

TABLE 1 TO PART 660, SUBPART H—PACIFIC SALMON EFH IDENTIFIED BY USGS HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE (HUC)—Continued

USGS HUC	State(s)	Hydrologic Unit Name	Salmon Species	Impassible Man-made Barrier (if present)
18020111	CA	Lower American River	Chinook salmon	Nimbus Dam
18020112	CA	Sacramento—Upper Clear	Chinook salmon	Whiskeytown Dam (Clear Cr.)
18020113	CA	Cottonwood Headwaters	Chinook salmon	n/a
18020114	CA	Upper Elder – Upper Thomas	Chinook salmon	n/a
18020118	CA	Upper Cow – Battle Creek	Chinook salmon	n/a
18020119	CA	Mill – Big Chico	Chinook salmon	n/a
18020120	CA	Upper Butte Creek	Chinook salmon	n/a
18020125	CA	Upper Yuba	Chinook salmon	n/a
18040001	CA	Mid. San Joaquin– L. Cowchilla	Chinook salmon	n/a
18040002	CA	Mid. San Joaquin– L. Merced– L. Stanislaus	Chinook salmon	La Grange Dam (Tuolumne R.)
18040003	CA	San Joaquin Delta	Chinook salmon	n/a
18040004	CA	L. Calaveras – Mormon Slough	Chinook salmon	n/a
18040005	CA	L. Consumnes– L. Mokelumne	Chinook salmon	Camanche Dam
18040010	CA	Upper Stanislaus	Chinook salmon	Goodwin Dam
18040011	CA	Upper Calveras	Chinook salmon	New Hogan Dam
18040013	CA	Upper Cosumnes	Chinook salmon	n/a

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 071106671–8010–02]

RIN 0648–XL22

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska

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

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding

the 2008 total allowable catch (TAC) of pollock for Statistical Area 630 in the GOA.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), October 10, 2008, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Obren Davis, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

The 2008 TAC of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA is 13,640 metric tons (mt) as established by the 2008 and 2009 harvest specifications for

groundfish of the GOA (73 FR 10562, February 27, 2008).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(i), the Regional Administrator has determined that the 2008 TAC of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA will soon be reached. Therefore, the Regional Administrator is establishing a directed fishing allowance of 13,600 mt, and is setting aside the remaining 40 mt as incidental catch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries. In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance has been reached. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA.

After the effective date of this closure the maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and (f) apply at any time during a trip.

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained

from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would

delay the closure of pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of October 8, 2008.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of

prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 9, 2008.

Alan D. Risenhoover

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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