

selected the time period from March 15 – 31 for this experiment because it is historically a period of reduced fishing activity between the two periods of intense trawling activity. This time period also is expected to minimize gear conflicts. NMFS worked with the affected industry at the October 2002 Council meeting to tailor the closed area to minimize disruptions to fishing activity while accomplishing the goals of the experiment. Delaying this action for 30 days would unnecessarily jeopardize the experiment by preventing the collection of data during this 16-day trawling period. Accordingly, the need to publish this measure in a timely manner constitutes good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to waive the 30-day delay in effective date.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 679

Alaska, Fisheries, Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Dated: February 28, 2003.

William T. Hogarth,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, 50 CFR part 679 is amended as follows:

PART 679—FISHERIES OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF ALASKA

1. The authority citation for 50 CFR part 679 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*, 1801 *et seq.*, and 3631 *et seq.*; Title II of Division C, Pub. L. 105 277; Sec. 3027, Pub. L. 106 31, 113 Stat. 57.

2. In § 679.22, paragraph (a)(11) is revised to read as follows:

§679.22 Closures.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(11) *Cape Sarichef Research
Restriction Area (applicable through*

March 31, 2006)(i) *Description of Cape Sarichef Research Restriction Area.* The Cape Sarichef Research Restriction Area is all waters located outside of the 10 nm no trawl area around Cape Sarichef, as described in Tables 4 and 5 to this part, and inside the boundary of the following coordinates joined in order by straight lines (Figure 21 to part 679):

54°30' N lat., 165°14' W long.;
54°35' N lat., 165°26' W long.;
54°48' N lat., 165°04' W long.;
54°44' N lat., 164°56' W long.; and,
54°30' N lat., 165°14' W long.

(ii) Closure. The Cape Sarichef Research Restriction Area is closed from March 15 through March 31 to directed fishing for groundfish by vessels named on a Federal Fisheries Permit issued under § 679.4(b) and using trawl, pot, or hook-and-line gear.

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3. Figure 21 to part 679 is added to read as follows:

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