vessel(s) being used as the basis for eligibility for a license, the name, state registration number (e.g., ADF&G number), the USCG documentation number, and valid evidence of the LOA on February 8, 1999, of the longest vessel used by the applicant during the qualification period specified in paragraph (g)(2)(iii) of this section.

(iv) *Successor-in-interest.* If an applicant is applying as the successor-in-interest to an eligible applicant, an application, to be complete, also must contain valid evidence proving the applicant's status as a successor-in-interest to that eligible applicant and:

(A) Valid evidence of the death of that eligible applicant at the time of application, if the eligible applicant was an individual; or

(B) Valid evidence that the eligible applicant is no longer in existence at the time of application, if the eligible applicant is not an individual.

(v) *Application evaluation.* The Regional Administrator will evaluate an application submitted during the specified application period and compare all claims in the application with the information in the official LLP record. Claims in the application that are consistent with information in the official LLP record will be accepted by the Regional Administrator. Inconsistent claims in the application, unless verified by evidence, will not be accepted. An applicant who submits inconsistent claims, or an applicant who fails to submit the information specified in paragraphs (g)(4)(iii) and (g)(4)(iv) of this section, will be provided a 60-day evidentiary period pursuant to paragraph (g)(4)(vii) of this section to submit the specified information, submit evidence to verify his or her inconsistent claims, or submit a revised application with claims consistent with information in the official LLP record. An applicant who submits claims that are inconsistent with information in the official LLP record has the burden of proving that the submitted claims are correct.

(vi) *Additional information or evidence.* The Regional Administrator will evaluate additional information or evidence to support an applicant's inconsistent claims submitted within the 60-day evidentiary period pursuant to paragraph (g)(4)(vii) of this section. If the Regional Administrator determines that the additional information or evidence meets the applicant's burden of proving that the inconsistent claims in his or her application are correct, the official LLP record will be amended and the information will be used in determining whether the applicant is eligible for a license. However, if the Regional Administrator determines that the additional information or evidence does not meet the applicant's burden of proving that the inconsistent claims in his or her application is correct, the applicant will be notified by an initial administrative determination, pursuant to paragraph (g)(4)(viii) of this section, that the applicant did not meet the burden of proof to change the information in the official LLP record.

(vii) *60-day evidentiary period.* The Regional Administrator will specify by letter a 60-day evidentiary period during which an applicant may provide additional information or evidence to support the claims made in his or her application, or to submit a revised application with claims consistent with information in the official LLP record, if the Regional Administrator determines that the applicant did not meet the burden of proving that the information on the application is correct through evidence provided with the application. Also, an applicant who fails to submit information as specified in paragraphs (g)(4)(iii) and (g)(4)(iv) of this section will have 60 days to provide that information. An applicant will be limited to one 60-day evidentiary period. Additional information or evidence, or a revised application, received after the 60-day evidentiary period specified in the letter has expired will not be considered for purposes of the initial administrative determination.

(viii) *Initial administrative determinations (IAD).* The Regional Administrator will prepare and send an IAD to the applicant following the expiration of the 60-day evidentiary period if the Regional Administrator determines that the information or evidence provided by the applicant fails to support the applicant's claims and is insufficient to rebut the presumption that the official LLP record is correct, or if the additional information, evidence, or revised application is not provided within the time period specified in the letter that notifies the applicant of his or her 60-day evidentiary period. The IAD will indicate the deficiencies in the application, including any deficiencies with the information, the evidence submitted in support of the information, or the revised application. The IAD will also indicate which claims cannot be approved based on the available information or evidence. An applicant who receives an IAD may appeal pursuant to §679.43. An applicant who avails himself or herself of the opportunity to appeal an IAD will not receive a transferable license until after the final resolution of that appeal in the applicant's favor.

(ix) *Issuance of a non-transferable license.* The Regional Administrator will issue a non-transferable license to the applicant at the same time notification is provided to the applicant of his or her 60-day evidentiary period if issuance is required by the license renewal provisions of 5 U.S.C. 558. A non-transferable license authorizes a person to catch and retain scallops as specified on the non-transferable license, and will have the specific endorsements and designations based on the claims in his or her application. A non-transferable license will expire upon final agency action.

(5) *Transfer of a Scallop License* —(i) *General.* The Regional Administrator will approve the transfer of a scallop license if a complete transfer application is submitted to Restricted Access Management, Alaska Region, NMFS, and if the transfer meets all the eligibility criteria as specified in paragraph (g)(5)(ii) of this section. An application form may be requested from the Regional Administrator.

(ii) *Eligibility criteria for transfers.* A scallop license can be transferred if:

(A) The designated transferee is eligible to document a fishing vessel under Chapter 121, Title 46, U.S.C.;

(B) The parties to the transfer do not have any fines, civil penalties, other payments due and outstanding, or outstanding permit sanctions resulting from Federal fishing violations;

(C) The transfer will not cause the designated transferee to exceed the license limit in §679.7(i); and

(D) The transfer does not violate any other provision specified in this part.

(iii) *Contents of transfer application.* To be complete, an application for a scallop license transfer must be signed by the license holder and the designated transferee, or the individuals representing them, and contain the following information, as applicable:

(A) Name, business address, telephone number, and FAX number of the license holder and of the designated transferee;

(B) License number and total price being paid for the license;

(C) Certification that the designated transferee is a U.S. citizen, or a U.S. corporation, partnership, or other association;

(D) A legible copy of a contract or sales agreement that specifies the license to be transferred, the license holder, the designated transferee, the monetary value or the terms of the license transfer; and

(E) Other information the Regional Administrator deems necessary for measuring program performance.

(iv) *Incomplete applications.* The Regional Administrator will return an incomplete transfer application to the applicant and identify any deficiencies if the Regional Administrator determines that the application does not meet all the criteria identified in paragraph (g)(5) of this section.

(v) *Transfer by court order, operation of law, or as part of a security agreement.* The Regional Administrator will transfer a scallop license based on a court order, operation of law, or a security agreement if the Regional Administrator determines that the transfer application is complete and the transfer will not violate any of the provisions of this section.

(h) *Salmon permits* —(1) *Operators of commercial fishing vessels using power troll gear.* The operator of a fishing vessel using power troll gear may engage in commercial fishing for salmon in the Salmon Management Area if the operator:

(i) Held a valid State of Alaska power troll permanent entry permit on May 15, 1979, or is a transferee under paragraph (h)(13) of this section from an operator who held such a permit on that date;

(ii) Held a valid State of Alaska power troll interim use permit on May 15, 1979; or

(iii) Holds a Salmon Fishery permit issued by the Regional Administrator under paragraph (h)(7) of this section.

(2) *Crew members and other persons not the operator of a commercial fishing vessel using power troll gear.* Crew members or other persons aboard but not the operator of a fishing vessel may assist in the vessel's commercial salmon fishing operations in the High Seas Management Area without a permit if a person described in paragraph (h)(1)(i) through (iii) of this section is also aboard the vessel and is engaged in the vessel's commercial fishing operations.

(3) *Personal use fishing.* Any person who holds a valid State of Alaska sport fishing license may engage in personal use fishing in the Salmon Management Area.

(4) *Duration.* Authorization under this paragraph (h) to engage in fishing for salmon in the Salmon Management Area constitutes a use privilege which may be revoked or modified without compensation.

(5) *Eligibility criteria for permits issued by the Regional Administrator.* (i) Any person is eligible to be issued a Salmon Fishery permit under paragraph (h)(7) of this section if that person, during any one of the calendar years 1975, 1976, or 1977:

(A) Operated a fishing vessel in the Salmon Management Area.

(B) Engaged in commercial fishing for salmon in the Salmon Management Area.

(C) Caught salmon in the Salmon Management Area using power troll gear.

(D) Landed such salmon.

(ii) The following persons are not eligible to be issued a Salmon Fishery permit under paragraph (h)(7) of this section:

(A) Persons described in paragraph (h)(1)(i) or (h)(1)(ii) of this section.

(B) Persons who once held but no longer hold a State of Alaska power troll permanent entry or interim-use permit.

(6) *Application.* Applications for a Salmon Fishery permit must be in writing, signed by the applicant, and submitted to the Regional Administrator, at least 30 days prior to the date the person wishes to commence fishing, and must include:

(i) The applicant's name, mailing address, and telephone number.

(ii) The vessel's name, USCG documentation number or State of Alaska registration number, home port, length overall, registered tonnage, and color of the fishing vessel.

(iii) The type of fishing gear used by the fishing vessel.

(iv) State of Alaska fish tickets or other equivalent documents showing the actual landing of salmon taken in the Salmon Management Area by the applicant with power troll gear during any one of the years 1975 to 1977.

(7) *Issuance.* (i) Except as provided in subpart D of 15 CFR part 904, upon receipt of a properly completed application, the Regional Administrator will determine whether the permit eligibility conditions have been met, and if so, will issue a Salmon Fishery permit.

(ii) If the permit is denied, the Regional Administrator will notify the applicant in accordance with paragraph (h)(16) of this section.

(iii) If an incomplete or improperly completed permit application is filed, the Regional Administrator will notify the applicant of the deficiency. If the applicant fails to correct the deficiency within 30 days following the date of receipt of notification, the application shall be considered abandoned.

(8) *Amended application.* Any person who applies for and receives a Salmon Fishery permit issued under paragraph (h)(7) of this section must notify the Regional Administrator within 30 days of a change in any of the information submitted under paragraph (h)(6) of this section.

(9) *Replacement.* Replacement permits may be issued for lost or unintentionally mutilated permits. An application for a replacement permit shall not be considered a new application.

(10) *Display.* Any permit or license described in paragraph (h)(1) or (h)(3) of this section must be on board the vessel at all times while the vessel is in the Salmon Management Area.

(11) *Inspection.* Any permit or license described in paragraph (h)(1) or (h)(3) of this section must be presented for inspection upon request by an authorized officer.

(12) *Sanctions.* Procedures governing permit sanctions and denials are found at subpart D of 15 CFR part 904.

(13) *Transfer of authority to fish in the Salmon Management Area* —(i) *State of Alaska power troll permanent entry permits.* The authority of any person to engage in commercial fishing for salmon using power troll gear in the Salmon Management Area shall expire upon the transfer of that person's State of Alaska power troll permanent entry permit to another and shall be transferred to the new holder of that permit.

(ii) *Transfer of Authority by the Regional Administrator.* (A) Any person to whom the proposed transfer of a State of Alaska power troll permanent entry permit is denied by the State of Alaska may apply, with the consent of the current holder of that permit, to the Regional Administrator for transfer to the applicant of the current holder's authority to engage in commercial fishing for salmon using power troll gear in the Salmon Management Area.

(B) The application for transfer shall be filed with the Regional Administrator within 30 days of the denial by the State of Alaska of the proposed transfer of the permit.

(C) The application for transfer shall include all documents and other evidence submitted to the State of Alaska in support of the proposed transfer of the permit and a copy of the State of Alaska's decision denying the transfer of the permit. The Regional Administrator may request additional information from the applicant or from the State of Alaska to assist in the consideration of the application.

(D) The Regional Administrator shall approve the transfer if it is determined that:

(*1*) The applicant had the ability to participate actively in the fishery at the time the application for transfer of the permit was filed with the State of Alaska.

(*2*) The applicant has access to power troll gear necessary for participation in the fishery.

(*3*) The State of Alaska has not instituted proceedings to revoke the permit on the ground that it was fraudulently obtained.

(*4*) The proposed transfer of the permit is not a lease.

(E) Upon approval of the transfer application by the Regional Administrator, the authority of the permit holder to engage in commercial fishing for salmon in the Salmon Management Area using power troll gear shall expire, and that authority shall be transferred to the applicant.

(14) *Other Permits.* (i) Except for emergency transfers under paragraph (h)(15) of this section, the authority of any person described in paragraph (h)(1)(ii), (h)(1)(iii), or (h)(3) of this section to fish for salmon in the Salmon Management Area, may not be transferred to any other person.

(ii) Except for emergency transfers under paragraph (h)(15) of this section, the authority to engage in commercial fishing for salmon which was transferred under paragraph (h)(13)(ii) of this section may not be transferred to any other person except the current holder of the State of Alaska power troll permanent entry permit from which that authority was originally derived.

(iii) The authority described in paragraph (h)(14)(ii) of this section may be transferred to the current holder of that permit upon receipt of written notification of the transfer by the Regional Administrator.

(15) *Emergency transfers—authority to use power troll gear.* (i) The authority of any person to engage in commercial fishing for salmon using power troll gear in the Salmon Management Area may be transferred to another person for a period not lasting beyond the end of the calendar year of the transfer when sickness, injury, or other unavoidable hardship prevents the holder of that authority from engaging in such fishing.

(ii) Such a transfer shall take effect automatically upon approval by the State of Alaska of an emergency transfer of a State of Alaska power troll entry permit, in accordance with the terms of the permit transfer.

(iii) Any person may apply to the Regional Administrator for emergency transfer of the current holder's authority to engage in commercial fishing for salmon using power troll gear in the Salmon Management Area for a period not lasting beyond the calendar year of the proposed transfer, if a person:

(A) Is denied emergency transfer of a State of Alaska power troll entry permit by the State of Alaska; or

(B) Requests emergency transfer of a Federal commercial power troll permit previously issued by the Regional Administrator, with the consent of the current holder of that permit.

(iv) The Regional Administrator shall approve the transfer if he determines that:

(A) Sickness, injury, or other unavoidable hardship prevents the current permit holder from engaging in such fishing.

(B) The applicant had the ability to participate actively in the fishery at the time the application for emergency transfer of the permit was filed with the State of Alaska or, in the case of a Federal permit, with the Regional Administrator.

(C) The applicant has access to power troll gear necessary for participation in the fishery.

(D) The State of Alaska has not instituted proceedings to revoke the permit on the grounds that it was fraudulently obtained.

(v) The application in the case of a State of Alaska permit shall be filed with the Regional Administrator within 30 days of the denial by the State of Alaska of emergency transfer of the permit.

(vi) The application shall include all documents and other evidence submitted to the State of Alaska in support of the proposed emergency transfer of the permit and a copy of the State of Alaska's decision denying the emergency transfer of the permit. The Regional Administrator may request additional information from the applicant or from the State of Alaska to assist in the consideration of the application.

(vii) Upon approval of the application by the Regional Administrator, the authority of the permit holder to engage in commercial fishing for salmon using power troll gear in the Salmon Management Area shall expire for the period of the emergency transfer, and that authority shall be transferred to the applicant for that period.

(16) *Appeals and hearings.* (i) A decision by the Regional Administrator to deny a permit under paragraph (h)(7) of this section or to deny transfer of authority to engage in commercial fishing for salmon in the Salmon Management Area under paragraphs (h)(13) and (h)(14) of this section will:

(A) Be in writing.

(B) State the facts and reasons therefor.

(C) Advise the applicant of the rights provided in this paragraph (h)(16).

(ii) Any such decision of the Regional Administrator shall be final 30 days after receipt by the applicant, unless an appeal is filed with the NOAA/NMFS Assistant Administrator within that time.

(iii) Failure to file a timely appeal shall constitute waiver of the appeal.

(iv) Appeals under this paragraph (h)(16) must:

(A) Be in writing.

(B) Set forth the reasons why the appellant believes the Regional Administrator's decision was in error.

(C) Include any supporting facts or documentation.

(v) At the time the appeal is filed with the Assistant Administrator, the appellant may request a hearing with respect to any disputed issue of material fact. Failure to request a hearing at this time will constitute a waiver of the right to request a hearing.

(vi) If a hearing is requested, the Assistant Administrator may order an informal fact-finding hearing if it is determined that a hearing is necessary to resolve material issues of fact and shall so notify the appellant.

(vii) If the Assistant Administrator orders a hearing, the order will appoint a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing.

(viii) Following the hearing, the hearing examiner shall promptly furnish the Assistant Administrator with a report and appropriate recommendations.

(ix) As soon as practicable after considering the matters raised in the appeal, and any report or recommendation of the hearing examiner in the event a hearing is held under this paragraph (h)(16), the Assistant Administrator shall decide the appeal.

(x) The Assistant Administrator shall promptly notify the appellant of the final decision. Such notice shall set forth the findings of the Assistant Administrator and set forth the basis of the decision. The decision of the Assistant Administrator shall be the final administrative action of the Department of Commerce.

(i) *Exempted fisheries permits.* (See §679.6.)

(j) *Prohibited species donation program permits.* (See §679.26(a)(3).)

(k) *Licenses for license limitation (LLP) groundfish or crab species* —(1) *General requirements.* (i) In addition to the permit and licensing requirements of this part, and except as provided in paragraph (k)(2) of this section, each vessel within the GOA or the BSAI must have an LLP groundfish license on board at all times it is engaged in fishing activities defined in §679.2 as directed fishing for license limitation groundfish. This groundfish license, issued by NMFS to a qualified person, authorizes a license holder to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish only in accordance with the specific area and species endorsements, the vessel and gear designations, and the MLOA specified on the license.

(ii) Each vessel must have a crab species license, defined in §679.2, issued by NMFS on board at all times it is engaged in fishing activities for the crab fisheries identified in this paragraph. A crab species license may be used only to participate in the fisheries endorsed on the license and on a vessel that complies with the vessel designation and MLOA specified on the license. NMFS requires a crab species license endorsed for participation in the following crab fisheries:

(A) Aleutian Islands red king crab in waters of the EEZ with an eastern boundary the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44' W. long.) to 53°30' N. lat., then west to 165° W. long., a western boundary of 174° W. long., and a northern boundary of a line from the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N. lat.) westward to 171° W. long., then north to 55°30' N. lat., and then west to 174° W. long.;

(B) Aleutian Islands Area *C. opilio* and *C. bairdi* in waters of the EEZ with an eastern boundary the longitude of Scotch Cap Light (164°44' W. long.) to 53°30' N. lat., then west to 165° W. long, a western boundary of the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line as that line is described in the text of and depicted in the annex to the Maritime Boundary Agreement between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed in Washington, June 1, 1990, and as the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line as depicted on NOAA Chart No. 513 (6th edition, February 23, 1991) and NOAA Chart No. 514 (6th edition, February 16, 1991), and a northern boundary of a line from the latitude of Cape Sarichef (54°36' N. lat.), with a southern boundary of 54°30' N. lat. to 171° W. long., and then south to 54 36' N. lat.;

(C) Norton Sound red king and Norton Sound blue king in waters of the EEZ with a western boundary of 168° W. long., a southern boundary of 62° N. lat., and a northern boundary of 65°36' N. lat.;

(D) Minor Species endorsement includes:

(*1*) Bering Sea golden king crab (*Lithodes aequispinus*) in waters of the EEZ east of the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line as that line is described in the text of and depicted in the annex to the Maritime Boundary Agreement between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed in Washington, June 1, 1990, and as the Maritime Boundary Agreement Line as depicted on NOAA Chart No. 513 (6th edition, February 23, 1991) and NOAA Chart No. 514 (6th edition, February 16, 1991), with a southern boundary of 54°36' N. lat. to 171° W. long., and then south to 54°30' N. lat.

(*2*) Scarlet or deep sea king crab (*Lithodes couesi*) in the waters of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area;

(*3*) Grooved Tanner crab (*Chionoecetes tanneri*) in the waters of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; and

(*4*) Triangle Tanner crab (*Chionoecetes angulatus*) in the waters of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area.

(2) *Exempt vessels.* Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (k)(1) of this section,

(i) A catcher vessel or catcher/processor vessel that does not exceed 26 ft (7.9 m) LOA may conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the GOA without a groundfish license;

(ii) A catcher vessel or catcher/processor vessel that does not exceed 32 ft (9.8 m) LOA may conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the BSAI without a groundfish license and may conduct directed fishing for crab species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area without a crab species license;

(iii) A catcher vessel or catcher/processor vessel that does not exceed 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA may use a maximum of 5 jig machines, one line per jig machine, and a maximum of 15 hooks per line, to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the BSAI without a groundfish license; or

(iv) A catcher vessel or catcher/processor vessel that does not exceed 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA, and during the period after November 18, 1992, through October 9, 1998, was specifically constructed for and used exclusively in accordance with a CDP approved by NMFS, and is designed and equipped to meet specific needs that are described in the CDP, is exempted from the requirement to have a LLP groundfish license to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish in the GOA and in the BSAI area and a crab species license to fish for crab species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area.

(3) *Vessel and gear designations and vessel length categories*– (i) *General.* A license may be used only on a vessel named on the license, a vessel that complies with the vessel designation and gear designation specified on the license, and a vessel that has an LOA less than or equal to the MLOA specified on the license.

(ii) *Vessel designations* —(A) *Catcher/processor vessel.* A license will be assigned a catcher/processor vessel designation if:

(*1*) For license limitation groundfish, license limitation groundfish were processed on the vessel that qualified for the groundfish license under paragraph (k)(4) of this section during the period January 1, 1994, through June 17, 1995, or in the most recent calendar year of participation during the area endorsement qualifying period specified in paragraph (k)(4)(ii) of this section; or

(*2*) For crab species, crab species were processed on the vessel that qualified for the crab species license under paragraph (k)(5) of this section during the period January 1, 1994, through December 31, 1994, or in the most recent calendar year of participation during the area endorsement qualifying period specified in paragraph (k)(5)(ii) of this section.

(*3*) For purposes of paragraphs (k)(3)(ii)(A)(*1*) and (k)(3)(ii)(A)(*2*) of this section, evidence of processing must be demonstrated by production reports or other valid documentation demonstrating that processing occurred on the vessel during the relevant period.

(B) *Catcher vessel.* A license will be assigned a catcher vessel designation if it does not meet the criteria in paragraph (k)(3)(ii)(A)(*1*) or (k)(3)(ii)(A)(*2*) of this section to be assigned a catcher/processor vessel designation.

(C) *Changing a vessel designation.* A person who holds a groundfish license or a crab species license with a catcher/processor vessel designation may, upon request to the Regional Administrator, have the license reissued with a catcher vessel designation. The vessel designation change to a catcher vessel will be permanent, and that license will be valid for only those activities specified in the definition of catcher vessel designation at §679.2.

(D) *Limited processing by catcher vessels.* Up to 1 mt of round weight equivalent of license limitation groundfish or crab species may be processed per day on a vessel less than or equal to 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA that is authorized to fish with an LLP license with a catcher vessel designation.

(iii) *Vessel length categories.* A vessel's eligibility will be determined using the following three vessel length categories, which are based on the vessel's LOA on June 17, 1995, or, if the vessel was under reconstruction on June 17, 1995, the vessel's length on the date that reconstruction was completed.

(A) Vessel length category “A” if the LOA of the qualifying vessel on the relevant date was equal to or greater than 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA.

(B) Vessel length category “B” if the LOA of the qualifying vessel on the relevant date was equal to or greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) but less than 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA.

(C) Vessel length category “C” if the LOA of the qualifying vessel on the relevant date was less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA.

(iv) *Gear designations for groundfish licenses* –(A) *General.* A vessel may only use gear consistent with the gear designation on the LLP license authorizing the use of that vessel to fish for license limitation groundfish or crab species, except that a vessel fishing under authority of an LLP license endorsed only for trawl gear may fish for slope rockfish with non-trawl gear within the Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas, as described in Table 27 to this part.

(B) *Trawl/non-trawl.* A license will be assigned a trawl/non-trawl gear designation if trawl and non-trawl gear were used to harvest LLP species from the qualifying vessel during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through June 17, 1995.

(C) *Trawl.* A license will be assigned a trawl gear designation if only trawl gear was used to harvest LLP species from the qualifying vessel during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through June 17, 1995.

(D) *Non-trawl.* A license will be assigned a non-trawl gear designation if only non-trawl gear was used to harvest LLP species from the qualifying vessel during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through June 17, 1995.

(E) *Changing a gear designation.* (*1*) An applicant may request a change of gear designation based on gear used from the vessel during the period beginning June 18, 1995, through February 7, 1998. Such a change would be permanent and may only be used for a change from trawl to non-trawl or from non-trawl to trawl.

(*2*) An applicant may request a change of gear designation based on a significant financial investment in converting a vessel or purchasing fishing gear on or before February 7, 1998, and making a documented harvest with that gear on or before December 31, 1998. Such a change would be permanent and may only be used for a change from trawl to non-trawl or from non-trawl to trawl.

(F) *Definitions of non-trawl gear and significant financial investment.* (*1*) For purposes of paragraph (k)(3)(iv) of this section, non-trawl gear means any legal gear, other than trawl, used to harvest license limitation groundfish.

(*2*) For purposes of paragraph (k)(3)(iv)(E)(2) of this section, “significant financial investment” means having spent at least $100,000 toward vessel conversion and/or gear to change to trawl gear from non-trawl gear, or having acquired groundline, hooks, pots, jig machines, or hauling equipment to change to non-trawl gear from trawl gear.

(4) *Qualifications for a groundfish license.* A groundfish license will be issued to an eligible applicant that meets the criteria in paragraphs (k)(4)(i) and (k)(4)(ii) of this section. For purposes of the license limitation program, evidence of a documented harvest must be demonstrated by a state catch report, a Federal catch report, or other valid documentation that indicates the amount of license limitation groundfish harvested, the groundfish reporting area in which the license limitation groundfish was harvested, the vessel and gear type used to harvest the license limitation groundfish, and the date of harvesting, landing, or reporting. State catch reports are Alaska, California, Oregon, or Washington fish tickets. Federal catch reports are production reports required under §679.5.

(i) *General qualification periods (GQP).* This table provides the GQP documented harvest requirements for LLP groundfish licenses:

A groundfish license will be assigned...	**if the requirements found in the table at §679.4(k)(4)(ii) are met for the area endorsement and at least one documented harvest of license limitation groundfish was caught and retained in...**	**during the period...**
(A) One or more area endorsements in the table at §679.4(k)(4)(ii)(A) or (B)	the BSAI or waters shoreward of the BSAI	(*1*) Beginning January 1, 1988, through June 27, 1992; or (*2*) Beginning January 1, 1988, through December 31, 1994, provided that the harvest was of license limitation groundfish using pot or jig gear from a vessel that was less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA; or (*3*) Beginning January 1, 1988, through June 17, 1995, provided that, during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through February 9, 1992, a documented harvest of crab species was made from the vessel, and, during the period beginning February 10, 1992, through December 11, 1994, a documented harvest of groundfish species, except sablefish landed using fixed gear, was made from the vessel in the GOA or the BSAI using trawl or longline gear.
(B) One or more area endorsements in the table at §679.4(k)(4)(ii)(C) through (O)	the GOA or in waters shoreward of the GOA	(*1*) Beginning January 1, 1988, through June 27, 1992; or (*2*) Beginning January 1, 1988, through December 31, 1994, provided that the harvest was of license limitation groundfish using pot or jig gear from a vessel that was less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA; or (*3*) Beginning January 1, 1988, through June 17, 1995, provided that, during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through February 9, 1992, a documented harvest of crab species was made from the vessel, and, during the period beginning February 10, 1992, through December 11, 1994, a documented harvest landing of groundfish species, except sablefish landed using fixed gear, was made from the vessel in the GOA or the BSAI using trawl or longline gear.

(ii) *Endorsement qualification periods (EQP).* This table provides the documented harvest requirements for LLP groundfish license area endorsements:

A groundfish license will be assigned...	**if...**	**during the period...**	**in...**	**from a vessel in vessel length category...**	**and that meets the requirements for a...**
(A) An Aleutian Island area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Aleutian Islands Subarea or in waters shoreward of that area	“A”, “B”, or “C”	catcher/ processor designation or a catcher vessel designation.
(B) A Bering Sea area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Bering Sea Subarea or in waters shoreward of that area	“A”, “B”, or “C”	catcher/ processor designation or a catcher vessel designation.
(C) A Western Gulf area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made in each of any two calendar years	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Western GOA regulatory area or in waters shoreward of that area	“A”	catcher/ processor designation or a catcher vessel designation; or
(D) A Western Gulf area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Western Area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area	“B”	catcher vessel designation; or
(E) A Western Gulf area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made in each of any two calendar years	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Western Area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area	“B”	catcher/processor vessel designation; or
(F) A Western Gulf area endorsement	at least four documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish were made	beginning January 1, 1995, through June 17, 1995	the Western Area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area	“B”	catcher/processor vessel designation; or

(G) A Western Gulf area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Western Area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area	“C”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation.
(H) A Central Gulf area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made in each of any two calendar years	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Central area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area, or in the West Yakutat District or in waters shoreward of that district	“A”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation; or
(I) A Central Gulf area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made in each of any two calendar years	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Central area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area, or in the West Yakutat District or in waters shoreward of that district	“B”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation; or
(J) A Central Gulf area endorsement	at least four documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish were made	beginning January 1, 1995, through June 17, 1995	the Central area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area, or in the West Yakutat District or in waters shoreward of that district	“B”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation; or
(K) A Central Gulf area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	the Central area of the Gulf of Alaska or in waters shoreward of that area, or in the West Yakutat District or in waters shoreward of that district	“C”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation.
(L) A Southeast Outside area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made in each of any two calendar years	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	in the Southeast Outside District or in waters shoreward of that district	“A”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation; or
(M) A Southeast Outside area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made in each of any two calendar years	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	in the Southeast Outside District or in waters shoreward of that district	“B”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation; or
(N) A Southeast Outside area endorsement	at least four documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish were made	beginning January 1, 1995, through June 17, 1995	in the Southeast Outside District or in waters shoreward of that district	“B”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation; or
(O) A Southeast Outside area endorsement	at least one documented harvest of any amount of license limitation groundfish was made	beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995	in the Southeast Outside District or in waters shoreward of that district	“C”	catcher/processor designation or a catcher vessel designation.

(iii) An eligible applicant that is issued a groundfish license based on a vessel's qualifications in the table at paragraphs (k)(4)(i)(A)(2) or (k)(4)(i)(B)(2) of this section must choose only one area endorsement for that groundfish license even if documented harvests qualifies the eligible applicant for more than one area endorsement.

(iv) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (k)(4)(i) of this section, NMFS will issue a groundfish license with the appropriate area endorsements to an eligible applicant whose vessel meets the requirements in the table at paragraph (k)(4)(i)(A) of this section, and the requirements in the table at any of the paragraphs (k)(4)(ii)(C) through (O) of this section, except:

(A) From whose vessel no documented harvests were made in the GOA or waters shoreward of the GOA during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through June 27, 1992, and

(B) From whose vessel no documented harvests were made in the BSAI or waters shoreward of the BSAI during the period beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995.

(v) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (k)(4)(i) of this section, a groundfish license with the appropriate area endorsements will be issued to an eligible applicant whose vessel meets the requirements in the tables at paragraphs (k)(4)(i) and (k)(4)(ii) and (A) or (B) of this section, except:

(A) From whose vessel no documented harvests were made in the BSAI or waters shoreward of the BSAI during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through June 27, 1992, and

(B) From whose vessel no documented harvests were made in the GOA or waters shoreward of the GOA during the period beginning January 1, 1992, through June 17, 1995.

(vi) *Trawl gear designation recent participation requirements.* (A) NMFS will revoke any trawl gear designation on a groundfish license with an Aleutian Island, Bering Sea, Central Gulf, or Western Gulf regulatory area unless one of the following conditions apply:

(*1*) A person made at least two legal landings using trawl gear under the authority of that groundfish license in that regulatory area during the period from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2006; or

(*2*) That trawl gear designation endorsed in that area is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph (k)(4)(vi)(A) as described under paragraphs (k)(4)(vii) or (k)(4)(viii) of this section.

(B) NMFS shall assign a legal landing to a groundfish license for an area based only on information contained in the official record described in paragraph (k)(4)(x) of this section.

(vii) *Exemption to trawl gear recent participation requirements for the AFA, Amendment 80 Program, and Rockfish Program.* (A) Trawl gear designations with Bering Sea or Aleutian Islands area endorsements on a groundfish license that was derived in whole or in part from the qualifying fishing history of an AFA vessel are exempt from the landing requirements in paragraph (k)(4)(vi) of this section.

(B) Trawl gear designations with Bering Sea or Aleutian Islands area endorsements on a groundfish license are exempt from the landing requirements in paragraph (k)(4)(vi) of this section provided that all of the following conditions apply:

(*1*) The groundfish license was not derived in whole or in part from the qualifying fishing history of an AFA vessel;

(*2*) The groundfish license is assigned to an AFA vessel on August 14, 2009; and

(*3*) No other groundfish license with a Bering Sea or Aleutian Island area endorsement is assigned to that AFA vessel on August 14, 2009.

(C) Trawl gear designations with Bering Sea or Aleutian Islands area endorsements on a groundfish license that is listed in Column C of Table 31 to this part are exempt from the landing requirements in paragraph (k)(4)(vi) of this section.

(D) A trawl gear designation with Central Gulf area endorsement on a groundfish license that is assigned Rockfish QS is exempt from the landing requirements in paragraph (k)(4)(vi) of this section.

(viii) *Exemption to trawl gear recent participation requirements for groundfish licenses with a Central Gulf or Western Gulf area endorsement.* A trawl gear designation with a Central Gulf or Western Gulf area endorsement on a groundfish license is exempt from the landing requirements in paragraph (k)(4)(vi) of this section provided that a person made at least 20 legal landings under the authority of that groundfish license in either the Central Gulf or Western Gulf area using trawl gear during the period from January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2007.

(ix) *Aleutian Island area endorsements for non-AFA trawl catcher vessels.* (A) If a non-AFA catcher vessel that is less than 60 feet LOA was used to make at least 500 mt of legal landings of Pacific cod using trawl gear from the waters that were open by the State of Alaska for which it adopts a Federal fishing season adjacent to the Aleutian Islands Subarea during the period from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2006, according to the official record, NMFS shall issue an Aleutian Island area endorsement with a trawl gear designation to a groundfish license assigned to the vessel owner according to the official record, provided that the groundfish license assigned to that non-AFA catcher vessel meets all of the following requirements:

(*1*) It was not derived in whole or in part from the qualifying fishing history of an AFA vessel;

(*2*) It has a trawl gear designation;

(*3*) It does not have a catcher/processor vessel designation; and

(*4*) That groundfish license has an MLOA of less than 60 feet.

(B) If a non-AFA catcher vessel that is equal to or greater than 60 feet LOA was used to make at least one legal landing in State of Alaska waters adjacent to the Aleutian Islands Subarea using trawl gear during the period from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2006, or one landing of Pacific cod from the State of Alaska Pacific cod fishery during the period from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2006, according to the official record, NMFS shall issue an Aleutian Island area endorsement with a trawl gear designation to a groundfish license assigned to the vessel owner according to the official record, provided that the groundfish license assigned to that non-AFA catcher vessel meets the following criteria:

(*1*) It was not derived in whole or in part from the qualifying fishing history of an AFA vessel;

(*2*) It has a trawl gear designation;

(*3*) It does not have a catcher/processor vessel designation; and

(*4*) At least 1,000 mt of legal landings of Pacific cod using trawl gear in the BSAI were made under the authority of that groundfish license during the period from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2006, according to the official record.

(C) NMFS will assign the AI endorsement to an eligible groundfish license held and designated by the vessel owner beginning on August 14, 2009.

(D) If the vessel owner does not hold a groundfish license to which an AI endorsement may be assigned on August 14, 2009 according to the official record, the vessel owner will have the opportunity to amend the official record as described in paragraph (k)(4)(x) of this section to designate an otherwise eligible groundfish license. If the official record is subsequently amended, NMFS will assign the AI endorsement to the groundfish license specified in the amended official record.

(x) *Trawl gear recent participation official record.* (A) The official record will contain all information used by the Regional Administrator to determine the following:

(*1*) The number of legal landings assigned to a groundfish license for purposes of the trawl gear designation participation requirements described in paragraph (k)(4)(vi) of this section;

(*2*) The amount of legal landings assigned to a groundfish license for purposes of the AI endorsements described in paragraph (k)(4)(ix) of this section;

(*3*) The owner of a vessel that has made legal landings that may generate an AI endorsement as described in paragraph (k)(4)(ix) of this section; and

(*4*) All other relevant information necessary to administer the requirements described in paragraphs (k)(4)(vi) through (k)(4)(ix) of this section.

(B) The official record is presumed to be correct. A groundfish license holder has the burden to prove otherwise. For the purposes of creating the official record, the Regional Administrator will presume the following:

(*1*) A groundfish license is presumed to have been used onboard the same vessel from which that groundfish license was derived, the original qualifying vessel, during the calendar years 2000 and 2001, unless clear and unambiguous written documentation is provided that establishes otherwise;

(*2*) If more than one person is claiming the same legal landing, then each groundfish license for which the legal landing is being claimed will be credited with the legal landing;

(*3*) The groundfish license to which an AI endorsement described in paragraph (k)(4)(ix) of this section will be initially assigned.

(C) Only legal landings as defined in §679.2 and documented on State of Alaska fish tickets or NMFS weekly production reports will be used to assign legal landings to a groundfish license.

(D) The Regional Administrator will specify by letter a 30–day evidentiary period during which an applicant may provide additional information or evidence to amend or challenge the information in the official record. A person will be limited to one 30–day evidentiary period. Additional information or evidence received after the 30–day evidentiary period specified in the letter has expired will not be considered for purposes of the initial administrative determination.

(E) The Regional Administrator will prepare and send an IAD to the applicant following the expiration of the 30–day evidentiary period if the Regional Administrator determines that the information or evidence provided by the person fails to support a person's claims and is insufficient to rebut the presumption that the official record is correct, or if the additional information, evidence, or revised application is not provided within the time period specified in the letter that notifies the applicant of his or her 30–day evidentiary period. The IAD will indicate the deficiencies with the information, or the evidence submitted in support of the information. The IAD will also indicate which claims cannot be approved based on the available information or evidence. A person who receives an IAD may appeal pursuant to §679.43. A person who avails himself or herself of the opportunity to appeal an IAD will receive a non-transferable license pending the final resolution of that appeal, notwithstanding the eligibility of that applicant for some claims based on consistent information in the official record.

(5) *Qualification for a crab species license.* A crab species license will be issued to an eligible applicant who owned a vessel that meets the criteria in paragraphs (k)(5)(i), (k)(5)(ii), and (k)(5)(iii) of this section, except that vessels are exempt from the requirements in paragraph (k)(5)(i) of this section for area/species endorsements at paragraphs (A) and (G) in the table at paragraph (k)(5)(ii) of this section.

(i) *General qualification period (GQP).* To qualify for one or more of the area/species endorsements in the table at paragraph (k)(5)(ii) of this section, the requirements of paragraph (k)(5)(iii) of this section must be met and:

(A) At least one documented harvest of any amount of crab species must have been made from a vessel between January 1, 1988, and June 27, 1992; or

(B) At least one documented harvest of any amount of crab species must have been made from a vessel between January 1, 1988, and December 31, 1994, providing that, during the period January 1, 1988, through February 9, 1992, the vessel for which the documented harvest was made also made a legal landing of any groundfish species harvested in the GOA or BSAI with any authorized gear, except sablefish caught with fixed gear, and, during the period February 10, 1992, through December 11, 1994, made a legal landing of any king or Tanner crab species harvested in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area.

(ii) *Area/species endorsements.* This table provides the documented harvest requirements for LLP crab license area/species endorsements:

A crab species license will be assigned...	if...	during the period...	in...
(A) A Pribilof red king and Pribilof blue king area/species endorsement	at least one documented harvest of red king crab or blue king crab was made by a vessel	beginning January 1, 1993, through December 31, 1994	the area described in the definition for a Pribilof red king and Pribilof blue king area/species endorsement at §679.2.
(B) A Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area *C. opilio* and *C. bairdi* area/species endorsement	at least three documented harvests of *C. opilio* and *C. bairdi* were made by a vessel	beginning January 1, 1992, through December 31, 1994	the area described in the definition for a Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area *C. opilio* and *C. bairdi* area/species endorsement at §679.2.
(C) A St. Matthew blue king area/species endorsement	at least one documented harvest of red king crab or blue king crab was made by a vessel	beginning January 1, 1992, through December 31, 1994	the area described in the definition for a St. Matthew blue king area/species endorsement at §679.2.
(D) An Aleutian Islands brown king area/species endorsement	at least three documented harvests of brown king crab were made by a vessel	beginning January 1, 1992, through December 31, 1994	the area described in the definition for an Aleutian Islands brown king area/species endorsement at §679.2.
(E) An Aleutian Islands red king area/species endorsement	at least one documented harvest of red king crab or blue king crab was made by a vessel	beginning January 1, 1992, through December 31, 1994	the area described in the definition for an Aleutian Islands red king area/species endorsement at §679.2.
(F) A Bristol Bay red king area/species endorsement	at least one documented harvest of red king crab or blue king crab was made by a vessel	beginning January 1, 1991, through December 31, 1994	the area described in the definition for a Bristol Bay red king area/species endorsement at §679.2.
(G) A Norton Sound red king and blue king area/species endorsement	at least one documented harvest of red king crab or blue king crab was made by a vessel	beginning January 1, 1993, through December 31, 1994	the area described in the definition for a Norton Sound red king and blue king area/species endorsement at §679.2.

(iii) Recent participation period (RPP). (A) The RPP is the period from January 1, 1996, through February 7, 1998. To qualify for a crab species license, defined at §679.2, a person must have made at least one documented harvest of any amount of LLP crab species from a vessel during the RPP and must have held a LLP qualifying fishing history at the time of that documented harvest. A LLP qualifying fishing history meets the documented harvest requirements at paragraphs (k)(5)(i) and (k)(5)(ii) of this section.

(B) *Exceptions to the RPP.* A person does not need to meet the documented harvest requirements in paragraph (k)(5)(iii)(A) of this section if he or she deployed a vessel that met the documented harvest requirements in paragraph (k)(5)(i) of this section, if applicable, paragraph (k)(5)(ii) of this section, and:

(*1*) Only qualifies area/species endorsement at paragraph (G) in the table at paragraph (k)(5)(ii).

(*2*) Those documented harvests were made from a vessel that meets the requirements for vessel length category “C”.

(*3*) The vessel used to meet the document harvest requirements in paragraphs (k) (5) (i) and (k) (5) (ii) of this section was lost or destroyed, and he or she made a documented harvest of crab species any time during the period beginning after the vessel was lost or destroyed but before January 1, 2000.

(iv) Exception to allow purchase of LLP qualifying fishing history after the documented harvest in the RPP. To qualify for a LLP crab species license, a person who made a documented harvest of LLP crab species during the period from January 1, 1998, through February 7, 1998, must have obtained, or entered into a contract to obtain, the LLP qualifying fishing history by 8:36 a.m. Alaska local time on October 10, 1998,

(v) A qualified person who owned a vessel on June 17, 1995, that met the requirements in paragraphs (k)(5)(i) and (ii) of this section, but whose vessel was unable to meet requirements of paragraph (k)(5)(iii) of this section because of unavoidable circumstances (i.e., the vessel was lost damaged, or otherwise unable to participate in the license limitation crab fisheries) may receive a license if the qualified person is able to demonstrate that:

(A) The owner of the vessel at the time of the unavoidable circumstance held a specific intent to conduct fishing for license limitation crab species with that vessel during a specific time period in a specific area;

(B) The specific intent to conduct directed fishing for license limitation crab species was thwarted by a circumstance that was:

(*1*) Unavoidable;

(*2*) Unique to the owner of that vessel, or unique to that vessel; and

(*3*) Unforeseen and reasonably unforeseeable to the owner of the vessel;

(C) The circumstance that prevented the owner from conducting directed fishing for license limitation crab species actually occurred;

(D) Under the circumstances, the owner of the vessel took all reasonable steps to overcome the circumstances that prevented the owner from conducting directed fishing for license limitation crab species; and

(E) Any amount of license limitation crab species was harvested on the vessel after the vessel was prevented from participating but before January 1, 2000.

(vi) A groundfish license or crab species license may be used on a vessel that is named on the license, that complies with the vessel designation, and that does not exceed the MLOA on the license.

(6) *Application for a groundfish license or a crab species license.* (i) *General.* The Regional Administrator will issue a groundfish license or a crab species license to an applicant if a complete application is submitted by or on behalf of the applicant during the specified application period, and if that applicant meets all the criteria for eligibility in paragraph (k) of this section. An application that is postmarked or delivered after the ending date for the application period for the License Limitation Program specified in the Federal Register will be denied. An application form will be sent to the last known address of a person identified as an eligible applicant by the official LLP record. An application form may be requested from the Regional Administrator.

(ii) *Application period.* An application period of no less than 90 days will be specified by notification in the Federal Register and other information sources deemed appropriate by the Regional Administrator.

(iii) *Contents of application.* To be complete, an application for a groundfish license or a crab species license must be signed by the applicant, or the individual representing the applicant, and contain the following, as applicable:

(A) Name, business address, telephone number, and FAX number of the applicant;

(B) Name, state registration number (e.g., ADF&G number), and, if applicable, the USCG documentation number of the vessel being used as the basis for eligibility for a license; and name, state registration number (e.g., ADF&G number), and, if applicable, the USCG documentation number of the vessel to be deployed with the license if different than the vessel used as the basis of eligibility for a license;

(C) Name of the managing company, if any;

(D) Valid evidence of the documented harvests that are the basis of eligibility for a license, including harvest area, gear used, date of landing, and, if applying for a crab species license, species;

(E) Valid evidence of LOA on June 24, 1992, of the vessel used as the basis of eligibility for a license, except if that vessel was under reconstruction on that date, valid evidence of LOA on the date reconstruction was completed and valid evidence of when reconstruction began and ended;

(F) Valid evidence of LOA on June 17, 1995, of the vessel used as the basis of eligibility for a license, except if that vessel was under reconstruction on that date, valid evidence of LOA on the date reconstruction was completed, and valid evidence of when reconstruction began and ended;

(G) Valid evidence to support the applicant's claim for a vessel designation of catcher vessel or catcher/processor vessel;

(H) Valid evidence of ownership of the vessel being used as the basis for eligibility for a license (for USCG documented vessels, valid evidence must be the USCG Abstract of Title), or if eligibility is based on a fishing history that has been separated from a vessel, valid evidence of ownership of the fishing history being used as the basis of eligibility for a license; and

(I) Valid evidence of the LOA of the vessel to be deployed by the license if different than the vessel used as the basis for eligibility for a license.

(iv) *Other information required for special circumstances.*

(A) *Successor-in-interest.* If an applicant is applying as the successor-in-interest to an eligible applicant, an application, to be complete, also must contain valid evidence proving the applicant's status as a successor-in-interest to that eligible applicant and:

(*1*) Valid evidence of the death of that eligible applicant at the time of application, if the eligible applicant was or is an individual; or

(*2*) Valid evidence that the eligible applicant is no longer in existence at the time of application, if the eligible applicant is not an individual.

(B) *Norton Sound crab species license endorsement.* If an applicant is applying for a crab species license endorsement for Norton Sound and if the applicant is a person, an application, to be complete, must contain valid evidence that the applicant was a State of Alaska permit holder for the Norton Sound king crab summer fishery in 1993 or 1994. If the applicant is a corporation, an application, to be complete, must contain valid evidence that the corporation owned or had a lease for a vessel on June 17, 1995, that participated in the Norton Sound king crab summer fishery in 1993 or 1994.

(C) *Extended general qualification period.* If an applicant is applying for a license based on meeting the general qualification period requirements of paragraph (k)(4)(i)(A)(*2*) or (k)(4)(i)(B)(*2*) of this section, the application, to be complete, must indicate which single endorsement area the applicant has selected for license. A license cannot be endorsed for more than one area, notwithstanding the fact that the applicant may have the documented harvests to qualify for more than one endorsement area.

(D) *Unavoidable circumstances.* If a person is claiming that unavoidable circumstances prevented him or her from meeting certain eligibility requirements for a license under paragraph (k) of this section, he or she must provide the information required in the particular paragraph of this section authorizing such a claim, and include valid evidence of the date the vessel was lost, damaged, or otherwise unable to participate in the fishery, and the date a documented harvest was made after the vessel was unable to participate in the fishery by the unavoidable circumstance.

(v) *Application evaluation.* The Regional Administrator will evaluate an application submitted during the specified application period and compare all claims in the application with the information in the official LLP record. Claims in the application that are consistent with information in the official LLP record will be accepted by the Regional Administrator. Inconsistent claims in the application, unless verified by evidence, will not be accepted. Pursuant to paragraph (k)(6)(vii) of this section, an applicant who submits inconsistent claims, or an applicant who fails to submit the information specified in paragraphs (k)(6)(iii) and (k)(6)(iv) of this section, will be provided a 60-day evidentiary period pursuant to paragraph (k)(6)(vii) of this section to submit the specified information, submit evidence to verify his or her inconsistent claims, or submit a revised application with claims consistent with information in the official LLP record. An applicant who submits claims that are inconsistent with information in the official LLP record has the burden of proving that the submitted claims are correct.

(vi) *Additional information or evidence.* The Regional Administrator will evaluate additional information or evidence to support an applicant's inconsistent claims submitted within the 60-day evidentiary period pursuant to paragraph (k)(6)(vii) of this section. If the Regional Administrator determines that the additional information or evidence meets the applicant's burden of proving that the inconsistent claims in his or her application is correct, the official LLP record will be amended and the information will be used in determining whether the applicant is eligible for a license. However, if the Regional Administrator determines that the additional information or evidence does not meet the applicant's burden of proving that the inconsistent claims in his or her application is correct, the applicant will be notified by an initial administrative determination, pursuant to paragraph (k)(6)(viii) of this section, that the applicant did not meet the burden of proof to change the information in the official LLP record.

(vii) *60-day evidentiary period.* The Regional Administrator will specify by letter a 60-day evidentiary period during which an applicant may provide additional information or evidence to support the claims made in his or her application, or to submit a revised application with claims consistent with information in the official LLP record, if the Regional Administrator determines that the applicant did not meet the burden of proving that the information on the application is correct through evidence provided with the application. Also, an applicant who fails to submit information as specified in paragraphs (k)(6)(iii) and (k)(6)(iv) of this section will have 60 days to provide that information. An applicant will be limited to one 60-day evidentiary period. Additional information or evidence, or a revised application, received after the 60-day evidentiary period specified in the letter has expired will not be considered for purposes of the initial administrative determination.

(viii) *Initial administrative determinations (IAD).* The Regional will prepare and send an IAD to the applicant following the expiration of the 60-day evidentiary period if the Regional Administrator determines that the information or evidence provided by the applicant fails to support the applicant's claims and is insufficient to rebut the presumption that the official LLP record is correct, or if the additional information, evidence, or revised application is not provided within the time period specified in the letter that notifies the applicant of his or her 60-day evidentiary period. The IAD will indicate the deficiencies in the application, including any deficiencies with the information, the evidence submitted in support of the information, or the revised application. The IAD will also indicate which claims cannot be approved based on the available information or evidence. An applicant who receives an IAD may appeal pursuant to §679.43. An applicant who avails himself or herself of the opportunity to appeal an IAD will not receive a transferable license until after the final resolution of that appeal, notwithstanding the eligibility of that applicant for some claims based on consistent information in the application.

(ix) *Issuance of a non-transferable license.* The Regional Administrator will issue a non-transferable license to the applicant on issuance of an IAD if required by the license renewal provisions of 5 U.S.C. 558. A non-transferable license authorizes a person to deploy a vessel to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish or crab species as specified on the non-transferable license, and will have the specific endorsements and designations based on the claims in his or her application. A non-transferable license will expire upon final agency action.

(x) *Surrender of groundfish or crab LLP.* A groundfish or crab LLP license may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. A surrendered groundfish or crab LLP license will cease to exist and will not be subsequently reissued. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(7) *Transfer of a groundfish license or a crab species license* —(i) *General.* The Regional Administrator will transfer a groundfish license, Aleutian Island area endorsement as described under paragraph (k)(7)(viii)(A) of this section, or a crab species license if a complete transfer application is submitted to Restricted Access Management, Alaska Region, NMFS, and if the transfer meets the eligibility criteria as specified in paragraph (k)(7)(ii) of this section. A transfer application form may be requested from the Regional Administrator.

(ii) *Eligibility criteria for transfers.* A groundfish license, Aleutian Island area endorsement as described under paragraph (k)(7)(viii)(A) of this section, or crab species license can be transferred if the following conditions are met:

(A) The designated transferee is eligible to document a fishing vessel under Chapter 121, Title 46, U.S.C.;

(B) The parties to the transfer do not have any fines, civil penalties, other payments due and outstanding, or outstanding permit sanctions resulting from Federal fishing violations;

(C) The transfer will not cause the designated transferee to exceed the license caps in §679.7(i); and

(D) The transfer does not violate any other provision specified in this part.

(iii) *Contents of application.* To be complete, an application for a groundfish license, Aleutian Island area endorsement as described under paragraph (k)(7)(viii)(A) of this section transfer, or a crab species license transfer must be legible, have notarized and dated signatures of the applicants, and the applicants must attest that, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, all statements in the application are true. An application to transfer will be provided by NMFS, or is available on the NMFS Alaska Region website at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov.* The acceptable submittal methods will be specified on the application form.

(iv) *Incomplete applications.* The Regional Administrator will return an incomplete transfer application to the applicant and identify any deficiencies if the Regional Administrator determines that the application does not meet all the criteria identified in paragraph (k)(7) of this section.

(v) *Transfer by court order, operation of law, or as part of a security agreement.* The Regional Administrator will transfer a groundfish license, Aleutian Island area endorsement as described under paragraph (k)(7)(viii)(A) of this section, or a crab species license based on a court order, operation of law, or a security agreement if the Regional Administrator determines that the transfer application is complete and the transfer will not violate any of the provisions of this section.

(vi) *Voluntary transfer limitation.* A groundfish license, Aleutian Island area endorsement as described under paragraph (k)(7)(viii)(A) of this section, or a crab species license may be voluntarily transferred only once in any calendar year. A voluntary transfer is a transfer other than one pursuant to a court order, operation of law, or a security agreement. An application for transfer that would cause a person to exceed the transfer limit of this provision will not be approved. A transfer of an Aleutian Island area endorsement as described under paragraph (k)(7)(viii)(A) of this section to another LLP license, or the transfer of a groundfish license with an Aleutian Island area endorsement as described under paragraph (k)(7)(viii)(A) of this section attached to it will be considered to be a transfer of that Aleutian Island area endorsement.

(vii) *Request to change the designated vessel.* A request to change the vessel designated on an LLP groundfish or crab species license must be made on a transfer application. If this request is approved and made separately from a license transfer, it will count towards the annual limit on voluntary transfers specified in paragraph (k)(7)(vi) of this section.

(viii) *Severability of licenses.* (A) Area endorsements or area/species endorsements specified on a license are not severable from the license and must be transferred together, except that Aleutian Island area endorsements on a groundfish license with a trawl gear designation issued under the provisions of paragraph (k)(4)(ix)(A) of this section and that are assigned to a groundfish license with an MLOA of less than 60 feet LOA may be transferred separately from the groundfish license to which that Aleutian Island area endorsement was originally issued to another groundfish license provided that the groundfish license to which that Aleutian Island endorsement is transferred:

(*1*) Was not derived in whole or in part from the qualifying fishing history of an AFA vessel;

(*2*) Has a catcher vessel designation;

(*3*) Has a trawl gear designation;

(*4*) Has an MLOA of less than 60 feet LOA; and

(*5*) A complete transfer application is submitted to the Regional Administrator as described under this paragraph (k)(7), and that application is approved.

(B) A groundfish license and a crab species license issued based on the legal landings of the same vessel and initially issued to the same qualified person are not severable and must be transferred together.

(ix) *Other transfer restrictions.* The transfer of a LLP license that was issued based on the documented harvests from a vessel that did not have an FFP during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through October 8, 1998, must be accompanied by the vessel from which the documented harvests were made or its replacement vessel, or if the LLP license and vessel were separated by transfer prior to February 7, 1998, then by the vessel that is currently being deployed by the license holder. The Regional Administrator will deny a transfer application that requests the transfer of a LLP license that was issued based on the documented harvests from a vessel that did not have an FFP during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through October 8, 1998, if the appropriate vessel is not being transferred as part of the same transaction. A license holder of an LLP license that was issued based on the documented harvests from a vessel that did not have an FFP during the period beginning January 1, 1988, through October 8, 1998, may replace the vessel from which the documented harvests were made with another vessel that meets the vessel designation and MLOA requirements specified on the LLP license if the original qualifying vessel is lost or destroyed.

(8) *Other provisions.* (i) Any person committing, or a fishing vessel used in the commission of, a violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act or any regulations issued pursuant thereto, is subject to the civil and criminal penalty provisions and the civil forfeiture provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, part 621 of this chapter, 15 CFR part 904 (Civil Procedure), and other applicable law. Penalties include, but are not limited to, permanent or temporary sanctions to licenses.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of the license limitation program in this part, vessels fishing for species other than license limitation groundfish as defined in §679.2 that were authorized under Federal regulations to incidentally catch license limitation groundfish without a Federal fisheries permit described at §679.4(b) will continue to be authorized to catch the maximum retainable bycatch amounts of license limitation groundfish as provided in this part without a groundfish license.

(iii) An eligible applicant, who qualifies for a groundfish license or crab species license but whose vessel on which the eligible applicant's qualification was based was lost or destroyed, will be issued a license. This license:

(A) Will have the vessel designation of the lost or destroyed vessel.

(B) Cannot be used to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish or to conduct directed fishing for crab species on a vessel that has an LOA greater than the MLOA designated on the license.

(iv) A qualified person who owned a vessel on June 17, 1995, that made a documented harvest of license limitation groundfish, or crab species if applicable, between January 1, 1988, and February 9, 1992, but whose vessel was unable to meet all the criteria in paragraph (k)(4) of this section for a groundfish license or paragraph (k)(5) of this section for a crab species license because of an unavoidable circumstance (i.e., the vessel was lost, damaged, or otherwise unable to participate in the license limitation groundfish or crab fisheries) may receive a license if the qualified person is able to demonstrate that:

(A) The owner of the vessel at the time of the unavoidable circumstance held a specific intent to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish or crab species with that vessel during a specific time period in a specific area.

(B) The specific intent to conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish or crab species with that vessel was thwarted by a circumstance that was:

(*1*) Unavoidable.

(*2*) Unique to the owner of that vessel, or unique to that vessel.

(*3*) Unforeseen and reasonably unforeseeable to the owner of the vessel.

(C) The circumstance that prevented the owner from conducting directed fishing for license limitation groundfish or crab species actually occurred.

(D) Under the circumstances, the owner of the vessel took all reasonable steps to overcome the circumstance that prevented the owner from conducting directed fishing for license limitation groundfish or crab species.

(E) Any amount of license limitation groundfish or appropriate crab species was harvested on the vessel in the specific area that corresponds to the area endorsement or area/species endorsement for which the qualified person who owned a vessel on June 17, 1995, is applying and that the license limitation groundfish or crab species was harvested after the vessel was prevented from participating by the unavoidable circumstance but before June 17, 1995.

(v) A groundfish license or a crab species license may be used on a vessel that complies with the vessel designation on the license and that does not exceed the MLOA on the license.

(9) *Pacific cod endorsements* —(i) *General.* In addition to other requirements of this part, and unless specifically exempted in paragraph (k)(9)(iv) of this section, a license holder must have a Pacific cod endorsement on his or her groundfish license to conduct directed fishing for Pacific cod with hook-and-line or pot gear in the BSAI. A license holder can only use the specific non-trawl gear(s) indicated on his or her license to conduct directed fishing for Pacific cod in the BSAI.

(ii) *Eligibility requirements for a Pacific cod endorsement.* This table provides eligibility requirements for Pacific cod endorsements on an LLP groundfish license:

If a license holder's license has a . . .	And the license holder harvested Pacific cod in the BSAI with . . .	Then the license holder must demonstrate that he or she harvested at least . . .	In . . .	To receive a Pacific cod endorsement that authorizes harvest with . . .
(A) Catcher vessel designation.	Hook-and-line gear or jig gear	7.5 mt of Pacific cod in the BSAI.	In any one of the years 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, or 1999	Hook-and-line gear.
(B) Catcher vessel designation.	Pot gear or jig gear	100,000 lb of Pacific cod in the BSAI.	In each of any two of the years 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, or 1999	Pot gear.
(C) Catcher/processor vessel designation.	Hook-and-line gear	270 mt of Pacific cod in the BSAI.	In any one of the years 1996, 1997, 1998, or 1999	Hook-and-line gear.
(D) Catcher/processor vessel designation.	Pot gear	300,000 lb of Pacific cod in the BSAI.	In each of any two of the years 1995, 1996, 1997, or 1998	Pot gear.

(iii) *Explanations for Pacific cod endorsements.* (A) All eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section will be determined based on round weight equivalents.

(B) Discards will not count toward eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section.

(C) Pacific cod harvested for personal bait use will not count toward eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section.

(D) A legal landing of Pacific cod in the BSAI for commercial bait will count toward eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section.

(E) Harvests within the BSAI will count toward eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section; however, a license holder will only be able to harvest Pacific cod in the specific areas in the BSAI for which he or she has an area endorsement.

(F) Harvests within the BSAI Would count toward eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section if:

(*1*) Those harvests were made from the vessel that was used as the basis of eligibility for the license holder's LLP groundfish license, or

(*2*) Those harvests were made from a vessel that was not the vessel used as the basis of eligibility for the license holder's LLP groundfish license, provided that, at the time the endorsement-qualifying Pacific cod harvests were made, the person who owned such Pacific cod endorsement-qualifying fishing history also owned the fishing history of a vessel that satisfied the requirements for the LLP groundfish license.

(*3*) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (k)(9)(iii)(F)(*2*) of this section, the LLP groundfish license qualifying history or the Pacific cod qualifying history of any one vessel may not be used to satisfy the requirements for issuance of more than one LLP groundfish license endorsed for the BSAI Pacific cod hook-and-line or pot gear fisheries.

(G) Except as provided in paragraph 679.4(k)(9)(iii)(D), only harvests of BSAI Pacific cod in the directed fishery will count toward eligibility amounts.

(iv) *Exemptions to Pacific cod endorsements.* (A) Any vessel exempted from the License Limitation Program at paragraph (k)(2) of this section.

(B) Any catcher vessel less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA.

(C) Any catch of Pacific cod for personal use bait.

(v) *Combination of landings and hardship provision.* Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements in paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section, a license holder may be eligible for a Pacific cod endorsement by meeting the following criteria.

(A) *Combination of landings.* A license holder may combine the landings of a sunken vessel and the landings of a vessel obtained to replace a sunken vessel to satisfy the eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section only if he or she meets the requirements in paragraphs (k)(9)(v)(A)(*1*)–(*4*) of this section. No other combination of landings will satisfy the eligibility amounts in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section.

(*1*) The sunken vessel was used as the basis of eligibility for the license holder's groundfish license;

(*2*) The sunken vessel sank after January 1, 1995;

(*3*) The vessel obtained to replace the sunken vessel was obtained by December 31 of the year 2 years after the sunken vessel sank; and

(*4*) The length of the vessel obtained to replace the sunken vessel does not exceed the MLOA specified on the license holder's groundfish license.

(B) *Hardship provision.* A license holder may be eligible for a Pacific cod endorsement because of unavoidable circumstances if he or she meets the requirements in paragraphs (k)(9)(v)(B)(*1*)–(*4*) of this section. For purposes of this hardship provision, the term license holder includes the person whose landings were used to meet the eligibility requirements for the license holder's groundfish license, if not the same person.

(*1*) The license holder at the time of the unavoidable circumstance held a specific intent to conduct directed fishing for BSAI Pacific cod in a manner sufficient to meet the landing requirements in the table at paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section but that this intent was thwarted by a circumstance that was:

(*i*) Unavoidable;

(*ii*) Unique to the license holder, or unique to the vessel that was used as the basis of eligibility for the license holder's groundfish license; and

(*iii*) Unforeseen and reasonably unforeseeable to the license holder.

(*2*) The circumstance that prevented the license holder from conducting directed fishing for BSAI Pacific cod in a manner sufficient to meet the landing requirements in paragraph (k)(9)(ii) actually occurred;

(*3*) The license holder took all reasonable steps to overcome the circumstance that prevented the license holder from conducting directed fishing for BSAI Pacific cod in a manner sufficient to meet the landing requirements in paragraph (k)(9)(ii) of this section; and

(*4*) Any amount of Pacific cod was harvested in the BSAI aboard the vessel that was used as the basis of eligibility for the license holder's groundfish license after the vessel was prevented from participating by the unavoidable circumstance but before April 16, 2000.

(10) *Restrictions on licenses earned on AFA catcher vessels and listed AFA catcher/processors.* No person may use an LLP license that was derived in whole or in part from the qualifying fishing history of an AFA catcher vessel or a listed AFA catcher/processor to fish for groundfish or crab on a non-AFA catcher vessel or non-AFA catcher/processor. NMFS will identify all such licenses affected by this restriction and inform the holders of such licenses of this restriction through a restriction printed on the face of the license.

(11) *Rockfish QS* —(i) *General.* In addition to other requirements of this part, a license holder must have rockfish QS on his or her groundfish LLP license to conduct directed fishing for Rockfish Program fisheries with trawl gear.

(ii) *Eligibility requirements for rockfish QS.* The eligibility requirements to receive rockfish QS are established in §679.80(b).

(12) *Amendment 80 Program.* In addition to other requirements of this part, a license holder must have an Amendment 80 LLP license to conduct fishing for an Amendment 80 species assigned to the Amendment 80 sector.

(l) *AFA permits* —(1) *General* —(i) *Applicability.* In addition to any other permit and licensing requirements set out in this part, any vessel used to engage in directed fishing for a non-CDQ allocation of pollock in the BS and any shoreside processor, stationary floating processor, or mothership that receives pollock harvested in a non-CDQ directed pollock fishery in the BS must have a valid AFA permit onboard the vessel or at the facility location at all times while non-CDQ pollock is being harvested or processed. In addition, the owner of any vessel that is a member of a pollock cooperative in the BS must also have a valid AFA permit for every vessel that is a member of the cooperative, regardless of whether or not the vessel actually engages in directed fishing for pollock in the BS. Finally, an AFA permit does not exempt a vessel operator, vessel, or processor from any other applicable permit or licensing requirement required under this part or in other state or Federal regulations.

(ii) *Duration* —(A) *Expiration of interim AFA permits.* All interim AFA vessel and processor permits issued prior to January 1, 2002, will expire on December 31, 2002, unless extended or re-issued by NMFS.

(B) *Duration of final AFA permits.* Except as provided in paragraphs (l)(5)(v)(B)(3) and (l)(6)(iii) of this section, AFA vessel and processor permits issued under this paragraph (l) will have no expiration date, and are valid indefinitely unless suspended or revoked.

(C) *Surrender of AFA permits.* Except for AFA inshore processor permits, AFA permits may not be surrendered.

(iii) *Application for permit.* NMFS will issue AFA vessel and processor permits to the current owner(s) of a qualifying vessel or processor if the owner(s) submits to the Regional Administrator a completed AFA permit application that is subsequently approved.

(iv) *Amended permits.* AFA vessel and processor permits may not be used on or transferred to any vessel or processor that is not listed on the permit. However, AFA permits may be amended by NMFS to reflect any change in the ownership of the vessel or processor after submittal of this information to NMFS in a written letter.

(2) AFA catcher/processor permits—(i) Listed AFA catcher/processors. NMFS will issue to an owner of a catcher/processor a listed AFA catcher/processor permit if the catcher/processor is one of the following (as listed in AFA paragraphs 208(e)(1) through (20)):

(A) AMERICAN DYNASTY (USCG documentation number 951307);

(B) KATIE ANN (USCG documentation number 518441);

(C) AMERICAN TRIUMPH (USCG documentation number 646737);

(D) NORTHERN EAGLE (USCG documentation number 506694);

(E) NORTHERN HAWK (USCG documentation number 643771);

(F) NORTHERN JAEGER (USCG documentation number 521069);

(G) OCEAN ROVER (USCG documentation number 552100);

(H) ALASKA OCEAN (USCG documentation number 637856);

(I) ENDURANCE (USCG documentation number 592206);

(J) AMERICAN ENTERPRISE (USCG documentation number 594803);

(K) ISLAND ENTERPRISE (USCG documentation number 610290);

(L) KODIAK ENTERPRISE (USCG documentation number 579450);

(M) SEATTLE ENTERPRISE (USCG documentation number 904767);

(N) US ENTERPRISE (USCG documentation number 921112);

(O) ARCTIC STORM (USCG documentation number 903511);

(P) ARCTIC FJORD (USCG documentation number 940866);

(Q) NORTHERN GLACIER (USCG documentation number 663457);

(R) PACIFIC GLACIER (USCG documentation number 933627);

(S) HIGHLAND LIGHT (USCG documentation number 577044);

(T) STARBOUND (USCG documentation number 944658).

(ii) *Unlisted AFA catcher/processors.* NMFS will issue to an owner of a catcher/processor an unlisted AFA catcher/processor permit if the catcher/processor is not listed in §679.4(l)(2)(i) and is determined by the Regional Administrator to have harvested more than 2,000 mt of pollock in the 1997 BSAI directed pollock fishery.

(iii) *Application for AFA catcher/processor permit.* A completed application for an AFA catcher/processor permit must contain:

(A) *Vessel information.* The vessel name, ADF&G registration number, USCG documentation number, vessel telephone number (if any), gross tons, shaft horsepower, and registered length (in feet);

(B) *Ownership information.* The managing owner name(s), tax ID number(s), signature(s), business mailing address(es), business telephone number(s), business fax number(s), business e-mail address(es), and managing company (if any);

(3) *AFA catcher vessel permits.* NMFS will issue to an owner of a catcher vessel an AFA catcher vessel permit containing sector endorsements and sideboard restrictions upon receipt and approval of a completed application for an AFA catcher vessel permit.

(i) *Qualifying criteria* —(A) *Catcher vessels delivering to catcher/processors.* NMFS will endorse an AFA catcher vessel permit to authorize directed fishing for pollock for delivery to a catcher/processor if the catcher vessel:

(*1*) Is one of the following (as listed in paragraphs 208(b)(1) through (7) of the AFA):

AMERICAN CHALLENGER (USCG documentation number 633219);

FORUM STAR (USCG documentation number 925863);

MUIR MILACH (USCG documentation number 611524);

NEAHKAHNIE (USCG documentation number 599534);

OCEAN HARVESTER (USCG documentation number 549892);

SEA STORM (USCG documentation number 628959);

TRACY ANNE (USCG documentation number 904859); or

(*2*) Is not listed in §679.4(l)(3)(i)(A)(*1*) and is determined by the Regional Administrator to have delivered at least 250 mt and at least 75 percent of the pollock it harvested in the directed BSAI pollock fishery in 1997 to catcher/processors for processing by the offshore component.

(B) *Catcher vessels delivering to AFA motherships.* NMFS will endorse an AFA catcher vessel permit to authorize directed fishing for pollock for delivery to an AFA mothership if the catcher vessel:

(*1*) Is one of the following (as listed in paragraphs 208(c)(1) through (20) and in subsection 211(e) of the AFA):

(*i*) ALEUTIAN CHALLENGER (USCG documentation number 603820);

(*ii*) ALYESKA (USCG documentation number 560237);

(*iii*) AMBER DAWN (USCG documentation number 529425);

(*iv*) AMERICAN BEAUTY (USCG documentation number 613847);

(*v*) CALIFORNIA HORIZON (USCG documentation number 590758);

(*vi*) MAR-GUN (USCG documentation number 525608);

(*vii*) MARGARET LYN (USCG documentation number 615563);

(*viii*) MARK I (USCG documentation number 509552);

(*ix*) MISTY DAWN (USCG documentation number 926647);

(*x*) NORDIC FURY (USCG documentation number 542651);

(*xi*) OCEAN LEADER (USCG documentation number 561518);

(*xii*) OCEANIC (USCG documentation number 602279);

(*xiii*) PACIFIC ALLIANCE (USCG documentation number 612084);

(*xiv*) PACIFIC CHALLENGER (USCG documentation number 518937);

(*xv*) PACIFIC FURY (USCG documentation number 561934);

(*xvi*) PAPADO II (USCG documentation number 536161);

(*xvii*) TRAVELER (USCG documentation number 929356);

(*xviii*) VESTERAALEN (USCG documentation number 611642);

(*xix*) WESTERN DAWN (USCG documentation number 524423);

(*xx*) LISA MARIE (USCG documentation number 1038717); or

(*2*) Is not listed in §679.4(l)(3)(i)(B)(*1*) and is determined by the Regional Administrator to have delivered at least 250 mt of pollock for processing by motherships in the offshore component of the BSAI directed pollock fishery in any one of the years 1996 or 1997, or between January 1, 1998, and September 1, 1998, and is not eligible for an endorsement to deliver pollock to catcher/processors under §679.4(l)(3)(i)(A).

(C) *Catcher vessels delivering to AFA inshore processors.* NMFS will endorse an AFA catcher vessel permit to authorize directed fishing for pollock for delivery to an AFA inshore processor if the catcher vessel is:

(*1*) One of the following vessels authorized by statute to engage in directed fishing for inshore sector pollock:

HAZEL LORRAINE (USCG documentation number 592211),

LISA MARIE (USCG documentation number 1038717),

PROVIDIAN (USCG documentation number 1062183); or

(*2*) Is not listed in §679.4(l)(3)(i)(A), and:

(*i*) Is determined by the Regional Administrator to have delivered at least 250 mt of pollock harvested in the directed BSAI pollock fishery for processing by the inshore component in any one of the years 1996 or 1997, or between January 1, 1998, and September 1, 1998; or

(*ii*) Is less than 60 ft (18.1 meters) LOA and is determined by the Regional Administrator to have delivered at least 40 mt of pollock harvested in the directed BSAI pollock fishery for processing by the inshore component in any one of the years 1996 or 1997, or between January 1, 1998, and September 1, 1998.

(ii) *Application for AFA catcher vessel permit.* A completed application for an AFA catcher vessel permit must contain:

(A) *Vessel information.* The vessel name, ADF&G registration number, USCG documentation number, vessel telephone number (if any), gross tons, shaft horsepower, and registered length (in feet);

(B) *Ownership information.* The managing owner name(s), tax ID number(s), signature(s), business mailing address(es), business telephone number(s), business fax number(s), business e-mail address(es), and managing company (if any);

(C) *Vessel AFA qualification information.* The AFA catcher vessel permit sector endorsement(s) requested.

(D) [Reserved]

(E) *Vessel exemptions from AFA catcher vessel groundfish sideboard directed fishing closures.* An AFA catcher vessel permit may contain exemptions from certain groundfish sideboard directed fishing closures. If a vessel owner is requesting such an exemption, the application must provide supporting documentation that the catcher vessel qualifies for the exemption based on the following criteria. The Regional Administrator will review the vessel's catch history according to the following criteria:

(*1*) *BSAI Pacific cod.* For a catcher vessel to qualify for an exemption from AFA catcher vessel sideboards in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery, the catcher vessel must: Be less than 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA, have landed a combined total of less than 5,100 mt of BSAI pollock in the BSAI directed pollock fishery from 1995 through 1997, and have made 30 or more legal landings of Pacific cod in the BSAI directed fishery for Pacific cod from 1995 through 1997.

(*2*) *GOA groundfish species.* For a catcher vessel to qualify for an exemption from AFA catcher vessel sideboards in the GOA groundfish fisheries, the catcher vessel must: Be less than 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA, have landed a combined total of less than 5,100 mt of BSAI pollock in the BSAI directed pollock fishery from 1995 through 1997, and made 40 or more legal landings of GOA groundfish in a directed fishery for GOA groundfish from 1995 through 1997.

(4) *AFA mothership permits.* NMFS will issue to an owner of a mothership an AFA mothership permit if the mothership is one of the following (as listed in paragraphs 208(d)(1) through (3) of the AFA):

EXCELLENCE (USCG documentation number 967502);

GOLDEN ALASKA (USCG documentation number 651041); and

OCEAN PHOENIX (USCG documentation number 296779).

(i) [Reserved]

(ii) *Application for AFA mothership permit.* A completed application for an AFA mothership permit must contain:

(A) *Type of permit requested.* Type of processor and whether requesting an AFA cooperative endorsement.

(B) *Vessel information.* The mothership name, ADF&G processor code, USCG documentation number, Federal fisheries permit number, gross tons, shaft horsepower, and registered length (in feet).

(C) *Ownership information.* The managing owner name(s), tax ID number(s), signature(s), business mailing address(es), business telephone number(s), business fax number(s), business e-mail address(es), and managing company (if any);

(5) *AFA inshore processor permits.* NMFS will issue to an owner of a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor an AFA inshore processor permit upon receipt and approval of a completed application.

(i) *Qualifying criteria* —(A) *Unrestricted processors.* NMFS will issue an unrestricted AFA inshore processor permit to a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor if the Regional Administrator determines that the processor facility processed annually more than 2,000 mt round-weight of pollock harvested in the inshore component of the directed BSAI pollock fishery during each of 1996 and 1997.

(B) *Restricted processors.* NMFS will issue a restricted AFA inshore processor permit to a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor if the Regional Administrator determines that the facility processed pollock harvested in the inshore component of the directed BSAI pollock fishery during 1996 or 1997, but did not process annually more than 2,000 mt round-weight of BSAI pollock during each of 1996 and 1997.

(ii) *Surrender of permit.* An AFA inshore processor permit may be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with paragraph (a)(9) of this section. The AFA inshore processor permit will not be reissued in the same fishing year in which it was surrendered, but may be reapplied for and if approved, reissued to the permit holder of record in a subsequent fishing year. Contact NMFS/RAM for more information by telephone, locally at 907–586–7202 (Option #2) or toll–free at 800–304–4846 (Option #2).

(iii) *Single geographic location requirement.* An AFA inshore processor permit authorizes the processing of pollock harvested in the BS subarea directed pollock fishery only in a single geographic location during a reporting week. For the purposes of this paragraph, single geographic location means:

(A) *Shoreside processors.* The physical location at which the land-based shoreside processor first processed pollock harvested from the BS subarea directed pollock fishery during a fishing year.

(B) *Stationary floating processors (SFP).* A geographic position within State of Alaska waters of the BS subarea and that is within a 5 nm radius of the latitude and longitude reported in the check–in and check–out reports at §679.5(h)(5)(ix)(B). An AFA SFP cannot change its single geographic location more than four times within State of Alaska waters in the BS subarea to process pollock harvested in a BS subarea directed pollock fishery during a fishing year and cannot use more than one single geographic location during a reporting week.

(iv) *Application for permit.* A completed application for an AFA inshore processor permit must contain:

(A) *Type of permit requested.* Type of processor, whether requesting an AFA cooperative endorsement, and amount of BSAI pollock processed in 1996 and 1997;

(B) *Stationary floating processor information.* The vessel name, ADF&G processor code, USCG documentation number, Federal processor permit number, gross tons, shaft horsepower, registered length (in feet), and business telephone number, business FAX number, and business e-mail address used on board the vessel.

(C) *Shoreside processor information.* The processor name, Federal processor permit number, ADF&G processor code, business street address; business telephone and FAX numbers, and business e-mail address.

(D) *Ownership information.* The managing owner name(s), tax ID number(s), signature(s), business mailing address(es), business telephone number(s), business fax number(s), business e-mail address(es), and managing company (if any);

(v) *Authorization of new AFA inshore processors.* If the Council recommends and NMFS approves a combined BSAI pollock TAC that exceeds 1,274,900 mt for any fishing year, or in the event of the actual total loss or constructive loss of an existing AFA inshore processor, the Council may recommend that an additional inshore processor (or processors) be issued AFA inshore processing permits.

(A) *Timing of Council action.* At any time prior to or during a fishing year in which the combined BSAI pollock TAC exceeds 1,274,900 mt, or at any time after the actual total loss or constructive total loss of an existing AFA inshore processor, the Council may, after opportunity for public comment, recommend that an additional inshore processor (or processors) be issued AFA inshore processor permits.

(B) *Required elements in Council recommendation.* Any recommendation from the Council to add an additional inshore processor (or processors) must include the following information:

(*1*) *Identification of inshore processor(s).* The Council recommendation must identify by name the inshore processor(s) to which AFA inshore processor permits would be issued;

(*2*) *Type of AFA inshore processor permit(s).* The Council recommendation must specify whether the identified inshore processor(s) should be issued a restricted or unrestricted AFA inshore processor permit.

(*3*) *Duration of permit.* The Council recommendation must specify the recommended duration of the permit. Permit duration may be for any duration from a single fishing season to the duration of section 208 of the AFA. Alternatively, the Council may recommend that the permit be valid as long as the conditions that led to the permit remain in effect. For example, the Council could recommend that a permit issued under this paragraph remain valid as long as the combined annual BSAI pollock TAC remains above 1,274,900 mt. or a lost AFA inshore processor is not reconstructed.

(*4*) *Council procedures.* The Council may establish additional procedures for the review and approval of requests to authorize additional AFA inshore processors. However, such procedures must be consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the national standards, and other applicable law.

(*5*) *Action by NMFS.* Upon receipt of a recommendation from the Council to authorize additional AFA inshore processors, NMFS may issue an AFA inshore processor permit to the identified inshore processor(s) of the type and duration recommended by the Council, provided the Council has met the requirements identified in paragraphs (l)(5)(v)(B)(*1*) through (*4*) of this section, and the owner(s) of the identified inshore processor has submitted a completed application for an AFA inshore processor permit that is subsequently approved.

(6) *Inshore cooperative fishing permits* —(i) *General.* NMFS will issue to an inshore catcher vessel cooperative formed pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 521 for the purpose of cooperatively managing directed fishing for pollock for processing by an AFA inshore processor an AFA inshore cooperative fishing permit upon receipt and approval of a completed application.

(ii) *Application for permit.* A completed application for an inshore cooperative fishing permit must contain the following information:

(A) *Cooperative contact information.* Name of cooperative; name of cooperative representative; and business mailing address, business telephone number, business fax number, and business e-mail address of the cooperative;

(B) *Designated cooperative processor.* The name and physical location of an AFA inshore processor that is designated in the cooperative contract as the processor to whom the cooperative has agreed to deliver at least 90 percent of its BS pollock catch;

(C) *Cooperative contract information.* A copy of the cooperative contract and a written certification that:

(*1*) The contract was signed by the owners of at least 80 percent of the qualified catcher vessels;

(*2*) The cooperative contract requires that the cooperative deliver at least 90 percent of its BS pollock catch to its designated AFA processor; and

(*3*) Each catcher vessel in the cooperative is a qualified catcher vessel and is otherwise eligible to fish for groundfish in the BSAI, has an AFA catcher vessel permit with an inshore endorsement, and has no permit sanctions or other type of sanctions against it that would prevent it from fishing for groundfish in the BSAI;

(D) *Qualified catcher vessels.* For the purpose of this paragraph, a catcher vessel is a qualified catcher vessel if it meets the following permit and landing requirements:

(*1*) *Permit requirements* —(*i*) *AFA permit.* The vessel must have a valid AFA catcher vessel permit with an inshore endorsement;

(*ii*) *LLP permit* . The vessel must be named on a valid LLP permit authorizing the vessel to engage in trawling for pollock in the Bering Sea subarea. If the vessel is more than 60 feet (18.3 m) LOA, the vessel must be named on a valid LLP permit endorsed for the AI to engage in trawling for pollock in the AI; and

(*iii*) *Permit sanctions.* The vessel has no permit sanctions that otherwise make it ineligible to engage in fishing for pollock in the BSAI.

(*2*) *Landing requirements* —(*i*) *Active vessels.* The vessel delivered more pollock harvested in the BS inshore directed pollock fishery to the AFA inshore processor designated under paragraph (l)(6)(ii)(B) of this section than to any other shoreside processor or stationary floating processor during the year prior to the year in which the cooperative fishing permit will be in effect; or

(*ii*) *Inactive vessels* . The vessel delivered more pollock harvested in the BS inshore directed pollock fishery to the AFA inshore processor designated under paragraph (l)(6)(ii)(B) of this section than to any other shoreside processor or stationary floating processor during the last year in which the vessel delivered BS pollock harvested in the BS directed pollock fishery to an AFA inshore processor.

(*iii*) *Harvests under contract to a cooperative.* Any landings made by a vessel operating under contract to an inshore cooperative in which it was not a member will not be used to determine eligibility under paragraph (l)(6)(ii)(D)(*2*).

(E) *Business review letter.* A copy of a letter from a party to the contract requesting a business review letter on the fishery cooperative from the Department of Justice and of any response to such request;

(F) *Vessel information.* For each cooperative catcher vessel member: Vessel name, ADF&G registration number, USCG documentation number, AFA permit number; and

(G) *Certification of notary and applicant.* Signature and printed name of cooperative representative, date of signature, and notary stamp or seal, signature and date commission expires of a notary public.

(iii) *Duration of cooperative fishing permits.* Inshore cooperative fishing permits are valid for 1 calendar year.

(iv) *Addition or subtraction of vessels.* The cooperative representative must submit a new application to add or subtract a catcher vessel to or from an inshore cooperative fishing permit to the Regional Administrator prior to the application deadline. Upon approval by the Regional Administrator, NMFS will issue an amended cooperative fishing permit.

(v) *Application deadline.* An inshore cooperative fishing permit application and any subsequent contract amendments that add or subtract vessels must be received by the Regional Administrator by December 1 prior to the year in which the inshore cooperative fishing permit will be in effect. Inshore cooperative fishing permit applications or amendments to inshore fishing cooperative permits received after December 1 will not be accepted by the Regional Administrator for the subsequent fishing year.

(7) *Replacement vessels.* (i) In the event of the actual total loss or constructive total loss of an AFA catcher vessel, AFA mothership, or AFA catcher/processor, the owner of such vessel may replace such vessel with a replacement vessel. The replacement vessel will be eligible in the same manner as the original vessel after submission and approval of an application for an AFA replacement vessel, provided that:

(A) Such loss was caused by an act of God, an act of war, a collision, an act or omission of a party other than the owner or agent of the vessel, or any other event not caused by the willful misconduct of the owner or agent;

(B) The replacement vessel was built in the United States and, if ever rebuilt, rebuilt in the United States;

(C) The USCG certificate of documentation with fishery endorsement for the replacement vessel is issued within 36 months of the end of the last year in which the eligible vessel harvested or processed pollock in the directed pollock fishery;

(D) If the eligible vessel is greater than 165 ft (50.3 meters (m)) in registered length, or more than 750 gross registered tons, or has engines capable of producing more than 3,000 shaft horsepower, the replacement vessel is of the same or lesser registered length, gross registered tons, and shaft horsepower;

(E) If the eligible vessel is less than 165 ft (50.3 m) in registered length, fewer than 750 gross registered tons, and has engines incapable of producing more than 3,000 shaft horsepower, the replacement vessel is less than each of such thresholds and does not exceed by more than 10 percent the registered length, gross registered tons, or shaft horsepower of the eligible vessel; and

(F) If the replacement vessel is already an AFA catcher vessel, the inshore cooperative catch history of both vessels may be merged in the replacement vessel for the purpose of determining inshore cooperative allocations except that a catcher vessel with an endorsement to deliver pollock to AFA catcher/processors may not be simultaneously endorsed to deliver pollock to AFA motherships or AFA inshore processors.

(G) Replacement of replacement vessels. In the event that a permitted replacement vessel is lost under the circumstances described in paragraph (l)(7)(i)(A) of this section, the replacement vessel may be replaced according to the provisions of this paragraph (l)(7). However, the maximum length, tonnage, and horsepower of any subsequent replacement vessels are determined by the length, tonnage, and horsepower of the originally qualifying AFA vessel and not by those of any subsequent replacement vessels.

(ii) *Application for permit.* A completed application for an AFA permit for a replacement vessel must contain:

(A) *Identification of lost AFA eligible vessel.*

(*1*) Name, ADF&G vessel registration number, USCG documentation number, AFA permit number, gross tons, shaft horsepower, and registered length from USCG documentation of the vessel;

(*2*) Name(s), tax ID number(s), business mailing address(es), telephone number(s), FAX number(s), and e-mail address(es) of owner(s);

(*3*) The last year in which the vessel harvested or processed pollock in a BSAI directed pollock fishery; and

(*4*) Description of how the vessel was lost or destroyed. Attach a USCG Form 2692 or insurance papers to verify the claim.

(B) *Identification of replacement vessel.* (*1*) Name, ADF&G vessel registration number, USCG documentation number, gross tons, shaft horsepower, registered length, net tons from USCG documentation, length overall (in feet), and Federal Fisheries Permit number of the vessel;

(*2*) Name(s), tax ID number(s), business mailing address(es), business telephone number(s), business FAX number(s), and business e-mail address(es) of the owner(s);

(*3*) YES or NO indication of whether the vessel was built in the United States; and

(*4*) YES or NO indication of whether the vessel has ever been rebuilt, and if so whether it was rebuilt in the United States.

(C) *Certification of applicant and notary.* Signature(s) and printed name(s) of owner(s) and date of signature; signature, notary stamp or seal of notary public, and date notary commission expires.

(8) *Application evaluations and appeals* —(i) *Initial evaluation.* The Regional Administrator will evaluate an application for an AFA fishing or processing permit submitted in accordance with paragraph (1) of this section and compare all claims in the application with the information in the official AFA record. Claims in the application that are consistent with information in the official AFA record will be accepted by the Regional Administrator. Inconsistent claims in the application, unless supported by evidence, will not be accepted. An applicant who submits claims based on inconsistent information or fails to submit the information specified in the application for an AFA permit will be provided a single 60–day evidentiary period to submit the specified information, submit evidence to verify the applicant's inconsistent claims, or submit a revised application with claims consistent with information in the official AFA record. An applicant who submits claims that are inconsistent with information in the official AFA record has the burden of proving that the submitted claims are correct.

(ii) *Additional information and evidence.* The Regional Administrator will evaluate the additional information or evidence to support an applicant's claims submitted within the 60–day evidentiary period. If the Regional Administrator determines that the additional information or evidence meets the applicant's burden of proving that the inconsistent claims in his or her application are correct, the official AFA record will be amended and the information will be used in determining whether the applicant is eligible for an AFA permit. However, if the Regional Administrator determines that the additional information or evidence does not meet the applicant's burden of proving that the inconsistent claims in his or her application is correct, the applicant will be notified by an initial administrative determination that the applicant did not meet the burden of proof to change information in the official AFA record.

(iii) *Sixty-day evidentiary period.* The Regional Administrator will specify by letter a 60–day evidentiary period during which an applicant may provide additional information or evidence to support the claims made in his or her application, or to submit a revised application with claims consistent with information in the official AFA record, if the Regional Administrator determines that the applicant did not meet the burden of proving that the information on the application is correct through evidence provided with the application. Also, an applicant who fails to submit required information will have 60 days to provide that information. An applicant will be limited to one 60–day evidentiary period. Additional information or evidence, or a revised application received after the 60–day evidentiary period specified in the letter has expired will not be considered for the purposes of the initial administrative determination.

(iv) *Initial administrative determinations (IAD).* The Regional Administrator will prepare and send an IAD to the applicant following the expiration of the 60–day evidentiary period if the Regional Administrator determines that the information or evidence provided by the applicant fails to support the applicant's claims and is insufficient to rebut the presumption that the official AFA record is correct or if the additional information, evidence, or revised application is not provided within the time period specified in the letter that notifies the applicant of his or her 60–day evidentiary period. The IAD will indicate the deficiencies in the application, including any deficiencies with the information, the evidence submitted in support of the information, or the revised application. The IAD will also indicate which claims cannot be approved based on the available information or evidence. An applicant who receives an IAD may appeal under the appeals procedures set out at §679.43. An applicant who avails himself or herself of the opportunity to appeal an IAD will receive an interim AFA permit that authorizes a person to participate in an AFA pollock fishery and will have the specific endorsements and designations based on the claims in his or her application. An interim AFA permit based on claims contrary to the Official Record will expire upon final agency action.

(v) *Effect of cooperative allocation appeals.* An AFA inshore cooperative may appeal the pollock quota share issued to the cooperative under §679.62; however, final agency action on the appeal must occur prior to December 1 for the results of the appeal to take effect during the subsequent fishing year.

(m) *Participation in the AI directed pollock fishery* —(1) *Applicability* . Harvesting pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery and processing pollock taken in the AI directed pollock fishery is authorized only for those harvesters and processors that are selected by the Aleut Corporation and approved by the Regional Administrator to harvest pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery or to process pollock taken in the AI directed pollock fishery.

(2) *Annual selection of participants by the Aleut Corporation.* Each year and at least 14 days before harvesting pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery or processing pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery, a participant must be selected by the Aleut Corporation and the following information for each participant must be submitted by the designated contact to the Regional Administrator:

(i) Vessel or processor name;

(ii) Federal fisheries permits number issued under paragraph (b) of this section or Federal processor permit issued under paragraph (f) of this section; and

(iii) The fishing year which participation approval is requested.

(3) *Participant approval* . (i) Participants must have:

(A) A valid Federal fisheries permit or Federal processing permit, pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (f) of this section, respectively;

(B) A valid fishery endorsement on the vessel's U.S. Coast Guard documentation for the vessel's participation in the U. S. fishery; and

(C) A valid AFA permit under: paragraph (l)(2) of this section for all catcher/processors, paragraph (l)(3) of this section for all catcher vessels greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA, or paragraph (l)(4) of this section for all motherships.

(ii) Each participant selected by the Aleut Corporation that meets the conditions under paragraph (m)(3)(i) of this section will be approved by the Regional Administrator for participation in the AI directed pollock fishery.

(iii) The Regional Administrator will provide to the designated contact for the Aleut Corporation the identity of each approved participant and the date upon which participation in the AI directed pollock fishery may commence. The Aleut Corporation shall forward to the approved participants a copy of NMFS's approval letter before harvesting or processing occurs.

(iv) A copy of NMFS' approval letter for participating in the AI directed pollock fishery during the fishing year must be on site at the shoreside processor or stationary floating processor, or on board the vessel at all times and must be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized officer.

(4) *Participant disapproval* . (i) The Regional Administrator shall disapprove any participant that does not meet the conditions under paragraph (m)(3)(i) of this section. The Regional Administrator will notify in writing the Aleut Corporation and the selected participant of the disapproval. The selected participant will have 30 days in which to submit proof of meeting the requirements to participate in the AI directed pollock fishery.

(ii) The Regional Administrator will prepare and send an initial administrative determinations (IAD) to the selected participant following the expiration of the 30-day evidentiary period if the Regional Administrator determines that the information or evidence provided by the selected participant fails to support the participant's claims and is insufficient to rebut the presumption that the disapproval for participation in the AI directed pollock fishery is correct or if the additional information or evidence is not provided within the time period specified in the letter that notifies the applicant of his or her 30-day evidentiary period. The IAD will indicate the deficiencies in the information required, including the evidence submitted in support of the information. The IAD also will indicate which claims cannot be approved based on the available information or evidence. A participant who receives an IAD may appeal under the appeals procedures set out at §679.43. A participant who avails himself or herself of the opportunity to appeal an IAD will receive an interim approval from NMFS authorizing participation in the AI directed pollock fishery. An interim approval based on claims contrary to the final determination will expire upon final agency determination.

(n) *Rockfish Program* —(1) *Cooperative quota (CQ).* (i) A CQ permit is issued annually to a rockfish cooperative if the members of that rockfish cooperative have submitted a complete and timely application for CQ as described at §679.81(e)(4) that is subsequently approved by the Regional Administrator. A CQ permit authorizes a rockfish cooperative to participate in the Rockfish Program. The CQ permit will indicate the amount of primary rockfish species and secondary species that may be harvested by the rockfish cooperative, and the amount of rockfish halibut PSC that may be used by the rockfish cooperative. The CQ permit will list the members of the rockfish cooperative, the vessels that are authorized to fish under the CQ permit for that rockfish cooperative, and the eligible rockfish processor with whom that rockfish cooperative is associated, if applicable.

(ii) A CQ permit is valid under the following circumstances:

(A) Until the end of the year for which the CQ permit is issued;

(B) Until the amount harvested is equal to the amount specified on the CQ permit for all primary rockfish species, secondary species, and rockfish halibut PSC;

(C) Until the permit is modified by transfers under §679.81(f);

(D) Until the permit is voided through an approved rockfish cooperative termination of fishing declaration; or

(E) Until the permit is revoked, suspended, or modified pursuant to §679.43 or under 15 CFR part 904.

(iii) A legible copy of the CQ permit must be carried on board the vessel(s) used by the rockfish cooperative.

(2) *Rockfish cooperative termination of fishing declaration.* (i) A rockfish cooperative may choose to extinguish its CQ permit through a declaration submitted to NMFS.

(ii) This declaration may only be submitted to NMFS using the following methods:

(A) Fax: 907–586–7354;

(B) Hand Delivery or Carrier. NMFS, Room 713, 709 4th Street, Juneau, AK 99801; or

(C) By mail: Restricted Access Management Program, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668

(iii) A Rockfish cooperative termination of fishing declaration must include the following information:

(A) CQ permit number;

(B) The date the declaration is submitted; and

(C) The rockfish cooperative's legal name, NMFS Person ID, the permanent business address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available) of the rockfish cooperative or its designated representative, and the printed name and signature of the designated representative of the rockfish cooperative.

(iv) NMFS will review the declaration and notify the rockfish cooperative's designated representative once the declaration has been approved.

(v) Upon approval of a declaration, the CQ for all primary rockfish species and secondary species will be set to zero, rockfish halibut PSC assigned to that rockfish cooperative will be reapportioned under the provisions described at §679.21(d)(5)(iii)(B) and that rockfish cooperative may not receive any CQ for any primary rockfish species, secondary species, and rockfish halibut PSC by transfer for the remainder of that calendar year.

(3) *Eligible rockfish processor.* (i) The Regional Administrator will issue an eligible rockfish processor permit to persons who have submitted a complete application described at §679.81(d), that is subsequently approved by the Regional Administrator. An eligible rockfish processor permit authorizes a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor to receive fish harvested under the Rockfish Program, except for fish harvested under the rockfish entry level fishery.

(ii) A permit is valid under the following circumstances:

(A) Until the permit is modified by transfers under §679.81(g); or

(B) Until the permit is revoked, suspended, or modified pursuant to §679.43 or 15 CFR part 904.

(iii) A legible copy of the eligible rockfish processor permit must be available at the facility at which Rockfish Program fish are received.

(o) *Amendment 80 Program* —(1) *Amendment 80 QS permit.* (i) An Amendment 80 QS permit is issued to a person who submits a timely and complete application for Amendment 80 QS that is approved by NMFS under §679.90(b).

(ii) An Amendment 80 QS permit is assigned to the owner of an Amendment 80 vessel that gave rise to that permit under the provisions of §679.90(b), unless the Amendment 80 QS permit is assigned to the holder of an LLP license originally assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel under the provisions of §679.90(d) or §679.90(e).

(iii) If an Amendment 80 QS permit is assigned to the owner of an Amendment 80 vessel the Amendment 80 QS permit will designate the Amendment 80 vessel to which that permit is assigned.

(iv) If an Amendment 80 QS permit is assigned to the holder of an LLP license originally assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel under the provisions of §679.90(d)(2)(ii) or §679.90(e)(4), the Amendment 80 QS permit will be permanently affixed to the LLP license originally assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel which will be designated as an Amendment 80 LLP/QS license.

(v) Amendment 80 QS units assigned to an Amendment 80 QS permit are non-severable from that Amendment 80 QS permit and if transferred, the Amendment 80 QS permit must be transferred in its entirety to another person under the provisions of §679.90(e).

(vi) A person must hold an Amendment 80 LLP license to hold an Amendment 80 QS permit.

(2) *Amendment 80 Cooperative quota (CQ) permit.* (i) A CQ permit is issued annually to an Amendment 80 cooperative that submits a timely and complete application for CQ that is approved by NMFS as described at §679.91(b)(4).

(ii) A CQ permit authorizes an Amendment 80 cooperative to catch a quantity of fish expressed as a portion of the ITAC and halibut and crab PSC that may be held for exclusive use by that Amendment 80 cooperative.

(iii) A CQ permit will indicate the amount of Amendment 80 species that may be caught by the Amendment 80 cooperative, and the amount of Amendment 80 crab and halibut PSC that may be used by the Amendment 80 cooperative. The CQ permit will list the members of the Amendment 80 cooperative, Amendment 80 LLP licenses, Amendment 80 QS permits, and Amendment 80 vessels that are assigned to that Amendment 80 cooperative.

(iv) The amount of CQ listed on the CQ permit will be based on:

(A) The amount of Amendment 80 QS units held by all members of the Amendment 80 cooperative designated on a timely and complete application for CQ as described under §679.91(b) that is approved by NMFS;

(B) The Amendment 80 QS units derived from Amendment 80 QS permits held by members of the Amendment 80 cooperative who have submitted a timely and complete EDR for all Amendment 80 QS permits held by that member as described under §679.94; and

(C) The amount of CQ as modified by an application for CQ transfer as described under §679.91(g) that is approved by NMFS.

(v) A CQ permit is valid until whichever of the following occurs first:

(A) Until the end of the year for which the CQ permit is issued; or

(B) Until the permit is revoked, suspended, or modified pursuant to §679.43 or under 15 CFR part 904.

(vi) A legible copy of the CQ permit must be carried onboard an Amendment 80 vessel assigned to an Amendment 80 cooperative when fishing in the BSAI or adjacent waters open by the State of Alaska for which it adopts a Federal fishing season.

(3) *Amendment 80 limited access fishery permit.* (i) An Amendment 80 limited access fishery permit is required for an Amendment 80 QS holder to catch, process, and receive Amendment 80 species assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery, or use halibut and crab PSC assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery. An Amendment 80 limited access fishery permit is issued annually to an Amendment 80 QS holder who:

(A) Has submitted a timely and complete application for the Amendment 80 limited access fishery as described at §679.91(b)(4) that is approved by NMFS, or

(B) Is assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery by NMFS as described at §679.91(a)(3)(ii); and

(C) Has submitted a timely and complete EDR for all Amendment 80 QS permits held by that person as described under §679.94.

(ii) An Amendment 80 limited access fishery permit is valid until whichever of the following occurs first:

(A) Until the end of the year for which the Amendment 80 limited access fishery permit is issued; or

(B) Until the permit is revoked, suspended, or modified pursuant to §679.43 or under 15 CFR part 904.

(iii) A legible copy of the Amendment 80 limited access fishery permit must be carried onboard an Amendment 80 vessel assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery when fishing in the BSAI or adjacent waters open by the State of Alaska for which it adopts a Federal fishing season.

[61 FR 31230, June 19, 1996]

Editorial Note: For Federal Register citations affecting §679.4, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 679.5 Recordkeeping and reporting (R&R).

(a) *General R&R requirements.* R&R requirements include, but are not limited to, paper and electronic documentation, logbooks, forms, reports, receipts, computer printouts, and requests for inspection described in this section and in §679.28.

(1) *Groundfish logbooks and forms.* (i) The Regional Administrator will prescribe and provide groundfish logbooks required under this section. All groundfish forms required under this section are available from the Alaska Region website at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov* or may be requested by calling the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 907–

586–7228 or faxing 907–586–7465. The forms may be completed online, printed, and mailed or faxed to NMFS at the address or fax number shown on the form. The forms also may be completed online, saved as a file, and submitted to NMFS as an attachment to an e–mail to the e–mail address shown on the form.

(ii) *Current editions.* The operator must use the current edition of the logbooks and current format of the forms. Upon approval from the Regional Administrator NMFS–approved electronic versions of the forms may be used. Upon written notification and approval by the Regional Administrator, logbooks from the previous year may be used.

(iii) *Management program defined.* A "management program" is a unique fishery program with a specific management strategy and/or allocation. Harvest that occurred under the management programs listed in the following table must be recorded separately in the logbooks, forms, and eLandings.

If harvest made under . . . program	Record the . . .	For more information, see . . .
(A) Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ)	CDQ group number	subpart C of this part
(B) Exempted Fishery	Exempted fishery permit number	§679.6
(C) Research Fishery	Research fishery permit number	§600.745(a) of this chapter
(D) Aleutian Islands Pollock (AIP)	n/a	subpart F of this part
(E) Open access (OA)	[for recording in eLandings only]	paragraph (e) of this section

(2) *Responsibility.* (i) The operator of a catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, or buying station receiving groundfish from a catcher vessel and delivering to a mothership (hereafter referred to as the operator) and the manager of a shoreside processor, SFP, or buying station receiving groundfish from a catcher vessel and delivering to a shoreside processor or SFP (hereafter referred to as the manager) are each responsible for complying with the applicable R&R requirements in this section and in §679.28.

(ii) The owner of a vessel, shoreside processor, SFP, or buying station is responsible for compliance and must ensure that the operator, manager, or representative (see paragraph (b) of this section) complies with the applicable R&R requirements in this section and in §679.28.

(iii) The IFQ permit holder, IFQ hired master permit holder, or Registered Buyer must comply with the R&R requirements provided at paragraphs (e), (g), (k), and (l) of this section.

(iv) The CDQ permit holder, CDQ hired master permit holder, or Registered Buyer must comply with the R&R requirements provided at paragraphs (e), (g), (k), and (l)(1) through (6) of this section.

(3) *Fish to be recorded and reported.* The operator or manager must record and report the following information (see paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (iv) of this section) for all groundfish (see Table 2a to this part), prohibited species (see Table 2b to this part) and forage fish (see Table 2c to this part). The operator or manager may record and report the following information (see paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (iv) of this section) for non–groundfish (see Table 2d to this part):

(i) Harvest information;

(ii) Receipt information from catcher vessels and buying stations, including fish received from vessels not required to have an FFP; and fish received under contract for handling or processing for another processor;

(iii) Discard or disposition information, including fish reported but not delivered to the operator or manager, e.g., fish used onboard a vessel, when receiving catch from a catcher vessel or buying station; and

(iv) Transfer information, including fish transferred out of the facility or off the vessel.

(4) *Exemptions* —(i) *Catcher vessels less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA.* Except for the vessel activity report described at paragraph (k) of this section, the owner or operator of a catcher vessel less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA is not required to comply with the R&R requirements of this section.

(ii) *Catcher vessels that take groundfish in crab pot gear for use as crab bait on that vessel.* (A) Owners or operators of catcher vessels who, when crab is open anywhere or in the same area as an open crab season, take groundfish in crab pot gear for use as crab bait onboard their same vessels, and the bait is neither transferred nor sold, are not required to comply with R&R requirements of this section.

(B) This exemption does not apply to fishermen who:

(*1*) Catch groundfish for bait during an open crab season and sell that groundfish or transfer it to another vessel, or

(*2*) Participate in a directed fishery for groundfish using any gear type during periods that are outside an open crab season for use as crab bait onboard their vessel.

(C) No groundfish species listed by NMFS as "prohibited" in a management or regulatory area may be taken in that area for use as bait.

(5) *Inspection and retention of records* —(i) *Inspection of records.* The operator or manager must make available for inspection the R&R documentation in this section and in §679.28 upon the request of an authorized officer.

(ii) *Retention of records.* The operator or manager must retain the R&R documentation described in this section and in §679.28:

(A) *On site.* Retain these records on site at the shoreside processor or SFP, or onboard the vessel until the end of the fishing year during which the records were made and for as long thereafter as fish or fish products recorded in the R&R documentation are retained.

(B) *For 3 years.* Retain these records for 3 years after the end of the fishing year during which the records were made.

(6) *Maintenance of records.* The operator or manager must maintain all records described in this section and in §679.28 in English and in a legible, timely, and accurate manner, based on Alaska local time (A.l.t.); if handwritten, in indelible ink; if computer–generated, as a legible printed paper copy.

(7) *Custom processing.* The manager of a shoreside processor or SFP or the operator of a mothership must record products that result from custom processing for another person in eLandings consistently throughout a fishing year using one of the following two methods:

(i) *Combined records.* Record landings, discards or dispositions, and products of custom–processed groundfish routinely in eLandings using processor name, FFP or FPP number, and ADF&G processor code; or

(ii) *Separate records.* Record landings, discards or dispositions, and products of custom–processed groundfish in eLandings identified by the name, FPP number or FFP number, and ADF&G processor code of the associated business entity.

(b) *Representative.* The operator of a catcher vessel, mothership, catcher/processor, or buying station delivering to a mothership or manager of a shoreside processor, SFP, or buying station delivering to a shoreside processor or SFP may identify one contact person to complete the logbook and forms and to respond to inquiries from NMFS. Designation of a representative under this paragraph (b) does not relieve the owner, operator, or manager of responsibility for compliance under paragraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this section.

(c) *Logbooks* —(1) *Requirements* —(i) *Use of two or more vessel logbooks of same gear type.* If using more than one logbook of the same gear type in a fishing year onboard a vessel, the operator must ensure that the page numbers follow the consecutive order of the previous logbook.

(ii) *Use of two or more vessel logbooks of different gear types.* If two or more different gear types are used onboard a vessel in a fishing year, the operator(s) of this vessel must use the same number of separate vessel logbooks for the different gear types, each separately paginated.

(iii) *Two vessel logbooks for pair trawl.* If two vessels are dragging a trawl between them (pair trawl), the operator of each vessel must maintain a separate logbook to record the amount of the catch retained and fish discarded by that vessel. Each of the two logbooks must be separately paginated.

(iv) *Two logbooks of different operation.* If a vessel functions both as a mothership and as a catcher/processor in the same fishing year, the operator(s) must maintain two logbooks, a separate logbook for each operation type, each separately paginated.

(v) *Alteration of logbook information.* (A) Except as described in paragraph (c)(1)(v)(B) of this section, no person may alter or change any entry or record in a logbook.

(B) An inaccurate or incorrect entry or record must be corrected by lining out the original and inserting the correction, provided that the original entry or record remains legible. All corrections must be made in ink.

(vi) *Logsheet distribution and submittal.* (A) No person except an authorized officer may remove any original white logsheet of any logbook.

(B) The operator must distribute and submit logsheets as indicated in the following table:

Logsheet Distribution and Submittal							
If logsheet color is ...	**Logsheets found in these logbooks**					**Submit to ...**	**Time limit**
	CV lgl/pot	**CV trw**	**CP lgl/pot**	**CP trw**	**MS**		
(*1*) White	X	X	X	X	X	Must retain, permanently bound in logbook	
(*2*) Goldenrod	X	X	X	X	X	Observer	After signature of operator and prior to departure of observer from the vessel.
(*3*) Yellow	X	X				Must submit quarterly to: NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement Alaska Region Logbook Program, P.O. Box 21767, Juneau, AK 99802–1767 Telephone: 907–586–7225	On the following schedule: *1st quarter* by May 1 of that fishing year. *2nd quarter* by August 1 of that fishing year. *3rd quarter* by November 1 of that fishing year. *4th quarter* by February 1 of the following fishing year.
(*4*) Blue	X	X				Mothership, shoreside processor, SFP, or buying station that receives the harvest	Within 2 hours after completion of catch delivery
(*5*) Green	X		X			Optional, but may be required by IPHC (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter)	If required, after the vessel's catch is off-loaded

Note: CP = catcher/processor; CV = catcher vessel; lgl = longline; trw = trawl; MS = mothership.

(2) *Recording active and inactive time periods in the DFL or DCPL* —(i) *Account for each day of the fishing year.* The operator must account for each day of the fishing year, January 1 through December 31, in the DFL or DCPL and indicate whether the vessel or processor was active or inactive during the time period.

(A) An active period by fishing category is defined in the following paragraphs under this section:

Paragraph	**Fishing Category**
(c)(3)(iv)(A)(*1*)	Catcher vessel, longline or pot gear
(c)(3)(iv)(B)(*1*)	Catcher/processor, longline or pot gear
(c)(4)(iv)(A)(*1*)	Catcher vessel, trawl gear
(c)(4)(iv)(B)(*1*)	Catcher/processor, trawl gear
(c)(5)(ii)	Shoreside processor or SFP
(c)(6)(iv)	Mothership

(B) An inactive period is defined as a time period other than active.

(ii) *Record January 1 on page 1.* The operator must record the first day of the fishing year, January 1, on page one of the DFL or DCPL regardless of whether the vessel or processor was active or inactive. The operator must record time periods consecutively.

(iii) *Required information for inactive periods.* If inactive, the operator must record the following information (see paragraphs (c)(2)(iii)(A) through (F) of this section) on one logsheet in the DFL or DCPL:

(A) If a catcher vessel, vessel name, ADF&G vessel registration number, FFP number or Federal crab vessel permit number, operator printed name, operator signature, and page number.

(B) If a mothership or catcher/processor, record vessel name, ADF&G processor code, FFP number, operator printed name, operator signature, and page number.

(C) Mark “inactive.”

(D) Record the date (mm/dd) of the first day when inactive under “Start date.”

(E) Write brief explanation why inactive, e.g., bad weather or equipment failure. If inactive due to surrender of a FFP or FPP, write “surrender of permit” as the reason for inactivity.

(F) Record the date (mm/dd) of the last day when inactive under “End date.”

(iv) *Inactive two or more quarters.* If the inactive time period extends across two or more successive quarters, the operator must complete a logsheet for each inactive quarter. The first logsheet must indicate the first and last day of the first inactive quarter. Successive logsheets must indicate the first and last day of its respective inactive quarter.

(3) *Longline and pot gear catcher vessel DFL and catcher/processor DCPL* —(i) *Responsibility* —(A) *Groundfish fisheries.* (*1*) Except as described in paragraph (f)(1)(i) of this section, the operator of a catcher vessel 60 ft (18.3 m) or greater LOA, that is required to have an FFP under §679.4(b) and that is using longline or pot gear to harvest groundfish must maintain a longline and pot gear DFL.

(*2*) Except as described in paragraph (f)(1)(ii) of this section, the operator of a catcher/processor that is required to have an FFP under §679.4(b) and that is using longline or pot gear to harvest groundfish must use a combination of catcher/processor longline and pot gear DCPL and eLandings to record and report daily processor identification information, catch–by–set information, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(B) *IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish fisheries.* (*1*) Except as described in paragraph (f)(1)(i) of this section, the operator of a catcher vessel 60 ft (18.3 m) or greater LOA, using fixed gear (NMFS), setline (IPHC), or pot gear to harvest IFQ sablefish, IFQ halibut, or CDQ halibut from the GOA or BSAI, must maintain a longline and pot gear DFL.

(*2*) Except as described in paragraph (f)(1)(ii) of this section, the operator of a catcher/processor that is using longline or pot gear to harvest IFQ sablefish, IFQ halibut, or CDQ halibut from the GOA or BSAI must use a combination of catcher/processor longline and pot gear DCPL and eLandings to record and report daily processor identification information, catch–by–set halibut and sablefish landings data, and halibut, sablefish, and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(C) *CR crab fisheries.* (*1*) The operator of a catcher vessel 60 ft (18.3 m) or greater LOA, using pot gear to harvest CR crab from the BSAI must maintain a longline and pot gear DFL.

(*2*) The operator of a catcher/processor that is using pot gear to harvest CR crab from the BSAI must use a combination of catcher/processor longline and pot gear DCPL and eLandings to record and report daily processor identification information, CR crab landings data, and CR crab and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(ii) *Data entry time limits* —(A) *Catcher vessel.* The operator of a catcher vessel using longline or pot gear must record in the DFL the information from the following table for each set within the specified time limit:

DATA ENTRY TIME LIMITS, CATCHER VESSEL LONGLINE OR POT GEAR	
Required information	**Time limit for recording**
(*1*) Set number, time and date gear set, time and date gear hauled, beginning and end positions, CDQ group number, halibut CDQ permit number, halibut IFQ permit number, sablefish IFQ permit number, crab IFQ permit number, FFP number and/or Federal crab vessel permit number (if applicable), number of pots set, and estimated total hail weight for each set	Within 2 hours after completion of gear retrieval
(*2*) Discard and disposition information	By noon each day to record the previous day's discard and disposition information
(*3*) Submit the blue DFL to mothership, shoreside processor, SFP, or buying station receiving catch	Within 2 hours after completion of catch delivery
(*4*) All other required information	Within 2 hours after the vessel's catch is off-loaded, notwithstanding other time limits
(*5*) Operator sign the completed logsheets	Within 2 hours after completion of catch delivery
(*6*) Submit goldenrod logsheet to the observer	After signature of operator and prior to departure of observer from the vessel.

(B) *Catcher/processor.* The operator of a catcher/processor using longline or pot gear must record in the DCPL or eLandings the information from the following table for each set within the specified time limit:

DATA ENTRY TIME LIMITS, CATCHER/PROCESSOR LONGLINE OR POT GEAR			
Required information	**Record In**		**Time limit for recording**
	DCPL	**eLandings**	
(*1*) Set number, time and date gear set, time and date gear hauled, beginning and end positions, CDQ group number, halibut CDQ permit number, halibut IFQ permit number, sablefish IFQ permit number, crab IFQ permit number, FFP number and/or Federal crab vessel permit number (if applicable), number of pots set, and estimated total hail weight for each set	X	X	Within 2 hours after completion of gear retrieval
(*2*) Discard and disposition information		X	By midnight each day to record the previous day's discard and disposition information
(*3*) Product information		X	By noon each day to record the previous day's production information
(*4*) All other required information	X	X	By noon of the day following completion of production
(*5*) Operator sign the completed logsheets	X	X	By noon of the day following the week-ending date of the weekly reporting period
(*6*) Submit goldenrod logsheet to the observer	X		After signature of operator and prior to departure of observer from the vessel

(iii) *Required information, if inactive.* See paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(iv) *Required information, if active* —(A) *Catcher vessel, longline or pot gear.* (*1*) A catcher vessel using longline or pot gear is active when gear remains on the grounds in a reporting area (except reporting areas 300, 400, 550, or 690), regardless of the vessel location.

(*2*) If the catcher vessel identified in paragraph (c)(3)(i)(A)(*1*) of this section is active, the operator must record in the DFL, for one or more days on each logsheet, the information listed in paragraphs (c)(3)(v), (vi), (viii), (ix), and (x) of this section.

(*3*) *Retain and record discard quantities over the MRA.* When a catcher vessel is fishing in an IFQ fishery and the fishery for Pacific cod or rockfish is closed to directed fishing but not in PSC status in that reporting area as described in §679.20, the operator must retain and record up to and including the maximum retainable amount (MRA) for Pacific cod or rockfish as defined in Table 10 or 11 to this part. Quantities over this amount must be discarded and recorded as discard in the logbook.

(B) *Catcher/processor, longline or pot gear.* (*1*) A catcher/processor using longline or pot gear is active when processing or when all or part of the longline or pot gear is in the water.

(*2*) If the catcher/processor identified in paragraph (c)(3)(i)(A)(*2*) of this section is active, the operator must record in the DCPL the information listed in paragraphs (c)(3)(v) and (vi) of this section and must record in eLandings the information listed in paragraphs (c)(3)(v), (vii), (viii), and (x) of this section.

(*3*) *Retain and record discard quantities over the MRA.* When a catcher/processor is fishing in an IFQ fishery and the fishery for Pacific cod or rockfish is closed to directed fishing but not in PSC status in that reporting area as described in §679.20, the operator must retain and record up to and including the MRA for Pacific cod or rockfish as defined in Table 10 or 11 to this part. Quantities over this amount must be discarded and recorded as discard in eLandings.

(v) *Identification information* —(A) *Page number.* Number the pages in each logbook consecutively, beginning on the first page of the DFL or DCPL with page 1 for January 1 and continuing for the remainder of the fishing year.

(B) *Printed name and signature of operator.* The operator's name must be printed in the DFL or DCPL. The operator must sign each completed logsheet of the DFL or DCPL as verification of acceptance of the responsibility required in paragraph (a)(2) of this section

(C) *Vessel identification.* Name of vessel as displayed in official documentation; FFP number or Federal crab vessel permit number of the vessel; and ADF&G vessel registration number if a catcher vessel or ADF&G processor code if a catcher/processor.

(D) *Other permit numbers (if applicable).* IFQ permit number of the operator, if any, and each permit number of any IFQ permit on which anyone aboard is authorized to fish; groundfish CDQ group number; and halibut CDQ permit number.

(E) *Reporting area* —(*1*) *Groundfish.* Record the Federal reporting area code (see Figures 1 and 3 to this part) where gear retrieval was completed, regardless of where the majority of the set took place. Use a separate logsheet for each reporting area.

(*2*) *IFQ halibut and CDQ halibut.* Record the IPHC regulatory area (see Figure 15 to this part) where gear retrieval was completed, regardless of where the majority of the set took place.

(*3*) *CR crab.* Leave this field blank.

(F) *Crew size.* If a catcher vessel, record the number of crew members (including operator), excluding certified observer(s), on the last day of a trip. If a catcher/processor, record the number of crew members (including operator), excluding certified observer(s), on the last day of the weekly reporting period.

(G) *Gear type.* Use a separate logsheet for each gear type. From the following table, indicate the gear type used to harvest the fish and appropriate “gear ID.” In addition, if using hook–and–line gear, enter the alphabetical letter that coincides with the gear description. If gear information is the same on subsequent logsheets, mark the box instead of re–entering the gear type information on the next logsheet.

If gear type is ...	**Then ...**
(*1*) Other gear	If gear is other than those listed within this table, indicate “Other” and describe
(*2*) Pot gear	Enter the number of pots lost (optional, but may be required by IPHC regulations (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter)) and number of pots set
(*3*) Hook-and-line gear	Indicate: (*i*) Whether gear is fixed hook (conventional or tub), autoline, or snap (optional, but may be required by IPHC regulations (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter))
	(*ii*) Length of skate to the nearest foot (optional, but may be required by IPHC regulations (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter)), number of skates lost (optional, but may be required by IPHC regulations (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter)), and number of skates set
	(*iii*) Number of hooks per skate (optional, but may be required by IPHC regulations (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter)), size of hooks, and hook spacing in feet
	(*iv*) Seabird avoidance gear code(s) (see §679.24(e) and Table 19 to this part)

(H) *Management program.* Indicate whether harvest occurred under a management program (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section). Use a separate logsheet for each management program. If harvest is not under one of the listed management programs, leave blank.

(I) *Observer information.* Record the number of observers aboard, the name of the observer(s), and the observer cruise number(s).

(vi) *Catch–by–set information.* The operator must record the following information (see paragraphs (c)(3)(vi)(A) through (L) of this section) for each set (see §679.2) in the DFL or DCPL. If no catch occurred for a given day, write “no catch.”

(A) *Set number.* Sequentially by year.

(B) *Gear deployment (or to set gear)* —(*1*) *Hook–and–line gear begin position.* Record date (mm/dd), time (in military format, A.l.t.), and the begin position (in latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) when the first hook–and–line gear of a set enters the water.

(*2*) *Jig or troll gear begin position.* Record date (mm/dd), time (in military format, A.l.t.), and the begin position (latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) when the jig or troll gear enters the water.

(*3*) *Pot gear begin position.* Record date (mm/dd), time (in military format, A.l.t.), and the begin position (latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) when the pot gear enters the water.

(C) *Gear retrieval (or to haul gear)* —(*1*) *Hook–and–line gear end position.* Date (mm/dd), time (in military format, A.l.t.), and end position coordinates (in latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude), where the last hook–and–line gear of a set leaves the water, regardless of where the majority of the set took place.

(*2*) *Jig or troll gear end position.* Date (mm/dd), time (in military format, A.l.t.), and end position coordinates (in latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) where the jig or troll gear leaves the water.

(*3*) *Pot gear end position.* Date (mm/dd), time (in military format, A.l.t.), and end position coordinates (in latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) where the last pot of a set is retrieved, regardless of where the majority of the set took place.

(D) *Begin and end buoy or bag numbers.* (optional, but may be required by IPHC regulations (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter)).

(E) *Begin and end gear depths.* Recorded to the nearest fathom (optional, but may be required by IPHC regulations (see §§300.60 through 300.65 of this chapter)).

(F) *Species codes.* The operator must record and report required information for all groundfish (see Table 2a to this part), prohibited species (see Table 2b to this part), and forage fish (see Table 2c to this part). The operator may record and report information for non–groundfish (see Table 2d to this part).

(G) *Target species code.* Enter the species code of the intended species to be harvested. Enter only one target species code.

(H) *Estimated total hail weight.* Enter the estimated hail weight, which is an estimate of the total weight of the entire catch without regard to species. Indicate whether weight is estimated to the nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt.

(I) *IR/IU species (see §679.27).* If a catcher/processor, enter species code of IR/IU species and estimated total round weight for each IR/IU species, if applicable; indicate whether weight is estimated to the nearest pound or the nearest 0.001 mt. Use one line to record information for each IR/IU species, including species code and amount of catch. If more than one IR/IU species are to be recorded, the operator must use a separate line for each species.

(J) *IFQ halibut and CDQ halibut.* Estimated total net weight of IFQ halibut and CDQ halibut to the nearest pound.

(K) *IFQ sablefish.* Number and estimated total round weight of IFQ sablefish to the nearest pound. Indicate whether IFQ sablefish product is Western cut, Eastern cut, or round weight.

(L) *CR crab.* If in a CR crab fishery, record the number and scale weight of raw CR crab to the nearest pound.

(vii) *Product information, catcher/processor.* The operator of a catcher/processor using longline or pot gear must record groundfish product information for all retained groundfish in eLandings (see paragraph (e)(10) of this section).

(viii) *Discard or disposition information, catcher vessel.* The operator must record in a DFL the discard or disposition information that occurred prior to and during delivery to a buying station, mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP. Discard or disposition information must include the daily weight of groundfish, daily weight of herring PSC, and daily number of PSC animals. If no discard or disposition occurred for a given day, the operator must write “no discards or disposition.”

(A) Enter discard or disposition information by species codes and product codes as follows:

(*1*) Date (mm/dd) of discard or disposition (day that discard or disposition occurred).

(*2*) For whole fish discard or disposition of groundfish or Pacific herring PSC, daily estimated total weight, balance forward weight from the previous day, and cumulative total weight since last delivery for each species; indicate whether weight is estimated to the nearest pound or nearest 0.001 mt.

(*3*) For whole fish discard or disposition of each prohibited species (Pacific salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, king crabs, and Tanner crabs) record the daily estimated total number, balance forward from the previous day, and cumulative total number since the last delivery.

(*4*) Summarize the weekly cumulative discard and disposition totals of groundfish weights and number of PSC animals separately by reporting area, management program, and gear type. Determine the weekly cumulative total by adding daily totals and the balance carried forward from the day before.

(B) The operator must record “0” or zero balance forward and start a new logsheet after the offload or transfer of all fish or fish product onboard and prior to the beginning of each fishing trip. Nothing shall be carried forward from the previous fishing trip.

(ix) *Discard or disposition information, catcher/processor.* The operator of a catcher/processor using longline or pot gear must record all discard or disposition information in eLandings (see paragraph (e)(10) of this section).

(x) *Catcher vessel delivery information.* The operator of a catcher vessel must enter the following information (see paragraphs (c)(3)(x)(A) through (D) of this section) for delivery to a buying station, mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP:

(A) Date (mm/dd) that delivery of harvest was completed.

(B) ADF&G fish ticket issued to operator by the recipient, Registered Buyer, or RCR receiving the delivery.

(C) Name of recipient, Registered Buyer, or RCR.

(D) For the unloading port, enter the name of the port or port code (see Tables 14a and 14b to this part) of delivery location.

(4) *Trawl gear catcher vessel DFL and catcher/processor DCPL* —(i) *Responsibility.* (A) Except as described in paragraph (f)(1)(iii) of this section, the operator of a catcher vessel 60 ft (18.3 m) or greater LOA, that is required to have an FFP under §679.4(b), and that is using trawl gear to harvest groundfish must maintain a trawl gear DFL, must complete one or more logsheets per day. Upon notification by the Regional Administrator, a DFL from the previous year may be used.

(B) Except as described in paragraph (f)(1)(iv) of this section, the operator of a catcher/processor that is required to have an FFP under §679.4(b) and that is using trawl gear to harvest groundfish is required to use a combination of catcher/processor trawl gear DCPL and eLandings to record and report daily processor identification information, catch–by–haul landings information, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(ii) *Data entry time limits* —(A) *Catcher vessel.* The operator of a catcher vessel using trawl gear must record in the DFL the information in the following table for each haul within the specified time limit:

DATA ENTRY TIME LIMITS, CATCHER VESSEL TRAWL GEAR	
Required information	**Time limit for recording**
(*1*) Haul number, time and date gear set, time and date gear hauled, beginning and end positions, CDQ group number (if applicable), and total estimated hail weight for each haul	Within 2 hours after completion of gear retrieval
(*2*) Discard and disposition information	By noon each day to record the previous day's discard and disposition information
(*3*) Submit blue DFL to mothership, shoreside processor, SFP, or buying station receiving the catch	Within 2 hours after completion of catch delivery
(*4*) Record all other required information	Within 2 hours after the vessel's catch is off-loaded, notwithstanding other time limits
(*5*) Operator sign the completed logsheets	Within 2 hours after completion of catch delivery
(*6*) Submit the goldenrod logsheet to the observer	After signature of operator and prior to departure of observer from the vessel.

(B) *Catcher/processor.* The operator of a catcher/processor using trawl gear must record in the DCPL or eLandings the information in the following table for each haul within the specified time limit:

DATA ENTRY TIME LIMITS, CATCHER/PROCESSOR TRAWL GEAR			
Required information	**Record In**		**Time limit for recording**
	DCPL	**eLandings**	
(*1*) Haul number, time and date gear set, time and date gear hauled, begin and end positions of gear, CDQ group number (if applicable), and total estimated hail weight for each haul, or if required to use a NMFS approved scale, the scale weight for each haul	X	X	Except for Rockfish Pilot Program, within 2 hours after completion of gear retrieval. For Rockfish Pilot Program, actual scale weight from the flow scale may be recorded within 24 hours after completion of gear retrieval.
(*2*) Discard and disposition information		X	By midnight each day to record the previous day's discard and disposition information
(*3*) Record product information		X	By noon each day to record the previous day's production information
(*4*) Record all other required information	X	X	By noon of the day following completion of production to record all other required information
(*5*) Operator sign the completed logsheets	X	X	By noon of the day following the week-ending date of the weekly reporting period
(*6*) Submit the goldenrod logsheet to the observer	X		After signature of operator and prior to departure of observer from the vessel.

(iii) *Required information, if inactive.* See paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(iv) *Required information, if active* —(A) *Catcher vessel.* (*1*) A catcher vessel using trawl gear is active when all or part of the trawl net is in the water.

(*2*) If the catcher vessel identified in paragraph (c)(4)(i)(A) of this section is active, the operator must record for one day per logsheet in the DFL, the information described in paragraphs (c)(4)(v), (vi), (viii), and (x) of this section.

(B) *Catcher/processor.* (*1*) A catcher/processor using trawl gear is active when processing groundfish or when all or part of the trawl net is in the water.

(*2*) If the catcher/processor identified in paragraph (c)(4)(i)(B) of this section is active, the operator must record for one day per logsheet in the DCPL, the information described in paragraphs (c)(4)(v) and (vi) of this section and record in eLandings the information described in paragraphs (c)(4)(v), (vii), and (ix) of this section.

(v) *Identification information.* If active, the operator must record the following information (see paragraphs (c)(4)(v)(A) through (J) of this section):

(A) *Date.* Enter date of each day (mm/dd/yyyy). This date is also the date of gear deployment.

(B) *Page number.* Number the pages in each logbook consecutively, beginning on the first page of the DFL or DCPL with page 1 for January 1 and continuing for the remainder of the fishing year.

(C) *Printed name and signature of operator.* The operator's name must be printed in the DFL or DCPL. The operator must sign each completed logsheet of the DFL or DCPL as verification of acceptance of the responsibility required in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. The operator's signature is due by noon of the day following the week–ending date of the weekly reporting period.

(D) *Vessel identification.* Name of vessel as displayed in official documentation; FFP number of the vessel; ADF&G vessel registration number if a catcher vessel; and ADF&G processor code if a catcher/processor.

(E) *Federal reporting area.* Record the Federal reporting area code where gear retrieval was completed, regardless of where the majority of the set took place. Use a separate logsheet for each reporting area.

(F) *COBLZ or RKCSA.* If gear retrieval occurred in the COBLZ (see Figure 13 to this part) or RKCSA (see Figure 11 to this part) area within a reporting area, use two separate logsheets, the first to record the information from the reporting area that includes COBLZ or RKCSA, and the second to record the information from the reporting area that does not include COBLZ or RKCSA.

(G) *Crew size.* If a catcher vessel, record the number of crew members (including operator), excluding certified observer(s), on the last day of a trip. If a catcher/processor, record the number of crew members (including operator), excluding certified observer(s), on the last day of the weekly reporting period.

(H) *Gear type.* Use a separate logsheet for each gear type. Indicate whether pelagic trawl or non–pelagic trawl gear was used to harvest the fish.

(I) *Management program.* Indicate whether harvest occurred under one of the management programs (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section). Use a separate logsheet for each management program. If harvest is not under one of the listed management programs, leave blank.

(J) *Observer information.* Record the number of observers aboard, the name of the observer(s), and the observer cruise number(s).

(vi) *Catch–by–haul information.* The operator must record the following information (see paragraphs (c)(4)(vi)(A) through (H) of this section) for each haul (see §679.2). If no catch occurred for a given day, write “no catch.”

(A) *Haul number.* Number hauls sequentially by year.

(B) *Gear deployment (or to set gear).* Record the following information (see paragraphs (c)(4)(vi)(B)(*1*) and (*2*) of this section) for trawl gear deployment:

(*1*) The time (in military format, A.l.t.) when the trawl net enters the water, and

(*2*) The position (latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) where the trawl net enters the water.

(C) *Gear retrieval (or to haul gear).* Record the following information (see paragraphs (c)(4)(vi)(C)(*1*) and (*2*) of this section) for trawl gear retrieval:

(*1*) The date (mm/dd) and time (in military format, A.l.t.) when retrieval of trawl gear cable begins.

(*2*) The position (in latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) where retrieval of trawl gear cable begins.

(D) *Average sea depth and average gear depth.* Average sea depth and average gear depth; indicate whether average is reported to the nearest meter or fathom.

(E) *Species codes.* The operator must record and report the required information for all groundfish (see Table 2a to this part), prohibited species (see Table 2b to this part), and forage fish (see Table 2c to this part). The operator may also record and report the required information for non–groundfish (see Table 2d to this part).

(F) *Target species code.* Enter the species code of the species to be harvested. Enter only one target species code.

(G) *IR/IU species (see §679.27).* If a catcher/processor, enter species code of IR/IU species and estimated total round weight for each IR/IU species, if applicable; indicate whether estimated weight is to the nearest pound or the nearest 0.001 mt. Use one line to record information for each IR/IU species, including species code and amount of catch. If more than one IR/IU species are to be recorded, the operator must use a separate line for each species.

(H) *Total estimated hail weight.* (*1*) If a catcher vessel or catcher/processor using trawl gear and not using NMFS–approved scales, the operator must record the hail weight of each haul; total hail weight is an estimate of the total weight of the entire catch without regard to species. Indicate whether estimated weight is to the nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt.

(*2*) If a catcher/processor using trawl gear is required to use a NMFS–approved scale, the operator must record the scale weight of each haul without regard to species. Indicate whether weight is to the nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt.

(vii) *Product information, catcher/processor.* The operator of a catcher/processor using trawl gear must record all product information for all retained groundfish in eLandings (see paragraph (e)(10) of this section).

(viii) *Discard or disposition information, catcher vessel.* The operator must record in a DFL (see paragraphs (c)(4)(viii)(A) through (E) of this section) the discard or disposition that occurred prior to and during delivery to a buying station, mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP. If no discards or disposition occurred on a given day, write “no discards or disposition.”

(A) *Species code and product code.* Record the species code and product code for all discards and disposition of groundfish and PSC Pacific herring, Pacific salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, king crabs, and Tanner crabs.

(B) *Discard and disposition weight.* Record the daily estimated total round weight of groundfish or Pacific herring PSC discards and disposition, balance forward weight from the previous day, and cumulative total weight since last delivery, calculated by adding the daily totals and balance carried forward from the day before; indicate whether estimated weight is to the nearest pound or nearest 0.001 mt.

(C) *PSC discard numbers.* Record the daily number of PSC discards and disposition, balance forward from the previous day, and cumulative total number since last delivery of PSC animals (Pacific salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, king crabs, and Tanner crabs).

(D) *Discard and disposition cumulative total.* Summarize cumulative discard and disposition totals of groundfish and PSC animals separately by reporting area, if harvest occurred in the COBLZ or RKCSA, management program, and gear type.

(E) *Discard zero balance forward.* After the offload or transfer of all fish or fish product onboard and prior to the beginning of each fishing trip, the operator must record the balance forward from the previous day as “zero” and start a new logsheet. At the beginning of each fishing trip, nothing shall be carried forward from the previous fishing trip.

(ix) *Discard or disposition information, catcher/processor.* The operator of a catcher/processor using trawl gear must record discard or disposition information in eLandings (see paragraph (e)(10) of this section).

(x) *Catcher vessel delivery information.* The operator must enter the following delivery information (see paragraphs (c)(4)(x)(A) through (C) of this section) for groundfish delivered to a buying station, mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP:

(A) Date (mm/dd) that delivery of harvest was completed,

(B) ADF&G fish ticket number issued to operator by the recipient receiving the delivery, and

(C) Name and ADF&G processor code of recipient.

(5) *Shoreside processor DCPL.* The shoreside processor DCPL has been replaced by eLandings and is no longer available. (See paragraph (e) of this section.)

(i) *Required information, if inactive.* See paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(ii) *Required information, if active.* A shoreside processor or SFP is active when receiving or processing groundfish.

(6) *Mothership DCPL* —(i) *Responsibility.* Except as described in paragraph (f)(1)(v) of this section, the operator of a mothership that is required to have an FFP under §679.4(b) and that receives or processes any groundfish from the GOA or BSAI from vessels issued an FFP under §679.4(b) is required to use a combination of mothership DCPL and eLandings to record and report daily processor identification information, delivery information, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data. The operator must enter into the DCPL any information for groundfish received from catcher vessel, groundfish received from processors for reprocessing or rehandling, and groundfish received from an associated buying station documented on a BSR.

(ii) *Data entry time limits.* The operator of a mothership must record in the DCPL or eLandings the information in the following table for each groundfish delivery within the specified time limit:

DATA ENTRY TIME LIMITS, MOTHERSHIP			
Required information	**Record In**		**Time limit for recording**
	DCPL	**eLandings**	
(A) All catcher vessel or buying station delivery information	X	X	Within 2 hours after completion of receipt of each groundfish delivery
(B) Product information		X	By noon each day to record the previous day's production
(C) Discard or disposition information		X	By noon each day to record the previous day's discard/disposition
(D) All other required information	X	X	By noon of the day following completion of production
(E) Operator sign the completed logsheets	X	X	By noon of the day following the week-ending date of the weekly reporting period
(F) Submit the goldenrod logsheet to the observer	X		After signed by the operator and prior to departure of observer from the mothership.

(iii) *Required information, if inactive.* See paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(iv) *Required information, if active.* A mothership is active when receiving or processing groundfish. If the mothership identified in paragraph (c)(6)(i) of this section is active, the operator must record for one day per logsheet in the DCPL, the information described in paragraphs (c)(6)(v) and (vi) of this section and record in eLandings the information described in paragraphs (c)(6)(v), (vii), and (viii) of this section.

(v) *Identification information.* If active, the operator must record the following information (see paragraphs (c)(6)(v)(A) through (J) of this section) in the DCPL:

(A) *Page number.* Number the pages in each logbook consecutively, beginning with page 1 for January 1 and continuing throughout the logbook for the remainder of the fishing year.

(B) *Printed name and signature of operator.* The operator's name must be printed in the DCPL. The operator must sign each completed DCPL logsheet as verification of acceptance of the responsibility required in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(C) *Vessel information.* Name of mothership as displayed in official documentation, FFP number, and ADF&G processor code.

(D) *Date.* Enter date (mm/dd/yyyy) of each operating day.

(E) *Crew size.* Record the number of crew members (including operator), excluding certified observer(s), on the last day of the weekly reporting period.

(F) *Gear type.* Indicate the gear type of harvester. If gear type is other than those listed, circle “Other” and describe. Use a separate logsheet for each gear type.

(G) *Federal reporting areas.* Record Federal reporting area code (see Figures 1 and 3 to this part) where harvest was completed. Use a separate logsheet for each reporting area.

(H) *COBLZ or RKCSA.* If groundfish was harvested with trawl gear in the COBLZ or RKCSA, use two separate logsheets to record the information: one logsheet for the reporting area that includes COBLZ or RKCSA, and a second logsheet to record the information from the reporting area that does not include COBLZ or RKCSA.

(I) *Observer information.* Record the number of observers aboard, the name(s) of the observer(s), and the observer cruise number(s).

(J) *Management program.* Indicate whether harvest occurred under one of the management programs (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section). Use a separate logsheet for each management program. If harvest is not under one of the listed management programs, leave blank.

(vi) *Delivery information.* The operator must record delivery information (see paragraphs (c)(6)(vi)(A) through (H) of this section) when unprocessed groundfish deliveries are received by the mothership from a buying station or a catcher vessel. If no deliveries are received for a given day, write “no deliveries.”

(A) *Type of delivery.* Enter “CV” or “BS” to indicate if delivery was from a catcher vessel or buying station, respectively.

(B) *Non–submittal of discard report.* Indicate whether the blue logsheet was received from the catcher vessel at the time of catch delivery. If the delivery was from a buying station, leave this column blank. If the blue logsheet is not received from the catcher vessel, enter “NO” and one of the response codes in the following table to describe the reason for non–submittal.

NON-SUBMITTAL OF DISCARD REPORT	CODE
(*1*) The catcher vessel does not have an FFP	“P”
(*2*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and does not have an FFP	“P”
(*3*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and has an FFP	“L”
(*4*) The catcher vessel delivered an unsorted codend	“U”
(*5*) Another reason; describe circumstances	“O”

(C) *Vessel identification.* Name and ADF&G vessel registration number of the catcher vessel or buying station (if applicable) delivering the groundfish.

(D) *Receipt time.* Record time (in military format, A.l.t.) when receipt of groundfish delivery was completed.

(E) *Beginning position of receipt.* Record the position coordinates (in latitude and longitude to the nearest minute; indicate E or W for longitude) where receipt of the groundfish delivery began.

(F) *Estimated total groundfish hail weight.* Enter the estimated total hail weight of the combined species of each delivery from a catcher vessel or buying station. Total estimated hail weight is an estimate of the total weight of the entire catch without regard to species. Indicate whether the estimated weight is to the nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt. If a catcher vessel reported discards on a blue DFL but did not deliver groundfish, enter “0” in this column.

(G) *IR/IU species (see §679.27).* Enter the species code of IR/IU species and the estimated total round weight for each IR/IU species, if applicable; indicate whether estimated weight is to the nearest pound or the nearest 0.001 mt. Use one line to record information for each IR/IU species, including species code and amount of catch. If more than one IR/IU species are to be recorded, the operator must use a separate line for each species.

(H) *ADF&G fish ticket numbers.* If receiving unprocessed groundfish from a catcher vessel, record the ADF&G fish ticket number that the mothership issued to each catcher vessel. If receiving unprocessed groundfish from an associated buying station, record the ADF&G fish ticket numbers issued by the buying station on behalf of the mothership to the catcher vessel.

(vii) *Product information.* The operator of a mothership must record all groundfish product information in eLandings (see paragraph (e)(10) of this section), including products made from unprocessed groundfish deliveries received from a buying station or a catcher vessel; groundfish received from another processor or other source; and groundfish received for custom processing (see paragraph (a)(7) of this section) by the mothership for another processor or business entity.

(viii) *Discard or disposition information.* The operator of a mothership must record discard and disposition information in eLandings (see paragraph (e)(10) of this section). The discard or disposition information must include:

(A) Discards and disposition that occurred onboard after receipt of groundfish from a catcher vessel or buying station;

(B) Discards and disposition that occurred prior to, during, and after processing of groundfish;

(C) Discards and disposition that were reported on a blue DFL received from a catcher vessel delivering groundfish;

(D) Discards and disposition that are recorded on a blue DFL received from a catcher vessel even though no groundfish are delivered; and

(E) Discards and disposition reported on a BSR received from a buying station delivering groundfish, if different from the blue DFL logsheets submitted by catcher vessels to the buying station.

(d) *Buying Station Report (BSR).* For a comparison of forms used for shipping, transporting, or transferring fish or fish product, see Table 13 to this part.

(1) *Responsibility* —(i) *Separate BSR.* In addition to the information required at paragraphs (a)(5) and (6) of this section, the operator or manager of a buying station that receives or delivers groundfish harvested from the GOA or BSAI in association with a shoreside processor or SFP as defined in paragraph (c)(5) of this section or a mothership as defined in paragraph (c)(6) of this section, must complete and retain a separate BSR for each delivery of unprocessed groundfish or donated prohibited species received from a catcher vessel on behalf of an associated processor.

(ii) *BSR attachments.* The operator or manager must ensure that the following (see paragraphs (d)(1)(ii)(A) through (C) of this section) accompanies each groundfish delivery from the landing site to the associated processor:

(A) A complete and accurate BSR that describes the delivery;

(B) Any blue DFL logsheets or equivalent printed ELB discard reports received from a catcher vessel; and

(C) Copies of all ADF&G fish tickets issued to the catcher vessel on behalf of the associated processor.

(iii) The operator of a catcher vessel, by prior arrangement with an associated processor, may function as a buying station for his own catch as follows:

(A) By shipping his groundfish catch with a copy of the BSR directly to that processor via truck or airline in the event that the processor is not located where the harvest is offloaded; or

(B) By driving a truck that contains his catch and a copy of the BSR to the processor.

(2) *Data entry time limits.* The operator or manager of a buying station must record in the BSR all required information and sign the BSR within 2 hours of completion of delivery from a catcher vessel.

(3) *Required information, if inactive.* The operator or manager of a buying station is not required to record information if inactive.

(4) *Required information, if active.* A buying station is active when receiving, discarding, or delivering groundfish for an associated processor. The operator or manager of a buying station must record the following information (see paragraphs (d)(4)(i) through (x) of this section) on a BSR for each delivery:

(i) *Original/revised report.* If a BSR is the first submitted to the Regional Administrator for a given date, gear type, and reporting area, indicate “ORIGINAL REPORT.” If a report is a correction to a previously submitted BSR for a given date, gear type, and reporting area, indicate “REVISED REPORT.”

(ii) *Identification of buying station.* Enter name and ADF&G vessel registration number if a vessel; or name, license number, and state of license issuance if a vehicle. The name should be recorded as it is displayed in official documentation.

(iii) *Operator or manager name and signature.* The operator or manager must sign the completed BSR prior to delivery of harvest to a mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP. This signature is verification by the operator or manager of acceptance of the responsibility required in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this section.

(iv) *Management program.* Indicate whether harvest occurred under a management program (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section). If harvest is not under one of the listed management programs, leave blank.

(v) *Gear type.* Indicate gear type of harvester.

(vi) *Federal reporting area.* Indicate Federal reporting area (see Figures 1 and 3 to this part) from which groundfish were harvested.

(vii) *Crab protection areas.* If harvester gear type was trawl and gear retrieval occurred in the COBLZ or RKCSA (see Figures 11 and 13 to this part), use two separate BSRs to record the information: one BSR for the reporting area that includes COBLZ or RKCSA, and a second BSR to record the information from the reporting area that does not include COBLZ or RKCSA.

(viii) *Associated processor.* Enter the name, ADF&G processor code, FFP number or FPP number of the associated processor, date (mm/dd/yyyy) and time (A.l.t., military format) delivery was completed.

(ix) *Catcher vessel delivery information* —(A) *Catcher vessel identification.* Name and ADF&G vessel registration number of catcher vessel making the delivery.

(B) *Non–submittal of discard report.* Indicate whether the blue logsheet was received from the catcher vessel at the time of catch delivery. If the blue logsheet is not received from the catcher vessel, enter “NO” and one of the following response codes to describe the reason for non–submittal.

NON-SUBMITTAL OF DISCARD REPORT	CODE
(*1*) The catcher vessel does not have an FFP	“P”
(*2*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and does not have an FFP	“P”
(*3*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and has an FFP	“L”
(*4*) The catcher vessel delivered an unsorted codend	“U”
(*5*) Another reason; describe circumstances	“O”

(C) *ADF&G fish ticket number.* Enter ADF&G fish ticket number issued to catcher vessel.

(D) *Species codes and scale weight.* In addition to recording the estimated total delivery weight or actual scale weight of a catcher vessel delivery, if the operator or manager of the buying station sorted the delivery prior to delivery to an associated processor, he or she may enter specific species code and scale weights of individual species to the BSR; indicate whether to the nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt.

(E) *Estimated total groundfish hail weight.* Enter the estimated total groundfish hail weight or actual scale weight of delivery. Estimated total hail weight is an estimate of the total weight of the entire catch without regard to species. Indicate whether to the nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt.

(x) *Discard and disposition information* —(A) *Discard.* The operator or manager of a buying station must record in a BSR, discard or disposition information that:

(*1*) Occurred on and was reported by a catcher vessel on a blue logsheet;

(*2*) Occurred on the buying station prior to delivery to an associated processor; and

(*3*) Was recorded on a blue logsheet submitted to the buying station by a catcher vessel when no groundfish were delivered by the catcher vessel (for example, disposition code 95 describes fish or fish products eaten onboard or taken off the vessel for personal use).

(B) *No discards.* If no discards or disposition for a delivery, write “no discards.”

(C) *Discard or disposition weight.* Total discard or disposition weight of groundfish and herring PSC by species code and product code (indicate whether to nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt).

(D) *PSC discard or disposition numbers.* Total PSC discard or disposition number of animals by species code and product code.

(e) *Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS) and eLandings* —(1) *Responsibility* —(i) *Hardware, software, and Internet connectivity.* A User must obtain at his or her own expense hardware, software, and Internet connectivity to support Internet submissions of commercial fishery landings for which participants report to NMFS: landings data, production data, and discard or disposition data. The User must enter this information via the Internet by logging on to the eLandings system at *http://elandings.alaska.gov* or other NMFS–approved software or by using the desktop client software.

(ii) *Reporting of non–IFQ groundfish.* If the User is unable to submit commercial fishery landings of non–IFQ groundfish due to hardware, software, or Internet failure for a period longer than the required reporting time, contact NMFS Inseason Management at 907–586–7228 for instructions. When the hardware, software, or Internet is restored, the User must enter this same information into eLandings or other NMFS–approved software.

(iii) *Reporting of IFQ crab, IFQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish.* If the User is unable to submit commercial fishery landings of IFQ crab, IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish due to hardware, software, or Internet failure for a period longer than the required reporting time, or a change must be made to information already submitted, the User must complete an IFQ manual landing report. Manual landing instructions must be obtained from OLE, Juneau, AK, at 800–304–4846 (Select Option 1).

(A) The User must complete all questions on the manual report, even if only one item has changed. The following additional information is required: whether the report is original or revised, name, telephone number, and fax number of individual submitting the manual landing report.

(B) The User must fax the IFQ manual landing report to 907–586–7313.

(C) The User must retain the paper copies of IFQ manual landing reports as indicated at paragraph (a)(5) of this section and make them available upon request of NMFS observers and authorized officers as indicated at paragraph (a)(6) of this section.

(2) *eLandings processor registration.* (i) Before a User can use the eLandings system to report landings, production, discard or disposition data, he or she must request authorization to use the system, reserve a unique UserID, and obtain a password by using the Internet to complete the eLandings processor registration at *https://elandings.alaska.gov/elandings/Register* .

(ii) Upon registration acceptance, the User must print, sign, and mail the User Agreement Form to NMFS/RAM eLandings Registration, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; or fax a signed form to 907–586–7354, Attn: eLandings Registration; or deliver the signed form by courier to NMFS/RAM eLandings Registration, 709 West Ninth Street, Suite 713, Juneau, AK 99801. Confirmation will be e–mailed to indicate that the User is registered, authorized to use eLandings, and that the UserID and User's account are enabled.

(iii) The User's signature on the registration form means that the User agrees to the following terms (see paragraphs (e)(2)(iii)(A) through (C) of this section):

(A) To use eLandings access privileges only for submitting legitimate fishery landing reports;

(B) To safeguard the UserID and password to prevent their use by unauthorized persons; and

(C) To ensure that the User is authorized to submit landing reports for the processor permit number(s) listed.

(3) *Information required for eLandings processor registration form.* The User must enter the following information (see paragraphs (e)(3)(i) through (ix) of this section) to obtain operation registration and UserID registration:

(i) *Operation type.* Select the operation type from the dropdown list according to the following table:

For this Federal category:	Enter one of these eLandings operation types:
(A) Shoreside processor or SFP	(*1*) Plant/receiver
	(*2*) Custom processing
(B) Mothership	At-sea
(C) Catcher/processor	At-sea
(D) Buying station	(*1*) Tender
	(*2*) Buying station

(ii) *Operation name.* Enter a name that will refer to the specific operation. For example, if the plant is in Kodiak and the company is East Pacific Seafoods, the operation name might read “East Pacific Seafoods–Kodiak.”

(iii) *ADF&G processor code.* Enter ADF&G processor code.

(iv) *Federal permit number.* Enter all the federal permits associated with the operation.

(A) *Groundfish shoreside processor or SFP.* If a groundfish shoreside processor or SFP, enter the FPP number.

(B) *Groundfish catcher/processor or mothership.* If a groundfish catcher/processor or mothership, enter the FFP number.

(C) *Registered Buyer.* If a Registered Buyer, enter the Registered Buyer permit number.

(D) *Registered Crab Receiver.* If a Registered Crab Receiver, enter the Registered Crab Receiver permit number.

(v) *Port code.* Enter the home port code (see Tables 14a, 14b, and 14c to this part) for the operation.

(vi) *ADF&G vessel registration number.* If a mothership, catcher/processor, or tender operation, the operator must enter the ADF&G vessel identification number of the vessel.

(vii) *Vehicle license number.* If a buying station operation that is a vehicle, enter vehicle license number and the state of license issuance.

(viii) *Physical operation.* If a buying station or custom processor, enter the following information to identify the associated processor where the processing will take place: operation type, ADF&G processor code, and applicable FFP number, FPP number, Registered Buyer permit number, and Registered Crab Receiver permit number.

(ix) *UserID registration for primary User.* Each operation requires a primary User. Enter the following information for the primary User for the new operation: create and enter a UserID, initial password, company name, User name (name of the person who will use the UserID), city and state where the operation is located, business telephone number, business fax number, business e–mail address, security question, and security answer.

(4) *Information entered automatically for eLandings landing report.* eLandings autofills the following fields from processor registration records (see paragraph (e)(2) of this section): UserID, processor company name, business telephone number, e–mail address, port of landing, ADF&G processor code, and Federal permit number. The User must review the autofilled cells to ensure that they are accurate for the landing that is taking place. eLandings assigns a unique landing report number and an ADF&G electronic fish ticket number upon completion of data entry.

(5) *Shoreside processor or SFP landings report.* The manager of a shoreside processor or SFP that receives groundfish from a catcher vessel issued an FFP under §679.4 and that is required to have an FPP under §679.4(f) must use eLandings or other NMFS–approved software to submit a daily landings report during the fishing year to report processor identification information and the following information under paragraphs (e)(5)(i) through (iii) of this section:

(i) *Information entered for each groundfish delivery to a shoreside processor and SFP.* The User for a shoreside processor or SFP must enter the following information (see paragraphs (e)(5)(i)(A) through (C) of this section) for each groundfish delivery (other than IFQ sablefish) provided by the operator of a catcher vessel, the operator or manager of an associated buying station, and from processors for reprocessing or rehandling product into eLandings or other NMFS–approved software:

(A) *Delivery information.* (*1*) Number of observers onboard.

(*2*) For crew size, enter the number of licensed crew aboard the vessel, including the operator.

(*3*) Management program name and identifying number, if any, in which harvest occurred (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section).

(*4*) ADF&G groundfish statistical area of harvest.

(*5*) For date of landing, enter date (mm/dd/yyyy) that the delivery was completed.

(*6*) Indicate (YES or NO) whether delivery is from a buying station.

(*7*) If the delivery is received from a buying station other than a tender, indicate the name of the buying station. If the delivery is received from a buying station that is a tender, enter the ADF&G vessel registration number.

(*8*) If delivery is received from a catcher vessel, indicate the ADF&G vessel registration number of the vessel.

(*9*) Indicate whether the blue logsheet was received from the catcher vessel at the time of catch delivery. If the blue logsheet is not received from the catcher vessel, enter “NO” and select the applicable code from the following table to explain the reason provided by the catcher vessel for not supplying this copy:

NON-SUBMITTAL OF DISCARD REPORT	CODE
(*i*) The catcher vessel does not have an FFP	"P"
(*ii*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and does not have an FFP	"P"
(*iii*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and has an FFP	"L"
(*iv*) The catcher vessel delivered an unsorted codend	"U"
(*v*) Another reason; describe circumstances	"O"

(*10*) Gear type of harvester.

(*11*) Total estimated hail weight (to the nearest pound).

(*12*) ADF&G fish ticket number provided to catcher vessel (eLandings assigns an ADF&G fish ticket number to the landing report).

(B) *Landings information.* The User for a shoreside processor or SFP must record the following landings information (see paragraphs (e)(5)(i)(B)(*1*) and (*2*) of this section) for all retained species from groundfish deliveries:

(*1*) Date of landing (mm/dd/yyyy).

(*2*) Landed scale weight (to the nearest pound) by species code and delivery condition code. Obtain actual weights for each groundfish species received and retained by:

(i) Sorting according to species codes and direct weighing of that species, or

(ii) Weighing the entire delivery and then sorting and weighing the groundfish species individually to determine their weights.

(C) *Discard or disposition information.* The User must record:

(*1*) Discard or disposition of fish: that occurred on and was reported by a catcher vessel; that occurred on and was reported by a buying station; and that occurred prior to, during, and/or after production of groundfish at the shoreside processor or SFP. Discards and dispositions also must be recorded when no groundfish are delivered but the blue DFL is submitted by a catcher vessel containing records of discards or disposition.

(*2*) If groundfish or PSC herring, enter species code, delivery condition code, disposition code, and weight (to the nearest pound), and

(*3*) If PSC halibut, salmon, or crab, enter species code, delivery condition code, disposition code, and count (in numbers of animals).

(ii) *Submittal time limit.* The User for a shoreside processor or SFP must enter information described at paragraph (e)(5)(i) of this section into eLandings or other NMFS–approved software for each groundfish delivery from a specific vessel by noon of the day following completion of the delivery.

(iii) *Compliance.* By using eLandings, the User for the shoreside processor or SFP and the catcher vessel operator or buying station operator or manager providing information to the User for the shoreside processor or SFP accept the responsibility of and acknowledge compliance with §679.7(a)(10).

(6) *Mothership landings report.* The operator of a mothership that is issued an FFP under §679.4(b) and that receives groundfish from catcher vessels required to have an FFP under §679.4 is required to use eLandings or other NMFS–approved software to submit a daily landings report during the fishing year to report processor identification information and the following information under paragraphs (e)(6)(i) through (iii) of this section):

(i) *Information entered for each groundfish delivery to a mothership.* The User for a mothership must enter the following information (see paragraphs (e)(6)(i)(A)(*1*) through (*11*) of this section) provided by the operator of a catcher vessel, operator or manager of an associated buying station, or information received from processors for reprocessing or rehandling product.

(A) *Delivery information.* (*1*) Number of observers onboard.

(*2*) Crew size (including operator).

(*3*) Management program name and identifying number, if any, in which harvest occurred (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section).

(*4*) ADF&G groundfish statistical area of harvest.

(*5*) Date (mm/dd/yyyy) that delivery was completed.

(*6*) If the delivery is received from a tender, enter the ADF&G vessel registration number of the tender.

(*7*) If delivery received from a catcher vessel, enter the ADF&G vessel registration number of the vessel.

(*8*) Indicate whether the blue logsheet was received from the catcher vessel at the time of catch delivery. If the blue logsheet was not received from the catcher vessel, enter "NO" and select a code from the following table to explain the reason provided by the catcher vessel for not supplying this copy.

NON-SUBMITTAL OF DISCARD REPORT	CODE
(*i*) The catcher vessel does not have an FFP	"P"
(*ii*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and does not have an FFP	"P"
(*iii*) The catcher vessel is under 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA and has an FFP	"L"
(*iv*) The catcher vessel delivered an unsorted codend	"U"
(*v*) Another reason; describe circumstances	"O"

(*9*) Gear type of harvester.

(*10*) Total estimated round weight by species (pounds).

(*11*) ADF&G fish ticket number provided to catcher vessel (eLandings assigns an ADF&G fish ticket number to the landing report).

(B) *Discard or disposition information.* (*1*) The User must record discard or disposition information that occurred on and was reported by a catcher vessel; that occurred on and was reported by a buying station; and that occurred prior to, during, and after production of groundfish at the mothership. Discards and dispositions also must be recorded when no groundfish are delivered but the blue DFL is submitted by a catcher vessel containing records of discards or disposition.

(*2*) If groundfish or PSC herring, enter species code, delivery condition code, disposition code, and weight (to the nearest pound), and

(*3*) If PSC halibut, salmon, or crab, enter species code, delivery condition code, disposition code, and count (in numbers of animals).

(ii) *Submittal time limit.* The User for a mothership must enter information described at paragraph (e)(6)(i) of this section into eLandings or other NMFS–approved software for each groundfish delivery from a specific vessel by noon of the day following the delivery day.

(iii) *Compliance.* By using eLandings, the User for the mothership and the catcher vessel operator or buying station operator providing information to the User for the mothership accept the responsibility of and acknowledge compliance with §679.7(a)(10).

(7) *Registered Buyer landings report.* A person who is issued a Registered Buyer permit under §679.4(d)(3) and who receives IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish from an IFQ permit holder or who receives CDQ halibut from a CDQ permit holder at any time during the fishing year is required to use eLandings or other NMFS–approved software to submit landings reports with the following information from paragraphs (e)(7)(i) and (ii) of this section):

(i) *Information entered for each IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish delivery.* The User for a Registered Buyer must enter the following information (see paragraphs (e)(7)(i)(A) through (E) of this section) for each IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish delivery into eLandings or other NMFS–approved software:

(A) *User identification.* UserID and password of person assigned for that system.

(B) *Landing date.* Date (mm/dd/yyyy) of the landing.

(C) *Landing location.* Location (port code) of the landing (See Tables 14a, 14b, and 14c to this part).

(D) *Permit numbers.* Permit number of the IFQ permit holder, and any IFQ hired master permit holder, or CDQ hired master permit holder harvesting the fish and permit number of Registered Buyer receiving the IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut.

(E) *Delivery information.* As reported by the IFQ permit holder, IFQ hired master permit holder, or CDQ hired master permit holder including the information in paragraphs (e)(7)(i)(E)(*1*) through (*9*) of this section):

(*1*) Harvesting vessel's ADF&G vessel registration number.

(*2*) Gear code of gear used to harvest IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut.

(*3*) ADF&G fish ticket number(s) for the landing (after the initial eLandings report is submitted, eLandings assigns an ADF&G fish ticket number to the landing report).

(*4*) ADF&G statistical area of harvest.

(*5*) If ADF&G statistical area is bisected by a line dividing two IFQ regulatory areas, provide the IFQ regulatory area of harvest.

(*6*) Except as provided in paragraph (e)(7)(i)(E)(*7*) of this section, initial accurate scale weight(s) (to the nearest pound) made at the time of offloading for IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut sold and retained (where retained includes fish intended for personal use, fish weighed and reloaded for delivery to another processor, and fish landed but rejected at the dock by the Registered Buyer); species codes; delivery condition code; and disposition code for each ADF&G statistical area of harvest.

(*7*) Accurate weight of IFQ sablefish processed product obtained before the offload may be substituted for the initial accurate scale weight provided in paragraph (e)(7)(i)(E)(*6*) of this section, at time of offload, if the vessel operator is a Registered Buyer reporting an IFQ sablefish landing.

(*8*) Indicate whether initial accurate scale weight is given with or without ice and slime. Fish which have been washed prior to weighing or which have been offloaded from refrigerated salt water are not eligible for a 2–percent deduction for ice and slime and must be reported as fish weights without ice and slime. The 2–percent deduction is made by NMFS, not the submitter.

(*9*) Indicate whether IFQ halibut is incidental catch concurrent with legal landing of salmon or concurrent with legal landing of lingcod harvested using dinglebar gear.

(ii) *Signatures for IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish deliveries.* (A) The User for the Registered Buyer must print the completed groundfish landing report (ADF&G electronic groundfish ticket) and the groundfish IFQ landing receipt. The User must review the autofilled data entry cells to ensure that they are accurate for the landing that is taking place.

(B) The User for the Registered Buyer, plus the IFQ permit holder or the IFQ hired master permit holder or CDQ hired master permit holder, must acknowledge the accuracy of the printed IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish landing receipt, and if necessary, IFQ manual landing report, by entering printed name, signature, and date.

(iii) *Time limits* —(A) *Landing hours.* A landing of IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish may commence only between 0600 hours, A.l.t., and 1800 hours, A.l.t., unless permission to land at a different time is granted in advance by a clearing officer.

(B) *Landing receipt signatures.* The User for the Registered Buyer and the IFQ permit holder, IFQ hired master permit holder, or CDQ hired master permit holder must sign the groundfish IFQ landing receipt within six hours after all IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish are offloaded from a harvesting vessel and prior to shipment or transfer of the fish from the landing site.

(C) *Landing completion.* The User for the Registered Buyer must submit a completed IFQ landing report, as described in this paragraph (e)(7), within six hours after all IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish are offloaded from a specific vessel and prior to shipment or transfer of said fish from the landing site.

(iv) *IFQ manual landing report.* See paragraph (e)(1)(iii) of this section.

(8) *Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) IFQ crab landings report.* (i) A person who is issued an RCR permit under §680.4(i) of this chapter and who receives IFQ crab from a crab IFQ permit holder or crab IFQ hired master is required to use eLandings to submit a landings report to report every landing of IFQ crab and incidental groundfish.

(ii) An RCR using a catcher/processor is required to submit a crab landings report using eLandings in a format approved by NMFS. NMFS will provide format specifications upon request. Interested parties may contact NMFS Alaska Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Catch Accounting/Data Quality, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668, telephone 907–586–7228.

(iii) *Information entered for each IFQ crab delivery.* The User for the RCR must enter the following information (see paragraphs (e)(8)(iii)(A) through (C) of this section) into eLandings or other NMFS–approved software for each IFQ crab delivery:

(A) *Permit numbers.* RCR permit number, IFQ permit number, and IPQ permit number, as appropriate.

(B) *Operation type.* (*1*) If a shoreside processor or SFP, enter type of processing operation and port code from Table 14a or 14b to this part.

(*2*) If a catcher/processor, enter operation type from Table 14c to this part.

(C) *Delivery information.* As reported by IFQ permit holder.

(*1*) ADF&G vessel registration number of the delivering vessel.

(*2*) Date (mm/dd/yyyy) fishing began.

(*3*) Date (mm/dd/yyyy) of the IFQ crab landing.

(*4*) ADF&G fish ticket number (automatically supplied).

(*5*) ADF&G statistical area of harvest (All ADF&G statistical areas are translated to the NMFS reporting area and the IPHC reporting area by eLandings.).

(*6*) Species code of catch from Table 2 to part 680.

(*7*) Delivery–condition codes of catch from Table 3a to this part.

(*8*) Number of crab retained and sold condition code, product type, size/grade, and sold pounds; and optionally, price per pound.

(*9*) Scale weight of deadloss (to the nearest pound) and scale weight of crab retained for personal use (to the nearest pound). Deadloss and personal use crab that an IPQ holder did not purchase are not debited from the IPQ holder's account.

(iv) *Information entered for IFQ crab custom processing landings.* In addition to the information required in paragraph (e)(8)(iii) of this section, if custom processing IFQ crab, the User for the RCR must enter the ADF&G processor code of the person for which the IFQ crab was custom processed.

(v) *Signatures for IFQ crab deliveries.* (A) The User for the RCR must print the completed crab landing report (ADF&G electronic crab ticket) and the crab IFQ landing receipt. The User must review the autofilled data entry cells to ensure that they are accurate for the landing that is taking place.

(B) The User for the Registered Crab Receiver (RCR), plus the IFQ permit holder or IFQ hired master permit holder, must acknowledge the accuracy of the printed IFQ crab landing receipt, and, if necessary, IFQ manual landing report, by entering printed name, signature, and date.

(vi) *Time limits.* (A) Except as indicated in paragraph (e)(8)(vi)(B) of this section, the User for the RCR is required to submit a crab landing report described at this paragraph (e)(8) to NMFS within six hours after all crab is offloaded from the vessel.

(B) For IFQ crab harvested on a catcher/processor, the User for the RCR is required to submit an IFQ crab landing report to NMFS by Tuesday noon after the end of each weekly reporting period in which IFQ crab was harvested.

(C) The User for the RCR and the IFQ permit holder or IFQ hired master permit holder must enter printed name and sign the crab IFQ landing receipt within six hours after all crab is offloaded from the harvesting vessel.

(vii) *Landing document retention.* The User must retain each landing report and landing receipt per paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(viii) *IFQ manual landing report for crab.* See paragraph (e)(1)(iii) of this section.

(9) *Shoreside processor or SFP information entered for production report.* The manager of a shoreside processor or SFP that is required to have an FPP under §679.4(f) must use eLandings or other NMFS–approved software during the fishing year to submit a production report to report daily processor identification information and all groundfish production data. The User must retain a copy of each production report per paragraphs (a)(5) and (6) of this section.

(i) *Contents.* eLandings autofills the following fields when creating a production report for a shoreside processor or SFP: FPP number, company name, ADF&G processor code, User name, email address, and telephone number. The User must review the autofilled cells to ensure that they are accurate for the current report. In addition, the User for the shoreside processor or SFP must enter the following information (see paragraphs (e)(9)(i)(A) through (F) of this section):

(A) *Date.* Reporting date (mm/dd/yyyy).

(B) *Observers.* Number of observers onsite.

(C) *Area of harvest.* Whether harvested in GOA or BSAI.

(D) *Product description.* Species code, product type, and product code of product.

(E) *Product weight.* Enter actual scale weight of product to the nearest pound.

(F) *No production/no deliveries (inactive).* If there was no production or deliveries for the day, mark the “No Production” and/or “No Deliveries” boxes.

(ii) *Submittal time limits.* When active pursuant to paragraph (c)(5)(ii) of this section, the User for a shoreside processor or SFP must submit a production report by noon each day to record the previous day's production information. If a shoreside processor or SFP using eLandings is not taking deliveries over a weekend, the User or manager may transmit the eLandings production report to NMFS on the following Monday.

(10) *Catcher/processor or mothership information entered for production report* —(i) *Catcher/processor.* The operator of a catcher/processor that is issued an FFP under §679.4 and that harvests groundfish is required to use eLandings or other NMFS–approved software to submit a production report to record and report daily processor identification information, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(ii) *Mothership.* The operator of a mothership that is issued an FFP under §679.4 and that receives groundfish is required to use eLandings or other NMFS–approved software to submit a production report to record and report daily processor identification information, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(iii) *Contents.* eLandings autofills the following fields when creating a production report for a catcher/processor or mothership: FFP number, company name, ADF&G processor code, User name, email address, and telephone number. The User must review the autofilled cells to ensure that they are accurate for the current report. In addition, the User for the catcher/processor or mothership must enter the information in paragraphs (e)(10)(iii)(A) through (N) of this section):

(A) *Date.* Reporting date (mm/dd/yyyy).

(B) *Designation.* From Table 14c to this part, enter whether the processor is a catcher/processor = FCP or a mothership = FLD.

(C) *Crew size.* Including operator.

(D) *Management program.* Enter management program and identifying number, if any, in which harvest occurred (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section).

(E) *Gear type of harvester.* Enter the gear type used by the harvester.

(F) *Federal Reporting Area of harvest.* Enter the Federal Reporting Area where harvest was made.

(G) *COBLZ or RKCSA.* Indicate whether fishing occurred in COBLZ or RKCSA (if applicable).

(H) *Product description.* Species code, product type, and product code of product.

(I) *Product weight.* Enter product weight in metric tons to the nearest 0.001 mt.

(J) *No production (inactive).* If there was no production for the day, mark the “No Production” box.

(K) *Discard description.* The operator must record the discard or disposition that occurred prior to, during, and after production of groundfish by species code and disposition code of discards and disposition.

(L) *Discard weight.* Daily weight of groundfish and the daily weight of herring PSC to the nearest 0.001 mt.

(M) *PSC numbers.* Daily number of PSC animals (Pacific salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific halibut, king crabs, and Tanner crabs) by species codes and product codes.

(N) *ADF&G statistical area.* Must be reported beginning January 1, 2009.

(iv) *Submittal time limits.* When a mothership is active pursuant to paragraph (c)(6)(iv) of this section, a catcher/processor longline or pot gear is active pursuant to paragraph (c)(3)(iv)(B) of this section, or a catcher/processor trawl gear is active pursuant to paragraph (c)(4)(iv)(B) of this section, the User for a mothership or catcher/processor must submit a production report by noon each day to record the previous day's production information. If a vessel is required to have 100 percent observer coverage or more, the User may transmit a production report for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday no later than noon on the following Monday.

(11) *Printing of landing reports, landing receipts, and production reports.* (i) The User daily must retain a printed paper copy onsite or onboard of:

(A) Each landing report (ADF&G electronic groundfish tickets or electronic crab tickets).

(B) Each production report.

(C) If IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut, each groundfish IFQ landing receipt.

(D) If IFQ crab, each crab IFQ landing receipt.

(ii) In addition to paragraph (e)(11)(i) of this section, the mothership operator or User must print an additional copy of each landing report and provide it to the operator of the catcher vessel delivering groundfish to the mothership by 1200 hours, A.l.t., on Tuesday following the end of applicable weekly reporting period.

(12) *Retention and inspection of landing reports, landing receipts, and production reports.* The User must retain a printed copy of each IFQ landing report (ADF&G electronic groundfish ticket or electronic crab ticket), crab IFQ landing receipt, groundfish IFQ landing receipt, and production report as indicated at paragraphs (a)(5) and (6) of this section. The User must make available the printed copies upon request of NMFS observers and authorized officers as indicated at paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(f) *Electronic logbooks (ELBs).* The operator may use a combination of a NMFS–approved ELB (instead of a DFL or DCPL) and eLandings to record and report groundfish information. To satisfy ELB use requirements, the operator after data entry must routinely create the following three products: an ELB logsheet, an ELB discard report, and an ELB data export.

(1) *Responsibility.* The operator must notify the Regional Administrator by fax at 907–586–7465 to ensure that NMFS knows that the operator is using a NMFS–approved ELB instead of a DFL or DCPL, prior to participating in any Federal fishery.

(i) *Catcher vessel longline and pot gear ELB.* The operator of a catcher vessel using longline and pot gear may use a NMFS–approved catcher vessel longline or pot gear ELB in lieu of using the NMFS–prescribed catcher vessel longline or pot gear DFL required at paragraph (c)(3) of this section.

(ii) *Catcher/processor longline and pot gear ELB.* The operator of a catcher/processor using longline or pot gear may use a combination of a NMFS–approved catcher/processor longline or pot gear ELB and eLandings to record and report groundfish information. The operator may use a NMFS–approved catcher/processor longline and pot gear ELB to record daily processor identification information and catch–by–set information. In eLandings, the operator must record daily processor identification, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(iii) *Catcher vessel trawl gear ELB.* The operator of a catcher vessel using trawl gear may use a NMFS–approved catcher vessel trawl gear ELB in lieu of using the NMFS–prescribed catcher vessel trawl gear DFL required at paragraph (c)(4) of this section.

(iv) *Catcher/processor trawl gear ELB.* The operator of a catcher/processor using trawl gear may use a combination of a NMFS–approved catcher/processor trawl gear ELB and eLandings to record and report groundfish information. In the ELB, the operator would record daily processor identification information and catch–by–haul information. In eLandings, the operator must record daily processor identification, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(v) *Mothership ELB.* The operator of a mothership may use a combination of a NMFS–approved mothership ELB and eLandings to record and report groundfish information. The operator may use a NMFS–approved mothership ELB to record daily processor identification information and catcher vessel and buying station groundfish delivery information. In eLandings, the operator must record daily processor identification, groundfish production data, and groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data.

(vi) If using a NMFS–approved ELB, the operator is not required to quarterly submit logsheets to OLE.

(2) *Requirements for using an ELB* —(i) *Use a NMFS–approved ELB.* The operator must use only a NMFS–approved ELB. The Regional Administrator maintains a list of approved ELBs on the Alaska Region NMFS website at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov* (see also §679.28(h) for approval of vendor software).

(ii) *Keep a current copy of DFL or DCPL onboard.* To ensure proper recording of the vessel's fishing activity in the event of problems with the ELB, the operator must keep a current copy of the appropriate DFL or DCPL onboard. In the event that electronic transmission is not made or confirmed for the ELB, the operator must enter information into the paper DFL or DCPL in accordance with the regulations at paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(4) of this section. The operator must transfer any information recorded in a DFL or DCPL to the ELB when transmission resumes function.

(iii) *Enter all required information into the ELB* —(A) *Inactive.* The operator must enter all required information, if inactive (see paragraph (c)(2) of this section).

(B) *Active.* The operator must enter all required information, if active (see paragraph (c)(3), (c)(4), or (c)(6) of this section, as appropriate).

(*1*) Record the haul number or set number, time and date gear set, time and date gear hauled, begin and end position, CDQ group number (if applicable), and hail weight for each haul or set within 2 hours after completion of gear retrieval.

(*2*) Daily complete ELB data entry and printing of copies as indicated in paragraph (f)(3)(i) of this section.

(iv) *Regularly backup ELB data.* The operator must regularly backup ELB data to ensure that data are not lost in the event of hardware or software problems.

(v) *Correct errors in ELB data.* If after an ELB discard report and ELB logsheet are printed, an error is found in the data, the operator must make any necessary changes to the data, print a new copy of the ELB discard report and ELB logsheet, and export the revised file to NMFS. The operator must retain both the original and revised ELB reports.

(3) *Printed copies.* Upon completion of ELB data entry each day, the operator must print the following information (see paragraphs (f)(3)(i) and (ii) of this section) in the NMFS–specified format:

(i) *ELB logsheet.* (A) Print a copy of an ELB logsheet when a vessel is active, by noon each day to record the previous day's ELB information.

(B) Print one ELB logsheet to describe a continuous period of inactivity, when a vessel is inactive.

(C) Print a copy of the ELB logsheet for the observer's use if an observer is present, by noon each day to record the previous day's ELB information.

(ii) *ELB discard report.* (A) Print a copy of an ELB discard report upon completion of each fishing trip or each offload of fish.

(B) If an observer is present, print a copy of the ELB discard report for the observer's use upon completion of each fishing trip or each offload of fish.

(4) *Signatures* —(i) *ELB logsheet.* The operator daily must sign and date each printed ELB logsheet by noon each day to record the previous day's ELB information. The signature of the operator is verification of acceptance of the responsibility required in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(ii) *ELB discard report.* The operator daily must sign and date each printed ELB discard report upon completion of each fishing trip or each offload of fish. The signature of the operator is verification of acceptance of the responsibility required in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(5) *Submittal time limits.* (i) The operator of a catcher vessel using an ELB must upon delivery of catch submit the ELB discard report to the mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP.

(ii) The operator or manager of a buying station that receives groundfish catch from a catcher vessel using an ELB must upon delivery of catch submit the ELB discard report to the mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP, and submit the ELB data export directly to the Regional Administrator or through the mothership, shoreside processor, or SFP.

(6) *Retention.* The operator must keep a signed copy of each ELB logsheet and each ELB discard report, filed in sequence for immediate access by authorized personnel as described at paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(7) *ELB data export.* The operator must transmit an ELB data export to NMFS at the specified e–mail address within 24 hours of completing each fishing trip or offload, as described under paragraph (f)(7)(i) or (ii) of this section in the following manner:

(i) Directly to NMFS as an email attachment; or

(ii) If a catcher vessel, send directly to NMFS as an email attachment or to NMFS through a shoreside processor, SFP, or mothership who received his/her groundfish catch. Through a prior agreement with the catcher vessel, the operator of a mothership or the manager of a shoreside processor or SFP will forward the ELB data export to NMFS as an email attachment within 24 hours of completing receipt of the catcher vessel's catch.

(8) *Return receipt.* (i) Upon receiving an ELB data export, NMFS will generate a dated return–receipt to confirm receipt of the ELB data. If errors exist in the data transmitted to NMFS, the receipt will identify the errors. If errors are identified, the operator must correct the errors and send a revised transmission to NMFS which will then confirm acceptance of the ELB data.

(ii) The operator must retain the NMFS return receipt as described in paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(iii) If a return receipt from NMFS is not received within 24 hours, the operator of the catcher vessel, the operator of a catcher/processor, the operator of the mothership, or the manager of the shoreside processor or SFP forwarding the ELB data export for the operator of the catcher vessel, must contact NMFS by telephone at 907–586–7228 or fax at 907–586–7131 for instructions.

(g) *Product transfer report (PTR)* —(1) *General requirements.* Except as provided in paragraphs (g)(2)(i) through (v) of this section, the operator or manager must record on a PTR those species that are listed in Tables 2a and 2c to this part when those species are transferred out of the facility or off the vessel and may also record species listed in Table 2d to this part.

(i) *Groundfish and donated prohibited species.* The operator of a mothership or catcher/processor or the manager of a shoreside processor or SFP must complete and submit a separate PTR for each shipment of groundfish and donated prohibited species caught in groundfish fisheries. A PTR is not required to accompany a shipment. For a comparison of forms used for shipping, transporting, or transferring fish or fish product, see Table 13 to this part.

(ii) *IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, and CDQ halibut.* A Registered Buyer must submit a separate PTR for each shipment of halibut or sablefish for which the Registered Buyer submitted an IFQ landing report or was required to submit an IFQ landing report. A PTR is not required to accompany a shipment.

(iii) *CR crab.* A Registered Crab Receiver (RCR) must submit a separate PTR for each shipment of crab for which the RCR submitted a CR crab landing report or was required to submit a CR crab landing report. A PTR is not required to accompany a shipment.

(2) *Exceptions* —(i) *Bait sales (non-IFQ groundfish only).* During one calendar day, the operator or manager may aggregate and record on one PTR the individual sales or shipments of non-IFQ groundfish to vessels for bait purposes during the day recording the amount of such bait product shipped from a vessel or facility that day.

(ii) *Retail sales* —(A) *IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, CDQ halibut, and non-IFQ groundfish.* During one calendar day, the operator, manager, or Registered Buyer may aggregate and record on one PTR the amount of transferred retail product of IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, CDQ halibut, and non-IFQ groundfish if each sale weighs less than 10 lb or 4.5 kg.

(B) *CR crab.* During one calendar day, the RCR may aggregate and record on one PTR the amount of transferred retail product of CR crab if each sale weighs less than 100 lb or 45 kg.

(iii) *Wholesale sales (non-IFQ groundfish only).* The operator or manager may aggregate and record on one PTR, wholesale sales of non-IFQ groundfish by species when recording the amount of such wholesale species leaving a vessel or facility in one calendar day, if invoices detailing destinations for all of the product are available for inspection by an authorized officer.

(iv) *Dockside sales.*

(A) A person holding a valid IFQ permit, or IFQ hired master permit, and a Registered Buyer permit may conduct a dockside sale of IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish with a person who has not been issued a Registered Buyer permit after all IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish have been landed and reported in accordance with paragraph (l) of this section.

(B) A person holding a valid halibut CDQ hired master permit and Registered Buyer permit may conduct a dockside sale of CDQ halibut with a person who has not been issued a Registered Buyer permit after all CDQ halibut have been landed and reported in accordance with paragraph (l) of this section.

(C) A Registered Buyer conducting dockside sales must issue a receipt to each individual receiving IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish in lieu of a PTR. This receipt must include:

(*1*) Date of sale;

(*2*) Registered Buyer permit number;

(*3*) Weight by product of the IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish transferred.

(D) A Registered Buyer must maintain a copy of each dockside sales receipt as described in paragraph (l) of this section.

(v) *Transfer directly from the landing site to a processing facility (CDQ halibut, IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CR crab only).* A PTR is not required for transportation of unprocessed IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, CDQ halibut, or CR crab directly from the landing site to a facility for processing, provided the following conditions are met:

(A) A copy of the IFQ landing report receipt (Internet receipt) documenting the IFQ landing accompanies the offloaded IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut while in transit.

(B) A copy of the CR crab landing report receipt (Internet receipt) documenting the IFQ landing accompanies the offloaded CR crab while in transit.

(C) A copy of the IFQ landing report or CR crab landing report receipt is available for inspection by an authorized officer.

(D) The Registered Buyer submitting the IFQ landing report or RCR submitting the CR crab landing report completes a PTR for each shipment from the processing facility pursuant to paragraph (g)(1) of this section.

(3) *Time limits and submittal.* The operator of a mothership or catcher/processor, the manager of a shoreside processor or SFP, the Registered Buyer, or RCR must:

(i) Record all product transfer information on a PTR within 2 hours of the completion of the shipment.

(ii) Submit a PTR by facsimile or electronic file to OLE, Juneau, AK (907–586–7313), by 1200 hours, A.l.t., on the Tuesday following the end of the applicable weekly reporting period in which the shipment occurred.

(iii) If any information on the original PTR changes prior to the first destination of the shipment, submit a revised PTR by facsimile or electronic file to OLE, Juneau, AK (907–586–7313), by 1200 hours, A.l.t., on the Tuesday following the end of the applicable weekly reporting period in which the change occurred.

(4) *Required information.* The operator of a mothership or catcher/processor, the manager of a shoreside processor or SFP, the Registered Buyer, or RCR must include the following information on a PTR:

(i) *Original or revised PTR* . Whether a submittal is an original or revised PTR.

(ii) *Shipper information.* Name, telephone number, and facsimile number of the representative. According to the following table:

If you are shipping . . .	**Enter under "Shipper" . . .**
(A) Non-IFQ groundfish	Your processor's name, Federal fisheries or Federal processor permit number.
(B) IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish	Your Registered Buyer name and permit number.
(C) CR crab	Your RCR name and permit number.
(D) Non-IFQ groundfish, IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish, and CR crab on the same PTR	(*1*) Your processor's name and Federal fisheries permit number or Federal processor permit number, (*2*) Your Registered Buyer's name and permit number, and (*3*) Your RCR name and permit number.

(iii) *Transfer information.* Using descriptions from the following table, enter receiver information, date and time of product transfer, location of product transfer (*e.g.,* port, position coordinates, or city), mode of transportation, and intended route:

If you are the shipper and . . .	Then enter . . .			
	Receiver	**Date & time of product transfer**	**Location of product transfer**	**Mode of transportation and intended route**
(A) Receiver is on land and transfer involves one van, truck, or vehicle	Receiver name and Federal fisheries, Federal processor, or Federal crab vessel permit number (if any)	Date and time when shipment leaves the plant	Port or city of product transfer	Name of the shipping company; destination city and state or foreign country.
(B) Receiver is on land and transfer involves multiple vans, trucks or vehicles	Receiver name and Federal fisheries, Federal processor, or Federal crab vessel permit number (if any)	Date and time when loading of vans or trucks, is completed each day	Port or city of product transfer	Name of the shipping company; destination city and state or foreign country.
(C) Receiver is on land and transfer involves one airline flight	Receiver name and Federal fisheries, Federal processor, or Federal crab vessel permit number (if any)	Date and time when shipment leaves the plant	Port or city of product transfer	Name of the airline company; destination airport city and state.
(D) Receiver is on land and transfer involves multiple airline flights	Receiver name and Federal fisheries, Federal processor, or Federal crab vessel permit number (if any)	Date and time of shipment when the last airline flight of the day leaves	Port or city of product transfer	Name of the airline company(s); destination airport(s) city and state.
(E) Receiver is a vessel and transfer occurs at sea	Vessel name and call sign	Start and finish dates and times of transfer	Transfer position coordinates in latitude and longitude, in degrees and minutes	The first destination of the vessel.
(F) Receiver is a vessel and transfer takes place in port	Vessel name and call sign	Start and finish dates and times of transfer	Port or position of product transfer	The first destination of the vessel.
(G) Receiver is an agent (buyer, distributor, shipping agent) and transfer is in a containerized van(s)	Agent name and location (city, state)	Transfer start and finish dates and times	Port, city, or position of product transfer	Name (if available) of the vessel transporting the van; destination port.
(H) You are aggregating individual retail sales for human consumption. (see paragraph (g)(2) of this section)	"RETAIL SALES"	Date of transfer.	Port or city of product transfer	N/A.
(I) You are aggregating individual bait sales during a day onto one PTR (non-IFQ groundfish only)	"BAIT SALES"	Date of transfer.	Port or city of product transfer	N/A.
(J) *Non-IFQ Groundfish only.* You are aggregating wholesale non-IFQ groundfish product sales by species during a single day onto one PTR and maintaining invoices detailing destinations for all of the product for inspection by an authorized officer	"WHOLESALE SALES"	Time of the first sale of the day; time of the last sale of the day	Port or city of product transfer	N/A.

(iv) *Products shipped.* The operator, manager, Registered Buyer, or RCR must record the following information for each product shipped:

(A) *Species code and product code.* (*1*) For non-IFQ groundfish, IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, and CDQ halibut, the species code and product code (Tables 1 and 2 to this part).

(*2*) For CR crab, the species code and product code (Tables 1 and 2 to 50 CFR part 680).

(B) *Species weight.* Use only if recording 2 or more species with 2 or more product types contained within the same production unit. Enter the actual scale weight of each product of each species to the nearest kilogram or pound (indicate which). If not applicable, enter "n/a" in the species weight column. If using more than one line to record species in one carton, use a brace "}" to tie the carton information together.

(C) *Number of units.* Total number of production units (blocks, trays, pans, individual fish, boxes, or cartons; if iced, enter number of totes or containers).

(D) *Unit weight.* Unit weight (average weight of single production unit as listed in "No. of Units" less packing materials) for each species and product code in kilograms or pounds (indicate which).

(E) *Total weight.* Total weight for each species and product code of shipment less packing materials in kilograms or pounds (indicate which).

(F) *Total or partial offload.* (*1*) If a mothership or catcher/processor, the operator must indicate whether fish or fish products are left onboard the vessel (partial offload) after the shipment is complete.

(*2*) If a partial offload, for the products remaining on board after the transfer, the operator must enter: Species code, product code, and total product weight to the nearest kilogram or pound (indicate which) for each product.

(h) *Check–in/Check–out report* —(1) *Requirement.* Except as described in paragraph (h)(2) of this section, the operator of a catcher/processor or mothership and manager of a shoreside processor or SFP must submit to NMFS a check–in report (BEGIN message) prior to becoming active and a check–out report (CEASE message) for every check–in report submitted. The check–in report and check–out report must be submitted by fax to 907–586–7131, or by e–mail to *erreports.alaskafisheries@noaa.gov* .

(2) *Exceptions* —(i) *VMS onboard.* The operator of a catcher/processor or mothership is not required to submit to NMFS a check–in report or check–out report if the vessel is carrying onboard a transmitting VMS that meets the requirements of §679.28(f).

(ii) *Two adjacent reporting areas.* If on the same day a catcher/processor intends to fish in two adjacent reporting areas (an action which would require submittal of check–out reports and check–in reports multiple times a day when crossing back and forth across a reporting area boundary), and the two reporting areas have on that day and time an identical fishing status for every species, the operator must:

(A) Submit to NMFS a check–in report to the first area prior to entering the first reporting area, and

(B) Submit to NMFS a check–in report to the second area prior to entering the second reporting area.

(C) Remain within 10 nautical miles (18.5 km) of the boundary described in paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section.

(D) If the catcher/processor proceeds in the second reporting area beyond 10 nautical miles (18.5 km) of the boundary between the two areas, the operator must submit a check–out report from the first reporting area. The operator must submit a check–out report from the second area upon exiting that reporting area.

(3) *Transit through reporting areas.* The operator of a catcher/processor or mothership is not required to submit a check–in or check–out report if the vessel is transiting through a reporting area and is not fishing or receiving fish.

(4) *Time limits and submittal.* Except as indicated in paragraph (h)(2) of this section, the operator or manager must submit a check–in report and a check–out report according to the following table:

For ...	If you are a ...	Submit a BEGIN message	Submit a CEASE message
(i) Each reporting area, except area 300, 400, 550, or 690	(A) C/P using trawl gear	Before gear deployment.	Within 24 hours after departing a reporting area but prior to checking in to another reporting area.
	(B) C/P using longline or pot gear	Before gear deployment. May be checked in to more than one area simultaneously.	Upon completion of gear retrieval and within 24 hours after departing each reporting area.
	(C) MS	Before receiving groundfish, must check–in to reporting area(s) where groundfish were harvested. May be checked in to more than one area simultaneously.	Within 24 hours after receipt of fish is complete from that reporting area. If receipt of groundfish from a reporting area is expected to stop for at least one month during the fishing year and then start up again, may submit check–out report for that reporting area.
(ii) COBLZ or RKCSA	(A) C/P using trawl gear	Prior to fishing. Submit one check–in for the COBLZ or RKCSA and another check–in for the area outside the COBLZ or RKCSA.	Upon completion of gear retrieval for groundfish, submit a separate check–out for the COBLZ or RKCSA and another check–out for the area outside the COBLZ or RKCSA.
	(B) MS	Before receiving groundfish harvested with trawl gear that were harvested in the COBLZ or RKCSA, submit one check–in for the COBLZ or RKCSA and another check–in for the area outside the COBLZ or RKCSA.	Upon completion of groundfish receipt, submit a separate check–out for the COBLZ or RKCSA and another check–out for the area outside the COBLZ or RKCSA.
(iii) Gear Type	(A) C/P	If in the same reporting area but using more than one gear type, prior to fishing submit a separate check–in for each gear type.	Upon completion of gear retrieval for groundfish, submit a separate check–out for each gear type for which a check–in was submitted.
	(B) MS	If harvested in the same reporting area but using more than one gear type, prior to receiving groundfish submit a separate check–in for each gear type.	Upon completion of receipt of groundfish, submit a separate check–out for each gear type for which a check–in was submitted.
(iv) CDQ	(A) MS	Prior to receiving groundfish CDQ, if receiving groundfish under more than one CDQ number, use a separate check–in for each CDQ number.	Within 24 hours after receipt of groundfish CDQ has ceased for each CDQ number.
	(B) C/P	Prior to fishing, submit a separate check–in for each CDQ number.	Within 24 hours after groundfish CDQ fishing for each CDQ number has ceased.
(v) Exempted or Research Fishery	(A) C/P	Prior to fishing, submit a separate check–in for each type.	Upon completion of receipt of groundfish submit a separate check–out for each type for which a check–in was submitted.
	(B) MS	Prior to receiving groundfish, submit a separate check-in for each type.	Upon completion of receipt of groundfish submit a separate check–out for each type for which a check–in was submitted.
(vi) Aleutian Islands Pollock (AIP)	(A) C/P	Prior to AIP fishing.	Within 24 hours after completion of gear retrieval for AIP.
	(B) MS	Before receiving AIP.	Within 24 hours after receipt of AIP has ceased.
(vii) Processor Type	C/P, MS	If a catcher/processor and functioning simultaneously as a mothership in the same reporting area, before functioning as either processor type.	Upon completion of simultaneous activity as both catcher/processor and mothership, a separate check–out, one for catcher/processor and one for mothership.
(viii) Change of fishing year	(A) C/P, MS	If continually active through the end of one fishing year and at the beginning of a second fishing year, submit a check–in for each reporting area to start the year on January 1.	If a check–out report was not previously submitted during a fishing year for a reporting area, submit a check–out report for each reporting area on December 31.
	(B) SS, SFP	If continually active through the end of one fishing year and at the beginning of a second fishing year, submit a check–in to start the year on January 1.	If a check–out report was not previously submitted during a fishing year, submit a check–out report on December 31.
(ix) Interruption of production	SS, SFP, MS	n/a	If receipt of groundfish is expected to stop for at least one month during the fishing year and then start up again, the manager or operator may choose to submit a check–out report.
(x) Change of location	AFA SFP	Before receiving groundfish.	Upon completion of receipt of groundfish from a position and before movement from that position.

(5) *Required information.* The operator of a catcher/processor or mothership and the manager of a shoreside processor or SFP must record the information in the following table on a check–in report and a check–out report, as appropriate.

Required information	Check-in Report			Check-out Report		
	MS	C/P	SS, SFP	MS	C/P	SS, SFP
(i) Whether an original or revised report	X	X	X	X	X	X
(ii) Vessel name, ADF&G processor code, FFP number	X	X		X	X	
(iii) Processor name, ADF&G processor code, FPP number			X			X
(iv) Representative name, business telephone number, business fax number	X	X	X	X	X	X
(v) COMSAT number (if applicable)	X	X		X	X	
(vi) Management program name (see paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section) and identifying number (if any). If harvest is not under one of these management programs, leave blank.	X	X		X	X	
(vii) Processor type, gear type	X	X		X	X	
(viii) Date (mm/dd/yyyy) and time (A.l.t., military format)						
(A) When receipt of groundfish will begin	X		X			
(B) When gear deployment will begin		X				
(C) When the last receipt or processing of groundfish was completed				X		X
(D) When the vessel departed the reporting area					X	
(ix) Position coordinates						
(A) Where groundfish receipt begins	X					
(B) Where receiving groundfish (if SFP):			X			
(C) Where gear is deployed		X				
(D) Where the last receipt of groundfish was completed				X		
(E) Where the vessel departed the reporting area					X	
(x) Reporting area code						
(A) Where gear deployment begins		X				
(B) Where groundfish harvest occurred	X					
(C) Where the last receipt of groundfish was completed				X		
(D) Where the vessel departed the reporting area					X	
(xi) Primary and secondary target species (A change in intended target species within the same reporting area does not require a new BEGIN message.)						
(A) Expected to be received the following week	X					
(B) Expected to be harvested the following week		X				
(xii) Indicate (YES or NO) whether this is a check-in report			X			
(xiii) If YES, indicate						
(A) If checking-in for the first time this fishing year			X			
(B) If checking-in to restart receipt and processing of groundfish after filing a check–out report			X			
(xiv) Indicate (YES or NO) whether this is a check-out report						X
(xv) If YES, enter date facility ceased to receive or process groundfish	X					
(xvi) Indicate product weight of all fish or fish products (including non groundfish) remaining at the facility (other than public cold storage) by species code and product code. Indicate if recorded to the nearest pound or to the nearest 0.001 mt.	X	X				

(i) *Weekly production report (WPR).* The WPR is removed from use. Instead of a WPR, the operator of a mothership or catcher/processor and the manager of a shoreside processor or SFP must submit all landings information, production information, and discard and disposition information using eLandings or other NMFS–approved software (see paragraph (e) of this section).

(j) [Reserved]

(k) *U.S. Vessel Activity Report (VAR).* For a comparison of forms used for shipping, transporting, or transferring fish or fish product, *see* Table 13 to this part.

(1) *Fish or fish product onboard.* Except as noted in paragraph (k)(4) of this section, the operator of a catcher vessel greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA, a catcher/processor, or a mothership required to hold a Federal fisheries permit issued under this part and carrying fish or fish product onboard must complete and submit a VAR by facsimile or electronic file to OLE, Juneau, AK (907–586–7313) before the vessel crosses the seaward boundary of the EEZ off Alaska or crosses the U.S.-Canadian international boundary between Alaska and British Columbia.

(2) *Combination of non-IFQ groundfish with IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish or CR crab.* If a vessel is carrying non-IFQ groundfish and IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish or CR crab, the operator must submit a VAR in addition to an IFQ Departure Report required by paragraph (l)(4) of this section.

(3) *Revised VAR.* If fish or fish products are landed at a port other than the one specified on the VAR, the operator must submit a revised VAR showing the actual port of landing before any fish are offloaded.

(4) *Exemption: IFQ Departure Report.* A VAR is not required if a vessel is carrying only IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CR crab onboard and the operator has submitted an IFQ Departure Report required by paragraph (l)(4) of this section.

(5) *Information required.* (i) Whether original or revised VAR.

(ii) Name and Federal fisheries permit number of vessel or RCR permit number.

(iii) Type of vessel (whether catcher vessel, catcher/processor, or mothership).

(iv) Name, daytime telephone number (including area code), and facsimile number and COMSAT number (if available) of representative.

(v) *Return report.* “Return,” for purposes of this paragraph, means returning to Alaska. If the vessel is crossing the seaward boundary of the EEZ off Alaska or crossing the U.S.-Canadian international boundary between Alaska and British Columbia into U.S. waters, indicate a “return” report and enter:

(A) Intended Alaska port of landing (*see* Table 14a to this part);

(B) Estimated date and time (hour and minute, Greenwich mean time) the vessel will cross the boundary; and

(C) The estimated position coordinates in latitude and longitude where the vessel will cross.

(vi) *Depart report.* “Depart” means leaving Alaska. If the vessel is crossing the seaward boundary of the EEZ off Alaska and moving out of the EEZ or crossing the U.S.-Canadian international boundary between Alaska and British Columbia and moving into Canadian waters, indicate a “depart” report and enter:

(A) The intended U.S. port of landing or country other than the United States (*see* Table 14b to this part);

(B) Estimated date and time (hour and minute, Greenwich mean time) the vessel will cross the boundary; and

(C) The estimated position coordinates in latitude and longitude where the vessel will cross.

(vii) *The Russian Zone.* Indicate whether the vessel is returning from fishing in the Russian Zone or is departing to fish in the Russian Zone.

(viii) *Fish or fish products.* For all fish or fish products (including non-groundfish) on board the vessel, enter:

(A) Harvest zone code;

(B) Species codes;

(C) Product codes; and

(D) Total fish product weight in lbs or to the nearest 0.001 mt (2.20 lb).

(l) *IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CR crab R&R.* In addition to the R&R requirements in this section, in 50 CFR part 680 with respect to CR crab, and as prescribed in the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of this title, the following reports and authorizations are required, when applicable: IFQ Prior Notice of Landing, Product Transfer Report (*see* §679.5(g)), IFQ landing report, IFQ Transshipment Authorization, and IFQ Departure Report.

(1) *IFQ Prior Notice of Landing (PNOL)* —(i) *Time limits and submittal.* (A) Except as provided in paragraph (l)(1)(iv) of this section, the operator of any vessel making an IFQ landing must notify OLE, Juneau, AK, no fewer than 3 hours before landing IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish, unless permission to commence an IFQ landing within 3 hours of notification is granted by a clearing officer.

(B) A PNOL must be made to the toll-free telephone number 800–304–4846 or to 907–586–7163 between the hours of 0600 hours, A.l.t., and 2400 hours, A.l.t.

(ii) *Revision to PNOL.* The operator of any vessel wishing to make an IFQ landing before the date and time (A.l.t.) reported in the PNOL or later than 2 hours after the date and time (A.l.t.) reported in the PNOL must submit a new PNOL as described in paragraphs (l)(1)(i) and (iii) of this section.

(iii) *Information required.* A PNOL must include the following:

(A) Vessel name and ADF&G vessel registration number;

(B) Port of landing and port code from Tables 14a and 14b to this part;

(C) Exact location of landing within the port (*i.e.,* dock name, harbor name, facility name, or geographical coordinates);

(D) The date and time (A.l.t.) that the landing will take place;

(E) Species and estimated weight (in pounds) of the IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish that will be landed;

(F) IFQ regulatory area(s) in which the IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish were harvested; and

(G) IFQ permit number(s) that will be used to land the IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish.

(iv) *Exemption* —(A) *Halibut.* An IFQ landing of halibut of 500 lb or less of IFQ weight determined pursuant to §679.40(h) and concurrent with a legal landing of salmon harvested using hand troll gear or power troll gear is exempt from the PNOL required by this section.

(B) *Lingcod.* An IFQ landing of halibut of 500 lb or less of IFQ weight determined pursuant to §679.40(h) and concurrent with a legal landing of lingcod harvested using dinglebar gear is exempt from the PNOL required by this section.

(2) *IFQ landing* —(i) *Remain at landing site.* Once the landing has commenced, the IFQ permit holder, the IFQ hired master permit holder, or the CDQ hired master permit holder, and the harvesting vessel may not leave the landing site until the IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut account is properly debited (see §679.40(h)).

(ii) *No movement of IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish.* The offloaded IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish may not be moved from the landing site until the IFQ Landing Report is completed through eLandings or other NMFS–approved software and the IFQ permit holder's or CDQ permit holder's account is properly debited (see §679.40(h)).

(iii) *Single offload site* —(A) *IFQ halibut and CDQ halibut.* The vessel operator who lands IFQ halibut or CDQ halibut must continuously and completely offload at a single offload site all halibut onboard the vessel.

(B) *IFQ sablefish.* The vessel operator who lands IFQ sablefish must continuously and completely offload at a single offload site all sablefish onboard the vessel.

(3) *Transshipment authorization.* For a comparison of forms used for shipping, transporting, or transferring fish or fish product, *see* Table 13 to this part.

(i) No person may transship processed IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CR crab between vessels without authorization by a local clearing officer. Authorization from a local clearing officer must be obtained for each instance of transshipment at least 24 hours before the transshipment is intended to commence.

(ii) *Information required.* To obtain a Transshipment Authorization, the vessel operator must provide the following information to the clearing officer:

(A) Date and time (A.l.t.) of transshipment;

(B) Location of transshipment;

(C) Name and ADF&G vessel registration number of vessel offloading transshipment;

(D) Name of vessel receiving the transshipment;

(E) Product destination;

(F) Species and product type codes;

(G) Total product weight;

(H) Time (A.l.t.) and date of the request;

(I) Name, telephone number, FAX number (if any) for the person making the request.

(4) *IFQ departure report.* For a comparison of forms used for shipping, transporting, or transferring fish or fish product, *see* Table 13 to this part.

(i) *General requirements* —(A) *Time limit and submittal.* A vessel operator who intends to make a landing of IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CR crab at any location other than in an IFQ regulatory area for halibut and sablefish or in a crab fishery for CR crab (*see* Table 1 to part 680) in the State of Alaska must submit an IFQ Departure Report, by telephone, to OLE, Juneau, AK, (800–304–4846 or 907–586–7163) between the hours of 0600 hours, A.l.t., and 2400 hours, A.l.t.

(B) *Completion of fishing.* A vessel operator must submit an IFQ Departure Report after completion of all fishing and prior to departing the waters of the EEZ adjacent to the jurisdictional waters of the State of Alaska, the territorial sea of the State of Alaska, or the internal waters of the State of Alaska when IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CR crab are on board.

(C) *Permit* —(*1*) *Registered Crab Receiver permit.* A vessel operator submitting an IFQ Departure Report for CR crab must have a Registered Crab Receiver permit.

(*2*) *Registered Buyer permit.* A vessel operator submitting an IFQ Departure Report for IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish must have a Registered Buyer permit.

(D) *First landing of any species.* A vessel operator submitting an IFQ Departure Report must submit IFQ landing reports for all IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, and IFQ sablefish on board at the same time and place as the first landing of any IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or IFQ sablefish.

(E) *Permits on board.* (*1*) A vessel operator submitting an IFQ Departure Report to document IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish must have one or more IFQ permit holders or IFQ hired master permit holders on board with a combined IFQ balance equal to or greater than all IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish on board the vessel.

(*2*) A vessel operator submitting an IFQ Departure Report to document CDQ halibut must ensure that one or more CDQ hired master permit holders are onboard with enough remaining halibut CDQ balance to harvest amounts of CDQ halibut equal to or greater than all CDQ halibut onboard.

(*3*) A vessel operator submitting an IFQ Departure Report to document CR crab must have one or more permit holders on board with a combined CR balance equal to or greater than all CR crab on board the vessel.

(ii) *Required information.* When submitting an IFQ Departure Report, the vessel operator must provide the following information:

(A) Intended date, time (A.l.t.), and location of landing;

(B) Vessel name and ADF&G vessel registration number;

(C) Vessel operator's name and Registered Buyer permit or Registered Crab Receiver permit number;

(D) Halibut IFQ, halibut CDQ, sablefish IFQ, and CR crab permit numbers of IFQ and CDQ permit holders on board;

(E) *Area of harvest.* (*1*) If IFQ or CDQ halibut, then halibut regulatory areas (*see* Figure 15 to this part).

(*2*) If IFQ sablefish, then sablefish regulatory areas (*see* Figure 14 to this part).

(*3*) If CR crab, then the crab rationalization fishery code (*see* Table 1 to part 680).

(F) Estimated total weight as appropriate of IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CR crab on board (lb/kg/mt).

(iii) *Revision to Departure Report.* A vessel operator who intends to make an IFQ landing at a location different from the location named on the IFQ Departure report must submit a revised report naming the new location at least 12 hours in advance of the offload. Revisions must be submitted by telephone, to OLE, Juneau, AK, (800–304–4846 or 907–586–7163) between the hours of 0600 hours, A.l.t., and 2400 hours, A.l.t.

(5) *Landing verification, inspection and record retention* —(i) *Verification and inspection.* Each IFQ landing and all fish retained on board the vessel making an IFQ landing are subject to verification and inspection by authorized officers.

(ii) *Record retention* . The IFQ permit holder, IFQ hired master permit holder, or CDQ hired master permit holder must retain a legible copy of all Landing Report receipts, and the Registered Buyer must retain a copy of all reports and receipts required by this section. All retained records must be available for inspection by an authorized officer:

(A) Until the end of the fishing year during which the records were made and for as long thereafter as fish or fish products recorded are retained onboard the vessel or at the facility; and

(B) Upon request of an authorized officer for 3 years after the end of the fishing year during which the records were made.

(6) *Sampling* —(i) Each IFQ landing and all fish retained onboard a vessel making an IFQ landing are subject to sampling by NMFS-authorized observers.

(ii) Each IFQ halibut landing or CDQ halibut landing is subject to sampling for biological information by persons authorized by the IPHC.

(7) *IFQ cost recovery program* —(i) *IFQ buyer report.* (A) *Applicability.* An IFQ registered buyer that also operates as a shoreside processor and receives and purchases IFQ landings of sablefish or halibut must submit annually to NMFS a complete IFQ Buyer Report as described in this paragraph (l) and as provided by NMFS for each reporting period, as described at §679.5(1)(7)(i)(E), in which the registered buyer receives IFQ fish.

(B) *Due date.* A complete IFQ Buyer Report must be postmarked or received by the Regional Administrator not later than October 15 following the reporting period in which the IFQ registered buyer receives the IFQ fish.

(C) *Information required.* A complete IFQ Buyer Report must include the following information:

(*1*) *IFQ registered buyer identification,* including:

(*i*) Name,

(*ii*) Registered buyer number,

(*iii*) Social Security number or tax identification number,

(*iv*) NMFS person identification number (if applicable),

(*v*) Business address,

(*vi*) Telephone number,

(*vii*) Facsimile telephone number,

(*viii*) Primary registered buyer activity,

(*ix*) Other registered buyer activity, and

(*x*) Landing port location;

(*2*) *Pounds purchased and values paid.* (*i*) The monthly total weights, represented in IFQ equivalent pounds by IFQ species, that were landed at the landing port location and purchased by the IFQ registered buyer;

(*ii*) The monthly total gross ex-vessel value, in U.S. dollars, of IFQ pounds, by IFQ species, that were landed at the landing port location and purchased by the IFQ registered buyer;

(*3*) *Value paid for price adjustments* —(*i*) *IFQ retro-payments.* The monthly total U.S. dollar amount of any IFQ retro-payments (correlated by IFQ species, landing month(s), and month of payment) made in the current year to IFQ permit holders for landings made during the previous calendar year;

(*ii*) *Electronic submittal.* Certification, including the NMFS ID and password of the IFQ Registered Buyer; or

(*iii*) *Non-electronic submittal.* Certification, including the printed name and signature of the individual submitting the IFQ Buyer Report on behalf of the Registered Buyer, and date of signature.

(D) *Submission address.* The registered buyer must complete an IFQ Buyer Report and submit by mail or FAX to:

Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, Attn: RAM Program,P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668, FAX: (907) 586–7354 or electronically to NMFS via forms available from RAM or on the RAM area of the Alaska Region Home Page at *http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram* .

(E) *Reporting period.* The reporting period of the IFQ Buyer Report shall extend from October 1 through September 30 of the following year, inclusive.

(ii) *IFQ permit holder Fee Submission Form* —(A) *Applicability.* An IFQ permit holder who holds an IFQ permit against which a landing was made must submit to NMFS a complete IFQ permit holder Fee Submission Form provided by NMFS.

(B) *Due date and submittal.* A complete IFQ permit holder Fee Submission Form must be postmarked or received by the Regional Administrator not later than January 31 following the calendar year in which any IFQ landing was made.

(C) *Contents of an IFQ Fee Submission Form.* For each of the sections described here, a permit holder must provide the specified information.

(*1*) *Identification of the IFQ permit holder.* An IFQ permit holder with an IFQ landing must accurately record on the identification section of the IFQ Fee Submission Form the following information:

(*i*) The printed name of the IFQ permit holder;

(*ii*) The NMFS person identification number;

(*iii*) The Social Security number or tax ID number of the IFQ permit holder;

(*iv*) The business mailing address of the IFQ permit holder; and

(*v*) The telephone and facsimile number (if available) of the IFQ permit holder.

(*2*) *IFQ landing summary and estimated fee liability.* NMFS will provide to an IFQ permit holder an IFQ Landing Summary and Estimated Fee Liability page as required by §679.45(a)(2). The IFQ permit holder must either accept the accuracy of the NMFS estimated fee liability associated with his or her IFQ landings for each IFQ permit, or calculate a revised IFQ fee liability in accordance with paragraph (l)(7)(ii)(C)(2)(i) of this section. The IFQ permit holder may calculate a revised fee liability for all or part of his or her IFQ landings.

(*i*) *Revised fee liability calculation.* To calculate a revised fee liability, an IFQ permit holder must multiply the IFQ percentage in effect by either the IFQ actual ex-vessel value or the IFQ standard ex-vessel of the IFQ landing. If parts of the landing have different values, the permit holder must apply the appropriate values to the different parts of the landings.

(*ii*) *Documentation.* If NMFS requests in writing that a permit holder submit documentation establishing the factual basis for a revised IFQ fee liability, the permit holder must submit adequate documentation by the 30th day after the date of such request. Examples of such documentation regarding initial sales transactions of IFQ landings include valid fish tickets, sales receipts, or check stubs that clearly identify the IFQ landing amount, species, date, time, and ex-vessel value or price.

(*3*) *Fee calculation section* —(*i*) *Information required.* An IFQ permit holder with an IFQ landing must record the following information on the Fee Calculation page: The name of the IFQ permit holder; the NMFS person identification number; the fee liability amount due for each IFQ permit he or she may hold; the IFQ permit number corresponding to such fee liability amount(s) due; the total price adjustment payment value for all IFQ halibut and/or sablefish (e.g., IFQ retro-payments) received during the reporting period for the IFQ Fee Submission Form as described in §679.5(l)(7)(ii)(D); and the fee liability amount due for such price adjustments.

(*ii*) *Calculation of total annual fee amount.* An IFQ permit holder with an IFQ landing must perform the following calculations and record the results on the Fee Calculation page: add all fee liability amount(s) due for each IFQ permit and record the sum as the sub-total fee liability for all permits; multiply price adjustment payment(s) received for each IFQ species by the fee percentage in effect at the time the payment(s) was received by the IFQ permit holder; add the resulting fee liability amounts due for all price adjustment payments for each IFQ species, then enter the sum as the sub-total fee for price adjustments; add the sub-total fee liability for all permits and the sub-total fee for price adjustments, then enter the resulting sum as the total annual fee amount on the Fee Calculation page and on the Fee Payment page.

(*4*) *Fee payment and certification section* —(*i*) *Information required.* An IFQ permit holder with an IFQ landing must provide his or her NMFS person identification number, signature, and date of signature on the Fee Payment section of the form or provide the electronic equivalent and record the following: his or her printed name; the total annual fee amount as calculated and recorded on the Fee Calculation page; the total of any pre-payments submitted to NMFS that apply to the total annual fee amount; the remaining balance fee; and the enclosed payment amount.

(*ii*) *Calculation of balance fee payment.* An IFQ permit holder with an IFQ landing must perform the following calculation on the Fee Payment section of the Fee Submission Form: Subtract from the total annual fee amount the total of all pre-payments made (if any) to NMFS and any credits held by NMFS that are applicable to that year's total IFQ cost recovery fees, and record the result as the balance of the fee amount due.

(D) *Reporting Period.* The reporting period of the IFQ Fee Submission Form shall extend from January 1 to December 31 of the year prior to the January 31 due date described in §679.5(l)(7)(ii)(B).

(8) *CQE annual report for an eligible community.* By January 31, the CQE shall submit a complete annual report on halibut and sablefish IFQ activity for the prior fishing year for each community represented by the CQE to the Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, and to the governing body of each community represented by the CQE as identified in Table 21 to this part.

(i) A complete annual report contains the following information:

(A) Name, ADF&G vessel registration number, USCG documentation number, length overall, and home port of each vessel from which the IFQ leased from QS held by a CQE was fished;

(B) Name and business addresses of individuals employed as crew members when fishing the IFQ derived from the QS held by the CQE;

(C) Detailed description of the criteria used by the CQE to distribute IFQ leases among eligible community residents;

(D) Description of efforts made to ensure that IFQ lessees employ crew members who are eligible community residents of the eligible community aboard vessels on which IFQ derived from QS held by a CQE is being fished;

(E) Description of the process used to solicit lease applications from eligible community residents of the eligible community on whose behalf the CQE is holding QS;

(F) Names and business addresses and amount of IFQ requested by each individual applying to receive IFQ from the CQE;

(G) Any changes in the bylaws of the CQE, board of directors, or other key management personnel; and

(H) Copies of minutes and other relevant decision making documents from CQE board meetings.

(ii) Additional information may be submitted as part of the annual report based on data available through NMFS. This includes:

(A) Identification of the eligible community, or communities, represented by the CQE;

(B) Total amount of halibut QS and sablefish QS held by the CQE at the start of the calendar year and at the end of the calendar year;

(C) Total amount of halibut and sablefish IFQ leased from the CQE;

(D) Names, business addresses, and amount of halibut and sablefish IFQ received by each individual to whom the CQE leased IFQ; and

(E) Number of vessels that fished for IFQ derived from QS held by a CQE.

(m) [Reserved]

(n) *Groundfish CDQ fisheries* —

(1) *CDQ or PSQ transfer* . NMFS will process a request for CDQ or PSQ transfer between CDQ groups provided that the requirements of this paragraph are met.

(i) *Completed application* . A paper or electronic request form must be completed with all information fields accurately filled in by transferors and transferees, and all required additional documentation must be attached.

(ii) *Certification of transferor* —(A) *Non-electronic submittal* . The transferor's designated representative must sign and date the application certifying that all information is true, correct, and complete. The transferor's designated representative must submit the paper application as indicated on the application.

(B) *Electronic submittal* . The transferor's designated representative must log into the system and create a transfer request as indicated on the computer screen. By using the transferor's NMFS ID, password, and Transfer Key and submitting the transfer request, the designated representative certifies that all information is true, correct, and complete.

(iii) *Certification of transferee* —(A) *Non-electronic submittal* . The transferee's designated representative must sign and date the application certifying that all information is true, correct, and complete.

(B) *Electronic submittal* . The transferee's designated representative must log into the system and create a transfer request as indicated on the computer screen. By using the transferee's NMFS ID, password, and Transfer Key and submitting the transfer request, the designated representative certifies that all information is true, correct, and complete.

(2) *Request for approval of an eligible vessel* —(i) *Who must submit a request for approval of an eligible vessel?* A CDQ group must submit a completed request for approval of an eligible vessel to NMFS for each vessel that will be groundfish CDQ fishing and for each vessel equal to or greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA that will be halibut CDQ fishing. See §679.32(c) for more information about this requirement.

(ii) *Information required* —(A) *Vessel information.* Enter the vessel name, Federal fisheries permit number, if applicable, ADF&G vessel registration number, and LOA. Indicate all the gear types that will be used to catch CDQ.

(B) *Vessel contact information.* Enter the name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if available) of a contact person representing the vessel.

(C) *Method to determine CDQ and PSQ catch.* Select the method that will be used to determine CDQ and PSQ catch, either NMFS standard sources of data or an alternative method. If the selection is “NMFS standard sources of data,” select either “all trawl vessels greater than or equal to 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using non-trawl gear” or “catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using non-trawl gear.” If the selection is “catcher vessels greater than or equal to 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA using non-trawl gear,” select either Option 1 or Option 2, described at §679.32(e)(2)(iv). If an alternative method (fishing plan) is proposed, it must be attached to the request for approval of an eligible vessel.

(D) *Notice of submission and review.* Enter the name, telephone number, and fax number of the CDQ representative; the date submitted to NMFS; and signature of the CDQ representative.

(o) *Catcher vessel cooperative pollock catch report* —(1) *Applicability.* The designated representative of each AFA inshore processor catcher vessel cooperative must submit to the Regional Administrator a catcher vessel cooperative pollock catch report detailing each delivery of pollock harvested under the allocation made to that cooperative. The owners of the member catcher vessels in the cooperative are jointly responsible for compliance and must ensure that the designated representative complies with the applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements of this section.

(2) *Time limits and submittal.* (i) The cooperative pollock catch report must be submitted by one of the following methods:

(A) An electronic data file in a format approved by NMFS; or

(B) By FAX.

(ii) The cooperative pollock catch report must be received by the Regional Administrator by 1200 hours, A.l.t. 1 week after the date of completion of delivery.

(3) *Information required.* The cooperative pollock catch report must contain the following information:

(i) Cooperative account number;

(ii) Catcher vessel ADF&G number;

(iii) Inshore processor Federal processor permit number;

(iv) Delivery date;

(v) Amount of pollock (in lb) delivered plus weight of at-sea pollock discards;

(vi) ADF&G fish ticket number.

(p) *Commercial Operator's Annual Report (COAR)* —(1) *Requirement.* The owner of a mothership or catcher/processor must annually complete and submit to ADF&G the appropriate Forms A through M and COAR certification page for each year in which the mothership or catcher/processor was issued a Federal Fisheries permit. The owner of a mothership must include all fish received and processed during the year, including fish received from an associated buying station. The ADF&G COAR is further described under Alaska Administrative Code (5 AAC 39.130) (see §679.3 (b)(2)).

(2) *Time limit and submittal of COAR.* The owner of a mothership or catcher/processor must submit to ADF&G the appropriate Forms A through M and COAR certification page by April 1 of the year following the year for which the report is required to the following address:

ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries, Attn: COAR, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802–5526

(3) *Information required, certification page.* The owner of a mothership or catcher/processor must:

(i) Enter the company name and address, including street, city, state, and zip code; also seasonal mailing address, if applicable.

(ii) Enter the vessel name and ADF&G processor code.

(iii) Check YES or NO to indicate whether fishing activity was conducted during the appropriate year.

(iv) If response to paragraph (p)(3)(iii) of this section is YES, complete the applicable forms of the COAR (see table 18 to this part) and complete and sign the certification page.

(v) If response to paragraph (p)(3)(iii) of this section is NO, complete and sign only the certification page.

(vi) Sign and enter printed or typed name, e-mail address, title, telephone number, and FAX number of owner.

(vii) Enter printed or typed name, e-mail address, and telephone number of alternate contact.

(4) *Buying information (exvessel), Forms A (1-3), C (1-2), E, G, I (1-2), and K* —(i) *Requirement.* The owner of a mothership (if the first purchaser of raw fish) must complete and submit the appropriate COAR buying forms (A (1–3), C (1–2), E, G, I (1–2), and K) for each species purchased from fishermen during the applicable year.

(ii) *Buying information required.* The owner of the mothership must record the following information on the appropriate COAR buying forms:

(A) Species name and code (see table 2 to this part).

(B) Area purchased (see table 16 to this part).

(C) Gear code (see table 15 to this part).

(D) Delivery code (form G only) (see table 1 to this part).

(E) Total weight (to the nearest lb) purchased from fishermen.

(F) Total amount paid to fishermen, including all post- season adjustments and/or bonuses and any credit received by fishermen for gas expenses, ice, delivery premiums, and other miscellaneous expenses.

(G) Price per pound. If additional adjustments may be made after this report has been filed, the owner must check the “$ not final” box, and submit Form M when these adjustments are paid. Do not include fish purchased from another processor.

(5) *Production forms, Forms B (1–6), D, F, H, J (1–2), and K).* For purposes of this paragraph, the total wholesale value is the amount that the processor receives for the finished product (free on board pricing mothership or catcher/processor). For products finished but not yet sold (still held in inventory), calculate the estimated value using the average price received to date for that product.

(i) *Requirement* —(A) *Mothership.* The owner of a mothership must record and submit the appropriate COAR production forms (B(1–6), D, F, H, J(1–2), and K) for all production that occurred for each species during the applicable year:

(*1*) That were purchased from fishermen on the grounds and/or dockside, including both processed and unprocessed seafood.

(*2*) That were then either processed on the mothership or exported out of the State of Alaska.

(B) *Catcher/processor.* The owner of a catcher/processor must record and submit the appropriate COAR production forms (B(1–6), D, F, H, J (1–2), and K) for each species harvested during the applicable year that were then either processed on the vessel or exported out of the State of Alaska.

(ii) *Information required, non-canned production* —(A) Enter area of processing (see table 16 to this part). List production of Canadian-harvested fish separately.

(B) Processed product. Processed product must be described by entering three codes:

(*1*) Process prefix code (see table 17 to this part)

(*2*) Process suffix code (see table 17 to this part)

(*3*) Product code (see table 1 to this part)

(C) Total net weight. Enter total weight (in pounds) of the finished product.

(D) Total value($). Enter the total wholesale value of the finished product.

(E) Enter price per pound of the finished product.

(iii) *Information required, canned production.* Complete an entry for each can size produced:

(A) Enter area of processing (see table 16 to this part).

(B) Process 51 or 52. Enter conventional canned code (51) or smoked, conventional canned code (52).

(C) Total value($). Enter the total wholesale value of the finished product.

(D) Enter can size in ounces, to the hundredth of an ounce.

(E) Enter number of cans per case.

(F) Enter number of cases.

(6) *Custom production forms, Form L (1–2)* —(i) *Requirement.* The owner of a mothership or catcher/processor must record and submit COAR production form L (1–2) for each species in which custom production was done by the mothership or catcher/processor for another processor and for each species in which custom production was done for the mothership or catcher/processor by another processor.

(ii) *Custom-production by mothership or catcher/processor for another processor.* If the mothership or catcher/processor custom-processed fish or shellfish for another processor during the applicable year, the owner of the mothership or catcher/processor must list the processor name and ADF&G processor code (if known) to describe that processor, but must not include any of that production in production form L (1–2).

(iii) *Custom-production by another processor for mothership or catcher/processor.* If a processor custom-processed fish or shellfish for the mothership or catcher/processor during the applicable year, the owner of the mothership or catcher/processor must use a separate page to list each processor and must include the following information.

(A) *Custom fresh/frozen miscellaneous production.* The owner of a mothership or catcher/processor must list the following information to describe production intended for wholesale/retail market and that are not frozen for canning later:

(*1*) Species name and code (see table 2 to this part).

(*2*) Area of processing (see table 16 to this part).

(*3*) Processed product. Processed product must be entered using three codes:

(*i*) Process prefix code (see table 17 to this part).

(*ii*) Process suffix code (see table 17 to this part).

(*iii*) Product code (see table 1 to this part).

(*4*) Total net weight. Enter total weight in pounds of the finished product.

(*5*) Total wholesale value($). Enter the total wholesale value of the finished product.

(B) *Custom canned production.* The owner of a mothership or catcher/processor must list the following information to describe each can size produced in custom canned production:

(*1*) Species name and code (see table 2 to this part).

(*2*) Area of processing (see table 16 to this part).

(*3*) Process 51 or 52. Enter conventional canned code (51) or smoked, conventional canned code (52).

(*4*) Total wholesale value ($). Enter the total wholesale value of the finished product.

(*5*) Can size in ounces, to the hundredth of an ounce.

(*6*) Number of cans per case.

(*7*) Number of cases.

(7) *Fish buying retro payments/post-season adjustments, Form M* —(i) *Requirement.* The owner of a mothership must record and submit COAR production Form M to describe additional adjustments and/or bonuses awarded to a fisherman, including credit received by fishermen for gas expenses, ice, delivery premiums, and other miscellaneous expenses.

(ii) *Information required* —(A) Enter species name and code (see table 2 to this part).

(B) Enter area purchased (see table 16 to this part)

(C) Enter gear code (see table 16 to this part).

(D) Enter total pounds purchased from fisherman.

(E) Enter total amount paid to fishermen (base + adjustment).

(q) *AI directed pollock fishery catch reports* —(1) *Applicability* . The Aleut Corporation shall provide NMFS the identity of its designated contact for the Aleut Corporation. The Aleut Corporation shall submit to the Regional Administrator a pollock catch report containing information required by paragraph (q)(3) of this section.

(2) *Time limits and submittal* . (i) The Aleut Corporation must submit its AI directed pollock fishery catch reports by one of the following methods:

(A) An electronic data file in a format approved by NMFS; or

(B) By fax.

(ii) The AI directed pollock fishery catch reports must be received by the Regional Administrator by 1200 hours, A.l.t. on Tuesday following the end of the applicable weekly reporting period, as defined at §679.2.

(3) *Information required.* The AI directed pollock fishery catch report must contain the following information:

(i) Catcher vessel ADF&G number;

(ii) Federal fisheries or Federal processor permit number;

(iii) Delivery date;

(iv) Pollock harvested:

(A) For shoreside and stationary floating processors and motherships, the amount of pollock (in lb for shoreside and stationary floating processors and in mt for motherships) delivered, including the weight of at-sea pollock discards; and

(B) For catcher/processors, the amount of pollock (in mt) harvested and processed, including the weight of at-sea pollock discards; and

(v) ADF&G fish ticket number.

(r) *Rockfish Program* —(1) *General.* The owners and operators of catcher vessels, catcher/processors, shoreside processors, and stationary floating processors authorized as participants in the Rockfish Program must comply with the applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements of this section and must assign all catch to a rockfish cooperative, rockfish limited access fishery, sideboard fishery, opt–out fishery, or rockfish entry level fishery as applicable at the time of catch or receipt of groundfish. All owners of catcher vessels, catcher/processors, shoreside processors, and stationary floating processors authorized as participants in the Rockfish Program must ensure that their designated representatives or employees comply with all applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

(2) *Logbook* —(i) *DFL.* Operators of catcher vessels equal to or greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA participating in a Rockfish Program fishery must maintain a daily fishing logbook for trawl gear as described in paragraphs (a) and (c) of this section.

(ii) *DCPL.* Operators of catcher/processors permitted in the Rockfish Program must use a daily cumulative production logbook for trawl gear as described in paragraph (a) of this section to record Rockfish Program landings and production.

(3) *eLandings.* Managers of shoreside processors or SFPs that are authorized as processors in the Rockfish Program must use eLandings or NMFS-approved software as described in paragraphs (e) and (f) of this section, instead of a logbook and WPR, to record Rockfish Program landings and production.

(4) *Check-in/check-out report, processors.* Operators or managers of a catcher/processor, mothership, stationary processor, or stationary floating processor that are authorized as processors in the Rockfish Program must submit check-in/check-out reports as described in paragraph (h) of this section.

(5) *Production reports.* Operators of catcher/processors that are authorized as processors in the Rockfish Program and that use a DCPL must submit a production report as described in paragraphs (e)(9) and (10) of this section.

(6) *Product transfer report (PTR), processors.* Operators of catcher/processors and managers of shoreside processors or SFPs that are authorized as processors in the Rockfish Program must submit a PTR as described in paragraph (g) of this section.

(7) *Rockfish cooperative catch report* —(i) *Applicability.* Operators of catcher/processors and managers of shoreside processors or SFPs that are authorized to receive fish harvested under a CQ permit in the Rockfish Program (see §679.4(n)) must submit to the Regional Administrator a rockfish cooperative catch report detailing each cooperative's delivery and discard of fish, as described in paragraph (r)(7) of this section.

(ii) *Time limits and submittal.* (A) The rockfish cooperative catch report must be submitted by one of the following methods:

(*1*) An electronic data file in a format approved by NMFS mailed to: Sustainable Fisheries, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; or

(*2*) By fax: 907–586–7131.

(B) The rockfish cooperative catch report must be received by the Regional Administrator by 1200 hours, A.l.t. one week after the date of completion of a delivery.

(iii) *Information required.* The rockfish cooperative catch report must contain the following information:

(A) CQ permit number;

(B) ADF&G vessel registration number(s) of vessel(s) delivering catch;

(C) Federal processor permit number of processor receiving catch;

(D) Date the delivery was completed;

(E) Amount of fish (in lb) delivered, plus weight of at–sea discards;

(F) ADF&G fish ticket number(s) issued to catcher vessel(s).

(8) *Annual rockfish cooperative report* —(i) *Applicability.* A rockfish cooperative permitted in the Rockfish Program (see §679.4(m)(1)) annually must submit to the Regional Administrator an annual rockfish cooperative report detailing the use of the cooperative's CQ.

(ii) *Time limits and submittal.* (A) The annual rockfish cooperative report must be submitted to the Regional Administrator by an electronic data file in a NMFS-approved format by fax: 907–586–7557; or by mail to the Regional Administrator, NMFS Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; and

(B) The annual rockfish cooperative report must be received by the Regional Administrator by December 15th of each year.

(iii) *Information required.* The annual rockfish cooperative report must include at a minimum:

(A) The cooperative's CQ, sideboard limit (if applicable), and any rockfish sideboard fishery harvests made by the rockfish cooperative vessels on a vessel-by-vessel basis;

(B) The cooperative's actual retained and discarded catch of CQ, and sideboard limit (if applicable) by statistical area and vessel-by-vessel basis;

(C) A description of the method used by the cooperative to monitor fisheries in which cooperative vessels participated; and

(D) A description of any actions taken by the cooperative in response to any members that exceeded their catch as allowed under the rockfish cooperative agreement.

(9) *Vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements* (see §679.28(f)).

(10) *Rockfish cooperative vessel check-in and check-out report* —(i) *Applicability* —(A) *Vessel check-in.* The designated representative of a rockfish cooperative must designate any vessel that is fishing under the rockfish cooperative's CQ permit before that vessel may fish under that CQ permit through a check-in procedure. The designated representative for a rockfish cooperative must submit this designation for a vessel:

(*1*) At least 48 hours prior to the time the vessel begins a fishing trip to fish under a CQ permit; and

(*2*) A check-in report is effective at the beginning of the first fishing trip after the designation has been submitted.

(B) *Vessel check-out.* The designated representative of a rockfish cooperative must designate any vessel that is no longer fishing under a CQ permit for that rockfish cooperative through a check-out procedure. This check-out report must be submitted within 6 hours after the effective date and time the rockfish cooperative wishes to end the vessel's authority to fish under the CQ permit. This designation is effective at:

(*1*) The end of a complete offload if that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit for a catcher vessel cooperative or the earlier of;

(*2*) The end of the weekending date as reported in a production report if that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit for a catcher/processor cooperative; or

(*3*) The end of a complete offload if that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit for a catcher/processor cooperative.

(ii) *Submittal.* The designated representative of the rockfish cooperative must submit a vessel check-in or check-out report by one of the following methods:

(A) By mail: Sustainable Fisheries, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; or

(B) By fax: 907–586–7131.

(iii) *Information required.* The vessel check-in or check-out report must contain the following information:

(A) CQ permit number;

(B) ADF&G vessel registration number(s) of vessel(s) designated to fish under the CQ permit;

(C) USCG designation number(s) of vessel(s) designated to fish under the CQ permit; and

(D) Date and time when check-in or check-out begins.

(iv) *Limitations on vessel check-in and check-out.* (A) A rockfish cooperative may submit no more check-in reports in a calendar year than an amount equal to three times the number of LLP licenses that are assigned to that rockfish cooperative in that calendar year.

(B) A rockfish cooperative may submit no more check-out reports in a calendar year than an amount equal to three times the number of LLP licenses that are assigned to that rockfish cooperative in that calendar year.

(s) *Amendment 80 Program* —(1) *General.* The owners and operators of Amendment 80 vessels must comply with the applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements of this section. All owners of Amendment 80 vessels must ensure that their designated representatives or employees comply with all applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

(2) *Logbook-DCPL.* Operators of Amendment 80 vessels must use a daily cumulative production logbook for trawl gear as described in paragraph (a) of this section to record Amendment 80 Program landings and production.

(3) *Check-in/check-out report, processors.* Operators or managers of an Amendment 80 vessel must submit check-in/check-out reports as described in paragraph (h) of this section.

(4) *Production report.* Operators of Amendment 80 vessels that use a DCPL must submit a production report as described in paragraph (e)(10) of this section.

(5) *Product transfer report (PTR), processors.* Operators of Amendment 80 vessels must submit a PTR as described in paragraph (g) of this section.

(6) *Annual Amendment 80 cooperative report* —(i) *Applicability.* An Amendment 80 cooperative issued a CQ permit must submit annually to the Regional Administrator an Amendment 80 cooperative report detailing the use of the cooperative's CQ.

(ii) *Time limits and submittal.* (A) The annual Amendment 80 cooperative report must be submitted to the Regional Administrator by an electronic data file in a NMFS-approved format; by fax: 907–586–7557; or by mail sent to the Regional Administrator, NMFS Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668; and

(B) The annual Amendment 80 cooperative report for fishing activities under a CQ permit issued for the prior calendar year must be received by the Regional Administrator not later than 1700 hours A.l.t. on March 1 of each year.

(iii) *Information required.* The annual Amendment 80 cooperative report must include at a minimum:

(A) The cooperative's actual retained and discarded catch of CQ and GOA sideboard limited fisheries (if applicable) by statistical area and on a vessel-by-vessel basis;

(B) A description of the method used by the cooperative to monitor fisheries in which cooperative vessels participated; and

(C) A description of any actions taken by the cooperative against specific members in response to a member that exceeded the amount of CQ that the member was assigned to catch for the Amendment 80 cooperative.

(7) *Vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements* (see §679.28(f)).

[61 FR 31230, June 19, 1996]

Editorial Note: For Federal Register citations affecting §679.5, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 679.6 Exempted fisheries.

(a) *General* . For limited experimental purposes, the Regional Administrator may authorize, after consulting with the Council, fishing for groundfish or fishing for Arctic fish in the Arctic Management Area in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited. No exempted fishing may be conducted unless authorized by an exempted fishing permit issued by the Regional Administrator to the participating vessel owner in accordance with the criteria and procedures specified in this section. Exempted fishing permits will be issued without charge and will expire at the end of a calendar year unless otherwise provided for under paragraph (e) of this section.

(b) *Application.* An applicant for an exempted fishing permit shall submit to the Regional Administrator, at least 60 days before the desired effective date of the exempted fishing permit, a written application including, but not limited to, the following information:

(1) The date of the application.

(2) The applicant's name, mailing address, and telephone number.

(3) A statement of the purpose and goal of the experiment for which an exempted fishing permit is needed, including a general description of the arrangements for disposition of all species harvested under the exempted fishing permit.

(4) Technical details about the experiment, including:

(i) Amounts of each species to be harvested that are necessary to conduct the experiment, and arrangement for disposition of all species taken.

(ii) Area and timing of the experiment.

(iii) Vessel and gear to be used.

(iv) Experimental design (e.g., sampling procedures, the data and samples to be collected, and analysis of the data and samples).

(v) Provision for public release of all obtained information, and submission of interim and final reports.

(5) The willingness of the applicant to carry observers, if required by the Regional Administrator, and a description of accommodations and work space for the observer(s).

(6) Details for all coordinating parties engaged in the experiment and signatures of all representatives of all principal parties.

(7) Information about each vessel to be covered by the exempted fishing permit, including:

(i) Vessel name.

(ii) Name, address, and telephone number of owner and master.

(iii) USCG documentation, state license, or registration number.

(iv) Home port.

(v) Length of vessel.

(vi) Net tonnage.

(vii) Gross tonnage.

(8) The signature of the applicant.

(9) The Regional Administrator may request from an applicant additional information necessary to make the determinations required under this section. Any application that does not include all necessary information will be considered incomplete. An incomplete application will not be considered to be complete until the necessary information is provided in writing. An applicant for an exempted fishing permit need not be the owner or operator of the vessel(s) for which the exempted fishing permit is requested.

(c) *Review procedures.* (1) The Regional Administrator, in consultation with the Alaska Fishery Science Center, will review each application and will make a preliminary determination whether the application contains all the information necessary to determine if the proposal constitutes a valid fishing experiment appropriate for further consideration. If the Regional Administrator finds any application does not warrant further consideration, the applicant will be notified in writing of the reasons for the decision.

(2) If the Regional Administrator determines any application is complete and warrants further consideration, he or she will initiate consultation with the Council by forwarding the application to the Council. The Council's Executive Director shall notify the applicant of a meeting at which the Council will consider the application and invite the applicant to appear in support of the application, if the applicant desires. If the Regional Administrator initiates consultation with the Council, NMFS will publish notification of receipt of the application in the Federal Register with a brief description of the proposal.

(d) *Notifying the applicant.* (1) The decision of the Regional Administrator, after consulting with the Council, to grant or deny an exempted fishing permit is the final action of the agency. The Regional Administrator shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision to grant or deny the exempted fishing permit and, if denied, the reasons for the denial, including:

(i) The applicant has failed to disclose material information required, or has made false statements as to any material fact, in connection with the application.

(ii) According to the best scientific information available, the harvest to be conducted under the permit would detrimentally affect living marine resources, including marine mammals and birds, and their habitat in a significant way.

(iii) Activities to be conducted under the exempted fishing permit would be inconsistent with the intent of this section or the management objectives of the FMP.

(iv) The applicant has failed to demonstrate a valid justification for the permit.

(v) The activity proposed under the exempted fishing permit could create a significant enforcement problem.

(vi) The applicant failed to make available to the public information that had been obtained under a previously issued exempted fishing permit.

(vii) The proposed activity had economic allocation as its sole purpose.

(2) In the event a permit is denied on the basis of incomplete information or design flaws, the applicant will be provided an opportunity to resubmit the application, unless a permit is denied because exempted fishing would detrimentally affect marine resources, be inconsistent with the management objectives of the FMP, create significant enforcement problems, or have economic allocation as its sole purpose.

(e) *Terms and conditions.* The Regional Administrator may attach terms and conditions to the exempted fishing permit that are consistent with the purpose of the experiment, including, but not limited to:

(1) The maximum amount of each species that can be harvested and landed during the term of the exempted fishing permit, including trip limitations, where appropriate.

(2) The number, sizes, names, and identification numbers of the vessels authorized to conduct fishing activities under the exempted fishing permit.

(3) The time(s) and place(s) where exempted fishing may be conducted.

(4) The type, size, and amount of gear that may be used by each vessel operated under the exempted fishing permit.

(5) The condition that observers be carried aboard vessels operated under an exempted fishing permit.

(6) Reasonable data reporting requirements.

(7) Such other conditions as may be necessary to assure compliance with the purposes of the exempted fishing permit and consistency with the FMP objectives.

(8) Provisions for public release of data obtained under the exempted fishing permit.

(f) *Effectiveness.* Unless otherwise specified in the exempted fishing permit or superseding notification or regulation, an exempted fishing permit is effective for no longer than 1 calendar year, but may be revoked, suspended, or modified during the calendar year. Exempted fishing permits may be renewed following the application procedures in paragraph (b) of this section.

(g) *Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.* In addition to the recordkeeping and reporting requirements in this section, the operator or manager must comply with requirements at §679.5(a) through (k).

[61 FR 31230, June 19, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 61981, Nov. 15, 1999; 67 FR 4148, Jan. 28, 2002; 67 FR 22017, May 2, 2002; 74 FR 56745, Nov. 3, 2009]

§ 679.7 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions specified in §600.725 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) *Groundfish of the GOA and BSAI* —(1) *Federal Fisheries Permit.* (i) Fish for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA with a vessel of the United States that does not have on board a valid Federal Fisheries Permit issued under §679.4.

(ii) Conduct directed fishing for Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, or pollock with pot, hook-and-line, or trawl gear from a vessel of the United States that does not have on board a valid Federal Fisheries Permit issued under §679.4 and endorsed for Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, or pollock under §679.4(b)(5)(vi).

(iii) Conduct fishing operations from a vessel using other than the operation type(s) specified on the FFP (see §679.4(b)) issued for that vessel.

(2) Conduct any fishing contrary to notification of inseason action, closure, or adjustment issued under §679.20, §679.21, §679.22, §679.25.

(3) *Groundfish Observer Program.* (i) Fish or process groundfish except in compliance with the terms of the Groundfish Observer Program as provided by subpart E of this part.

(ii) Except where observer services are provided by NMFS staff or other individuals authorized by NMFS under §679.50(e), provide observer services to the North Pacific Groundfish fisheries without an observer provider permit issued under §679.50(i)(1).

(4) *Pollock roe.* Retain pollock roe on board a vessel in violation of §679.20(g).

(5) [Reserved]

(6) *Gear.* Deploy any trawl, longline, single pot-and-line, or jig gear in an area when directed fishing for, or retention of, all groundfish by operators of vessels using that gear type is prohibited in that area, except that this paragraph (a)(6) shall not prohibit:

(i) Deployment of hook-and-line gear by operators of vessels fishing for halibut during seasons prescribed in the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of chapter III of this title.

(ii) Deployment of pot gear by operators of vessels fishing for crab during seasons governed by the State of Alaska.

(iii) Deployment of jig gear by operators of vessels fishing for salmon during seasons governed by the State of Alaska.

(7) *Inshore/offshore* —(i) Operate a vessel in the “inshore component in the GOA” as defined in §679.2 without a valid inshore processing endorsement on the vessel's Federal fisheries or Federal processor permit.

(ii) Operate a vessel as a “stationary floating processor” in the “inshore component in the GOA” as defined in §679.2, and as a catcher/processor in the BSAI during the same fishing year.

(iii) Operate a vessel as a “stationary floating processor” in the “inshore component in the GOA” as defined in §679.2, and as an AFA mothership in the BSAI during the same fishing year.

(iv) Operate any vessel in the GOA in more than one of the three categories included in the definition of “inshore component in the GOA,” in §§679.2, during any fishing year.

(v) Operate any vessel in the GOA under both the “inshore component in the GOA” and the “offshore component in the GOA” definitions in §§679.2 during the same fishing year.

(vi) Except as provided in paragraph (k)(3)(iv) of this section, use a stationary floating processor with a GOA inshore processing endorsement to process pollock or GOA Pacific cod harvested in a directed fishery for those species in more than one single geographic location during a fishing year.

(8) *Fishing in Donut Hole.* Except as authorized by permit issued pursuant to the section of the Donut Hole Convention implementing legislation authorizing NMFS to issue Donut Hole fishing permits (Public Law 104–43, section 104(d)), it is unlawful for any person to:

(i) Fish in the Donut Hole from a vessel for which a Federal fisheries permit has been issued pursuant to §679.4 during the year for which the permit was issued.

(ii) Possess within the EEZ fish harvested from the Donut Hole on board a vessel for which a Federal fisheries permit has been issued pursuant to §679.4 during the year for which the permit was issued.

(9) *Authorized fishing gear.* Retain groundfish taken with other than authorized fishing gear as defined in §679.2, except that groundfish incidentally taken by pot gear by a vessel while participating in an open crab season governed by the State of Alaska may be retained for use as unprocessed bait on board that vessel.

(10) *Recordkeeping and reporting.* (i) Fail to comply with or fail to ensure compliance with requirements in §§679.4 or 679.5.

(ii) Alter, erase, or mutilate any permit or document issued under §§679.4 or 679.5.

(iii) Fail to submit or submit inaccurate information on, any report, application, or statement required under this part.

(iv) Intentionally submit false information on any report, application, or statement required under this part.

(11) *Buying station* —(i) *Tender vessel.* Use a catcher vessel or catcher/processor as a tender vessel before offloading all groundfish or groundfish product harvested or processed by that vessel.

(ii) *Associated processor.* Function as a vessel or land-based buying station without an associated processor.

(12) *Prohibited species donation program.* Retain or possess prohibited species, defined at §679.21(b)(1), except as permitted to do so under the PSD program as provided by §679.26 of this part, or as authorized by other applicable law.

(13) *Halibut.* With respect to halibut caught with hook-and-line gear deployed from a vessel fishing for groundfish, except for vessels fishing for halibut as prescribed in the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of chapter III of this title:

(i) Fail to release the halibut outboard a vessel's rails.

(ii) Release the halibut by any method other than—(A) Cutting the gangion.

(B) Positioning the gaff on the hook and twisting the hook from the halibut.

(C) Straightening the hook by using the gaff to catch the bend of the hook and bracing the gaff against the vessel or any gear attached to the vessel.

(iii) Puncture the halibut with a gaff or other device.

(iv) Allow the halibut to contact the vessel, if such contact causes, or is capable of causing, the halibut to be stripped from the hook.

(14) *Trawl gear performance standard* —(i) *BSAI.* Use a vessel to participate in a directed fishery for pollock using trawl gear and have on board the vessel, at any particular time, 20 or more crabs of any species that have a carapace width of more than 1.5 inches (38 mm) at the widest dimension.

(ii) *GOA.* Use a vessel to participate in a directed fishery for pollock using trawl gear when directed fishing for pollock with nonpelagic trawl gear is closed and have on board the vessel, at any particular time, 20 or more crabs of any species that have a carapace width of more than 1.5 inches (38 mm) at the widest dimension.

(15) *Federal processor permit.* Receive, purchase or arrange for purchase, discard, or process groundfish harvested in the GOA or BSAI by a shoreside processor or SFP that does not have on site a valid Federal processor permit issued pursuant to §679.4(f).

(16) *Retention of groundfish bycatch species.* Exceed the maximum retainable groundfish amount established under §679.20(e).

(17) *Tender vessel.* (i) Use a catcher vessel or catcher/processor as a tender vessel before offloading all groundfish or groundfish product harvested or processed by that vessel.

(ii) Use a catcher vessel or catcher/processor to harvest groundfish while operating as a tender vessel.

(18) *Pollock, Pacific Cod, and Atka Mackerel Directed Fishing and VMS.* Operate a vessel in any Federal reporting area when a vessel is authorized under §679.4(b)(5)(vi) to participate in the Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, or pollock directed fisheries and the vessel's authorized species and gear type is open to directed fishing, unless the vessel carries an operable NMFS-approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and complies with the requirements in §679.28(f).

(19) *Atka Mackerel HLA Groundfish Prohibition.* For vessels registered for an Atka mackerel HLA directed fishery under §679.20(a)(8)(iii), conduct directed fishing for groundfish, other than Atka mackerel, during the time period that the first Atka mackerel HLA directed fishery to which the vessel is assigned under §679.20(a)(8)(iii)(B) is open.

(20) *Anchoring in a habitat protection area.* Anchor any federally permitted vessel in any habitat protection area described in Tables 22, 23, and 26 of this part.

(21) *VMS on vessels in the Aleutian Islands subarea.* Operate a federally permitted vessel in the Aleutian Islands subarea without an operable VMS and without complying with the requirements at §679.28.

(22) *VMS for non–pelagic trawl and dredge gear vessels in the GOA.* Operate a federally permitted vessel in the GOA with non–pelagic trawl or dredge gear onboard without an operable VMS and without complying with the requirements at §679.28.

(b) *Prohibitions specific to the GOA* —(1) *Southeast outside trawl closure.* Use trawl gear in the GOA east of 140° W long.

(2) *Catcher vessel harvest limit for pollock.* (i) Retain more than 300,000 lb (136 mt) of unprocessed pollock on board a catcher vessel issued a FFP at any time during a fishing trip as defined at §679.2;

(ii) Land more than 300,000 lb (136 mt) of unprocessed pollock harvested in any GOA reporting area from a catcher vessel issued a FFP to any processor or tender vessel during a calendar day as defined at §679.2; and

(iii) Land a cumulative amount of unprocessed pollock harvested from any GOA reporting area from a catcher vessel issued a FFP during a directed fishery that exceeds the amount in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section multiplied by the number of calendar days that occur during the time period the directed fishery is open in that reporting area.

(3) *Tender vessel restrictions for pollock.* (i) Operate as a tender vessel east of 157°00' W long. for pollock harvested in the GOA.

(ii) Operate as a tender vessel west of 157°00' W long. while retaining on board at any time more than 600,000 lb (272 mt) of unprocessed pollock.

(c) *Prohibitions specific to BSAI* —(1) *Incidental salmon.* Discard any salmon taken incidental to a directed fishery for BSAI groundfish by vessels using trawl gear until notified by an observer that the number of salmon has been determined and the collection of any scientific data or biological samples has been completed as provided in §679.21(c)(1).

(2) *Prohibited species.* Conduct any fishing contrary to a notification issued under §679.21.

(d) *CDQ.* (1) Participate in a Western Alaska CDQ program in violation of this part.

(2) Fail to submit, submit inaccurate information on, or intentionally submit false information on any report, application, or statement required under this part.

(3) Participate as a community in more than one CDP, unless the second CDP is for vessels fishing halibut CDQ only.

(4) Harvest groundfish CDQ on behalf of a CDQ group with a vessel that is not listed as an eligible vessel for that CDQ group.

(5) For a CDQ group, exceed a CDQ or a halibut PSQ.

(6) For the operator of an eligible vessel, use trawl gear to harvest groundfish CDQ in Zone 1 after the CDQ group's red king crab PSQ or *C. bairdi* Tanner crab PSQ in Zone 1 is attained.

(7) For the operator of an eligible vessel, use trawl gear to harvest groundfish CDQ in Zone 2 after the CDQ group's PSQ for *C. bairdi* Tanner crab in Zone 2 is attained.

(8) For the operator of an eligible vessel, use trawl gear to harvest groundfish CDQ in the *C. opilio* Bycatch Limitation Zone after the CDQ group's PSQ for *C. opilio* Tanner crab is attained.

(9) For the operator of an eligible vessel, use trawl gear to harvest pollock CDQ in the Chinook Salmon Savings Area between January 1 and April 15, and between September 1 and December 31, after the CDQ group's Chinook salmon PSQ is attained, unless the vessel is participating in a salmon bycatch reduction ICA under §679.21(e)(7)(ix).

(10) For the operator of an eligible vessel, use trawl gear to harvest pollock CDQ in the Chum Salmon Savings Area between September 1 and October 14 after the CDQ group's non-Chinook salmon PSQ is attained, unless the vessel is participating in a salmon bycatch reduction ICA under §679.21(e)(7)(ix).

(11) For the operator of a catcher vessel using trawl gear or any vessel less than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA that is groundfish CDQ fishing as defined at §679.2, discard any groundfish CDQ species or salmon PSQ before it is delivered to a processor unless discard of the groundfish CDQ is required under other provisions or, in waters within the State of Alaska, discard is required by laws of the State of Alaska.

(12) For the operator of a vessel using trawl gear, release CDQ catch from the codend before it is brought on board the vessel and weighed on a scale approved by NMFS under §679.28(b) or delivered to a processor. This includes, but is not limited to, “codend dumping” and “codend bleeding.”

(13)–(14) [Reserved]

(15) For the operator of a catcher/processor or a catcher vessel required to carry a level 2 observer, combine catch from two or more CDQ groups in the same haul or set.

(16) [Reserved]

(17) For the operator of a catcher/processor using trawl gear or a mothership, harvest or take deliveries of CDQ or PSQ species without a valid scale inspection report signed by an authorized scale inspector under §679.28(b)(2) on board the vessel.

(18) For the operator of a vessel required to have an observer sampling station described at §679.28(d), harvest or take deliveries of CDQ or PSQ species without a valid observer sampling station inspection report issued by NMFS under §679.28(d)(8) on board the vessel.

(19) For the operator of a catcher/processor using trawl gear or a mothership, sort, process, or discard CDQ or PSQ species before the total catch is weighed on a scale that meets the requirements of §679.28(b), including the daily test requirements described at §679.28(b)(3).

(20) For the manager of a shoreside processor, stationary floating processor or the manager or operator of a buying station that is required elsewhere in this part to weigh catch on a scale approved by the State of Alaska under §679.28(c), fail to weigh catch on a scale that meets the requirements of §679.28(c).

(21) For a CDQ representative, use methods other than those approved by NMFS to determine the catch of CDQ and PSQ reported to NMFS on the CDQ catch report.

(22) For a CDQ group, report catch of sablefish CDQ for accrual against the fixed gear sablefish CDQ reserve if that sablefish CDQ was caught with fishing gear other than fixed gear.

(23) For any person on a vessel using fixed gear that is fishing for a CDQ group with an allocation of fixed gear sablefish CDQ, discard sablefish harvested with fixed gear unless retention of sablefish is not authorized under 50 CFR 679.23(e)(4)(ii) or, in waters within the State of Alaska, discard is required by laws of the State of Alaska.

(24) Fail to comply with the requirements of a CDP.

(25) For a CDQ group, exceed a seasonal allowance of Pacific cod under §679.20(a)(7)(i)(B).

(e) [Reserved]

(f) *IFQ fisheries.* (1) Fail to submit, or submit inaccurate information on, any report, application, or statement required under this part.

(2) Intentionally submit false information on any report, application, or statement required under this part.

(3)(i) *Halibut* . (A) Retain halibut caught with fixed gear without a valid IFQ permit, and if using a hired master, without an IFQ hired master permit in the name of an individual aboard.

(B) Retain halibut caught with fixed gear without a valid CDQ permit and without a CDQ hired master permit in the name of an individual aboard.

(ii) *Sablefish* . Retain sablefish caught with fixed gear without a valid IFQ permit, and if using a hired master, without an IFQ hired master permit in the name of an individual aboard, unless fishing on behalf of a CDQ group and authorized under §679.32(c).

(4) Except as provided in §679.40(d), retain IFQ or CDQ halibut or IFQ or CDQ sablefish on a vessel in excess of the total amount of unharvested IFQ or CDQ, applicable to the vessel category and IFQ or CDQ regulatory area(s) in which the vessel is deploying fixed gear, and that is currently held by all IFQ or CDQ permit holders aboard the vessel, unless the vessel has an observer aboard under subpart E of this part and maintains the applicable daily fishing log prescribed in the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of this title and §679.5.

(5) Possess, buy, sell, or transport IFQ or CDQ halibut or IFQ sablefish harvested or landed in violation of any provision of this part.

(6) *Landing* —(i) IFQ permit or IFQ hired master permit. Make an IFQ landing without an IFQ permit or IFQ hired master permit, as appropriate, in the name of the individual making the landing.

(ii) Hired master, CDQ. Make a CDQ halibut landing without a CDQ hired master permit listing the name of the hired master.

(iii) *Hired master, CDQ halibut.* Make a CDQ halibut landing without a CDQ hired master permit listing the name of the hired master.

(7) Possess on a vessel or land IFQ sablefish concurrently with non-IFQ sablefish, except that CDQ sablefish may be possessed on a vessel and landed concurrently with IFQ sablefish.

(8) Discard:

(i) In the GOA:

(A) Rockfish that are taken when IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish are on board unless rockfish are required to be discarded under subpart B of this part.

(B) Pacific cod that are taken when IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish are on board unless Pacific cod are required to be discarded under subpart B of this part, or Pacific cod are not authorized to be retained under subpart A of this part.

(ii) In the BSAI:

(A) Rockfish that are taken when IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish are on board unless rockfish are required to be discarded under subpart B of this part.

(B) Pacific cod that are taken when IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish are on board according to the following table:

If the vessel operator . . .	Then . . .
(*1*) has an LLP groundfish license with a Pacific cod endorsement that meets the requirements of §679.4(k)(9).	Pacific cod must not be discarded unless Pacific cod are required to be discarded under subpart B of this part, or Pacific cod are not authorized to be retained under subpart A of this part.
(*2*) does not have an LLP groundfish license with a Pacific cod endorsement that meets the requirements of §679.4(k)(9).	Pacific cod must not be discarded up to the retainable amount specified in Table 11 of this part unless Pacific cod are required to be discarded under subpart B of this part, or Pacific cod are not authorized to be retained under subpart A of this part.

(iii) In the waters within the State of Alaska:

(A) Rockfish that are taken when IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish are on board unless rockfish are required to be discarded by the laws of the State of Alaska.

(B) Pacific cod that are taken when IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish are on board unless Pacific cod are required to be discarded by the laws of the State of Alaska.

(9) Harvest on any vessel more IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish than are authorized under §679.42.

(10) Make an IFQ halibut, IFQ sablefish, or CDQ halibut landing other than directly to (or by) a registered buyer.

(11) Discard halibut or sablefish caught with fixed gear from any catcher vessel when any IFQ permit holder aboard holds unused halibut or sablefish IFQ for that vessel category and the IFQ regulatory area in which the vessel is operating, unless:

(i) Discard of halibut is required as prescribed in the annual management measures published in the Federal Register pursuant to §300.62 of chapter III of this title;

(ii) Discard of sablefish is required under §679.20 or, in waters within the State of Alaska, discard of sablefish is required under laws of the State of Alaska; or

(iii) Discard of halibut or sablefish is required under other provisions.

(12) Commence an IFQ landing without a Prior Notice of Landing (PNOL), before the date and time stated on the PNOL, or more than 2 hours after the date and time stated on the PNOL, except as provided in §679.5(l)(1).

(13) [Reserved]

(14) Violate any other provision under this part.

(15) Hire a master to fish for IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish that is derived from QS held by a CQE.

(16) Process IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish onboard a vessel on which a person is using IFQ derived from QS held by a CQE.

(g) *Groundfish Observer Program.* (1) Forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with an observer.

(2) Interfere with or bias the sampling procedure employed by an observer, including physical, mechanical, or other sorting or discarding of catch before sampling.

(3) Tamper with, destroy, or discard an observer's collected samples, equipment, records, photographic film, papers, or personal effects without the express consent of the observer.

(4) Prohibit or bar by command, impediment, threat, coercion, or by refusal of reasonable assistance, an observer from collecting samples, conducting product recovery rate determinations, making observations, or otherwise performing the observer's duties.

(5) Harass an observer by conduct that has sexual connotations, has the purpose or effect of interfering with the observer's work performance, or otherwise creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. In determining whether conduct constitutes harassment, the totality of the circumstances, including the nature of the conduct and the context in which it occurred, will be considered. The determination of the legality of a particular action will be made from the facts on a case-by-case basis.

(6) Fish for or process fish without observer coverage required under subpart E of this part.

(7) Require, pressure, coerce, or threaten an observer to perform duties normally performed by crew members, including, but not limited to, cooking, washing dishes, standing watch, vessel maintenance, assisting with the setting or retrieval of gear, or any duties associated with the processing of fish, from sorting the catch to the storage of the finished product.

(h) *Salmon fisheries.* (1) Fish for, take, or retain any salmon in violation of this part.

(2) Engage in fishing for salmon in the Salmon Management Area defined at §679.2 and Figure 23 to this part, except to the extent authorized by §679.4(h) or applicable State of Alaska regulations.

(i) *License Limitation Program* —(1) *Number of licenses.* (i) Hold more than 10 groundfish licenses in the name of that person at any time, except as provided in paragraph (i)(1)(iii) of this section;

(ii) Hold more than five crab species licenses in the name of that person at any time, except as provided in paragraph (i)(1)(iii) of this section; or

(iii) Hold more licenses than allowed in paragraphs (i)(1)(i) and (i)(1)(ii) of this section unless those licenses were issued to that person in the initial distribution of licenses. Any person who receives in the initial distribution more licenses than allowed in paragraphs (i)(1)(i) and (i)(1)(ii) of this section shall have no transfer applications for receipt of additional licenses approved until the number of licenses in the name of that person is less than the numbers specified in paragraphs (i)(1)(i) and (i)(1)(ii) of this section; furthermore, when a person becomes eligible to receive licenses by transfer through the provisions of this paragraph, that person is subject to the provisions in paragraphs (i)(1)(i) and (i)(1)(ii) of this section;

(iv) Hold more than two scallop licenses in the name of that person at any time.

(2) Conduct directed fishing for license limitation groundfish without a legible copy of a valid groundfish license, except as provided in §679.4(k)(2);

(3) Conduct directed fishing for LLP crab species without a legible copy of a valid crab license, except as provided in §679.4(k)(2);

(4) Process license limitation groundfish on board a vessel without a legible copy of a valid groundfish license with a catcher/processor designation;

(5) Process LLP crab species on board a vessel without a legible copy of a valid crab species LLP license with a catcher/processor designation;

(6) Use a vessel to fish for LLP groundfish or crab species, or allow a vessel to be used to fish for LLP groundfish or crab species, that has an LOA that exceeds the MLOA specified on the license that authorizes fishing for LLP groundfish or crab species.

(7) Lease a groundfish, crab species, or scallop license; or

(8) Catch and retain scallops:

(i) Without a copy of a valid scallop license on board;

(ii) Using a vessel with a MLOA greater than that specified on the scallop license; or

(iii) Using dredge gear contrary to a gear limitation specified on the scallop license.

(9) Use a vessel to fish for LLP groundfish or crab species, or allow a vessel to be used to fish for LLP groundfish or crab species, other than the vessel named on the license that authorizes fishing for LLP groundfish or crab species.

(j) *Prohibitions specific to the GOA* (applicable through December 31, 2002)—(1) *Southeast Outside trawl closure.* Use any gear other than non-trawl gear in the GOA east of 140° W long.

(2) *Catcher vessel trip limit for pollock.* Retain on board a catcher vessel at any time during a trip, more than 300,000 lb (136 mt) of unprocessed pollock.

(3) *Tender vessel restrictions for pollock.* (i) Operate as a tender vessel east of 157°00' W long. for pollock harvested in the GOA.

(ii) Operate as a tender vessel west of 157°00' W long. while retaining on board at any time more than 600,000 lb (272 mt) of unprocessed pollock.

(k) *Prohibitions specific to the AFA.* It is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(1) *Catcher/processors* —(i) *Permit requirement.* Use a catcher/processor to engage in directed fishing for non-CDQ BSAI pollock without a valid AFA catcher/processor permit on board the vessel.

(ii) *Fishing in the GOA.* Use a listed AFA catcher/processor to harvest any species of fish in the GOA.

(iii) *Processing BSAI crab.* Use a listed AFA catcher/processor to process any crab species harvested in the BSAI.

(iv) *Processing GOA groundfish.* Use a listed AFA catcher/processor to process any pollock harvested in a directed pollock fishery in the GOA and any groundfish harvested in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA.

(v) *Directed fishing after a sideboard closure.* Use a listed AFA catcher/processor to engage in directed fishing for a groundfish species or species group in the BSAI after the Regional Administrator has issued an AFA catcher/processor sideboard directed fishing closure for that groundfish species or species group under §679.20(d)(1)(iv) or §679.21(e)(3)(v).

(vi) *Catch weighing* —(A) *Listed AFA catcher/processors.* Process any groundfish that was not weighed on a NMFS-approved scale that complies with the requirements of §679.28(b). Catch may not be sorted before it is weighed and each haul must be sampled by an observer for species composition.

(B) Unlisted AFA catcher/processors. Process groundfish harvested in the BSAI pollock fishery that was not weighed on a NMFS-approved scale that complies with the requirements of §679.28(b). Catch may not be sorted before it is weighed and each haul must be sampled by an observer for species composition.

(vii) *Observer sampling station* —(A) *Listed AFA catcher/processors.* Process any groundfish without an observer sampling station as described at §679.28(d). A valid observer sampling station inspection report must be on board at all times when an observer sampling station is required.

(B) *Unlisted AFA catcher/processors.* Process groundfish harvested in the BSAI pollock fishery without an observer sampling station as described at §679.28(d). A valid observer sampling station inspection report must be on board at all times when an observer sampling station is required.

(2) *Motherships* —(i) *Permit requirement.* Use a mothership to process pollock harvested in a non-CDQ directed fishery for pollock in the BSAI without a valid AFA permit on board the mothership.

(ii) [Reserved]

(iii) *Catch weighing.* Process any groundfish that was not weighed on a NMFS-approved scale that complies with the requirements of §679.28(b). Catch may not be sorted before it is weighed and each delivery must be sampled by an observer for species composition.

(iv) *Observer sampling station.* Process any groundfish without an observer sampling station as described at §679.28(d). A valid observer sampling station inspection report must be on board at all times when an observer sampling station is required.

(3) *AFA inshore processors* —(i) *Permit requirement.* Use a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor to process pollock harvested in a non-CDQ directed fishery for pollock in the BS without a valid AFA inshore processor permit at the facility or on board vessel.

(ii) *Cooperative processing endorsement.* Use a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor required to have an AFA inshore processor permit to process groundfish harvested by a fishery cooperative formed under §679.62 unless the AFA inshore processor permit contains a valid cooperative pollock processing endorsement.

(iii) [Reserved]

(iv) *Single geographic location requirement* . Use an AFA inshore processor to process pollock harvested in the BS directed pollock fishery at a location other than the single geographic location defined as follows:

(A) *Shoreside processors* . The physical location at which the land-based shoreside processor first processed BS pollock harvested in the BS directed pollock fishery during a fishing year.

(B) *Stationary floating processor (SFP).* A geographic position within State of Alaska waters of the BS subarea and that is within a 5 nm radius of the latitude and longitude reported in the check–in and check–out reports at §679.5(h)(5)(ix)(B). An AFA SFP cannot change its single geographic location more than four times within State of Alaska waters in the BS subarea to process pollock harvested in a BS subarea directed pollock fishery during a fishing year and cannot use more than one single geographic location during a reporting week.

(v) *Catch weighing.* Process any groundfish that was not weighed on a scale approved by the State of Alaska and meeting the requirements specified in §679.28(c).

(vi) *Catch monitoring and control plan (CMCP).* Take deliveries or process groundfish delivered by a vessel engaged in directed fishing for BSAI pollock without following an approved CMCP as described at §679.28(g). A copy of the CMCP must be maintained on the premises and made available to authorized officers or NMFS-authorized personnel upon request.

(vii) *Restrictions for GOA Pacific cod and GOA pollock.* Use an AFA SFP to process GOA pollock or GOA Pacific cod in any location other than the location at which either GOA pollock or GOA Pacific cod were first processed by that SFP in the year 2002.

(4) *Catcher vessels* —(i) *Permit requirement.* Use a catcher vessel to engage in directed fishing for non-CDQ BS pollock for delivery to any AFA processing sector (catcher/processor, mothership, or inshore) unless the vessel has a valid AFA catcher vessel permit on board that includes an endorsement for the sector of the BS pollock fishery in which the vessel is participating.

(ii) [Reserved]

(iii) *Groundfish sideboard closures.* Use an AFA catcher vessel to engage in directed fishing for a groundfish species or species group in the BSAI or GOA after the Regional Administrator has issued an AFA catcher vessel sideboard directed fishing closure for that groundfish species or species group under §679.20(d)(1)(iv), §679.21(d)(8) or §679.21(e)(3)(iv), if the vessel's AFA permit does not contain a sideboard exemption for that groundfish species or species group.

(5) *AFA inshore fishery cooperatives* —(i) *Overages by vessel* . Use an AFA catcher vessel listed on an AFA inshore cooperative fishing permit, or under contract to a fishery cooperative under §679.62(c), to harvest non-CDQ BS pollock in excess of the fishery cooperative's annual allocation of pollock specified under §679.62.

(ii) *Overages by fishery cooperative* . An inshore pollock fishery cooperative is prohibited from exceeding its annual allocation of BS pollock TAC.

(6) *Excessive harvesting shares* . It is unlawful for an AFA entity to harvest, through a fishery cooperative or otherwise, an amount of BS pollock that exceeds the 17.5 percent excessive share limit specified under §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*6*). The owners and operators of the individual vessels comprising the AFA entity that harvests BS pollock will be held jointly and severally liable for exceeding the excessive harvesting share limit.

(7) *Excessive processing shares* . It is unlawful for an AFA entity to process an amount of BS pollock that exceeds the 30–percent excessive share limit specified under §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(*7*). The owners and operators of the individual processors comprising the AFA entity that processes BS pollock will be held jointly and severally liable for exceeding the excessive processing share limit.

(l) *Prohibitions specific to the AI directed pollock fishery* —(1) *Catcher/processors* . (i) Use a catcher/processor vessel to harvest pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery or process pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery without a copy of NMFS' approval letter on board pursuant to §679.4(m).

(ii) Process any pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery without complying with catch weighing and observer sampling station requirements set forth at paragraphs (k)(1)(vi) and (k)(1)(vii) of this section, respectively.

(iii) Use a catcher/processor to harvest pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery or process pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery without a valid AFA catcher/processor permit on board the vessel.

(2) *Motherships* . (i) Use a mothership to process pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery without a copy of NMFS' approval letter on board pursuant to §679.4(m).

(ii) Process any pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery without complying with catch weighing and observer sampling station requirements set forth at paragraphs (k)(2)(iii) and (k)(2)(iv) of this section, respectively.

(iii) Use a mothership to process pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery without a valid AFA mothership permit on board the vessel.

(3) Shoreside and stationary floating processors. (i) Use a shoreside processor or stationary floating processor to process pollock harvested in the in AI directed pollock fishery without a copy of NMFS' approval letter on location pursuant to §679.4(m).

(ii) Process any pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery without complying with catch weighing requirements set forth at paragraph (k)(3)(v) of this section.

(iii) Take deliveries of pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery or process pollock harvested in the AI pollock fishery without following an approved CMCP as described in §679.28(g). A copy of the CMCP must be maintained on the premises and made available to authorized officers or NMFS-authorized personnel upon request.

(4) *Catcher vessels* . (i) Use a catcher vessel to harvest pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery without a copy of NMFS' approval letter on board pursuant to §679.4(m).

(ii) Have on board at any one time pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery and pollock harvested from either the Bering Sea subarea or the Gulf of Alaska.

(iii) Use a catcher vessel to deliver pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery:

(A) To a shoreside or stationary floating processor that does not have an approved CMCP pursuant to §679.28(g) and is not approved by NMFS to process pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery, or

(B) To a catcher/processor or mothership that is not approved by NMFS to process pollock harvested in the AI directed pollock fishery.

(iv) Use a catcher vessel greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA to harvest pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery unless the vessel has a valid AFA catcher vessel permit on board.

(5) *AI directed pollock fishery overages* . (i) Use a catcher vessel selected by the Aleut Corporation and approved by NMFS to participate in the AI directed pollock fishery under §679.4(m) to harvest pollock in the AI directed pollock fishery in excess of the Aleut Corporation's annual or seasonal allocations of pollock or in excess of the vessel allocation specified under §679.20(a)(5)(iii).

(ii) The Aleut Corporation is prohibited from exceeding its annual and seasonal allocations of AI pollock TAC or from exceeding the allocation to vessels, as specified in §679.20(a)(5)(iii).

(m) *Prohibitions specific to GRS.* (Effective January 20, 2008). It is unlawful for either the owner or operator of a catcher/processor not listed in §679.4(l)(2)(i) not assigned to an Amendment 80 cooperative and using trawl gear in the BSAI, or an Amendment 80 cooperative to:

(1) Retain an amount of groundfish during a fishing year that is less than the amount of groundfish required to be retained under the GRS described at §679.27(j).

(2) Fail to submit, submit inaccurate information, or intentionally submit false information, on any report, application or statement required under this part.

(3) Process or discard any catch not weighed on a NMFS-approved scale that complies with the requirements of §679.28(b). Catch must not be sorted before it is weighed and each haul must be available to be sampled by an observer for species composition.

(4) Process any groundfish without an observer sampling station that complies with §679.28(d).

(5) Combine catch from two or more hauls.

(6) Receive deliveries of unsorted catch at any time during a fishing year without complying with §679.27(j)(5), if the vessel is required to comply with §679.27(j)(1) at any time during the same fishing year.

(n) *Rockfish Program* —(1) *General.* (i) Fail to retain any primary rockfish species caught by a vessel that is assigned to a rockfish cooperative when that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit.

(ii) Fail to retain any primary rockfish species in the Central GOA caught by a vessel assigned to a rockfish limited access fishery, or to a rockfish entry level fishery, when that fishery is open.

(iii) Fail to retain any secondary species caught by a vessel assigned to a rockfish cooperative when that vessel is fishing under a CQ permit.

(iv) Use an LLP license assigned to a Rockfish Program fishery in any other Rockfish Program fishery other than the Rockfish Program fishery to which that LLP license was initially assigned for that fishing year.

(v) Operate a vessel assigned to a Rockfish Program Fishery in any other Rockfish Program fishery other than the Rockfish Program fishery to which that vessel was initially assigned for that fishing year.

(vi) Receive any primary rockfish species harvested in the entry level rockfish fishery if that person is an eligible rockfish processor.

(vii) Harvest any primary rockfish species in the entry level rockfish fishery if that person is an eligible rockfish harvester.

(viii) Harvest primary rockfish species, secondary species, or use halibut PSC assigned to a rockfish cooperative without a valid CQ permit.

(2) *Vessels operators participating in the Rockfish Program.* (i) Operate a vessel that is assigned to a rockfish cooperative and fishing under a CQ permit and fail to follow the catch monitoring requirements detailed at §679.84(c) through (e) from May 1:

(A) Until November 15; or

(B) Until that rockfish cooperative has submitted a rockfish cooperative termination of fishing declaration that has been approved by NMFS.

(ii) Operate a vessel that is assigned to a rockfish limited access fishery and fail to follow the catch monitoring requirements detailed at §679.84(c) through (e) from July 1:

(A) Until November 15; or

(B) Until NMFS closes all directed fishing for all primary rockfish species for that rockfish limited access fishery for that sector.

(iii) Operate a vessel, other than a catcher/processor vessel assigned to the opt–out fishery, that is subject to a sideboard limit detailed at §679.82(d) through (h), as applicable, and fail to follow the catch monitoring requirements detailed at §679.84(c) through (e) from July 1 until July 31, if that vessel is harvesting fish in the West Yakutat District, Central GOA, or Western GOA management areas.

(iv) Operate a catcher/processor vessel assigned to the opt–out fishery, that is subject to a sideboard limit detailed at §679.82(d) through (h), as applicable, and fail to follow the catch monitoring requirements detailed at §679.84(d) from July 1 until July 31, if that vessel is harvesting fish in the West Yakutat District, Central GOA, or Western GOA management areas.

(3) *VMS.* (i) Operate a vessel that is assigned to a rockfish cooperative and fail to use functioning VMS equipment as described at §679.28(f) at all times when operating in a reporting area off Alaska from May 1:

(A) Until November 15; or

(B) Until that rockfish cooperative has submitted a rockfish cooperative termination of fishing declaration that has been approved by NMFS.

(ii) Operate a vessel that is assigned to a rockfish limited access fishery and fail to use functioning VMS equipment as described at §679.28(f) at all times when operating in a reporting area off Alaska from July 1:

(A) Until November 15; or

(B) Until NMFS closes all directed fishing for all primary rockfish species for that rockfish limited access fishery for that sector.

(iii) Operate a vessel that is subject to a sideboard limit detailed at §679.82(d) through (h), as applicable, and fail to use functioning VMS equipment as described at §679.28(f) at all times when operating in a reporting area off Alaska from July 1 until July 31.

(iv) Operate a vessel assigned to the rockfish entry level fishery for trawl gear and fail to use functioning VMS equipment as described at §679.28(f) at all times when operating in a reporting area off Alaska from July 1:

(A) Until November 15; or

(B) Until NMFS closes all directed fishing for all primary rockfish species for the rockfish entry level fishery for trawl gear.

(4) *Catcher/processor vessels participating in the opt–out fishery.* Operate a vessel that is assigned to the opt–out fishery to directed fish for northern rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, or pelagic shelf rockfish in the Central GOA.

(5) *Shoreside and stationary floating processors eligible for the Rockfish Program* —(i) *Catch weighing.* Process any groundfish delivered by a vessel assigned to a Rockfish Program fishery, or subject to a sideboard limit not weighed on a scale approved by the State of Alaska. The scale must meet the requirements specified in §679.28(c).

(ii) *Catch monitoring and control plan (CMCP).* Take deliveries of, or process, groundfish caught by a vessel in a rockfish cooperative or the rockfish limited access fishery as detailed under this subpart without following an approved CMCP as described at §679.28(g). A copy of the CMCP must be maintained at the facility and made available to authorized officers or NMFS-authorized personnel upon request.

(iii) *Delivery location limitations.* Receive or process outside of the geographic boundaries of the community that is designated on the permit issued by NMFS to the eligible rockfish processor any groundfish caught by a vessel while that vessel is harvesting groundfish under a CQ permit or in a rockfish limited access fishery.

(6) *Catcher vessels participating in the Rockfish Program.* Deliver groundfish harvested by a catcher vessel fishing under a CQ permit or in a rockfish limited access fishery to a shoreside or stationary floating processor that is not operating under an approved CMCP pursuant to §679.28(g).

(7) *Rockfish cooperatives.* (i) Begin a fishing trip for any Rockfish Program species with any vessel assigned to a Rockfish cooperative if the total amount of unharvested CQ that is currently held by that Rockfish cooperative is zero or less for any species for which CQ is assigned.

(ii) Exceed any sideboard limit assigned to a rockfish cooperative in the catcher/processor sector.

(iii) Operate a vessel assigned to a rockfish cooperative to fish under a CQ permit unless the rockfish cooperative has notified NMFS that the vessel is fishing under a CQ permit as described under §679.5(r)(10).

(iv) Operate a vessel fishing under the authority of a CQ permit in the catcher vessel sector and to have any Pacific ocean perch, pelagic shelf rockfish, northern rockfish, sablefish, thornyhead rockfish, aboard the vessel unless those fish were harvested under the authority of a CQ permit.

(v) Operate a vessel fishing under the authority of a CQ permit in the catcher vessel sector and to have any Pacific cod aboard the vessel unless those fish were harvested under the authority of a CQ permit.

(vi) Have a negative balance in a CQ account for any species for which CQ is assigned after the end of the calendar year for which a CQ permit was issued.

(8) *Use caps.* Exceed the use caps that apply under §679.82(a).

(o) *Amendment 80 Program* —(1) *Amendment 80 vessels.* (i) Use any vessel other than an Amendment 80 vessel to catch any amount of Amendment 80 species, crab PSC, or halibut PSC assigned to the Amendment 80 sector.

(ii) Use an Amendment 80 vessel to catch any amount of Amendment 80 species, crab PSC, or halibut PSC assigned to the BSAI trawl limited access sector.

(2) *Amendment 80 LLP license.* (i) Designate any vessel other than an Amendment 80 vessel on an Amendment 80 LLP license;

(ii) Fail to designate an Amendment 80 vessel on an Amendment 80 LLP license that is endorsed for groundfish in the Bering Sea subarea or Aleutian Islands subarea with a catcher/processor designation at all times during a calendar year unless that Amendment 80 vessel has suffered an actual total loss, constructive total loss, or is permanently ineligible to receive a fishery endorsement under 46 U.S.C. 12108.

(3) *Amendment 80 QS permit.* (i) Hold an Amendment 80 QS permit assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel if that person does not hold an Amendment 80 LLP license that designates that Amendment 80 vessel.

(ii) Hold an Amendment 80 QS permit that is assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel under §679.4(o)(1) if that person is not designated as the owner of that Amendment 80 vessel by an abstract of title or USCG documentation.

(iii) Hold an Amendment 80 QS permit assigned to an Amendment 80 vessel if that Amendment 80 vessel has suffered an actual total loss, constructive total loss, or is permanently ineligible to receive a fishery endorsement under 46 U.S.C. 12108 after October 15 in the calendar year following the date of that actual total loss, constructive total loss, or permanent ineligibility to receive a fishery endorsement under 46 U.S.C. 12108.

(4) *Amendment 80 cooperatives.* (i) Use an Amendment 80 vessel, Amendment 80 LLP license, or Amendment 80 QS permit not assigned to an Amendment 80 cooperative for a calendar year to catch any Amendment 80 species, crab PSC, or halibut PSC assigned to that Amendment 80 cooperative during that calendar year;

(ii) Use an Amendment 80 vessel assigned to an Amendment 80 cooperative for a calendar year to receive or process catch from any Amendment 80 vessel not assigned to that Amendment 80 cooperative for that calendar year.

(iii) Catch, process, or receive Amendment 80 species assigned to an Amendment 80 cooperative in the BSAI or adjacent waters open by the State of Alaska for which it adopts a Federal fishing season without a copy of a valid Amendment 80 CQ permit onboard unless that Amendment 80 vessel is using dredge gear while directed fishing for scallops.

(iv) Retain an amount of groundfish during a fishing year that is less than the amount of groundfish required to be retained by an Amendment 80 cooperative under the GRS described at §679.27(j).

(v) Begin a fishing trip for any Amendment 80 species with any vessel assigned to an Amendment 80 cooperative if the total amount of unharvested CQ that is currently held by that Amendment 80 cooperative is zero or less for any species for which CQ is assigned.

(vi) Have a negative balance in a CQ account for any species for which CQ is assigned after the end of the calendar year for which a CQ permit was issued.

(5) *Amendment 80 limited access fishery.* (i) Use an Amendment 80 vessel, Amendment 80 LLP license, or Amendment 80 QS permit not assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery for a calendar year to catch any Amendment 80 species, crab PSC, or halibut PSC assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access sector during that calendar year;

(ii) Use an Amendment 80 vessel assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery for a calendar year to receive or process catch from any Amendment 80 vessel not assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery for that calendar year;

(iii) Catch, process, or receive Amendment 80 species assigned to the Amendment 80 limited access fishery in the BSAI or adjacent waters open by the State of Alaska for which it adopts a Federal fishing season without a copy of a valid Amendment 80 limited access fishery permit onboard unless that Amendment 80 vessel is using dredge gear while directed fishing for scallops.

(6) *Catch monitoring.* (i) Operate an Amendment 80 vessel using any gear but dredge gear while directed fishing for scallops or a catcher/processor not listed in §679.4(l)(2)(i) and using trawl gear, to catch, process, or receive fish in the BSAI or adjacent waters opened by the State of Alaska for which it adopts a Federal fishing season and fail to follow the catch monitoring requirements detailed at §679.93(a), (b), and (c).

(ii) Operate an Amendment 80 vessel using any gear but dredge gear while directed fishing for scallops that is subject to a sideboard limit detailed at §679.92(b) and (c), as applicable, in the GOA or adjacent waters open by the State of Alaska for which it adopts a Federal fishing season, and fail to follow the catch monitoring requirements detailed at §679.93(a), (b), and (d).

(7) *Use caps.* Exceed the use caps that apply under §679.92(a).

(8) *Economic data report (EDR):* Fail to submit a timely and complete EDR as described under §679.94.

(p) *Arctic Management Area* . Conduct commercial fishing for any Arctic fish in the Arctic Management Area.

[61 FR 31230, June 19, 1996]

Editorial Note: For Federal Register citations affecting §679.7, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 679.8 Facilitation of enforcement.

See §600.730 of this chapter.

§ 679.9 Penalties.

See §600.735 of this chapter.

TITLE II – FISHERIES[1]

SEC. 201. Short Title. This title may be cited as the "American Fisheries Act".

SEC. 202. Standard for Fishery Endorsements.

(a) **Standard.** Section 1202(c) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows--

"(c)(1) A vessel owned by a corporation, partnership, association, trust, joint venture, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or any other entity is not eligible for a fishery endorsement under section 12108 of this title unless at least 75 per centum of the interest in such entity, at each tier of ownership of such entity and in the aggregate, is owned and controlled by citizens of the United States.

"(2) The Secretary shall apply section 2(c) of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 App. U.S.C. 802(c)) in determining under this subsection whether at least 75 per centum of the interest in a corporation, partnership, association, trust, joint venture, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or another entity is owned and controlled by citizens of the united States. For the purposes of this subsection and of applying the restrictions on controlling interest in section 2(c) of such Act, the terms "control" or "controlled"—

"(A) shall include—

"(i) the right to direct the business of the entity which owns the vessel;

"(ii) the right to limit the actions of or replace the chief executive officer, a majority of the board of directors, any general partner, or any person serving in a management capacity of the entity which owns the vessel; or

"(iii) the right to direct the transfer, operation or manning of a vessel with a fishery endorsement; and

"(B) shall not include the right to simply participate in the activities under subparagraph (A), or the use by a mortgagee under paragraph (4) of loan covenants approved by the Secretary.

"(3) A fishery endorsement for a vessel that is chartered or leased to an individual who is not a citizen of the United States or to an entity that is not eligible to own a vessel with a fishery endorsement and used as fishing vessel shall be invalid immediately upon such use.

"(4)(A) An individual or entity that is otherwise eligible to own a vessel with a fishery endorsement shall be ineligible by reason of an instrument or evidence of

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[1] Enacted as Title II of Division C – Other Matters, of Public Law 105-277, approved October 21, 1998 (112 STAT. 2681, 2681-616), the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999.

Section 120 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999, set forth in Public Law 105-277, approved October 21, 1999 (112 STAT. 2681, 2681-545), the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, provides in part: "For carrying out the provisions of division C, title II of this Act . . . $6,000,000 and $2,000,000 for the Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transportation, respectively, to implement division C, title II." Section 624 of Public Law 106-113, Appendix A, approved November 29, 1999 (113 STAT. 1501A-59) the Commerce, State, Justice and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, provides: "Sec. 624. Funds made available under Public Law 105-277 for costs associated with implementation of the American Fisheries Act of 1998 (division C, title II, of Public Law 105-255) for vessel documentation activities shall remain available until expended."

indebtedness, secured by a mortgage of the vessel to a trustee eligible to own a vessel with a fishery endorsement that is issued, assigned, transferred or held in trust for a person not eligible to own a vessel with a fishery endorsement, unless the Secretary determines that the issuance, assignment, transfer, or trust arrangement does not result in an impermissible transfer of control of the vessel and that the trustee—

"(i) is organized as a corporation, and is doing business, under the laws of the United States or of a State;

"(ii) is authorized under those laws to exercise corporate trust powers;

"(iii) is subject to supervision or examination by an official of the United States Government or a State;

"(iv) has a combined capital and surplus (as stated in its most recent published report of condition) of at least $3,000,000; and

"(v) meets any other requirements prescribed by the Secretary.

"(B) A vessel with a fishery endorsement may be operated by a trustee only with the approval of the Secretary.

"(C) A right under a mortgage of a vessel with a fishery endorsement may be issued, assigned, or transferred to a person not eligible to be a mortgagee of that vessel under section 31322(a)(4) of this title only with the approval of the Secretary.

"(D) The issuance, assignment, or transfer of an instrument or evidence of indebtedness contrary to this paragraph is voidable by the Secretary.

"(5) The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to a vessel when it is engaged in fisheries in the exclusive economic zone under the authority of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council established under section 302(1)(1)(H) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)(H) or to a purse seine vessel when it is engaged in tuna fishing in the Pacific Ocean outside the exclusive economic zone of the United States or pursuant to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Treaty, provided that the owner of the vessel continues to comply with the eligibility requirements for a fishery endorsement under the federal law that was in effect on October 1, 1998. A fishery endorsement issued by the Secretary pursuant to this paragraph shall be valid for engaging only in fisheries in the exclusive economic zone under the authority of such Council, in such tuna fishing in the Pacific Ocean, or pursuant to such Treaty.

"(6) A vessel greater than 165 feet in registered length, of more than 750 gross registered tons, or that has an engine or engines capably of producing a total of more than 3,000 shaft horsepower is not eligible for a fishery endorsement under section 1208 of this title unless—

"(A)(i) a certificate of documentation was issued for the vessel and endorsed with a fishery endorsement that was effective on September 25, 1997;

"(ii) the vessel is not placed under foreign registry after the date of the enactment of the American Fisheries Act; and

(iii) in the event of the invalidation of the fishery endorsement after the date of the enactment of the American Fisheries Act, application is made for a new fishery endorsement within fifteen (15) business days of such invalidation; or

"(B) the owner of such vessel demonstrates to the Secretary that the regional fishery management council of jurisdiction established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1))

has recommended after the date of the enactment of the American Fisheries Act, and the Secretary of Commerce has approved, conservation and management measures in accordance with such Act to allow such vessel to be used in fisheries under such council's authority."

(b) **Preferred Mortgage.** Section 31322(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended--

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3)(B) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon and "and"; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following paragraph:

"(4) with respect to a vessel with a fishery endorsement that is 100 feet or greater in registered length, has as the mortgagee—

"(A) a person eligible to own a vessel with a fishery endorsement under section 12102(c) of this title;

"(B) a state or federally chartered financial institution that satisfies the controlling interest criteria of section 2(b) of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. 802(b)); or

"(C) a person that complies with the provisions of section 12102(c)(4) of this title."

SEC. 203. ENFORCEMENT OF STANDARD.

(a) **Effective Date.** The amendments made by section 202 shall take effect on October 1, 2001.

(b) **Regulations.** Final regulations to implement this subtitle shall be published in the Federal Register by April 1, 2000. Letter rulings and other interim interpretations about the effect of this subtitle and amendments made by this subtitle on specific vessels may not be issued prior to the publication of such final regulations. The regulations to implement this subtitle shall prohibit impermissible transfers of ownership or control, specify any transactions which require prior approval of an implementing agency, identify transactions which do not require prior agency approval, and to the extent practicable, minimize disruptions to the commercial fishing industry, to the traditional financing arrangements of such industry, and to the opportunity to form fishery cooperatives.

(c) **Vessels Measuring 100 Feet and Greater.** (1) The Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall administer section 12102(c) of the title 46, United States Code, as amended by this subtitle, with respect to vessels 100 feet or greater in registered length. The owner of each such vessel shall file a statement of citizenship setting forth all relevant facts regarding vessel ownership and control with Administrator of the Maritime Administration on an annual basis to demonstrate compliance with such section. Regulations to implement this subsection shall conform to the extent practicable with the regulations establishing the form of citizenship affidavit set forth in part 355 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on September 25, 1997, except that the form of the statement under this paragraph shall be written in a manner to allow the owner of each such vessel to satisfy any annual renewal requirements for a certificate of

documentation for such vessel and to comply with this subsection and section 12101(c) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act, and shall not be required to be notarized.

(2) After October 1, 2001, transfers of ownership and control of vessels subject to section 12102(c) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act, which are 100 feet or greater in registered length, shall be rigorously scrutinized for violations of such section, with particular attention given to leases, charters, mortgages, financing, and similar arrangements, to the control of persons not eligible to own a vessel with a fishery endorsement under section 12102(c) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act, over the management, sales, financing, or other operations of an entity, and to contracts involving the purchase over extended periods of time of all, or substantially all, of the living marine resources harvested by a fishing vessel.

(d) **Vessels Measuring Less Than 100 Feet.** The Secretary of Transportation shall establish such requirements as are reasonable and necessary to demonstrate compliance with section 12102(c) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act, with respect to vessel measuring less than 100 feet in registered length, and shall seek to minimize the administrative burden on individuals who own and operate such vessels.

(e) **Endorsement Revoked.** The Secretary of Transportation shall revoke the fishery endorsement of any vessel subject to section 12102(c) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act, whose owner does not comply with such section.

(f) **Penalty.** Section 12122 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) In addition to penalties under subsections (a) and (b), the owner of a documented vessel for which a fishery endorsement has been issued is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of up to $100,000 for each day in which such vessel was engaged in fishing (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802) within the exclusive economic zone of the United States, if the owner or the representative or agent of the owner knowingly falsified or concealed a material fact, or knowingly made a false statement or representation with respect to the eligibility of the vessel under section 12102(c) of this title in applying for or applying to renew such fishery endorsement."

(g) **Certain Vessels.** The vessels EXCELLENCE (United States official number 967502, GOLDEN ALASKA (United States official number 651041), OCEAN PHOENIX (United States official number 296779), NORTHERN TRAVELER (United States official number 635986), and NORTHERN VOYAGER (United States official number 637398) (or a replacement vessel for the NORTHERN VOYAGER that complies with paragraphs (2), (5), and (6) of section 208(g) of this Act) shall be exempt from section 12102(c), as amended by this Act, until such time after October 1, 2001 as more than 50 percent of the interest owned and controlled in the vessel changes, provided that the vessel maintains eligibility for a fishery endorsement under the federal law that was in effect the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, and unless, in the case of the

NORTHERN TRAVELER or the NORTHERN VOYAGER (or such replacement), the vessel is used in any fishery under the authority of a regional fishery management council other than the New England Fishery Management Council or Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council established, respectively, under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 301(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1) (A) and (B), or in the case of the EXCELLENCE, GOLDEN ALASKA, or OCEAN PHOENIX, the vessel is used to harvest any fish.

Subtitle II – Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

SEC. 205. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this subtitle—

(1) the term "Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" has the same meaning as the meaning given for such term in part 679.2 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on October 1, 1998.

(2) the term "catcher/processor" means a vessel that is used for harvesting fish and that does not process pollock onboard;

(3) the term "catcher vessel" means a vessel that is used for harvesting fish and that does not process pollock onboard;

(4) the term "directed pollock fishery" means the fishery for directed fishing allowances allocated under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 206(b);

(5) the term "harvest" means to commercially engage in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish or any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;

(6) the term "inshore component" means the following categories that process groundfish harvested in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area:

(A) shoreside processors, including those eligible under section 208(f); and

(B) vessels less than 125 feet in length overall that process less than 126 metric tons per week in round-weight equivalents of an aggregate amount of pollock and Pacific cod;

(7) the term "Magnuson-Stevens Act" means the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

(8) the term "mothership" means a vessel that receives and processes fish from other vessels in the exclusive economic zone of the United States and is not used for, or equipped to be used for, harvesting fish;

(9) the term "North Pacific Council" means the North Pacific Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1)(G) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)(G));

(10) the term "offshore component" means all vessels not included in the definition of "inshore component" that process groundfish harvested in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area.

(11) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce, and

(12) the term "shoreside processor" means any person or vessel that receives unprocessed fish, except catcher/processors, motherships, buying stations, restaurants, or persons receiving fish for personal consumption or bait.

SEC. 206. ALLOCATIONS.

(a) **Pollock Community Development Quota.** Effective January 1, 1999, 10 percent of the total allowable catch of pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area shall be allocated as a direct fishing allowance to the western Alaska community development quota program established under section 505(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)).

(b) **Inshore/Offshore.** Effective January 1, 1999, the remainder of the pollock total allowable catch in a Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area, after the subtraction of the allocation under subsection (a) and the subtraction of allowances for the incidental catch of pollock by vessels harvesting other groundfish species (including under the western Alaska community development quota program) shall be allocated as directed fishing allowances as follows—

(1) 50 percent to catcher vessels harvesting pollock for processing by the inshore component;

(2) 40 percent to catch/processors and catcher vessels harvesting pollock for processing by catcher/processors in the offshore component; and

(3) 10 percent to catcher vessels harvesting pollock for processing by motherships in the offshore component.

SEC. 207. BUYOUT.

(a) **Federal Loan.** Under the authority of sections 1111 and 1112 of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1279f and 1279g) and notwithstanding the requirements of section 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a), the Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations for the cost of the direct loan, provide up to $75,000,000 through a direct loan obligation for the payments required under subsection (d).

(b) **Inshore Fee System.** Notwithstanding the requirements of section 304(d) or 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1854(d) and 1861(a), the Secretary shall establish a fee for the repayment of such loan obligations which—

(1) shall be six-tenths (0.6) of one cent for each pound round-weight of all pollock harvested from the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(1); and

(2) shall begin with such pollock harvested on or after January 1, 2000, and continue without interruption until such loan obligation is fully repaid; and

(3) shall be collected in accordance with section 312(d)(2)(C) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(d)(2)(C) and in accordance with such other conditions as the Secretary establishes.

(c) **Federal Appropriation.** Under the authority of section 312(c)(1)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(c)(1)(B)), there are authorized to be appropriated $20,000,000 for the payments required under subsection (d).

(d) **Payments.** Subject to the availability of appropriations for the cost of the direct loan under subsection (a) and funds under subsection (c), the Secretary shall pay by not later than December 31, 1998—

(1) up to $90,000,000 to the owner or owners of the catcher/processors listed in paragraphs (1) through (9) of section 209, in such manner as the owners, with the concurrence of the Secretary, agree, except that—

(A) the portion of such payment with respect to the catcher/processor listed in paragraph (1) of section 209 shall be made only after the owner submits a written certification acceptable to the Secretary that neither the owner nor a purchaser from the owner intends to use such catcher/processor outside the exclusive economic zone of the United States to harvest any stock of fish (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) that occurs within the exclusive economic zone of the United States; and

(B) the portion of such payment with respect to the catcher/processors listed in paragraphs (2) through (9) of section 209 shall be made only after the owner or owners of such catcher/processors will be scrapped by December 31, 2000 and will not, before that date, be used to harvest or process any fish; and

(2)(A) if a contract has been filed under section 210(a) by the catcher/processors listed in section 208(e), $5,000,000 to the owner or owners of the catcher/processors listed in paragraphs (10) through (14) of such section in such manner as the owner or owners, with the concurrence of the Secretary, agree; or

(B) if such a contract has not been filed by such date, $5,000,000 to the owners or the catcher vessels eligible under section 208(b) and the catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (1) through (20) of section 208(e), divided based on the amount of the harvest of pollock in the directed pollock fishery by each such vessel in 1997 in such manner as the Secretary deems appropriate, except that any such payments shall be reduced by any obligation to the federal government that has not been satisfied by such owner or owners of any such vessels.

(e) **Penalty.** If the catcher/processor under paragraph (1) of section 209 is used outside the exclusive economic zone of the United States to harvest any stock of fish that occurs within the exclusive economic zone of the United States while the owner who received the payment under subsection (d)(1)(A) has an ownership interest in such vessel, or if the catch/processors listed in paragraph (2) through (9) of section 209 are determined by the Secretary not to have been scraped by December 31, 2000 or to have been used in a manner inconsistent with subsection (d)(1)(B), the Secretary may suspend any or all of the federal permits which allow any vessels owned in whole or in part by the owner or owners who received payments under subsection (d)(1) to harvest or process fish within the exclusive economic zone of the United States until such time as the obligations of such owner or owners under subsection (d)(1) have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

(f) **Program Defined; Maturity.** For the purposes of section 1111 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1279f), the fishing capacity reduction program in this subtitle shall be within the meaning of the term “program” as defined and used in such section. Notwithstanding section 1111(b)(4) of such Act (46 U.S.C. App. 1279f and 1279g).

(g) **Fishery Capacity Reduction Regulations.** The Secretary of Commerce shall by not later than October 15, 1998 publish proposed regulations to implement subsections (b), (c), (d) and (e) of section 312 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a) and sections 1111 and 1112 of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1279f and 1279g).

SEC. 208. ELIGIBLE VESSELS AND PROCESSORS.

(a) **Catcher Vessels Onshore.** Effective January 1, 2000, only catcher vessels which are—

(1) determined by the Secretary—

(A) to have delivered at least 250 metric tons of pollock; or

(B) to be less than 60 feet in length overall and to have delivered at least 40 metric tons of pollock, for processing by the inshore component in the directed pollock fishery in any one of the years 1996 or 1997, between January 1, 1998 and September 1, 1998;

(2) eligible to harvest pollock in the directed pollock fishery under the license limitation program recommended by the North Pacific Council and approved by the Secretary; and

(3) not listed in subsection (b), shall be eligible to harvest the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(1) pursuant to a federal fishing permit.

(b) **Catcher Vessels to Catcher/Processors.** Effective January 1, 1999, only the following catcher vessels shall be eligible to harvest the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(2) pursuant to a federal fishing permit:

(1) AMERICAN CHALLENGER (United States official number 633219);

(2) FORUM STAR (United States official number 925863);

(3) MUIR MILACH (United States official number 611524);

(4) NEAHKAHNIE (United States official number 599534);

(5) OCEAN HARVESTER (United States official number 549892);

(6) SEA STORM (United States official number 628959);

(7) TRACY ANNE (United States official number 904859); and

(8) any catcher vessel—

(A) determined by the Secretary to have delivered at least 250 metric tons and at least 75 percent of the pollock it harvested in the directed pollock fishery in 1997 to catcher/processors for processing by the offshore component; and

(B) eligible to harvest pollock in the directed pollock fishery under the license limitation program recommended by the North Pacific Council and approved by the Secretary.

(c) **Catchers Vessels to Motherships.** Effective January 1, 2000, only the following catcher vessels shall be eligible to harvest the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(3) pursuant to a federal fishing permit.

(1) ALEUTIAN CHALLENGER (United States official number 603820);

(2) ALYESKA (United States official number 560237);

(3) AMBER DAWN (United States official number 529425);

(4) AMERICAN BEAUTY (United States official number 613847);

(5) CALIFORNIA HORIZON (United States official number 590758);
(6) MAR-GUN (United States official number 525608)
(7) MARGARET LYN (United States official number 615563);
(8) MARK I (United States official number 509552);
(9) MISTY DAWN (United States official number 926647);
(10) NORDIC FURY (United States official number 542651);
(11) OCEAN LEADER (United States official number 561518);
(12) OCEANIC (United States official number 602279);
(13) PACIFIC ALLIANCE (United States official number 612084);
(14) PACIFIC CHALLENGER (United States official number 618937);
(15) PACIFIC FURY (United States official number 561934);
(16) PAPADO II (United States official number 536161);
(17) TRAVELER (United States official number 929356);
(18) VESTERAALEN (United States official number 611642);
(19) WESTERN DAWN (United States official number 524423);
(20) any vessel—
(A) determined by the Secretary to have delivered at least 250 metric tons of pollock for processing by motherships in the offshore component of the directed pollock fishery in any one of the years 1996 or 1997, or between January 1, 1998 and September 1, 1998;
(B) eligible to harvest pollock in the directed pollock fishery under the license limitation program recommended by the North Pacific Council and approved by the Secretary; and
(C) not listed in subsection (b).

(d) **Motherships.** Effective January 1, 2000, only the following motherships shall be eligible to process the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(3) pursuant to a federal fishing permit:
(1) EXCELLENCE (United States official number 967502);
(2) GOLDEN ALASKA (United States official number 651042);
(3) OCEAN PHOENIX (United States official number 296779).

(e) **Catcher/Processors.** Effective January 1, 1999, only the following catcher/processors shall be eligible to harvest the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(2) pursuant to a federal fishing permit:
(1) AMERICAN DYNASTY (United States official number 951307);
(2) KATIE ANN (United States official number 518441);
(3) AMERICAN TRIUMPH (United States official number 646737);
(4) NORTHERN EAGLE (United States official number 506694);
(5) NORTHERN HAWK (United States official number 643771);
(6) NORTHERN JAEGER (United States official number 521069);
(7) OCEAN ROVER (United States official number 552100);
(8) ALASKA OCEAN (United States official number 637856);
(9) ENDURANCE (United States official number 592206);
(10) AMERICAN ENTERPRISES (United States official number 594803);
(11) ISLAND ENTERPRISE (United States official number 610290);

(12) KODIAK ENTERPRISE (United States official number 579450);
(13) SEATTLE ENTERPRISE (United States official number 904767);
(14) US ENTERPRISE (United States official number 921112);
(15) ARCTIC STORM (United States official number 903511);
(16) ARCTIC FJORD (United States official number 940866);
(17) NORTHERN GLACIER (United States official number 663457);
(18) PACIFIC GLACIER (United States official number 933627);
(19) HIGHLAND LIGHT (United States official number 577044);
(20) STARBOUND (United States official number 944658); and
(21) any catcher/processor not listed in this subsection and determined by the Secretary to have harvested more than 2,000 metric tons of the pollock in the 1997 directed pollock fishery and determined to be eligible to harvest pollock in the directed pollock fishery under the license limitation program recommended by the North Pacific Council and approved by the Secretary, except that catcher/processors eligible under this paragraph shall be prohibited from harvesting in the aggregate a total of more than one-half (0.5) of a percent of the pollock apportioned for the directed pollock fishery under section 206(b)(2).

Notwithstanding section 213(a), failure to satisfy the requirements of section 4(a) of the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Anti-Reflagging Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-239; 46 U.S.C. 12108 note) shall not make a catcher/processor listed under this subsection ineligible for a fishery endorsement.

(f) **Shoreside Processors.** (1) Effective January 1, 2000 and except as provided in paragraph (2), the catcher vessels eligible under subsection (a) may deliver pollock harvested from the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(1) only to—

(A) shoreside processors (including vessels in a single geographic location in Alaska State waters) determined by the Secretary to have processed more than 2,000 metric tons round-weight of pollock in the inshore component of the directed pollock fishery during each of 1996 and 1997; and

(B) shoreside processors determined by the Secretary to have processed pollock in the inshore component of the directed pollock fishery in 1996 and 1997, but to have processed less than 2,000 metric tons round-weight of such pollock in each year, except that effective January 1, 2000, each such shoreside processor may not process more than 2,000 metric tons round-weight from such directed fishing allowance in any year;

(2) Upon recommendation by the North Pacific Council, the Secretary may approve measures to allow catcher vessels eligible under subsection (a) to deliver pollock harvested from the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(1) to shoreside processors not eligible under paragraph (1) if the total allowable catch for pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area increases by more than 10 percent of the actual total loss or constructive total loss of a shoreside processor eligible under paragraph (1)(A).

(g) **Replacement Vessels.** In the event of the actual total loss or constructive total loss of a vessel eligible under subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e), the owner of such vessel may replace such vessel with a vessel which shall be eligible in the same manner under that subsection as the eligible vessel, provided—

(1) such loss was caused by an act of God, an act of war, a collision, an act or omission of a party other than the owner or agent of the vessel, or any other event not caused by the willful misconduct of the owner or agent;

(2) the replacement vessel was built in the United States and if ever rebuilt, was rebuilt in the United States;

(3) the fishery endorsement for the replacement vessel is issued within 36 months of the end of the last year in which the eligible vessel harvested or processed pollock in the directed pollock fishery;

(4) if the eligible vessel is greater than 165 feet in registered length, of more than 750 gross registered tons, or has engines capable of producing more than 3,000 shaft horsepower, the replacement vessel is of the same or lesser registered length, gross registered tons, and shaft horsepower;

(5) if the eligible vessel is less than 165 feet in registered length, of fewer than 750 gross registered tons, and has engines incapable of producing less than 3,000 shaft horsepower, the replacement vessel is less than each of such thresholds and does not exceed by more than 10 percent the registered length, gross registered tons or shaft horsepower of the eligible vessel; and

(6) the replacement vessel otherwise qualifies under federal law for a fishery endorsement, including under section 12102(c) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

(h) **Eligibility During Implementation.** In the event the Secretary is unable to make a final determination about the eligibility of a vessel under subsection (b)(8) or subsection (3)(21) before January 1, 1999, or a vessel or shoreside processor under subsection (a), subsection (c)(21), or subsection (f) before January 1, 2000, such vessel or shoreside processor, upon the filing of an application for eligibility, shall be eligible to participate in the directed pollock fishery pending final determination by the Secretary with respect to such vessel or shoreside processor.

(i) **Eligibility Not a Right.** Eligibility under this subsection shall not be construed—

(1) to confer any right of compensation, monetary or otherwise, to the owner of any catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, or shoreside processor, if such eligibility is revoked or limited in any way, including through the revocation or limitation of a fishery endorsement or any federal permit or license;

(2) to create any right, title, or interest in or to any fish in any fishery, or

(3) to waive any provision of law otherwise applicable to such catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, or shoreside processor.

SEC. 209. LIST OF INELIGIBLE VESSELS.

Effective December 31, 1998, the following vessels shall be permanently ineligible for fishery endorsements, and any claims (including relating to catch history) associated with any such vessels that could qualify any owners of such vessels for any present or future limited access system permit in any fishery within the exclusive economic zone of the Unite States (including a vessel moratorium permit or license

limitation program permit in fisheries under the authority of the North Pacific Council) are hereby extinguished:

(1) AMERICAN EMPRESS (United States official number 942347);
(2) PACIFIC SCOUT (United States official number 934772);
(3) PACIFIC EXPLORER (United States official number 942592);
(4) PACIFIC NAVIGATOR (United States official number 592204);
(5) VICTORIA ANN (United States official number 592207);
(6) ELIZABETH ANN (United States official number 534621);
(7) CHRISTINA ANN (United States official number 653045);
(8) REBECCA ANN (United States official number 592205);
(9) BROWNS POINT (United States official number 587440);

SEC. 210. FISHERY COOPERATIVE LIMITATIONS.

(a) **Public Notice.** (1) Any contract implementing a fishery cooperative under section 1 of the Act of June 25, 1934 (15 U.S.C. 521) in the directed pollock fishery and any material modifications to any such contract shall be filed not less than 30 days prior to the start of fishing under the contract with the North Pacific Council and with the Secretary, together with a copy of a letter from a party to the contract requesting a business review letter on the fishery cooperative from the Department of Justice and any response to such request. Notwithstanding section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a) or any other provision of law, but taking into account the interest of parties to any such contract in protecting the confidentiality of proprietary information, the North Pacific Council and Secretary shall—

(A) make available to the public such information about the contract, contract modifications, or fishery cooperative the North Pacific Council and Secretary deem appropriate, which at a minimum shall include a list of the parties to the contract, a list of the vessels involved, and the amount of pollock and other fish to be harvested by each party to such contract; and

(B) make available to the public in such manner as the North Pacific Council and Secretary deem appropriate information about the harvest by vessels under a fishery cooperative of all species (including bycatch) in the directed pollock fishery on a vessel-by-vessel basis.

(b) **Catcher Vessels Onshore—**

(1) *Catcher Vessel Cooperatives.* Effective January 1, 2000, upon the filing of a contract implementing a fishery cooperative under subsection (a) which—

(A) is signed by the owners of 80 percent or more of the qualified catcher vessels that delivered pollock for processing by a shoreside processor in the directed pollock fishery in the year prior to the year in which the fishery cooperative will be in effect; and

(B) specifies, except as provided in paragraph (6), that such catcher vessels will deliver pollock in the directed pollock fishery only to such shoreside processor during the year in which the fishery cooperative will be in effect and that such shoreside processor has agreed to process such pollock, the Secretary shall allow only such catcher vessels (and catcher vessels whose owners voluntarily participate pursuant to paragraph (2)) to harvest the aggregate percentage of the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(1) in the year in which the fishery cooperative will be in effect that is equivalent

to the aggregate total amount of pollock harvested by such catcher vessels (and by such catcher vessels whose owners voluntarily participate pursuant to paragraph(2)) in the directed pollock fishery for processing by the inshore component during 1995, 1996, and 1997 relative to the aggregate total amount of pollock harvested in the directed pollock fishery for processing by the inshore component during such years and shall prevent such catcher vessels (and catcher vessels whose owners voluntarily participate pursuant to paragraph (2)) from harvesting in aggregate in excess of such percentage of such directed fishing allowance.

(2) *Voluntary Participation.* Any contract implementing a fishery cooperative under paragraph (1) must allow the owners of other qualified catcher vessels to enter into such contract after it is filed and before the calendar year in which fishing will begin under the same terms and conditions as the owners of the qualified catcher vessels who entered into such contract upon filing.

(3) *Qualified Catcher Vessel.* For the purposes of this subsection, a catcher vessel shall be considered a "qualified catcher vessel" if, during the year prior to the year in which the fishery cooperative will be in effect, it delivered more pollock to the shoreside processor to which it will deliver pollock under the fishery cooperative in paragraph (1) than to any other shoreside processor.

(4) *Consideration of Certain Vessels*. Any contract implementing a fishery cooperative under paragraph (1) which has been entered into by the owner of a qualified catcher vessel eligible under section 208(a) that harvested pollock for processing by catcher/processors or motherships in the directed pollock fishery during 1995, 1996, and 1997 shall, to the extent practicable, provide fair and equitable terms and conditions for the owner of such qualified catcher vessel.

(5) *Open Access*. A catcher vessel eligible under section 208(a) the catch history of history which has not been attributed to a fishery cooperative under paragraph (1) may be used to deliver pollock harvested by such vessel from the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(1) (other than pollock reserved under paragraph (1) for a fishery cooperative) to any of the shoreside processors eligible under section 208(a) the catch history of which has been attributed to a fishery cooperative under paragraph (1) during any calendar year may not harvest any pollock apportioned under section 206(b)(1) in such calendar year other than the pollock reserved under paragraph (1) for such fishery cooperative.

(6) *Transfer of Cooperative Harvest.* A contract implementing a fishery cooperative under paragraph (1) may, notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, provide for up to 10 percent of the pollock harvested under such cooperative to be processed by a shoreside processor eligible under section 208(f) other than the shoreside processor to which pollock will be delivered under paragraph (1).

(c) **Catcher Vessels to Catcher/Processors.** Effective January 1, 1999, not less than 8.5 percent of the directed fishing allowance under section 206(b)(2) shall be available for harvest only by the catcher vessels eligible under section 208(b). The owners of such catcher vessels may participate in a fishery cooperative with the owners of the catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (1) through (20) of section 208(e). The owners of such catcher vessels may participate in a fishery cooperative that will be in effect during 1999 only if the contract implementing such cooperative establishes

penalties to prevent such vessels from exceeding in 1999 the traditional levels harvested by such vessels in all other fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the United States.

(d) **Catcher Vessels to Motherships—**

(1) *Processing*. Effective January 1, 2000, the authority in section 1 of the Act of June 25, 1934 (46 STAT. 1213 and 1214; 15 U.S.C. 521 et seq.) shall extend to processing by motherships eligible under section 208(d) solely for the purposes of forming or participating in a fishery cooperative in the directed pollock fishery upon the filing of a contract to implement a fishery cooperative under subsection (a) which has been entered into by the owners of 80 percent or more of the catcher vessels eligible under section 208(c) for the duration of such contract, provided that such owners agree to the terms of the fishery cooperative involving processing by the motherships.

(2) *Voluntary Participation*. Any contract implementing a fishery cooperative described in paragraph (1) must allow the owners of any other catcher vessels eligible under section 208(c) to enter such contract after it is filed and before the calendar year in which the fishing will begin under the same terms and conditions as the owners of the catcher vessels who entered into such contract upon filing.

(e) **Excessive Shares.**

(1) *Harvesting*. No particular individual, corporation, or other entity may harvest, through a fishery cooperative or otherwise, a total of more than 17.5 percent of the pollock available to be harvested in the directed pollock fishery.

(2) *Processing*. Under the authority of section 301(a)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(4)), the North Pacific Council is directed to recommend for approval by the Secretary conservation and management measures to prevent any particular individual or entity from processing an excessive share of the pollock available to be harvested in the directed pollock fishery. In the event the North Pacific Council recommends and the Secretary approves an excessive processing share that is lower than 17.5 percent, any individual or entity that previously processed a percentage greater than such share shall be allowed to continue to process such percentage, except that their percentage may not exceed 17.5 percent (excluding pollock processed by catcher/processors that was harvested in the directed pollock fishery by catcher vessels eligible under section 208(b)) and shall be reduced if their percentage decreases, until their percentages is below such share. In recommending the excessive processing share, the Northern Pacific Council shall consider the need of catcher vessels in the directed Pollock fishery to have competitive buyers for the pollock harvested by such vessels.

(3) *Review by Maritime Administration*. At the request of the North Pacific Council or the Secretary, any individual or entity believed by such Council or the Secretary to have exceeded the percentage in either paragraph (1) or (2) shall submit such information to the Administrator of the Maritime Administration as the Administrator deems appropriate to allow the Administrator to determine whether such individual or entity has exceeded either such percentage. The Administrator shall make a finding as soon as practicable upon such request and shall submit such finding to the North Pacific Council and the Secretary. For the purposes of this subsection, any entity in which 10 percent or more of the interest is owned or controlled by another individual or entity shall be considered to be the same entity as the other individual or entity.

(f) **Landing Tax Jurisdiction.** Any contract filed under subsection (a) shall include a contract clause under which the parties to the contract agree to make payments to the State of Alaska for any pollock harvested in the directed pollock fishery which is not landed in the State of Alaska, in amounts which would otherwise accrue had pollock been landed in the State of Alaska subject to any landing taxes established under Alaska law. Failure to include such a contract clause or for such amounts to be paid shall result in a revocation of the authority to form fishery cooperatives under section 1 of the Act of June 25, 1934 (15 U.S.C. 521 et seq.).

(g) **Penalties.** The violation of any of the requirements of this subtitle or any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this subtitle shall be considered the commission of an act prohibited by section 307 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1857), and sections 308, 309, 310, and 311 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1861) shall apply to any such violation in the same manner as to the commission of an act prohibited by section 307 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1857). In addition to the civil penalties and permit sanctions applicable to prohibited acts under section 308 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1858), any person who is found by the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code, to have violated a requirement of this section shall be subject to the forfeiture to the Secretary of Commerce of any fish harvested or processed during the commission of such act.

SEC. 211. PROTECTIONS FOR OTHER FISHERIES; CONSERVATION MEASURES.

(a) **General.** The North Pacific Council shall recommend for approval by the Secretary such conservation and management measures as it determines necessary to protect other fisheries under its jurisdiction and the participants in those fisheries, including processors, from adverse impacts caused by this Act or fishery cooperatives in the directed pollock fishery.

(b) **Catcher/Processor Restrictions.**

(1) *General*. The restrictions in this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 1999 and shall remain in effect thereafter except that they may be superseded (with the exception of paragraph (4)) by conservation and management measures recommended after the date of the enactment of this Act by the North Pacific Council and approved by the Secretary in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

(2) *Bering Sea Fishing.* The catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (1) through (20) of section 208(e) are hereby prohibited from, in the aggregate—

(A) exceeding the percentage of the harvest available in the offshore component of any Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery (other than the pollock fishery) that is equivalent to the total harvest by such catcher/processors and the catcher/processors listed in section 209 in the fishery in 1995, 1996, and 1997 relative to the total amount available to be harvested by the offshore component in the fishery in 1995, 1996, and 1997;

(B) exceeding the percentage of the prohibited species available in the offshore component of any Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fishery (other than the

pollock fishery) that is equivalent to the total of the prohibited species harvested by such catcher/processors and the catcher/processors listed in section 209 in the fishery in 1995, 1996, and 1997 relative to the total amount of prohibited species available to be harvested by the offshore component in the fishery in 1995, 1996, and 1997.

(C) fishing for Atak mackerel in the eastern area of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and from exceeding the following percentages of the directed harvest available in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands mackerel fishery—

(i) 11.5 percent in the central area; and

(ii) 20 percent in the western area.

(3) *Bering Sea Processing*. The catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (10 through (20) of section 208(e) are hereby prohibited from—

(A) processing any of the directed fishing allowances under paragraphs (1) or (3) of section 206(b); and

(B) processing any species of crab harvested in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area.

(4) *Gulf of Alaska*. The catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (1) through (20) of section 208(e) are hereby prohibited from—

(A) harvesting any fish in the Gulf of Alaska.

(B) processing any groundfish harvested from the portion of the exclusive economic zone off Alaska known as area 630 under the fishery management plan for Gulf of Alaska groundfish; or

(C) processing any pollock in the Gulf of Alaska (other than as bycatch in non-pollock groundfish fisheries) or processing, in the aggregate, a total of more than 10 percent of the cod harvested from areas 610, 620, and 640 of the Gulf of Alaska under the fishery management plan for Gulf of Alaska groundfish.

(5) *Fisheries Other than North Pacific*. The catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (1) through (20) of section 208(e) and motherships eligible under section 208(d) are hereby prohibited from harvesting fish in any fishery under the authority of any regional fishery management council established under section 302(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)) other than the North Pacific Council, except for the Pacific whiting fishery, and from processing fish in any fishery under the authority of any such regional fishery management council other than North Pacific Council, except in the Pacific whiting fishery, unless the catcher/processor or mothership is authorized to harvest or process fish under a fishery management plan recommended by the regional fishery management council of jurisdiction and approved by the Secretary.

(6) *Observers and Scales*. The catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (1) through (20) of section 208(e) shall—

(A) have two observers onboard at all times while groundfish is being harvested, processed, or received from another vessel in any fishery under the authority of the North Pacific Council; and

(B) weight its catch on a scale onboard approved by the National Marine Fisheries Services while harvesting groundfish in fisheries under the authority of the North Pacific Council

This paragraph shall take effect on January 1, 1999 for catcher/processors eligible under paragraphs (1) through (2) of section 208(e) that will harvest pollock allocated

under section 206(a) in 1999, and shall take effect on January 1, 2000 for all other catcher/processors eligible under such paragraphs of section 208(e).

(c) **Catcher Vessel and Shoreside Processor Restrictions.**

(1) *Required Council Recommendations.* By not later than July 1, 1999, the North Pacific Council shall recommend for approval by the Secretary conservation and management measures to—

(A) prevent the catcher vessels eligible under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 208 from exceeding in the aggregate the traditional harvest levels of such vessels in other fisheries under the authority of the North Pacific Council as a result of fishery cooperatives in the directed pollock fisheries; and

(B) protect processors not eligible to participate in the directed pollock fishery from adverse effects as a result of this Act or fishery cooperatives in the directed pollock fishery.

If the North Pacific Council does not recommend such conversation and management measures by such date, or if the Secretary determines that such conservation and management measures recommended by the North Pacific Council are not adequate to fulfill the purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary may by regulation restrict or change the authority in section 210(b) to the extent the Secretary deems appropriate, including by preventing fishery cooperatives from being formed pursuant to such section and by providing greater flexibility with respect to the shoreside processor or shoreside processors to which catcher vessel in a fishery cooperative under section 210(b) may deliver pollock.

(2) *Bering Sea Crab and Groundfish.*

(A) Effective January 1, 2000, the owners of the motherships eligible under section 208(d) and the shoreside processors eligible under section 208(f) that receive pollock from the directed pollock fishery under a fishery cooperative are hereby prohibited from processing, in the aggregate for each calendar year, more than the percentage of the total catch of each species of crab in directed fisheries under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Council than facilities operated by such owners processed of each such species in the aggregate, on average, in 1995, 1996, and 1997. For the purposes of this subparagraph the term “facilities” means any processing plant, catcher/processor, mothership, floating processor, or any other operation that processes fish. Any entity in which 10 percent or more of the interest is owned or controlled by another individual or entity shall be considered to be the same entity as the other individual or entity for the purposes of this subparagraph.

(B) Under the authority of section 301(a)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(4)), the North Pacific Council is directed to recommend for approval by the Secretary conservation and management measures to prevent any particular individual or entity from harvesting an excessive share of crab or of groundfish in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area.

(C) The catcher vessels eligible under section 208(b) are hereby prohibited from participating in a directed fishery for any species of crab in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area unless the catcher vessel harvested crab in the directed fishery for that species of crab in such Area during 1997 and is eligible to harvest such crab in such directed fishery under the license limitation program recommended by the North

Pacific Council and approved by the Secretary. The north Pacific Council is directed to recommend measures for approval by the Secretary to eliminate latent licenses under such program, and nothing in this subparagraph shall preclude the Council from recommending measures more restrictive than under this paragraph.

(3) *Fisheries Other than North Pacific.*

(A) By not later than July 1, 2000, the Pacific Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1)(F) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1852 (a)(1)(F)) shall recommend for approval by the Secretary conservation and management measures to protect fisheries under its jurisdiction and the participants in those fisheries from adverse impacts caused by this Act or by any fishery cooperatives in the directed pollock fishery.

(B) If the Pacific Council does not recommend such conservation and management measures by such date, or if the Secretary determines that such conservation and management measures recommended by the Pacific Council are not adequate to fulfill the purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary may be regulation implement adequate measures including, but not limited to, restrictions on vessels which harvest pollock under a fishery cooperative which will prevent such vessels from harvesting Pacific groundfish, and restrictions on the number of processors eligible to process Pacific groundfish.

(d) **Bycatch Information.** Notwithstanding section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a), the North Pacific Council may recommend and the Secretary may approve, under such terms and conditions as the North Pacific Council and Secretary deem appropriate, the public disclosure of any information from the groundfish fisheries under the authority of such Council that would be beneficial in the implementation of section 301(a)(9) or section 303(a)(11) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1851(a)(9) and 1853(a)(11)).

(c) **Community Development Loan Program.** Under the authority of title XI of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1271 et seq.), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary is authorized to provide direct loan obligations to communities eligible to participate in the western Alaska community development quota program established under section 304(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(i)) for the purposes of purchasing all or part of an ownership interest in vessels and shoreside processors eligible under subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 208. Notwithstanding the eligibility criteria in section 208(a) and 208(c), the LISA MARIE (United States official number 1038717) shall be eligible under such sections in the same manner as other vessels eligible under such sections.

SEC. 212. RESTRICTION ON FEDERA LOANS. Section 302(b) of the Fisheries Financing Act (46 U.S.C. 1274 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “Until October 1, 2001”; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph: “(2) No loans may be provided or guaranteed by the Federal Government for the construction or rebuilding of a vessel intended for use as a fishing vessel (as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code), if such vessel will be greater than 165 feet in registered length, of more

than 750 gross registered tons, or have an engine or engines capable of producing a total of more than 3,000 shaft horsepower, after such construction or rebuilding is completed. This prohibition shall not apply to vessels to be used in the menhaden fishery or in tuna purse seine fisheries outside the exclusive economic zone of the United States or the area of the South Pacific Regional fisheries Treaty."

SEC. 213. DURATION.

(a) **General.** Except as otherwise provided in this title, the provisions of this title shall take effect upon the date of the enactment of this Act. Section 206, 208, and 210 shall remain in effect until December 31, 2004, and shall be repealed on such date, except that the North Pacific Council may recommend and the Secretary may approve conservation and management measures as part of a fishery management plan under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to give effect to the measures in such sections thereafter.

(b) **Existing Authority.** Except for the measures required by this subtitle, nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to limit the authority of the North Pacific Council or the Secretary under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

(c) **Changes to Fishery Cooperative Limitations and Pollock CDQ Allocation.** The North Pacific Council may recommend and the Secretary may approve conservation and management measures in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act—

(1) that supersede the provisions of this subtitle, except for section 206 and 208, for conservation purposes or to mitigate adverse effects in fisheries or on owners of fewer than three vessels in the directed pollock fishery caused by this title or fishery cooperatives in the directed pollock fishery caused by this title or fishery cooperatives in the directed pollock fishery, provided such measures take into account all factors affecting the fisheries and are imposed fairly and equitable to the extent practicable among and within the sectors in the directed pollock fishery;

(2) that supersede the allocation in section 206(a) for any of the years 2002, 2003, and 2004, upon finding by such Council that the western Alaska community development quota program for pollock has been adversely affected by the amendments in this subtitle; or

(3) that supersede the criteria required in paragraph (1) of section 210(b) to be used by the Secretary to set the percentage allowed to be harvested by catcher vessels pursuant to a fishery cooperative under such paragraph.

(d) **Report to Congress.** Not later than October 1, 2000, the North Pacific Council shall submit a report to the Secretary and to Congress on the implementation and effects of this Act, including the effects on fishery conservation and management, on bycatch levels, on fishing communities, on business and employment practices of participants in any fishery cooperatives, on the western Alaska community development quota program, on any fisheries outside of the authority of the North Pacific Council, and such other matters as the North Pacific Council deems appropriate.

(e) **Report on Fillet Production.** Not later than June 1, 2000, the General Accounting Office shall submit a report to the North Pacific Council, the Secretary, and

the Congress on whether this Act has negatively affected the market for fillets and fillet blocks, including through the reduction in supply of such fillets and fillet blocks. If the report determines that such market has been negatively affected, the North Pacific Council shall recommend measures for the Secretary's approval to mitigate any negative effects.

(f) **Severability.** If any provision of this title, an amendment made by this title, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title, the amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions of such to any person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

(g) **International Agreements.** In the event that any provision of section 12102(c) or section 31322(a) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is determined to be inconsistent with an existing international agreement relating to foreign investment to which the United States is a party with respect to the owner or mortgagee on October 1, 2001 of a vessel with a fishery endorsement, such provision shall not apply to that owner or mortgagee with respect to such vessel to the extent of any inconsistency. The provisions of section 12102(c) section 31322(a) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall apply to all subsequent owners and mortgagees of such vessel, and shall apply, notwithstanding the preceding sentence, to the owner on October 1, 2001 of such vessel if any ownership interest in that owner is transferred or otherwise acquired by a foreign individual or entity after such date.

Administrative Management and Executive Secretariat

NAO 216-100

PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL FISHERIES STATISTICS Eff: 7/18/94; Iss: 7/26/94

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

. 01 This Order:

a. prescribes policies and procedures for protecting the confidentiality of data submitted to and collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as authorized or required by law;

b.informs authorized users of their obligations for maintaining the confidentiality of data received by NMFS;

c. provides for operational safeguards to maintain the security of data; and

d. states the penalties provided by law for disclosure of confidential data.

SECTION 2. SCOPE.

This Order covers all confidential data received, collected, maintained, or used by NMFS.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

. 01 **Access to data** means the freedom or ability to use data, conditioned by a statement of nondisclosure and penalties for unauthorized use.

. 02 **Aggregate or summary form** means data structured so that the identity of the submitter cannot be determined either from the present release of the data or in combination with other releases.

. 03 **Agreement** refers to all binding forms of mutual commitment under a stated set of conditions to achieve a specific objective.

. 04 **Assistant Administrator** means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, or a designee authorized to have access to confidential data.

. 05 **Authorized Use/User.**

a. **Authorized use** is that specific use authorized under the governing statute, regulation, order, contract or agreement.

b. An **authorized user** is any person who, having the need to collect or use confidential data in the performance of an official activity, has read this Order and has signed a statement of nondisclosure affirming the user's understanding of NMFS obligations with respect to confidential data and the penalties for unauthorized use and disclosure.

. 06 **Confidential data** means data that are identifiable with any person, accepted by the Secretary, and prohibited by law from being disclosed to the public. The term "as used" does not convey data sensitivity for national security purposes [See Executive Order (E.O.) 12356 dated April 2, 1982].

. 07 **Data** refers to information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation that a person may submit, either voluntarily or as required by statute or regulation.

. 08 **GC** means the Office of General Counsel, NOAA.

. 09 **Person** means any individual (whether or not a citizen or national of the United States), any corporation, partnership, association, or other entity (whether or not organized or existing under the laws of any State), and any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of such governments, including Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils).

.10 **Public** means any person who is not an authorized user.

.11 **Region** means NMFS Regional field offices, Fisheries Science Centers, and associated laboratories.

.12 **Source document** means the document, paper, or electronic format on which data are originally recorded.

.13 **State employee** means any member of a State agency responsible for developing and monitoring the State's program for fisheries or Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) program.

. 14 **Submitter** means any person or the agent of any person who provides data to NMFS either

voluntarily or as required by statute or regulation.

SECTION 4. POLICY.

For data subject to this Order, it is NMFS policy that:

a. confidential data shall only be disclosed to the public if required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, or by court order. Disclosure of data pursuant to a subpoena issued by an agency of competent jurisdiction is a lawful disclosure. Disclosure pursuant to a subpoena must be approved by GC;

b. individual identifiers shall be retained with data, unless the permanent deletion is consistent with the needs of NMFS and good scientific practice [See Section 6.02c]; and

c. a notice is required on all report forms requesting data and must comply with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3) and Paperwork Reduction Act requirements in NAO 216-8, Information Collections and Requirements Needing Office of Management and Budget Clearance. [See E.O. 12600 of June 23, 1987, for additional information regarding the rights of submitters to designate commercial confidential data at the time of submission.]

SECTION 5. OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

. 01 The Regional Director of each region (or, in the case of headquarters, each Office Director) has the responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of all data collected, maintained, and disclosed by the respective region.

. 02 Each region shall submit to the Assistant Administrator specific procedures governing the collection, maintenance, and disclosure of confidential data. These documents shall be compiled as regional handbooks following the guidelines and standards:

a. handbooks are to be developed in detail to ensure the maintenance of confidential data on a functional basis in each region; and

b. handbooks shall be coordinated through the National Data Management Committee (a NMFS group established by the Assistant Administrator to develop data management policies and procedures) and reviewed annually. The regional handbooks will address, at minimum, the contents of Sections 6-7.

SECTION 6. PROCEDURES.

. 01 **Data Collection.** To collect data, the Secretary may use Federal employees, contractor employees, or, pursuant to an agreement, State employees.

a. **General Requirements.**

1. Personnel authorized to collect Federal data must maintain all documents containing confidential data in secure facilities; and

2. may not disclose confidential data, whether recorded or not, to anyone not authorized to receive and handle such data.

b. **Specific Requirements.**

1. Each Federal or contractor employee collecting or processing confidential data will be required to read, date, and sign a statement of nondisclosure, that affirms the employee's understanding of NMFS obligations with respect to confidential data and the penalties for unauthorized use and disclosure of the data. Upon signature, the employee's name will be placed on record as an "authorized user," and the employee will be issued certification.
2. Data collected by a contractor must be transferred timely to authorized Federal employees; no copies of these data may be retained by the contractor. NMFS may permit contractors to retain aggregated data. A data return clause shall be included in the agreement. All procedures applicable to Federal employees must be followed by contractor employees collecting data with Federal authority.

3. Under agreements with the State, each State data collector collecting confidential data will sign a statement at least as protective as the one signed by Federal employees, which affirms that the signer understands the applicable procedures and regulations and the penalties for unauthorized disclosure.

.02 **Maintenance.**

a. Maintenance is defined as the procedures required to keep confidential data secure from the time the source documents are received by NMFS to their ultimate disposition, regardless of format. [See National Institute of Standards and Technology "Computer Security Publications, List 91" for guidance.]

b. Specific procedures in regional handbooks must deal with the following minimum security requirements, as well as any others that may be necessary because of the specific data, equipment, or physical facilities:

1. the establishment of an office or person responsible for evaluating requests for access to data;

2. the identifications of all persons certified as authorized users. These lists shall be kept current and reviewed on an annual basis;

3. the issuance of employee security rules that emphasize the confidential status of certain data and the consequences of unauthorized removal or disclosure;

4. the description of the security procedures used to prevent unauthorized access to and/or removal of confidential data;

5. the development of a catalog/inventory system of all confidential data received including: the type of source document; the authority under which each item of data was collected; any statutory or regulatory restriction(s) which may apply; and routing from the time of receipt until final disposition; and

6. The development of an appropriate coding system for each set of confidential data so that access to data that identifies, or could be used to identify, the person or business of the submitter is controlled by the use of one or more coding system(s). Lists that contain the codes shall be kept secure.

c. The permanent deletion of individual identifiers from a database shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Identifiers may only be deleted after:

1. future uses of data have thoroughly been evaluated, e.g., the need for individual landings records for allocating shares under an individual transferable quota program;

2. consultation with the agency(s) collecting data (if other than NMFS), the relevant Council(s), and NMFS Senior Scientist; and

3. concurrence by the Assistant Administrator has been received prior to deletion.

.03 **Access to Data Subject to This Order.**

a. **General Requirements.** In determining whether to grant a request for access to confidential data, the following information shall be taken into consideration:

1. the specific types of data required;

2. the relevance of the data to the intended uses;

3. whether access will be continuous, infrequent, or one-time;

4. an evaluation of the requester's statement of why aggregate or nonconfidential summaries of data would not satisfy the requested needs; and

5. the legal framework for the disclosure, in accordance with GC and this Order.

b. **Within NMFS.** NMFS employees requesting confidential data must have certification as being authorized users for the particular type of data requested.

b. **Councils.** Upon written request by the Council Executive Director:

1. "authorized user" status for confidential data collected under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) may be granted to a Council for use by the Council for conservation and management purposes consistent with the approval of the Assistant Administrator as described in 50 CFR 603.5;

2. "authorized user" status for confidential data, collected under the Magnuson Act and MMPA, will be granted to Council employees who are responsible for Fishery Management Plan development and monitoring; and

3. Councils that request access to confidential data must submit, on an annual basis, a copy of their procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of data to the region, or in the case of intercouncil fisheries, regions. The procedures will be evaluated for their effectiveness and, if necessary, changes may be recommended. As part of this procedure, an updated statement of nondisclosure will be included for each employee and member who requires access to confidential data.

d. **States.**

1. Requests from States for confidential data shall be directed in writing to the NMFS office that maintains the source data.

2. Each request will be processed in accordance with any agreement NMFS may have with the State:

(a) confidential data collected **solely** under Federal authority will be provided to a State by NMFS only if the Assistant Administrator finds that the State has authority to protect the confidentiality of the data comparable to, or more stringent than, NMFS' requirements; and

(b) the State will exercise its authority to limit subsequent access and use of the data to those uses allowed by authorities under which the data was collected.

3. If the State has no agreement with NMFS for the collection and exchange of confidential data, the request shall be treated as a public request and disclosure may be denied subject to FOIA or the Privacy Act.

4. Where a State has entered into a cooperative exchange agreement with another State(s), NMFS will facilitate transfer or exchange of State collected data in its possession if:

(a) NMFS has written authorization for data transfer from the head of the collecting State agency; and

(b) the collecting State has provided NMFS a list of authorized users in the recipient State(s); and

(c) the collecting State agrees to hold the United States Government harmless for any suit that may arise from the misuse of the data.

e. **Contractors.**

1. Pursuant to an agreement with NMFS, a NMFS contractor (including universities, Sea Grant investigators, etc.) may be granted "authorized user" status consistent with this Order if the use furthers the mission of NMFS.

2. The region will notify the contractor of its decision on access in writing within 30 calendar days after receipt of the request.

3. Contingent upon approval, the contractor will be provided with details regarding conditions of data access, any costs involved, formats, timing, and security procedures. If the request is denied, the reason(s) for denial will be given by the NMFS office involved. The denial will not preclude NMFS consideration of future requests from the contractor.

4. If access is granted, language in the agreement specifically dealing with confidentiality of data will be required. The language shall include all of the relevant portions of this Order and shall prohibit the further disclosure of the data. No data may be retained beyond the termination date of the agreement; and any disclosure of data derived from the accessed confidential data must be approved by NMFS.

5. Each agreement shall be reviewed by GC prior to its execution, and shall, to the extent possible, be consistent with the model agreement contained in Appendix D (Not included --WebEd).

f. **Submitters.** The Privacy Act allows for data to be released back to the submitter upon receipt and verification of a written request stating the data required.

04. **Requests for Confidential Data.** NMFS is authorized to collect data under various statutes [See Appendix A (Not include --WebEd)]. Two types of statutes govern the disclosure of confidential data collected by the Federal Government, those that contain specific and non-discretionary language within the Act, and those that provide overall guidance to the Federal Government. Sections of these Acts that deal with exceptions to disclosure may be found in Appendix B (Not included -- WebEd).

a. **Magnuson Act and MMPA.**

1. Data collected under 16 U.S.C. 1853 (a) or (b), and 16 U.S.C. 1383a (c),(d),(e),(f),or (h) will be handled in the following manner:

(a) data will only be disclosed to Federal employees and Council employees who are responsible for management plan development and monitoring; State employees pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary that prevents public disclosure of the identity or business of any person; a Council for conservation and management purposes [not applicable for MMPA data] or when required by court order. [See 50 CFR 229.10 and part 603];

(b) Council advisory groups are not permitted access to such confidential data [See 50 CFR 601.27(b)];

(c) requests from States that do not have an agreement with the Secretary will be processed in accordance with the Privacy Act or FOIA; and

(d) data collected by an observer under 16 U.S.C. 1853 (a) or (b) are not considered to have been "submitted to the Secretary by any person," and therefore are not confidential under Section 6.04.a of this Order. Data collected by an observer may be withheld from disclosure under the Privacy Act, or subsections (b)(3),(4),(5),(6), or (7) of FOIA.

2. Confidential data submitted to the Secretary under other Sections of the Magnuson Act or MMPA may only be disclosed in accordance with the Privacy Act or FOIA. Types of data and the collection authority may include among others:

(a) Processed Product Data -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e);

(b) Fish Meal and Oil, Monthly -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e);

(c) Data Collected Under State Authority and Provided to NMFS -- 16 U.S.C. 1854(e); and

(d) Tuna-Dolphin Observer Program -- 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.

b. **South Pacific Tuna Act.** Data collected under South Pacific Tuna Act 16 U.S.C. 973j is protected from disclosure to the public in accordance with section 973j(b).

c. **Other Statutes.** Confidential data collected under other NMFS programs as authorized by statutes other than South Pacific Tuna Act (16 U.S.C 973j), MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), and Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), may only be disclosed to the public in accordance with the Privacy Act and FOIA. Types of data and the collection authority may include among others:

(1) Monthly Cold Storage Fish Report -- 16 U.S.C. 742(a);

(2) Market News Data -- 16 U.S.C. 742(a); and

(3) Seafood Inspection Data -- 7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.

d. **Special Procedures.**

1. **Cold Storage Summary Reports.** NMFS publishes monthly cold storage holdings of fishery products. Advance knowledge of the content of
these reports could give those who trade in the products an opportunity to gain competitive advantage. Therefore, in addition to the confidential protection provided to individual reports, the monthly summary report will not be disclosed to the public until 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time of the official release date. Release dates for these data are published 1 year in advance in November, and can be obtained from the NMFS Fisheries Statistics Division.

2. **Surplus commodity purchases by USDA.** NMFS and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) have an interagency agreement relating to the purchase of surplus fishery products. NMFS is responsible for providing confidential data and recommendations to the USDA regarding these purchases. Advance knowledge of these data could cause a competitive advantage or disadvantage to the general public, fishing industry, and the program. Therefore, all NMFS personnel engaged in the surplus commodity purchase program will be required to sign a specific "USDA Responsibility Statement." A copy will be maintained in the Office of Trade Services.

3. **Agreements for Disclosure of Confidential Data.** A letter of agreement may authorize the disclosure of confidential data when both the Government and the submitter agree to disclosure of the data. The need to provide security for the data will vary depending on the type of data collected and the form of the disclosure. Disclosure can be undertaken if all the following conditions are met:

(a) the person has agreed in writing to the disclosure and is aware that disclosure is irrevocable;

(b) the recipient has been informed in writing of the sensitivity of the data; and

(c) the wording of the agreement has been approved by GC.

. 05 Disposal. NAO 205-1, NOAA Records Management Program, shall govern the disposition of records covered under this Order.

SECTION 7. PENALTIES.

. 01 **Civil and Criminal.** Persons who make unauthorized disclosure of confidential data may be subject to civil penalties or criminal prosecution under:

a. Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905);

b. Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1));

c. Magnuson Act (16 U.S.C. 1858); and

d. MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1375).

. 02 **Conflict of Interest.** Employees are prohibited by Department of Commerce employee conduct regulations [15 CFR part 0] and by ethics regulations applicable to the Executive Branch [5 CFR 2635.703] from using nonpublic information subject to this Order for personal gain, whether or not there is a disclosure to a third party.

. 03 **Disciplinary Action.** Persons may be subject to disciplinary action, including removal, for failure to comply with this Order. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, unlawful disclosure or use of the data, and failure to comply with implementing regulations or statutory prohibitions relating to the collection, maintenance, use and disclosure of data covered by this Order.

SECTION 8. EFFECT ON OTHER ISSUANCES. None.

Dated: February 12, 2010.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2010–3150 Filed 2–17–10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

RIN 0648–AX89

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management Measures for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; Amendment 91

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of fishery management plan amendment; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council submitted Amendment 91 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP) to NMFS for review. If approved, Amendment 91 would be a novel approach to managing Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery that combines a limit on the amount of Chinook salmon that may be caught incidentally with an incentive plan agreement and performance standard designed to minimize bycatch to the extent practicable in all years and prevent bycatch from reaching the limit in most years. This action is necessary to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery to the extent practicable while maximizing the potential for the full harvest of the pollock total allowable catch within specified prohibited species catch limits. Amendment 91 is intended to promote the goals and objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the FMP, and other applicable laws.

DATES: Comments on the amendment must be received on or before April 19, 2010.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by RIN 0648–AX89, by any one of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal *http://www.regulations.gov*.
- Fax: (907) 586–7557, Attn: Ellen Sebastian
- Mail: P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.
- Hand delivery to the Federal Building: 709 West 9th Street, Room 420A, Juneau, AK.

Instructions: No comments will be posted for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to *http://www.regulations.gov* without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Electronic copies of Amendment 91, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Final Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), and the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) prepared for this action may be obtained from the Alaska Region website at *http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/regs/summary.htm*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gretchen Harrington or Seanbob Kelly, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires that each regional fishery management council submit any fishery management plan or fishery management plan amendment it prepares to NMFS for review and approval, disapproval, or partial approval by the Secretary of Commerce. The Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires that NMFS, upon receiving a fishery management plan amendment, immediately publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing that the amendment is available for public review and comment.

This document announces that proposed Amendment 91 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP) is available for public review and comment. The groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Areas are managed under the FMP. The FMP was prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

The Bering Sea (BS) pollock fishery is managed under the American Fisheries Act (AFA) (16 U.S.C. 1851 note) enacted by Congress in October 1998. The AFA identifies vessels and processors eligible to participate in the directed pollock fishery and allocates pollock among the Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program, the catcher/processor sector, the mothership sector, and the inshore sector.

The BS pollock fishery is the largest single species fishery, by volume, in the United States. The first wholesale gross value of this fishery was over $1.4 billion in 2008. Pollock is harvested with fishing vessels using trawl gear during two seasons: the A season (January 20 to June 10) and the B season (June 10 to November 1). Chinook salmon and pollock occur in the same locations in the BS. Consequently, Chinook salmon are accidentally caught in the nets as fishermen target pollock.

The BS pollock fishery catches up to 95 percent of the Chinook salmon taken incidentally as bycatch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries. From 1992 through 2001, the average Chinook salmon bycatch in the BS pollock fishery was 32,482 Chinook salmon. This average increased substantially from 2002 to 2007, to 74,067 Chinook salmon. A historic high of approximately 122,000 Chinook salmon were taken in the BS pollock fishery in 2007. However, Chinook salmon bycatch has declined in recent years to 20,493 Chinook salmon in 2008 and 12,410 Chinook salmon through October 31, 2009, the end of the 2009 fishing year for pollock.

Chinook salmon is a culturally and economically valuable species, which is fully allocated and, in some cases, facing conservation concerns. Estimates vary, but more than half of the Chinook salmon bycatch in the BS pollock fishery may be destined for river systems in western Alaska. In general, western Alaska Chinook salmon stocks declined sharply in 2007 and remained low in 2008 and 2009. Consequently, the in-river harvest of western Alaska Chinook salmon has been severely restricted and, in some cases, river systems have not met escapement goals.

Chinook salmon is a prohibited species in the BS pollock fishery and is closely regulated. Over the past fifteen years, the Council and NMFS implemented several management measures to limit Chinook salmon bycatch in the BSAI trawl fisheries. In 1995, the Council adopted and NMFS

approved, Amendment 21b to the FMP. Amendment 21b established annual prohibited species catch (PSC) limits for Chinook salmon and specific seasonal no-trawling zones in the Chinook salmon savings area that would be triggered when the limits were reached (60 FR 31215; November 29, 1995). In 2000, the Council and NMFS implemented Amendment 58 to the FMP which reduced the Chinook salmon savings area closure limit, redefined the Chinook salmon savings area as two non-contiguous areas of the BSAI, and established new closure periods (65 FR 60587; October 12, 2000).

The Council adopted Amendment 84 in October 2005, to address increases in Chinook and non-Chinook salmon bycatch that were occurring despite PSC limits that triggered closure of the Chinook and chum salmon savings areas. Amendment 84 established the salmon bycatch intercooperative agreement (ICA) which allows vessels participating in the directed fisheries for pollock in the BS to utilize their internal cooperative structure to reduce Chinook and non-Chinook salmon bycatch using a method called the ''voluntary rolling hotspot system''(VRHS). The VRHS provides real-time salmon bycatch information in time for the fleet to avoid areas of high Chinook or non-Chinook salmon bycatch rates. Regulations implementing Amendment 84 were approved in 2007 (72 FR 61070; October 29, 2007) and a salmon bycatch reduction ICA using the VRHS was approved by NMFS in January 2008.

Although the management measures implemented under Amendment 84 provided the pollock fleet with tools to reduce salmon bycatch, these measures contained no effective limit on the amount of salmon bycatch that could occur in the BS pollock fishery. Therefore, the Council further evaluated measures to limit both Chinook and non-Chinook salmon bycatch.

In April 2009, the Council adopted Amendment 91 and recommended that NMFS develop regulations to implement that action. Amendment 91 would be a novel approach to managing Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery that combines a limit on the amount of Chinook salmon that may be caught incidentally with an incentive plan agreement and performance standard designed to minimize bycatch to the extent practicable in all years and prevent bycatch from reaching the limit in most years. The Council is currently considering a separate action to modify the non-Chinook salmon management measures to minimize non-Chinook salmon bycatch.

In developing Amendment 91, the Council recognized that the number of Chinook salmon caught as bycatch in the BS pollock fishery is highly variable from year to year, from sector to sector, and even from vessel to vessel. Current information about Chinook salmon is insufficient to determine the reasons for high or low encounters of Chinook salmon in the pollock fishery or the degree to which encounter rates are related to Chinook salmon abundance or other conditions. The uncertainty and variability in Chinook salmon bycatch led the Council to create a program with a combination of management measures that together achieve its objective to minimize bycatch in all years while providing the fleet the flexibility to harvest the pollock total allowable catch (TAC).

Under Amendment 91, the PSC limit would be 60,000 Chinook salmon if some or all of the pollock industry participates in an industry-developed contractual arrangement, called an incentive plan agreement (IPA), that establishes an incentive program to minimize bycatch at all levels of Chinook salmon abundance. Participation in an IPA would be voluntary; however, any vessel or CDQ group that chooses not to participate in an IPA would be subject to a restrictive opt-out allocation (also called a backstop cap).

To ensure participants develop effective IPAs, participants would demonstrate to the Council through performance and annual reports that the IPA is accomplishing the Council's intent that each vessel does its best to avoid Chinook salmon at all times while fishing for pollock and that collectively, bycatch is minimized in each year. The Council believed that the addition of an IPA that could impose rewards for avoiding Chinook salmon bycatch, penalties for failure to avoid Chinook salmon bycatch at the vessel level, or both, would warrant setting the PSC limit at 60,000 Chinook salmon. The Council recognized that while the IPA should minimize bycatch in all years to a level far below the limit, a limit of 60,000 Chinook salmon would provide the industry the flexibility to harvest the pollock TAC in high encounter years when bycatch was extremely difficult to avoid.

A 47,591 Chinook salmon PSC limit would apply fleet-wide if industry does not form any IPAs. This PSC limit of 47,591 Chinook salmon is the approximate 10–year average Chinook salmon bycatch from 1997 to 2006. The Council determined that the 47,591 PSC limit was an appropriate limit on Chinook salmon bycatch in the BS pollock fishery if no other incentives were operating to minimize bycatch below this level.

Both PSC limits would be divided between the A and B seasons and allocated to AFA sectors, cooperatives, and CDQ groups as transferable PSC allocations. Transferability is expected to mitigate the variation in the encounter rates of salmon bycatch among sectors, CDQ groups, and cooperatives in a given season by allowing eligible participants to obtain a larger portion of the PSC allocation in order to harvest their pollock allocation or to transfer surplus allocation to other entities. When a transferable PSC allocation is reached, the affected sector, inshore cooperative, or CDQ group would have to stop fishing for pollock for the remainder of the season even if its pollock allocation had not been fully harvested.

The sector-level performance standard is an additional tool to ensure that the IPA is effective and that sectors do not fully harvest the Chinook salmon PSC allocations under the 60,000 Chinook salmon PSC limit in most years. For a sector to continue to receive Chinook salmon PSC allocations under the 60,000 Chinook salmon PSC limit, that sector may not exceed its annual threshold amount in any 3 years within 7 consecutive years. If a sector fails this performance standard, it will permanently be allocated a portion of the 47,591 Chinook salmon PSC limit. The Council believed that the risk of bearing the potential economic impacts of a reduction from the 60,000 PSC limit to the 47,591 PSC limit would create incentives for fishery participants to cooperate in an effective IPA.

In selecting the appropriate Chinook salmon bycatch management program, the Council considered a wide range of alternatives to assess the impacts of minimizing Chinook salmon bycatch to the extent practicable while maximizing the potential for the full harvest of the pollock TAC within the PSC limit. In selecting these PSC limits, the Council considered the trade-offs between the potential Chinook salmon saved and the forgone pollock catch. The EIS, RIR, and IRFA contain a complete description of the alternatives and a comparative analysis of the potential impacts of the alternatives (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public comments are being solicited on proposed Amendment 91 to the BSAI FMP through the end of the comment period (see **DATES**). NMFS intends to publish in the **Federal Register** and seek public comment on a proposed rule that would implement Amendment 91,

following NMFS's evaluation of the proposed rule under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The requirements governing the transfer and use of the proposed Chinook salmon PSC allocations, IPA application process, annual reporting requirements, and other aspects of Amendment 91 will be specified in the proposed rule implementing this action.

Public comments on the proposed rule must be received by the end of the comment period on Amendment 91 to be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on Amendment 91. All comments received by the end of the comment period on Amendment 91, whether specifically directed to the FMP amendment or the proposed rule, will be considered in the FMP amendment approval/disapproval decision. Comments received after that date will not be considered in the approval/disapproval decision on the amendment. To be considered, comments must be received, not just postmarked or otherwise transmitted, by the close of business on the last day of the comment period.

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

Dated: February 12, 2010.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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