

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

06/23/2006

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 05/22/2006.

TITLE: American Fisheries Act: Vessel and Processor
Permit Applications

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE
OMB NO.: 0648-0393
EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2009

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS (\$,000)
Previous	20	42	0
New	11	29	0
Difference	-9	-13	0
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		-13	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

NOTE: The agency is required to display the OMB control number and inform respondents of its legal significance (see 5 CFR 1320.5(b)).

OMB Authorizing Official	Title
John F. Morrall III	Acting Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

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.

<p>1. Agency/Subagency originating request DOC/NOAA/NMFS</p>	<p>2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. <u>0648</u> - <u>0393</u></p>
<p>3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired</p> <p>e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired</p> <p>f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number</p> <p>For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions</p>	<p>4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular submission</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated</p>
	<p>5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
	<p>6. Requested expiration date</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____</p>
<p>7. Title American Fisheries Act: Vessel and Processor Permit Applications</p>	
<p>8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)</p>	
<p>9. Keywords</p>	
<p>10. Abstract</p> <p>Under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) National Marine Fisheries service (NMFS) manages the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off Alaska through fishery management plans. Regulations that implement those fishery management plans appear at 50 CFR part 679. The American Fisheries Act, 16 U.S.C. 1851 note (AFA) provided a new program for the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pollock fishery. In response to the AFA, NMFS developed a management program for BSAI pollock to include a set of permits for AFA catcher/processors, AFA catcher vessels, AFA inshore processors, AFA motherships, and AFA cooperatives. Vessels and processors in the BSAI pollock fishery are required to have valid AFA permits on board the vessel or at the processing plant, in addition to any other Federal or State permits.</p>	
<p>11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>)</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government</p>	<p>12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</p>
<p>13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden</p> <p>a. Number of respondents <u>11</u></p> <p>b. Total annual responses <u>11</u></p> <p> 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically <u>100</u> %</p> <p>c. Total annual hours requested <u>29</u></p> <p>d. Current OMB inventory <u>42</u></p> <p>e. Difference <u>(13)</u></p> <p>f. Explanation of difference</p> <p> 1. Program change _____</p> <p> 2. Adjustment <u>(13)</u></p>	<p>14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>)</p> <p>a. Total annualized capital/startup costs <u>0</u></p> <p>b. Total annual costs (O&M) <u>0</u></p> <p>c. Total annualized cost requested <u>0</u></p> <p>d. Current OMB inventory <u>0</u></p> <p>e. Difference <u>0</u></p> <p>f. Explanation of difference</p> <p> 1. Program change _____</p> <p> 2. Adjustment _____</p>
<p>15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit</p>	<p>16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reporting</p> <p> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly</p> <p> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annually</p> <p> 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) <u>may provide revisions</u></p>
<p>17. Statistical methods</p> <p>Does this information collection employ statistical methods</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)</p> <p>Name: <u>Patsy A. Bearden</u></p> <p>Phone: <u>(907) 586-7008</u></p>

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

5/02/06

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

signed by Sarah Brabson

Date

5/05/2006

**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) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Management Area and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) under the fishery management plans (FMPs) for groundfish in the respective areas. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared, and NMFS approved, the FMPs under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*). Regulations implementing the FMPs appear at 50 CFR part 679. General regulations governing U.S. fisheries also appear at 50 CFR part 600. On October 21, 1998, the President signed into The American Fisheries Act, 16 U.S.C. 1851 note (AFA) which imposed major structural changes on the BSAI pollock fishery.

In response to the American Fisheries Act (AFA), NMFS developed a management program for BSAI pollock to include a set of permits for AFA catcher/processors, AFA catcher vessels, AFA inshore processors, and AFA motherships. Beginning January 1, 2000, all vessels and processors wishing to participate in the non-Community Development Quota (CDQ) BSAI pollock fishery are required to have valid AFA permits on board the vessel or at the processing plant. AFA permits are required even for vessels and processors specifically named in the AFA, and are required in addition to any other Federal or State permits. AFA permits also may limit the take of non-pollock groundfish, crab, and prohibited species as governed by AFA "sideboard" provisions.

With the exceptions of the inshore vessel cooperatives, replacement vessel, and inshore vessel contract fishing applications, the AFA permit program had a one-time application deadline of December 1, 2000. All permitted participants in the AFA pollock fishery are already established and are issued with an indefinite expiration date except for the annual inshore cooperative permit, the replacement vessel, and the inshore vessel contract fishing applications. The permanent AFA permit applications are: AFA catcher vessel permit application, AFA catcher/processor permit application, AFA mothership permit application, and AFA inshore processor permit application.

This action removes the permit applications that are no longer used. Left in place are the AFA inshore catcher vessel cooperative permit application, the AFA permit for replacement vessel application, and the AFA inshore vessel contract fishing application.

JUSTIFICATION

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

Inshore catcher vessel cooperatives wishing to receive an allocation of the BSAI inshore pollock total allowable catch (TAC) are required to annually submit an application for an inshore cooperative fishing permit by December 1 of the year prior to the year in which the cooperative fishing permit will be in effect. The information must be collected annually because NMFS must

identify the universe of participating vessels and processors prior to the start of each fishing year in order to assign allocations of pollock TAC to eligible groups of vessels that form cooperatives. A permit application is also available for replacement of an AFA vessel in case of loss of a vessel.

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.

a. Application for AFA Permit for Replacement Vessel

In the event of the actual total loss or constructive total loss of an AFA catcher vessel, AFA mothership, or AFA catcher/processor, the vessel's owner may replace the 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:

Application for AFA Permit for Replacement Vessel

BLOCK A - Identification & ownership of Lost AFA eligible Vessel

Lost Vessel

- Vessel name
- ADF&G vessel registration number
- USCG documentation number
- AFA permit number
- Gross tons, shaft horsepower, and registered length from USCG documentation
- Indicate the last year in which this vessel harvested or processed pollock in a BSAI directed pollock fishery
- Description of how the vessel was lost or destroyed
- Attach a USCG form 2692 or insurance papers to verify the claim.

Owner of lost vessel

- Owner(s) name; if more than one owner, primary owner first
- Social security (voluntary) or Tax ID number of owner
- Business mailing address, telephone number, FAX number, and E-mail address

BLOCK B - Identification & ownership of replacement vessel

Replacement Vessel

- Vessel name
- ADF&G vessel registration number
- USCG documentation number
- Gross tons, shaft horsepower, registered length, net tons from USCG documentation
- Current length overall (in feet)
- Federal Fisheries Permit number
- Indicate YES or NO whether the vessel was built in the U.S.
- Indicate YES or NO whether the vessel has ever been rebuilt
- If YES, whether rebuilt in the United States

Owner of replacement vessel

- Owner(s) name; if more than one, primary owner first
- Social security (voluntary) or Tax ID number
- Business mailing address, telephone number, FAX number, and E-mail address

BLOCK C - Certification of applicant and notary

- Signature and printed name of owner(s) and date of signature(s)
- Signature and notary stamp or seal of notary public
- Date notary commission expires

AFA Permit for Replacement Vessel, Respondent	
Estimated number of respondents	1
Total annual responses	1
Total burden hours	0.5
Estimated hours per response = 0.5	
Total personnel cost (0.5 x \$25=\$12.50)	\$13
Personnel cost per hour = 25	
Total miscellaneous cost (\$5.59)	\$6
Annual postage (.39 x 1=0.39)	
Annual photocopy (2 x .10 x 1=0.20)	
Annual notary public (5 x 1)	

AFA Permit for Replacement Vessel, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	1
Total burden hours	1
Estimated hours per response=1	
Total personnel cost	\$25
Personnel cost per hour=\$25	
Total miscellaneous cost	0

b. Application for AFA Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit

Inshore catcher vessel cooperatives wishing to receive an allocation of the BSAI inshore pollock TAC are required to submit an application for an inshore cooperative fishing permit. NMFS will issue an AFA inshore cooperative fishing permit to a cooperative formed pursuant to Fisherman's Collective Marketing Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 521) upon receipt of a complete application. The application and any amendments that add or delete co-op member vessels must be received by NMFS by December 1 of the year prior to the year for which the co-op permit will be in effect.

NMFS collects information once a year to identify the universe of participating vessels and processors prior to the start of each fishing year. This is done in order to assign allocations of pollock TAC to eligible groups of vessels that form cooperatives.

Application for AFA Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit

Block A – Cooperative contact information

- Name of cooperative (co-op)
- Name of co-op representative
- Business mailing address (P.O. box or street, city, state, zip code)
- Business telephone number, FAX number, and e-mail address

Block B – Designated cooperative processor information

- Name of AFA inshore processor who is designated as processor to whom the cooperative has agreed to deliver at least 90% of its BSAI pollock catch
- Physical location of AFA inshore processor
- Federal processor permit number

Block C – Cooperative contract information

- Indicate (YES or NO) whether attached a copy of the cooperative contract
- Indicate (YES or NO) whether attached a written certification that:
 - The contract was signed by the owners of at least 80% of the qualified catcher vessels;
 - The cooperative contract requires that the cooperative deliver at least 90% of its BSAI pollock catch to its designated AFA processor; and
 - Each catcher vessel in the cooperative
 - Is a qualified catcher vessel
 - is otherwise eligible to fish for groundfish in the BSAI
 - Has an AFA catcher vessel permit with an inshore endorsement

Has no permit sanctions or other type of sanctions against it that would prevent it from fishing for groundfish in the BSAI;

A copy of a letter requesting a business review letter on the fishery cooperative from the Department of Justice and any response to such request

BLOCK D - Vessel Information

List all member catcher vessels with following information for each (attach additional pages if necessary).

- Vessel name as displayed in official documentation.
- ADF&G Vessel Registration Number (example: 51233).
- U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number (example: 566722)
- AFA Permit Number.

BLOCK E -- Certification of notary and applicant

- Signature and printed name of co-op representative and date of signature
- Signature and notary stamp or seal of notary public
- Date commission of notary public expires

Renewal letter

If a cooperative contract was previously filed with NMFS and the Council, then a renewal letter may be submitted to NMFS and the Council by the filing deadline in lieu of the cooperative contract and business review letter. The renewal letter must:

Provide notice that the previously filed cooperative contract will remain in effect for the subsequent fishing year.

Detail any material modifications to the cooperative contract that have been made since the last filing including, but not limited to, any changes in cooperative membership.

Application for AFA Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit, Respondent	
Estimated number of respondents	8
Total annual responses	8
Total burden hours	20
Estimated hours per response=2.5	
Total personnel cost	\$500
Personnel cost per hour=25	
Total miscellaneous cost (44.72)	\$45
Annual postage (.39 x 8=3.12)	
Annual photocopy (2 x .10 x 8=1.60)	
Annual notary public (5 x 8=40)	

Application for AFA Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit, Federal Government	
Total annual responses	8
Total burden hours	8
Estimated hours per response=1	
Total personnel cost	\$200
Personnel cost per hour=25	
Total miscellaneous cost	0

c. AFA Inshore Vessel Contract Fishing Application

An AFA inshore cooperative (co-op) that wishes to contract with a vessel that is a member of another inshore cooperative must submit by FAX or mail a complete inshore vessel contract fishing application to NMFS, Alaska Region, Restricted Access Management for each cooperative for which the vessel harvests.

This information will assist co-ops to understand how their catch is accounted, and also alert the NMFS inseason management that some vessels might be reporting with an alternative co-op identification. This inshore vessel contract fishing application has no form and may assume any format, but must contain the following information:

The name and AFA permit number of the contract vessel. This AFA catcher vessel must have an inshore fishing endorsement and be a member of an inshore cooperative.

The name and signature of the contract vessel's owner.

The name of the contract vessel's home cooperative.

The name and signature of the home cooperative's designated representative.

The name of the AFA inshore cooperative wishing to contract with the vessel.

The name and signature of the AFA inshore cooperative's designated representative.

A complete harvest schedule. This harvest schedule must show how all catch and any overages by the contracted vessel will be allocated between the contracting cooperative (or cooperatives) and the contract vessel's home cooperative. In the event that multiple cooperatives are contracting with the same nonmember vessel, each harvest schedule submitted must clearly specify how all catch and any overages will be allocated among the various cooperatives with which the vessel is contracted as of the date of submission.

This inshore vessel contract fishing application is not valid unless it is signed by:

- (1) Contracting cooperative's designated representative,
- (2) Contract vessel owner, and
- (3) Vessel's home cooperative designated representative

A cooperative that has contracted with a non-member vessel to harvest a portion of its inshore pollock allocation, prior to the start of fishing under the contract, must inform the AFA inshore processor(s) of the impending delivery of pollock by the vessel.

AFA Inshore Vessel Contract Fishing Application, Respondent	
Estimated number of respondents	2
Total annual responses	2
Total response hours	8
Estimated hours per response = 4	
Total personnel cost	
Personnel cost per hour = \$25	\$200
Total miscellaneous cost	\$41
Postage cost (0.40 x 1 = 0.40)	
Photocopy cost (0.05 x 2 x 8 = 0.80)	
FAX cost (\$5 x 8 = 40)	

AFA Inshore Vessel Contract Fishing Application, Federal Government	
Total responses	2
Total burden hours	1
Estimated hours per response = 15/60=0.25 x 2 = .5	

Total personnel cost \$25 x .5 = 12.5	12
Total miscellaneous cost	0

d. Application for AFA Catcher Vessel Permits [REMOVED]

e. AFA mothership permit application [REMOVED]

f. AFA inshore processor permit [REMOVED]

g. Application for AFA catcher/processor permit [REMOVED]

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #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 predissemination 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.

The application forms are posted on the NMFS Alaska Region Home Page at www.fakr.noaa.gov. These are fillable forms that may be completed onscreen, printed, and faxed. Future plans of NMFS Alaska Region are to allow completion of permit applications online through the Internet.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

None of the information collected as part of this information collection duplicates other collections. This information collection is part of a specialized and technical program that is not like any other.

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

The proposed collection-of-information does not impose a significant impact on small entities.

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

The intent of this action is to provide permits for an AFA Program in the BSAI and GOA. Without the specified permitting scheme described in this Supporting Statement, the program

would be jeopardized. The consequences of not collecting this information would be that NMFS could not fulfill the intent of the AFA.

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 a copy of 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.

A *Federal Register* notice [71 FR 3471, January 23, 2006](#) (copy attached) was published, and no comments were received.

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.

The information collected is confidential under section 303(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*); and also under NOAA Administrative Order (AO) 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 collection of information requests the social security number (see item 10).

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

Estimated total unique respondents 11, down from 20. Estimated total annual responses 11, down from 20. Estimated total annual burden 28.5 (29) hr, down from 42 hr. Estimated total annual personnel cost \$713, down from \$963.

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 #12 above).

Estimated annual total miscellaneous costs \$92, up from \$59.

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

Estimated total annual burden 10 hr, down from 20 hr. Estimated total annual personnel cost \$237, down from \$500. Estimated total annual miscellaneous cost: 0.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

There are two adjustments: removal of one time permit applications from the collection (removes 21 hours and \$8) and addition of a permit requirement for AFA Inshore Vessel Contract Fishing Application, previously reported in OMB Control No. 0648-0401, but more appropriate here (adds 8 hours and \$41), resulting in a net decrease of 13 hours and net increase of \$33.

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

The information collected 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.

In accordance with OMB requirements, the control number and the expiration date of OMB approval are shown on the forms.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

No exceptions to the certification statement are requested.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.



**APPLICATION FOR
AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT (AFA)
PERMIT FOR
REPLACEMENT VESSEL**

U.S. Dept. of Commerce/NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service
Restricted Access Management
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668
(800) 304-4846 toll free / 586-7202 in Juneau
(907) 586-7354 fax



BLOCK A - IDENTIFICATION OF LOST AFA QUALIFIED VESSEL

1. Vessel Name: [Redacted]	2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number: [Redacted]	3. U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number: [Redacted]	4. AFA Permit Number: [Redacted]
5. Gross Tons: [Redacted]	6. Shaft Horsepower: [Redacted]	7. Registered Length: [Redacted]	
8. Owner Name(s): [Redacted]		9. SSN (optional) or Tax ID: [Redacted]	
10. Business Mailing Address: Under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act (16 U.			
11. Business Telephone Number: [Redacted]	12. Business FAX Number: [Redacted]	13. Business E-mail Address: [Redacted]	
14. What was the last year in which this vessel harvested or processed pollock in a BSAI directed pollock fishery? [Redacted]			
15. How was the vessel lost or destroyed? [Redacted] U.S. Coast Guard form 2692 or insurance papers verifying the loss must be attached.			

BLOCK B - IDENTIFICATION OF REPLACEMENT VESSEL
U.S. Coast Guard Documentation for this vessel must be attached to this application

1. Vessel Name: [Redacted]	2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number: [Redacted]	3. U. S. Coast Guard Documentation Number: [Redacted]
4. Gross Tons: [Redacted]	5. Shaft Horsepower: [Redacted]	6. Registered Length: [Redacted]
7. Net Tons: [Redacted]	8. Current Length Overall: [Redacted]	9. Federal Fisheries Permit: (if known) [Redacted]
10. Owner Name(s): [Redacted]		11. SSN (optional) or Tax ID: [Redacted]
12. Business Mailing Address: [Redacted]		
13. Business Telephone Number: [Redacted]	14. Business FAX Number: [Redacted]	15. Business E-mail Address: [Redacted]
16. Was the vessel built in the United States? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
17. Has the vessel ever been rebuilt? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If Yes, was it rebuilt in the United States? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

BLOCK C - CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT AND NOTARY

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information presented here is true, correct and complete.

1. Signature of Owner

2. Date:

3. Printed Name of owner

4. Notary Public:

ATTEST

5. Affix Notary Stamp or Seal Here:

6. Commission Expires:

Please mail completed application to:

**NMFS Alaska Region,
Restricted Access Management,
P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.**

If you need additional information, contact RAM at 1-800-304-4846 or 907-586-7202 (in Juneau).

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: Your social security number is confidential and is protected under the Privacy Act. Disclosure of your Social Security Number (SSN) is voluntary. The primary purpose for soliciting the social security number is to provide a unique identifier to verify the identity of the applicant(s) for issuance of a federal fishery permit and to avoid inappropriate release of confidential records related to federal commercial fishery permits. In the event it is not provided, NMFS will assign a unique code that will identify your records.

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching 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 Sustainable Fisheries, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) The NMFS may not conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) This information is being used to implement the American Fisheries Act; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required of persons seeking to participate in groundfish fisheries under authority of AFA.



INSTRUCTIONS
Application for American Fisheries Act (AFA)
Permit for Replacement Vessel

Use this application to request replacement of AFA qualified catcher vessels, catcher/processors, and motherships in the event of total or constructive loss of the qualified vessel. Replacement of AFA qualified vessels is authorized at Section 208(g) of the AFA.

Type or print legibly in ink; retain a copy of completed application for your records. Completed forms should be mailed to: **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Alaska Region, Restricted Access Management, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668**. If you need information, contact RAM at 1-800-304-4846 or 907-586-7202. **Please allow at least 10 working days for your application to be processed.** Items will be sent by first class mail, unless you provide alternate instructions *and* include a prepaid mailer with appropriate postage or a corporate account number for express delivery.

BLOCK A - IDENTIFICATION OF LOST AFA QUALIFIED VESSEL

(provide information as of the time of the actual or constructive loss of the vessel).

1. Vessel Name - Enter complete vessel name as displayed in official documentation.
2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number - Enter 5-digit State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Vessel Registration Number (example: 51233) of qualified vessel.
3. U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number - Enter U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) documentation number (example: 566722) of qualified vessel.
4. AFA Permit Number - Enter the AFA Permit Number of the qualified vessel.
5. Gross tons - Enter gross Tons of qualified vessel from USCG documentation/registration.
6. Shaft horsepower - Enter shaft horsepower of qualified vessel from USCG documentation/registration.
7. Registered length - Enter registered length (in feet) of qualified vessel from USCG documentation/registration.
8. Owner Name(s) - Enter the full name(s) of the vessel owner(s). If there is more than one owner, list the principal owner first; the permit will be issued to the first owner listed, with an *et al.* notation. The permit MUST be issued to the owner of the vessel, not operators or lessees.
9. Social Security Number or Tax Identification Number - Enter social security number or tax identification number of owner. ***PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:*** *Your social security number is confidential and is protected under the Privacy Act. Disclosure of your Social Security Number (SSN) is voluntary. The primary purpose for soliciting the social security number is to provide a unique identifier to verify the identity of the applicant(s) for issuance of a federal fishery permit and to avoid inappropriate release of confidential records related to federal commercial fishery permits. In the event it is not provided, NMFS will assign a unique code that will identify your records.*
10. Business Mailing Address - Enter your complete PERMANENT business mailing address, including state and zip code. Your permit will be sent to this address. If you need to have your permit sent to a different address, please enter your PERMANENT business address on the application and attach a note with your alternate address.
11. Business Telephone Number - Enter business telephone number used by the vessel or processor owner, including area code. It is very important that you provide a telephone number where we can contact you, or where we can leave messages for you; if questions arise concerning your application and we cannot contact you by telephone, issuance of your permit will be delayed.
12. Business FAX Number - Enter business FAX number used by the vessel owner, including area code.
13. Business E-mail address - Enter business E-mail used by the vessel owner
14. Enter the last year in which this vessel harvested or processed pollock in a BSAI directed pollock fishery.
15. Explain in detail how the qualified vessel was lost or destroyed.

You also must attach USCG form 2692 or insurance papers to verify your claim.

BLOCK B - IDENTIFICATION OF REPLACEMENT VESSEL

Coast Guard Documentation for this vessel must be attached to the application

1. Vessel Name - Enter complete vessel name as displayed in official documentation.
2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number - Enter 5-digit ADF&G vessel registration number (example: 51233) of replacement vessel.
3. U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Number - Enter USCG documentation number (example: 566722) of replacement vessel.
4. Gross tons - Enter gross tons of replacement vessel from USCG documentation.
5. Shaft horsepower - Enter shaft horsepower of replacement vessel from USCG documentation.
6. Registered length - Enter registered length (in feet) of replacement vessel from USCG documentation.
7. Net tons - Enter registered net tonnage (U.S. tons) as stated in official documentation.
8. Current length overall - Enter current length overall (in feet).
9. Federal Fisheries Permit - Enter Federal Fisheries Permit number, if known.
10. Owner Name(s) - Enter the full name(s) of the vessel owner(s). If there is more than one owner, list the principal owner first; the permit will be issued to the first owner listed, with an *et al.* notation. The permit MUST be issued to the owner of the vessel, not operators or lessees.
11. Social Security Number or Tax Identification Number - Enter social security number or tax identification number of owner. **PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:** *Your social security number is confidential and is protected under the Privacy Act. Disclosure of your Social Security Number (SSN) is voluntary. The primary purpose for soliciting the social security number is to provide a unique identifier to verify the identity of the applicant(s) for issuance of a federal fishery permit and to avoid inappropriate release of confidential records related to federal commercial fishery permits. In the event it is not provided, NMFS will assign a unique code that will identify your records.*
12. Business Mailing Address - Enter complete PERMANENT business mailing address of owner, including state and zip code. Your permit will be sent to this address. If you need to have your permit sent to a different address, please enter your PERMANENT business address on the application and attach a note with your alternate address.
13. Business Telephone Number - Enter business telephone number used by the vessel owner, including area code. It is very important that you provide a telephone number to avoid delays in permit processing.
14. Business FAX Number - Enter business FAX number used by the vessel owner, including area code.
15. Business E-mail address - Enter business E-mail used by the vessel owner
16. Was the vessel built in the United States? Answer YES or NO, as appropriate.
17. Has the vessel ever been rebuilt? Answer YES or NO. If YES, was it rebuilt in the United States? Answer YES or NO as appropriate.

BLOCK C - CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT AND NOTARY

1. Signature of the owner.
2. Date this application was signed.
3. Printed name of the owner.
- 4-6. Notary Certification. A Notary Public must Attest and affix Notary Stamp. Notary Public verification cannot be completed by the person submitting this application.

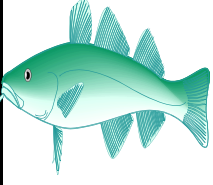

Sign, print, and date the application in the presence of Notary Public. As a result of this requirement, **we will not process applications faxed to us.** Representatives acting on behalf of an applicant must submit proof of authorization to submit this application on their behalf.

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching 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 Sue Salvesson, Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) The NMFS may not conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) This information is being used to manage the Limited Access Programs; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required of persons seeking to participate in groundfish fisheries under authority of AFA.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Application for AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT (AFA) Inshore Catcher Vessel Cooperative Permit</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>DUE DECEMBER 1*</i></p>	<p>United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region P.O. Box 21668 Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668 (800) 304-4846 toll free / 586-7202 in Juneau (907) 586-7354 fax</p> 
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*Due December 1 of the year prior to the year for which the co-op permit will be in effect. Late applications will not be accepted.

BLOCK A - COOPERATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>1. Name of Cooperative</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<p>2. Name of Cooperative Representative</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	
<p>3. Co-op Business Mailing Address (P.O. box or street, city, state, zip code)</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 60px;" type="text"/>		
<p>4. Business Telephone Number</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<p>5. Business FAX</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	<p>6. E-mail Address</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 30px;" type="text"/>

BLOCK B - DESIGNATED COOPERATIVE PROCESSOR INFORMATION

Provide the following information for the AFA Inshore Processor who is designated in the cooperative contract as the processor to whom the cooperative has agreed to deliver at least 90 percent of its BSAI pollock catch

<p>Name</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	
<p>Physical location of AFA Inshore Processor</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 50px;" type="text"/>	<p>Federal Processor Permit Number</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 50px;" type="text"/>

BLOCK C - COOPERATIVE CONTRACT INFORMATION

NOTE: This application is not valid and cannot be processed without the submission of a copy of the co-op contract and certification.

Have you attached:

(1) A copy of the cooperative contract

Yes No

(2) A written certification that:

Yes No

The contract was signed by the owners of at least 80 percent of the qualified catcher vessels;

The cooperative contract requires that the cooperative deliver at least 90 percent of its BSAI pollock catch to its designated AFA processor; and

Each catcher vessel in the cooperative

is a qualified catcher vessel

is otherwise eligible to fish for groundfish in the BSAI

has an AFA catcher vessel permit with an inshore endorsement

has no permit sanctions or other type of sanctions against it that would prevent it from fishing for groundfish in the BSAI;

(3) A copy of a letter requesting a business review letter on the fishery cooperative from the Department of Justice and any response to such request?

Yes No

BLOCK D - VESSEL INFORMATION

List all co-op member catcher vessels. List complete information for each co-op catcher vessel member (attach additional pages if necessary).

1. Vessel Name

2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number

3. USCG Documentation Number

4. AFA Permit Number

1. Vessel Name

2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number

3. USCG Documentation Number

4. AFA Permit Number

1. Vessel Name

2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number

3. USCG Documentation Number

4. AFA Permit Number

1. Vessel Name

2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number

3. USCG Documentation Number

4. AFA Permit Number

1. Vessel Name

2. ADF&G Vessel Registration Number

3. USCG Documentation Number

4. AFA Permit Number

BLOCK E - CERTIFICATION OF NOTARY AND APPLICANT

Under penalty of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information presented hereon is true, correct, and complete.

1. Signature of Co-op Representative

2. Date

3. Printed Name of Co-op Representative

4. Notary Public (Signature) ATTEST

6. Affix Notary Stamp or Seal Here

5. Commission Expires

Please mail completed application to:

**NMFS Alaska Region
Restricted Access Management (RAM)
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668.**

If you need additional information, call RAM toll free at (800) 304-4846 (#2) or (907) 586-7202 (#2).

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching 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 Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) The NMFS may not conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) This information is being used to implement the American Fisheries Act; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required of persons seeking to participate in the groundfish fisheries under authority of AFA; 5) This information is mandatory and is required to manage commercial fishing effort under 50 CFR part 679 and under section 402(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*); 6) Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*). They are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.



Instructions
APPLICATION FOR AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT (AFA)
CATCHER VESSEL INSHORE CO-OP PERMIT



IMPORTANT! This inshore co-op permit application and any amendments that add or delete co-op member vessels **must be received** by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), **Restricted Access Management (RAM)** by **December 1** of the year prior to the year for which the co-op permit will be in effect. **Late applications will NOT be accepted.**

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

NMFS Alaska Region, RAM,
P.O. Box 21668,
Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

If you need additional information, call RAM toll free at (800) 304-4846 (#2) or (907) 586-7202 (#2).

Please allow at least 10 working days for your application to be processed. Items will be sent by first class mail, unless you provide alternate instructions *and* include a prepaid mailer with appropriate postage or a corporate account number for express delivery.

Fishery cooperative or cooperative means any entity cooperatively managing directed fishing for BSAI 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.

BLOCK A - CO-OP CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Co-op name.
2. Name of Designated Cooperative Representative. Indicate the name of 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.
3. Co-op business mailing address, including P.O. box or street, city, state, and zip code.
4. Business telephone number, including area code.
5. Business FAX number, if available.
6. Business e-mail address, if any.

BLOCK B - DESIGNATED COOPERATIVE PROCESSOR INFORMATION

Name and physical location of AFA Inshore Processor who is designated in the cooperative contract as the processor to whom the cooperative has agreed to deliver at least 90 percent of its BSAI pollock catch
 Federal Processor Permit number of the AFA inshore processor.

BLOCK C -- COOPERATIVE CONTRACT INFORMATION

NOTE: This application is not valid and cannot be processed without the submission of a copy of the co-op contract and certification.

1. Indicate YES or NO whether you have attached

A copy of the cooperative contract and

A written certification that:

The contract was signed by the owners of at least 80 percent of the qualified catcher vessels;

The cooperative contract requires that the cooperative deliver at least 90 percent of its BSAI pollock catch to its designated AFA processor; and

Each catcher vessel in the cooperative

is a qualified catcher vessel

is otherwise eligible to fish for groundfish in the BSAI

has an AFA catcher vessel permit with an inshore endorsement

has no permit sanctions or other type of sanctions against it that would prevent it from fishing for groundfish in the BSAI;

A copy of a letter requesting a business review letter on the fishery cooperative from the Department of Justice and any response to such request

BLOCK D - VESSEL INFORMATION

All co-op member vessels must be listed. List complete information for each co-op member catcher vessel (attach additional pages if necessary).

From USCG official documentation, enter:

Complete vessel name.

5-digit ADF&G vessel registration number (example: 51233).

U.S. Coast Guard documentation number (example: 566722).

Enter the AFA permit number.

BLOCK E - CERTIFICATION OF NOTARY AND APPLICANT

Sign, print your name, and date the application in the presence of Notary Public. As a result of this requirement, we will not process applications faxed to us. Representatives acting on behalf of an applicant must submit proof of authorization to submit this application on their behalf.

Signature of the co-op representative

Date this application was signed.

Printed name of the co-op representative.

4-6. Notary Certification.

A Notary Public must Attest and affix Notary Stamp.

Notary Public verification cannot be completed by the person submitting this application.

PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before completing this form please note the following: 1) The NMFS may not conduct or sponsor this information request, and you are not required to respond to this information request, unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number; 2) This information is being used to implement the American Fisheries Act; 3) Federal law and regulations require and authorize NMFS to manage commercial fishing effort; 4) Submission of this information is required of all persons seeking to participate in the groundfish fisheries under authority of AFA; 5) This information is mandatory and is required to manage commercial fishing effort under 50 CFR part 679 and under section 402(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*); 6) Responses to this information request are confidential under section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*). They are also confidential under NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, which sets forth procedures to protect confidentiality of fishery statistics.

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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 card issued to an individual person designated by a QS or IFQ permit holder as a master employed to fish his/her IFQ 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 next renewal cycle	Paragraph (d)(3)(ii) of this section.
(B) Halibut & sablefish permits	Specified fishing year	Paragraph (d)(3)(i)(B) of this section.
(C) Halibut & sablefish cards	Specified fishing year	Paragraph (d)(3)(i)(C) of this section.
(ii) CDQ Halibut:		
(A) Halibut permit	Specified fishing year	Paragraph (e) of this section.
(B) Halibut card	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 next renewal cycle	Paragraph (b) of this section
(B) Federal processor	Until next renewal cycle	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
(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

(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 or renew an application for any of the permits under this section and must mail completed forms to the Program Administrator, RAM.

(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) A separate application must be completed for each vessel, processor, or buying station and a copy must be retained of each completed or revised application.

(iv) The information requested on the application must be typed or printed legibly.

(v) All permits are issued free of charge.

(4) *Amended applications.* An owner, operator, or manager who applied for and received a permit under this section must notify the Program Administrator, RAM, in writing, of any change in the information within 10 days of the date of that change.

(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.

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(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.

(b) *Federal Fisheries permit*—(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.*

(i) A Federal fisheries permit authorizes a vessel to conduct operations in the GOA or BSAI as a catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, tender vessel, or support vessel.

(ii) A Federal fisheries permit is issued to a vessel to function as a support vessel or as any combination of the other four categories (catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, tender vessel).

(iii) A vessel permitted as a catcher/processor, catcher vessel, mothership, or tender vessel also may conduct all operations authorized for a support vessel.

(iv) A vessel permitted as a support vessel may not conduct activities as a catcher vessel, catcher/processor, mothership, and/or tender vessel.

(4) *Duration.* (i) A Federal fisheries permit is issued on a 3-year cycle and is in effect from the date of issuance through the end of the current NMFS 3-year cycle, unless it is revoked, suspended, or modified under § 600.735 or § 600.740 of this chapter.

(ii) A Federal fisheries permit is surrendered when the original permit is

submitted to and received by the Program Administrator, RAM Program, Juneau, AK.

(5) *How do I obtain a Federal fisheries permit?* 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 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; whether this is a vessel of the United States; and whether this vessel will be used as a stationary floating processor.

(iv) *Area and gear information.* Indicate requested/elected area(s) of operation. If a catcher/processor and/or a catcher vessel, the gear types used for groundfish fishing. If a mothership or catcher/processor operating in the GOA, choose inshore or offshore component.

(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.

(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.

(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 cards, and Registered Buyer permits.* The permits and cards 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 chapter III 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, 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.

(2) *IFQ card.* (i) An IFQ card authorizes the individual identified on the card to land IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish for debit against the specified IFQ permit until the card expires, or is revoked, suspended, or modified under 15 CFR part 904, or cancelled on request of the IFQ permit holder.

(ii) An original IFQ card issued by the Regional Administrator must be on board the vessel that harvests IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish at all times that such fish are retained on board. Except as specified in § 679.42(d), an individual that is issued an IFQ card must remain aboard the vessel used to harvest IFQ halibut or IFQ sablefish with that card during the IFQ fishing trip and at the landing site during all IFQ landings.

(iii) Each IFQ card 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 permit holder's IFQ. In addition, IFQ cards issued to hired masters representing permit holders in accordance with § 679.42(i) and (j) will also display the ADF&G vessel identification number of the authorized vessel.

(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 or cardholder or to receive and make a CDQ halibut landing by a CDQ permit or cardholder at any time during the fishing year for which it is issued until the Registered Buyer permit expires, or is revoked, suspended, 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.

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(C) A vessel operator who submits a Departure Report (see § 679.5(1)(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, or modified under § 600.735 or § 600.740 of this chapter.

(4) *Issuance.* The Regional Administrator will renew IFQ permits and cards 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 cards and Registered Buyer permits issued under this paragraph (d) are not transferable.

(6) *Inspection—(i) IFQ permit and card.* The IFQ cardholder must present a copy of the IFQ permit and the original IFQ card 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(1)(7)(ii).

(e) *CDQ Halibut permits and CDQ cards—(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 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, or modified.

(3) *Halibut CDQ card.* An individual must have onboard the vessel a valid halibut CDQ card issued by the Regional Administrator before landing any CDQ halibut. Each halibut CDQ card 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.

(4) *Alteration.* No person may alter, erase, mutilate, or forge a halibut CDQ permit, landing card, Registered Buyer permit, or any valid and current permit or document issued under this part. Any such permit, card, 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 card. The person(s) holding the halibut CDQ card and the Registered Buyer must comply with the requirements of § 679.5(g) and (1)(1) through (6).

(f) *Federal processor permit—(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) *How do I obtain a Federal processor permit?* To obtain a Federal processor permit, the owner must complete a Federal processor permit application and provide the following information for each shoreside processor facility or plant and stationary floating processor to be permitted:

(i) *Permit application information.* Indicate whether application is for a new or amended Federal processor permit and if a revision, the current Federal processor 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 the name of any person or company (other than the owner) who manages the operations of the shoreside processor or stationary floating processor.

(iii) *Stationary floating processor information.* Indicate the vessel name and homeport (city and state); USCG documentation number; ADF&G vessel registration number; ADF&G processor code; the vessel's LOA (ft), registered length (ft), gross tonnage, net tonnage and shaft horsepower; whether this is a vessel of the United States; and whether this vessel will be used as a stationary floating processor.

(iv) *Shoreside processor information.* Indicate the shoreside processor's name; name and physical location of facility or 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; and if yes, name of previous processor; whether there are multiple processors at this facility; whether the owner named in paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this section owns this facility; shoreside processor 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 stationary floating processor 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.* (i) Upon receipt of a properly completed permit application, the Regional Administrator will issue a Federal processor permit required by this paragraph (f).

(ii) The Regional Administrator will send the Federal processor permit to the applicant with the shoreside processor logbook, as provided under § 679.5.

(4) *Duration.* (i) A Federal processor permit is issued for a 3-year period and remains in full force and effect from

the date of issuance through the end of the current NMFS 3-year renewal cycle, unless it is revoked, suspended, or modified under § 600.735 or § 600.740 of this chapter.

(ii) A Federal processor permit is surrendered when the original permit is submitted to and received by the Program Administrator, RAM Program, Juneau, AK.

(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.* 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 on board 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 regulations of the State of Alaska and only with a vessel that does not exceed the MLOA specified on the license and the gear designation specified on the license.

(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

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(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

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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 trans-

fer 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.

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(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

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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.

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(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 in-

formal 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 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

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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 Weekly 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.

(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

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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 Weekly 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.

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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...
(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	<p>(1) Beginning January 1, 1988, through June 27, 1992; or</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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.</p>

(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

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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...
(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.

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...
(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.

(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

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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. <i>opilio</i> and C. <i>bairdi</i> area/species endorsement	at least three documented harvests of C. <i>opilio</i> and C. <i>bairdi</i> 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. <i>opilio</i> and C. <i>bairdi</i> 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 documented 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. Pacific 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

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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:

(J) 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 deter-

mines 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.

(7) *Transfer of a groundfish license or a crab species license*—(i) *General*. The Regional Administrator will transfer a groundfish license 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. An application form may be requested from the Regional Administrator.

(ii) *Eligibility criteria for transfers*. A groundfish license or crab species 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 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 transfer or a crab species license transfer must be signed by the license holder and the designated transferee, or the individuals representing them, and contain the following, as applicable:

(A) Name, business address, telephone number, and FAX number of the license holder and the designated transferee;

(B) 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 (i.e., the designated vessel) after the transfer is approved;

(C) Valid evidence that the designated transferee is a person eligible to document a fishing vessel under Chapter 121, Title 46, U.S.C.;

(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 the signature of the license holder and the designated transferee; and

(E) Information regarding whether a broker was used for the transaction, whether the license was collateralized, and 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 (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 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 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.

(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.

(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 ground-

fish 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.

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(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-

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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.

(1) *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 reissued by NMFS.

(B) *Duration of final AFA permits*. Except as provided in paragraphs (1)(5)(v)(B)(3) and (1)(6)(iii) of this section, AFA vessel and processor permits issued under this paragraph (1) will have no expiration date, and are valid indefinitely unless suspended or revoked.

(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 to reflect any change in the ownership of the vessel or processor. An application to amend an AFA permit must include the following:

(A) The original AFA permit to be amended, and

(B) A completed AFA permit application signed by the new vessel or processor owner.

(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).

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(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(1)(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(1)(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(1)(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

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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(1)(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(1)(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) [Reserved]

(iii) *Single geographic location requirement.* An AFA inshore processor permit authorizes the processing of pollock harvested in the BS directed pollock fishery only in a single geographic location during a fishing year. For the purpose 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.* A location within Alaska state waters that is within 5 nm of the position in which

the stationary floating processor first processed pollock harvested in the BS subarea directed pollock fishery during a fishing year.

(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 (1)(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 1(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 1(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 1(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

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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 (1)(7)(i)(A) of this section, the replacement vessel may be replaced according to the provisions of this paragraph (1)(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

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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 in-

formation, 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

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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 (1)(2) of this section for all catcher/processors, paragraph (1)(3) of this section for all catcher vessels greater than 60 ft (18.3 m) LOA, or paragraph (1)(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.

[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 requirements.* (1) *Applicability—(i) Who must comply with R&R requirements?* Participants in the groundfish fisheries, the IFQ fisheries, and the CDQ fisheries must comply with the appropriate R&R requirements of paragraphs (1)(i)(A) through (C) of this section. Sablefish are managed under both the IFQ Program and the Groundfish Program. As such, sablefish must be recorded and reported as groundfish and also as IFQ sablefish.

(A) *Groundfish.* Except as provided in paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section, the owner, operator, or manager of the following participants must comply with the appropriate groundfish R&R requirements provided at paragraphs (a) through (k), (m), (o), and (p) of this section; § 679.28(b), (f), and (g):

(1) Any catcher vessel, mothership, catcher/processor, or tender vessel, 5 net tons or larger, that is required to have a Federal fisheries permit under § 679.4.

Subpart H—General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries

§ 600.705 Relation to other laws.

(a) *General.* Persons affected by these regulations should be aware that other Federal and state statutes and regulations may apply to their activities. Vessel operators may wish to refer to USCG regulations found in the Code of Federal Regulations title 33—Navigation and Navigable Waters and 46—Shipping; 15 CFR part 904, subpart D—Permit Sanctions and Denials; and title 43—Public Lands (in regard to marine sanctuaries).

(b) *State responsibilities.* Certain responsibilities relating to data collection and enforcement may be performed by authorized state personnel under a state/Federal agreement for data collection and a tripartite agreement among the state, the USCG, and the Secretary for enforcement.

(c) *Submarine cables.* Fishing vessel operators must exercise due care in the conduct of fishing activities near submarine cables. Damage to the submarine cables resulting from intentional acts or from the failure to exercise due care in the conduct of fishing operations subjects the fishing vessel operator to the criminal penalties prescribed by the Submarine Cable Act (47 U.S.C. 21) which implements the International Convention for the Protection of Submarine Cables. Fishing vessel operators also should be aware that the Submarine Cable Act prohibits fishing operations at a distance of less than 1 nautical mile (1.85 km) from a vessel engaged in laying or repairing a submarine cable; or at a distance of less than 0.25 nautical mile (0.46 km) from a buoy or buoys intended to mark the position of a cable when being laid or when out of order or broken.

(d) *Marine mammals.* Regulations governing exemption permits and the recordkeeping and reporting of the incidental take of marine mammals are set forth in part 229 of this title.

(e) *Halibut fishing.* Fishing for halibut is governed by regulations of the International Pacific Halibut Commission set forth at part 300 of this title.

(f) *Marine sanctuaries.* All fishing activity, regardless of species sought, is prohibited under 15 CFR part 924 in the

U.S.S. Monitor Marine Sanctuary, which is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Cape Hatteras off the coast of North Carolina.

§ 600.710 Permits.

Regulations pertaining to permits required for certain fisheries are set forth in the parts of this chapter governing those fisheries.

§ 600.715 Recordkeeping and reporting.

Regulations pertaining to records and reports required for certain fisheries are set forth in the parts of this chapter governing those fisheries.

§ 600.720 Vessel and gear identification.

Regulations pertaining to special vessel and gear markings required for certain fisheries are set forth in the parts of this chapter governing those fisheries.

§ 600.725 General prohibitions.

It is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) Possess, have custody or control of, ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, land, import, or export, any fish or parts thereof taken or retained in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act or any other statute administered by NOAA and/or any regulation or permit issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

(b) Transfer or attempt to transfer, directly or indirectly, any U.S.-harvested fish to any foreign fishing vessel, while such vessel is in the EEZ, unless the foreign fishing vessel has been issued a permit under section 204 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which authorizes the receipt by such vessel of U.S.-harvested fish.

(c) Fail to comply immediately with enforcement and boarding procedures specified in §600.730.

(d) Refuse to allow an authorized officer to board a fishing vessel or to enter areas of custody for purposes of conducting any search, inspection, or seizure in connection with the enforcement of the Magnuson-Stevens Act or any other statute administered by NOAA.

affected individual required to disclose a financial interest under paragraph (2) shall not vote on a Council decision which would have a significant and predictable effect on such financial interest. A Council decision shall be considered to have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest if there is a close causal link between the Council decision and an expected and substantially disproportionate benefit to the financial interest of the affected individual relative to the financial interests of other participants in the same gear type or sector of the fishery. An affected individual who may not vote may participate in Council deliberations relating to the decision after notifying the Council of the voting recusal and identifying the financial interest that would be affected.

(B) At the request of an affected individual, or upon the initiative of the appropriate designated official, the designated official shall make a determination for the record whether a Council decision would have a significant and predictable effect on a financial interest.

(C) Any Council member may submit a written request to the Secretary to review any determination by the designated official under subparagraph (B) within 10 days of such determination. Such review shall be completed within 30 days of receipt of the request.

(D) Any affected individual who does not vote in a Council decision in accordance with this subsection may state for the record how he or she would have voted on such decision if he or she had voted.

(E) If the Council makes a decision before the Secretary has reviewed a determination under subparagraph (C), the eventual ruling may not be treated as cause for the invalidation or reconsideration by the Secretary of such decision.

(F) The Secretary, in consultation with the Councils and by not later than one year from the date of enactment of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, shall promulgate regulations which prohibit an affected individual from voting in accordance with subparagraph (A), and which allow for the making of determinations under subparagraphs (B) and (C).

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(8) Section 208 of title 18, United States Code, does not apply to an affected individual referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) during any time in which that individual is in compliance with the regulations prescribed under paragraph (5).

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;
- (5) specify the pertinent data which shall be submitted to the Secretary with respect to commercial, recreational, and charter fishing 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, 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;

(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 describe the likely effects, if any, of the conservation and management measures on--

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

(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;

(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;

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

by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

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;

(2) 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;

(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;

(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;

(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, and

(F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic 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; and

(12) 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.

104-297

(d) INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS.--

(1) (A) A Council may not submit and the Secretary may not approve or implement before October 1, 2000, any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation under this Act which creates a new individual fishing quota program.

(B) Any fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation approved by the Secretary on or after January 4, 1995, which creates any new individual fishing quota program shall be repealed and immediately returned by the Secretary to the appropriate Council and shall not be resubmitted, reapproved, or implemented during the moratorium set forth in subparagraph (A).

(2) (A) No provision of law shall be construed to limit the authority of a Council to submit and the Secretary to approve the termination or limitation, without compensation to holders of any limited access system permits, of a fishery management plan, plan amendment, or regulation that provides for a limited access system, including an individual fishing quota program.

(B) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a Council from submitting, or the Secretary from approving and implementing, amendments to the North Pacific halibut and sablefish, South Atlantic wreckfish, or Mid-Atlantic surf clam and ocean (including mahogany) quahog individual fishing quota programs.

(3) An individual fishing quota or other limited access system authorization--

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

(B) may be revoked or limited at any time in accordance with this Act;

(C) shall not confer any right of compensation to the holder of such individual fishing quota or other such limited access system authorization if it is revoked or limited; and

(D) shall not create, or be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in or to any fish before the fish is harvested.

(4) (A) 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 1104A(a)(7) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1274(a)(7)), to issue obligations that aid in financing the--

(i) purchase of individual fishing quotas in that fishery by fishermen who fish from small vessels; and

(ii) first-time purchase of individual fishing quotas in that fishery by entry level fishermen.

(B) A Council making a submission under subparagraph (A) shall recommend criteria, consistent with the provisions of this Act, that a fisherman must meet to qualify for guarantees under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) and the portion of funds to be allocated for guarantees under each clause.

(5) In submitting and approving any new individual fishing quota program on or after October 1, 2000, the Councils and the Secretary shall consider the report of the National Academy of Sciences required under section 108(f) of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, and any recommendations contained in such report, and shall ensure that any such program--

(A) establishes procedures and requirements for the review and revision of the terms of any such program (including any revisions that may be necessary once a national policy with respect to individual fishing quota programs is implemented), and, if appropriate, for the renewal, reallocation, or reissuance of individual fishing quotas;

(B) provides for the effective enforcement and management of any such program, including adequate observer coverage, and for fees under section 304(d)(2) to recover actual costs directly related to such enforcement and management; and

(C) provides for a fair and equitable initial allocation of individual fishing quotas, prevents any person from acquiring an excessive share of the individual fishing quotas issued, and considers the allocation of a portion of the annual harvest in the fishery for entry-level fishermen, small vessel owners, and crew members who do not hold or qualify for individual fishing quotas.

104-297, sec. 108(b), M-S Act SS 303 note

IMPLEMENTATION.--Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act [P.L. 104-297], each Regional Fishery Management Council shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce amendments to each fishery management plan under its authority to comply with the amendments made in subsection (a) of this section [i.e., the P.L. 104-297 revisions to SS 303(a)(1), (5), (7), and (9), and the

addition of SS 303(a)(10)-(14)].

104-297, sec. 108(i), M-S Act SS 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

TITLE II—FISHERIES

Subtitle I—Fishery Endorsements

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “American Fisheries Act”.

SEC. 202. STANDARD FOR FISHERY ENDORSEMENTS.

(a) STANDARD.—Section 12102(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 any other entity is owned and controlled by citizens of the United States. For the purposes of this subsection and of applying the restrictions on con-

trolling 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 a 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 indebt-

edness, 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(a)(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 capable of producing a total of more than 3,000 shaft horsepower is not eligible for a fishery endorsement under section 12108 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 Com-

merce 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 new 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 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 the Administrator of the Maritime Administration on an annual basis to demonstrate compliance with such sec-*

tion. 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 12102(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 vessels 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) *ENDORSEMENTS 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 has 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 302(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.

SEC. 204. REPEAL OF OWNERSHIP SAVINGS CLAUSE.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 7(b) of the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Anti-Reflagging Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–239; 46 U.S.C. 12102 note) is hereby repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2001.

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 processing that fish;

(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 the 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 ex-

clusive 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 directed fishing allowance to the western Alaska community development quota program established under section 305(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 the 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 catcher/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 1861a), the Secretary shall establish a fee for the repayment of such loan obligation 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 owner or 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 of 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 Fishery Conservation and Management 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 submit a written certification acceptable to the Secretary that 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 of 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 of 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 catcher/processors listed in paragraphs (2) through (9) of section 209 are determined by the Secretary not to have been scrapped 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(b)(4)), the debt obligation under subsection (a) of this section may have a maturity not to exceed 30 years.

(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, or 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 615085);*

(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) *CATCHER 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 518937);

(15) *PACIFIC FURY* (United States official number 561934);

(16) *PAPADO II* (United States official number 536161);

(17) *TRAVELER* (United States official number 929356);

(18) *VESTERAALLEN* (United States official number 611642);

(19) *WESTERN DAWN* (United States official number 524423); and

(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 651041); and

(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 ENTERPRISE* (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 fish-

ery 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 or 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 above the total allowable catch in such fishery in 1997, or in the event 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 that—

(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 (e)(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 section 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 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 United 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 534721);

(7) *CHRISTINA ANN* (United States official number 653045);

(8) *REBECCA ANN* (United States official number 592205); and

(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 con-

fidentiality 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 har-

vesting 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 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(f). A catcher vessel 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 sec-

tion 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 the 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 (48 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 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 208(b)) and shall be reduced if their percentage decreases, until their percentage is below such share. In recommending the excessive processing share, the North 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 the 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 section or section 211 shall be considered the commission of an act prohibited by section 307 of the Magnuson-Stevens 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; and

(C) fishing for Atka 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 Atka 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 (1) 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 the 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) weigh its catch on a scale onboard approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service 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 (20) 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 fishery; 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 conservation 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 vessels in a fishery cooperative under section 210(b) may deliver pollock.

(2) BERING SEA CRAB AND GROUND FISH.—

(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, 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 or processing 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 by 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)).

(e) 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 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 section 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 FEDERAL 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. Sections 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 title, except for sections 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, provided such measures*

take into account all factors affecting the fisheries and are imposed fairly and equitably 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 the finding by such Council that the western Alaska community development quota program for pollock has been adversely affected by the amendments in this title; 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 the whether this Act has negatively affected the market for fillets and fillet blocks, including through the reduction in the 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 such inconsistency. The provisions of section 12102(c) and 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 to or otherwise acquired by a foreign individual or entity after such date.

TITLE III—DENALI COMMISSION

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Denali Commission Act of 1998”.

SEC. 302. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To deliver the services of the Federal Government in the most cost-effective manner practicable by reducing administrative and overhead costs.

(2) To provide job training and other economic development services in rural communities particularly distressed communities (many of which have a rate of unemployment that exceeds 50 percent).

Estimated Time per Response: 20 hours for Annual preliminary report; 8 hours for Annual final report; 30 minutes for Non-member vessel contract fishing application; 30 minutes to complete and print shoreside processor electronic logbook report (SPELR); 5 minutes to electronically submit SPELR report; 5 minutes for Inshore catcher vessel cooperative pollock catch report; and 5 minutes for Agent for service of process.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,024.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$635.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 17, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-670 Filed 1-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; American Fisheries Act: Vessel and Processor Permit Applications

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on

proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 24, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, 907-586-7008 or patsy.bearden@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The American Fisheries Act (AFA) was signed into law in October of 1998. The AFA established an allocation program for the pollock fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI). The purposes of the AFA were to tighten U.S. ownership standards that had been exploited under the Anti-reflagging Act, to provide Alaska's BSAI pollock fleet the opportunity to conduct their fishery in a more rational manner, and to protect non-AFA participants in other fisheries.

Reduced bycatch, higher utilization rates, increased economic returns, and improved safety are among the direct benefits of the AFA. The flexibility provided by cooperatives and by individual vessel allocations of pollock and other species has allowed the BSAI pollock fleet to spread their fishing effort in time and space, thus somewhat mitigating the negative impacts of the Steller sea lion (SSL) conservation and protection measures. Finally, the cooperative management structure has shifted more of the monitoring and enforcement burden to the cooperatives and their members, allowing NMFS to manage the fishery more precisely.

Under the AFA, only vessels and processors that meet specific qualifying criteria are eligible to fish for and process pollock in the BSAI. The BSAI pollock quota is suballocated to groups of vessel owners who form fishing vessel cooperatives under the AFA.

All pollock vessels and processors are required to have a valid AFA permit on board the vessel or at the processing plant. The AFA vessel and processor permits have no expiration date and will remain valid indefinitely unless revoked by NMFS. With the exceptions of applications for inshore vessel cooperatives and for replacement

vessels, the AFA permit program had a one-time application deadline of December 1, 2000. Inshore catcher vessel cooperatives must apply for an AFA permit annually, by December 1 for the following fishing year. The information is collected once a year, because NMFS must identify the universe of participating vessels and processors prior to the start of each fishing year in order to assign allocations of pollock to eligible cooperatives. The applications to replace lost or destroyed AFA vessels may be submitted to NMFS at any time.

II. Method of Collection

Paper applications are required from participants. Methods of submittal include facsimile transmission of paper forms, except where a notary seal is required.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0393.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profits organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Time per Response: 2 hours for Application for AFA catcher vessel permit; 30 minutes for Application for AFA permit for replacement vessel; 2½ hours for Application for AFA inshore catcher vessel cooperative permit; 2 hours for Application for AFA mothership permit; and 2 hours for Application for AFA inshore processor permit.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 42.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$59.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection;

they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 17, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-671 Filed 1-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Limits on Applications of Take Prohibitions

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 24, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Steve Stone, at (503) 231-2317, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232-1274 or steve.stone@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to adopt such regulations as it "deems necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of" threatened species. Those regulations may include any or all of the prohibitions provided in section 9(a)(1) of the ESA, which specifically prohibits "take" of any endangered species ("take" includes actions that harass, harm, pursue, kill, or capture). The first salmonid species listed by NMFS as threatened were

protected by virtually blanket application of the section 9 take prohibitions. There are now 21 separate Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of west coast salmonids listed as threatened, covering a large percentage of the land base in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. NMFS is obligated to enact necessary and advisable protective regulations. NMFS makes section 9 prohibitions generally applicable to many of those threatened ESUs, but also seeks to respond to requests from states and others to both provide more guidance on how to protect threatened salmonids and avoid take, and to limit the application of take prohibitions wherever warranted (see 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005, and 71 FR 834, January 5, 2006). The regulations describe programs or circumstances that contribute to the conservation of, or are being conducted in a way that adequately limits impacts on, listed salmonids. The regulations do not apply the take prohibitions to those programs and circumstances. Some of these limits on the take prohibitions entail voluntary submission of a plan to NMFS and/or annual or occasional reports by entities wishing to take advantage of these limits, or continue within them.

II. Method of Collection

Submissions may be in paper or electronic format.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0399.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: State, local, or tribal government; business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 201.

Estimated Time per Response: 20 hours for a road maintenance agreement; 5 hours for a diversion screening limit project; 30 hours for an urban development package; 10 hours for an urban development report; 20 hours for a tribal plan; and 5 hours for a report of aided, salvaged, or disposed of salmonids.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 500.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$843.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the

proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 17, 2006.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-672 Filed 1-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 011806A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the Aleut Enterprise Corporation (AEC). If granted, this permit would be used to support a project to investigate the feasibility of using commercial fishing vessels for acoustic surveys of pollock in the Aleutian Islands subarea. The project is intended to promote the objectives of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI) by improving use of pollock in the Aleutian Islands subarea.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the EFP application and the environmental assessment (EA) are available by writing to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Alaska Region, NMFS, P. O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802, Attn: Lori Durall. The EA also is available from the Alaska Region, NMFS website at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/index/analyses/analyses.asp>.