Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska;
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and
Aleutian Islands Area; King and Tanner
Crab Fisheries of the Bering Sea and
Aleutian Islands

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
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 30 to the Fishery
Management Plan (FMP) for Groundfish
of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA),
Amendment 27 to the FMP for
Groundfish of the Bering Sea and
Aleutian Islands Area, and Amendment
3 to the FMP for the Commercial King
and Tanner Crab Fisheries of the Bering
Sea and Aleutian Islands for Secretarial
review and is requesting comments from
the public. These amendments would
incorporate the provisions of the North
Pacific Fisheries Research Plan
(Research Plan) into each FMP. The
intended effect of these amendments is
to provide a standard application of the
Research Plan and associated observer
coverage throughout applicable
fisheries.

DATES: Comments on the FMP
amendments must be received by July
18, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the FMP
amendments should be submitted to
Ronald J. Berg, Chief, Fisheries
Management Division, Alaska Region,
NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK
99802 (Attn: Lori Gravel), or delivered
to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th
Street, Juneau, AK.

Copies of the amendments and the
environmental assessment/regulatory
impact review prepared for the North
Pacific Fisheries Research Plan
(Research Plan) are available from the
North Pacific Fishery Management
Council, P.O. Box 103136, Anchorage,
AK 99510; (telephone: 907-271-2809).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Magnuson Fishery Conservation and
Management Act (Magnuson Act)
requires that each Regional Fishery
Management Council submit any FMP
or FMP 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
receiving an FMP or amendment,
immediately publish a notice that the
FMP 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 FMP or amendment.

Amendments 30, 27, and 3 would
revise language in the FMPs for GOA
groundfish, Bering Sea and Aleutian
Islands Area groundfish, and Bering Sea
and Aleutian Islands king and Tanner
crab, respectively, to reflect the
development of the Research Plan and
to indicate that observer requirements
under those FMPs are as specified under
the Research Plan.

The Research Plan was prepared by
the Council under section 313 of the
Magnuson Act, as amended by section
404 of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries
Enforcement Act, Public Law 102–582,
and is intended to provide an industry-
funded observer program and to
promote management, conservation, and
scientific understanding of groundfish,
halibut, and crab resources off Alaska.
The proposed Research Plan, that was
submitted for Secretarial review on
March 31, 1994 would: (1) Require that
observers be stationed on fishing vessels
engaged in the catching, taking, or
harvesting of fish and on U.S. fish
processors fishing for or processing
species under the authority of the
Council, except salmon, including the
Northern Pacific halibut fishery, for the
purpose of collecting data necessary for
the conservation, management, and
scientific understanding of fisheries
under the Council’s authority; and (2)
establish a system of fees to pay for the
costs of implementing the Research
Plan. A proposed rule to implement the
Research Plan was published in the
Federal Register on May 6, 1994 (59 FR
23664); additional details of the
Research Plan may be found in the
proposed rule. Because Amendments
30, 27, and 3 are non-regulatory in
nature, no proposed rule will be
published to implement them.

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

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