

section 7(a)(2) of the ESA pending completion of the remand.

The Steller sea lion protection measures in this rule must be effective by January 1, 2003, the date on which the emergency interim rule implementing these measures expires and the 2003 groundfish fisheries will open. The measures contained in this rule are substantially the same as those contained in the emergency interim rule dated January 8, 2002 (67 FR 956 and extended May 16, 2002, 67 FR 34860), and therefore this rule is largely a continuation of the status quo. Because the industry is already complying with similar measures, additional time is not required for compliance. Accordingly, there is good cause to waive the requirement of a 30-day delay in the effective date for this rule pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). However, NMFS will make this rule effective on January 1, 2003, thereby providing a short delay in the effective date.

#### List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 902 and 50 CFR Part 679

Alaska, Fisheries, Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

William T. Hogarth,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.

#### 15 CFR Chapter IX

■ For the reasons set out in the preamble, 15 CFR part 902, chapter IX, is amended as follows:

#### PART 902—NOAA INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT; OMB CONTROL NUMBERS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 902 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

■ 2. In § 902.1, the table in paragraph (b) is amended by adding under 50 CFR the following entries in numerical order:

#### § 902.1 OMB Control numbers assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

CFR part or section where the information collection requirement is located	Current OMB control number (All numbers begin with 0648—)
* * * * *	*

50 CFR

CFR part or section where the information collection requirement is located

Current OMB control number (All numbers begin with 0648—)

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679.4(b)(5)(vi)	—0206
679.20(a)(8)(iii)	—0269
679.28(f)(4), (f)(5), (f)(6)	—0445
* * * * *	*

#### 50 CFR Chapter VI

■ For reasons set out 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 part 679 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*; 1801 *et seq.*; 3631 *et seq.*; Title II of Division C, Pub. L. 105–277; Sec. 3027, Pub. L. 106–31; 57 Stat. 113; 16 U.S.C. 1540(f); and Sec. 209, Pub. L. 106–554.

■ 2. In § 679.2, the definition for “Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas” is removed, paragraph (1) of the definition for “Fishing trip” is revised, and the definition for “harvest limit area (HLA) for Atka mackerel directed fishing” is added in alphabetical order to read as follows:

#### § 679.2 Definitions.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Fishing trip* means:

(1) Retention requirements (MRA, IR/IU, and pollock roe stripping).

(i) With respect to retention requirements of MRA, IR/IU, and pollock roe stripping, an operator of a catcher/processor or mothership processor vessel is engaged in a fishing trip from the time the harvesting, receiving, or processing of groundfish is begun or resumed in an area until:

(A) The effective date of a notification prohibiting directed fishing in the same area under § 679.20 or § 679.21;

(B) The offload or transfer of all fish or fish product

from that vessel;

(C) The vessel enters or leaves an area where a different directed fishing prohibition applies;

(D) The vessel begins fishing with a different type of authorized fishing gear; or

(E) The end of a weekly reporting period, whichever comes first.

(ii) With respect to retention requirements of MRA, IR/IU, and pollock roe stripping, an operator of a

catcher vessel is engaged in a fishing trip from the time the harvesting of groundfish is begun until the offload or transfer of all fish or fish product from that vessel.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Harvest limit area (HLA) for Atka mackerel directed fishing* for the purposes of §§ 679.4(b)(5)(vi)(B), 679.20(a)(8)(ii) and (iii), and 679.22(a)(8)(iv)(A), means the waters of statistical areas 542 and 543 that are (1) west of 178° W long. and (2) within 20 nm seaward of sites listed in Table 6 of this part that are located west of 177°57.00' W long.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. In § 679.4, paragraph (b)(5)(vi) is revised to read as follows:

#### § 679.4 Permits.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(5) \* \* \*

(vi) *Atka Mackerel, Pollock, and Pacific Cod Directed Fisheries.* (A) Indicate use of pot, hook-and-line, or trawl gear in the directed fisheries for pollock, Atka mackerel, or Pacific cod.

(B) Indicate directed fishing for Atka mackerel in the harvest limit area, as defined in § 679.2.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 4. In § 679.5 paragraph (n)(2)(iii)(B)(4) is revised to read as follows:

#### § 679.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

\* \* \* \* \*

(n) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(iii) \* \* \*

(B) \* \* \*

(4) Indicate the intended target species.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 5. In § 679.7, paragraph (c)(3) is removed, paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(17), (a)(18), (a)(19), and (b) are revised to read as follows:

#### § 679.7 Prohibitions.

\* \* \* \* \*

(a) \* \* \*

(1) *Federal Fisheries Permit.* (i) Fish for groundfish in the BSAI or GOA with a vessel of the United States that does not have on board a valid Federal Fisheries Permit issued under § 679.4.

(ii) Conduct directed fishing for Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, or pollock with pot, hook-and-line, or trawl gear from a vessel of the United States that does not have on board a valid Federal Fisheries Permit issued under § 679.4 and endorsed for Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, or pollock under § 679.4(b)(5)(vi).

\* \* \* \* \*

(17) *Tender vessel.* (i) Use a catcher vessel or catcher/processor as a tender