DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 611 and 675

Foreign Fishing; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an amendment to a fishery management plan and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA issues this notice that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 11 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public. Copies of the amendment may be obtained from the address below.

DATE: Comments on the plan amendment will be accepted on or before October 7, 1987.

ADDRESS: All comments should be sent to Robert McVey, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 1668, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

Copies of the amendment and the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) are available upon request from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) requires that each regional fishery management council submit any fishery management plan or plan amendment it prepares to the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) for review and approval or disapproval. The act also requires that the Secretary, upon reviewing the plan or amendment, immediately publish a notice that the plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comments in determining whether to approve the plan or amendment.

Amendment 11 proposes the following measures: (1) Establish a split season apportionment of pollock for U.S. vessels working in joint ventures with foreign processing vessels (JVP), and (2) change the definition of prohibited species. These measures are intended to respond to biological, economic and administrative problems identified by the Council. In addition, NOAA is proposing to make a regulatory amendment to change the definition of directed fishing. Regulations proposed by the Council and based on this amendment are scheduled to be published within 15 days.

(16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).


Richard H. Schaefer,
Acting Director for Fisheries Conservation and Management.

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