report to the nearest NMFS enforcement office within 24 hours of landing any giant bluefin, and must make the tuna available for inspection and attachment of a metal tag. No such Atlantic bluefin tuna may be sold or transferred to any persons for a commercial purpose.

(e) Other gear. Incidental harvest of Atlantic bluefin tuna by gear other than specified in § 255.22 or in this section is prohibited.

7. Section 285.24 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) and (c) to read as follows:

§285.24 Catch limits.

(a) From June 1, vessels permitted in the General category under §285.21 may catch only one giant Atlantic bluefin tuna per day per vessel.

(c) Angling category. (1) Anglers may catch and retain each day no more than two Atlantic bluefin tuna, only one of which may be a medium and only one of which may be a school bluefin tuna. Anglers may not retain giant or young school Atlantic bluefin tuna.

(2) Party and charter boats may catch and retain each day the bag limit for anglers specified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section for each angler on board; provided, however, that no more than two medium bluefin tuna may be retained each day, regardless of the number of anglers on board.

(3) Private boats, with two or more anglers on board, may catch and retain each day the bag limit for anglers specified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section for the number of anglers on board; provided, however, that no more than two medium and one school bluefin tuna may be retained each day, regardless of the number of anglers on board.

8. Section 285.26 is amended by revising the table to read as follows:

§285.26 Size classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size class</th>
<th>Total fork length</th>
<th>Pectoral fin fork length</th>
<th>Approx. round weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young school</td>
<td>&lt;26 in (66 cm)</td>
<td>&lt;19 in (48 cm)</td>
<td>&lt;14 lbs (6.4 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>26 to &lt;45 in (66 to &lt;115 cm)</td>
<td>19 to &lt;33 in (48 to &lt;84 cm)</td>
<td>14 to &lt;66 lbs (6.4 to &lt;30 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large school</td>
<td>45 to &lt;57 in (114 to &lt;145 cm)</td>
<td>33 to &lt;42 in (84 to &lt;107 cm)</td>
<td>66 lbs to &lt;135 lbs (30 to &lt;62 kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>57 to &lt;77 in (145 to &lt;196 cm)</td>
<td>42 to &lt;57 in (107 to &lt;145 cm)</td>
<td>135 to &lt;310 lbs (61 to &lt;140 kg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Section 285.29 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§285.29 Dealer recordkeeping and reporting.

(a) Must submit to the Regional Director a daily report on a reporting card provided by NMFS, within 24 hours of the purchase or receipt of each Atlantic bluefin tuna that was purchased from the person or vessel that harvested the fish. Said card must be postmarked within 24 hours of the purchase or receipt of each Atlantic bluefin tuna. Each reporting card must be signed by the vessel permit holder or assigned by an authorized officer, the date landed, the port where landed, the round or dressed weight, the fork length, gear used, and area where caught.

10. Section 285.30 is amended by revising paragraphs (c)(1) and (d) to read as follows:

§285.30 Metal tags.

(c) * * *

(1) A dealer or agent must affix a metal tag to each Atlantic bluefin tuna purchased or received immediately upon its offloading from a vessel. The metal tag must be affixed to the tuna between the fifth dorsal finlet and the keel. * * *

(d) Removal of tags. A metal tag affixed to any Atlantic bluefin tuna must remain on the tuna until the tuna is either cut into portions or sold for export from the United States. If the tuna or tuna parts subsequently are packaged for transport for domestic commercial use or for export, the tag number must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package or container. Tag numbers must be recorded on any document accompanying shipment of bluefin tuna for commercial use or export.

11. Section 285.31 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(17), (a)(18), (a)(28), and (a)(39) and adding paragraphs (a)(34) through (a)(39) to read as follows:

§285.31 Prohibitions.

(a) * * *

(17) Fail to release immediately with a minimum of injury any Atlantic bluefin tuna that will not be retained;

(18) Fail to affix immediately to any Atlantic bluefin tuna, between the fifth dorsal finlet and the keel, an individually numbered metal tag when the tuna has been received or purchased by that person for a commercial purpose from any person or vessel having caught such tuna;

* * *

(28) Fish for or catch Atlantic bluefin tuna with longline gear except as provided in §285.23(e);

* * *

(29) Fish for or catch school, large school or medium Atlantic bluefin tuna with gear other than hook and line, which is held by hand or rod and reel made for this purpose;

* * *

(34) Retain young school Atlantic bluefin tuna for any purpose;

(35) Sell, offer for sale, purchase, receive for a commercial purpose, trade or barter any Atlantic bluefin tuna other than a giant;

(36) Refuse to permit access of NMFS personnel to inspect any records relating to, or area of custody of, Atlantic bluefin tuna;

(37) Refuse to provide information requested by NMFS personnel or anyone collecting information for NMFS relating to the scientific monitoring or management of Atlantic bluefin tuna; or

(38) Retain or land any Atlantic bluefin tuna by gear other than specified in §285.22 or 285.23.

(39) Retain or land any bluefin tuna less than 196 cm by any vessels permitted under §§285.21.

[FR Doc. 92–9782 Filed 4–23–92; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–M

50 CFR Parts 672 and 675

Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska; and Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

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

SUMMARY: NMFS issues this notice that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 19 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the

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Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) and Amendment 24 to the FMP for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) for Secretarial review and is requesting comments from the public. Copies of the amendments may be obtained from the Council (see ADDRESSES).

DATES: Comments on the FMP amendments should be submitted on or before June 22, 1992.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the FMP amendments should be submitted to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

Copies of the amendments with the Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analyses are available from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage, AK 99510.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) 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 comments received during the comment period in determining whether to approve the plan or amendment.

The Secretary proposes regulations that would implement Amendment 19 to the FMP for the Groundfish Fishery of the BSAI and Amendment 24 to the FMP for Groundfish of the GOA. If approved, these regulations would implement the following amendment measures:

1. For 1992, reduce the Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limit established for BSAI trawl gear from 5,333 metric tons (mt) to 5,033 mt, but retain the primary halibut PSC limit at 4,400 mt;
2. For 1992, establish a 750 mt Pacific halibut bycatch mortality limit for BSAI fixed gear;
3. Establish FMP authority to develop and implement regulatory amendments that allow for time/area closures to reduce prohibited species bycatch rates.

In addition to the above FMP amendments, the following amendments to current implementing regulations are proposed:

1. Revise BSAI fishery definitions for purposes of monitoring fishery specific bycatch allowances and assigning vessels to fisheries for purposes of the vessel incentive program;
2. Revise the management of BSAI trawl fishery categories that are eligible to receive prohibited species bycatch allowances;
3. Expand the vessel incentive program to address halibut bycatch rates in all trawl fisheries;
4. Delay the season opening date of the BSAI and GOA groundfish trawl fisheries to January 20 of each fishing year to reduce salmon and halibut bycatch rates;
5. Further delay the season opening date of the GOA trawl rockfish fishery to the Monday closest to July 1 to reduce halibut and chinook salmon bycatch rates;
6. Change directed fishing standards to further limit halibut bycatch associated with bottom trawl fisheries.

Regulations proposed by the Council and based on this amendment are scheduled to be published within 15 days of this notice.

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

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


David S. Crestin,
Acting Director, Officer of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 92-9736 Filed 4-22-92; 2:23 pm]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-M