The Magnuson Act also requires that the amendment be available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider all public comments in determining whether to approve the amendment.

The Magnuson Act also establishes seven national standards that fishery management plans must meet to be approvable, and requires the Secretary to publish guidelines for the Councils to use in applying these national standards. The guidelines (50 CFR part 602) were revised July 24, 1989 (54 FR 30826 et seq.) to require that the Councils amend their fishery management plans to include definitions of overfishing for their respective fisheries. Amendment 6 to the FMP is intended to address the requirements of the Secretary’s guidelines for compliance with national standards 1 and 2 of the Magnuson Act.

Implementation of Amendment 6 would require that all fishing under U.S. jurisdiction cease when the spawning biomass of northern anchovy is below 50,000 mt for two succeeding years. No fishing would be permitted until the spawning biomass again reaches or exceeds 50,000 mt. On those anticipated rare occasions when the biomass is below 50,000 mt, the absence of an allocation would present a small economic loss to small harvesters and entail some monitoring costs.

Section 303(a)(6) of the Magnuson Act requires that all fishery management plans consider and provide for adjustments regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of bad weather or other ocean conditions affecting safety. Amendment 6 discusses this subject and concludes that the geographical area and opportune time of harvesting in the anchovy fishery contribute to the safety of fishing vessels. There are no management practices that contribute to poor safety conditions.

Section 303(a)(7) of the Magnuson Act requires that all plans include readily available information on the significance of the habitat to the fishery and to assess the effects changes to that habitat might have on the fishery. Amendment 6 discusses this subject in conjunction with sections 4.1.1 and 4.2.8 of the previous amendment, Amendment 5, which provided a thorough description of the habitat of northern anchovy and the effects that changes in the habitat have on the fishery.

Regulations proposed by the Council to implement this amendment are scheduled to be published by December 11, 1990.

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

Richard H. Schaefer,
Director of Office of Fisheries, Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson 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, disapproval, or partial disapproval. The Magnuson Act also requires that the Secretary, upon reviewing the plan or amendment, must immediately publish a notice that the plan or amendment is available for public review and comment. The Secretary will consider the public comment in determining whether to approve the plan or amendment.

If approved, rules implementing the revised Amendments 16 and 21 would hold operators of individual trawl vessels accountable for their bycatch of halibut and red king crab while participating in specified groundfish fisheries.

Regulations proposed by the Council to implement these amendments are scheduled to be published within 15 days.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Parts 672 and 675
Fisheries, Fishing vessels, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

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

Richard H. Schaefer,
Director of Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 90-28861 Filed 12-5-90; 12:17 pm]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

50 CFR Parts 672 and 675
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska, Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area

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

ACTION: Notice of availability of amendments to fishery management plans and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NOAA issues this notice that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has resubmitted a portion of Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish (BSAI FMP) and Amendment 21 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish (GOA FMP) for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public. Copies of the amendments may be obtained from the address below.

DATES: Comments on the revised amendments should be submitted on or before January 9, 1991.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be sent to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 210688, Juneau, AK 99802. Copies of the revised Amendments 16 and 21 and the environmental assessment/regulatory impact review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) may be obtained from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510.