

(0.25 m) above the waterline in the absence of wind.

(7) Have streamers constructed of material that is brightly colored, UV-protected plastic tubing or 3/8 inch polyester line or material of an equivalent density.

(iv) *Snap Gear Streamer Standard.* (A) For vessels using snap gear, a single streamer line must:

(1) Be deployed before the first hook is set in such a way that streamers are in the air for 65.6 ft (20 m) aft of the stern and within 6.6 ft (2 m) horizontally of the point where the main groundline enters the water.

(2) Have a minimum length of 147.6 ft (45 m).

(B) *Weather Exception.* In winds exceeding 45 knots (storm or Beaufort 9 conditions), the use of a single streamer line is discretionary.

(6) *Other Seabird Avoidance Devices and Methods* as required at paragraphs (e)(4)(ii)(A) and (B) and (e)(4)(iii) of this section include the following:

(i) Add weights to groundline.

(ii) Use a buoy bag line or single streamer line, of standards as appropriate and as specified in paragraph (e)(5) of this section.

(iii) Strategic offal discharge to distract birds away from the setting of

baited hooks. Discharge fish, fish parts (i.e. offal) or spent bait.

(7) *Other methods.* The following measures or methods must be accompanied by the applicable seabird avoidance gear requirements as specified in paragraph (e)(4) of this section:

(i) Night-setting,

(ii) Line shooter, or

(iii) Lining tube.

(8) *Seabird Avoidance Exemption.*

Notwithstanding any other paragraph in this part, operators of vessels 32 ft (9.8 m) LOA or less using hook-and-line gear in IPHC Area 4E in waters shoreward of the EEZ are exempt from seabird avoidance regulations.

4. In § 679.32, paragraph (f)(2)(vi) is added to read as follows:

**§ 679.32 Groundfish and halibut CDQ catch monitoring.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(vi) The CDQ group, and vessel owner or operator must comply with all of the seabird avoidance requirements at § 679.42(b)(2).

\* \* \* \* \*

5. In § 679.42, paragraph (b)(2) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 679.42 Limitations on use of QS and IFQ.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(2) *Seabird avoidance gear and methods.* The operator of a vessel using gear authorized at § 679.2 while fishing for IFQ halibut, CDQ halibut, or hook-and-line gear while fishing for IFQ sablefish must comply with requirements for seabird avoidance gear and methods set forth at § 679.24(e).

\* \* \* \* \*

6. In § 679.50, paragraph (f)(1)(viii)(F) is added to read as follows:

**§ 679.50 Groundfish Observer Program applicable through December 31, 2007.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) \* \* \*

(1) \* \* \*

(viii) \* \* \*

(F) Collecting all seabirds that are incidentally taken on the observer-sampled portions of hauls using hook-and-line gear or as requested by an observer during non-sampled portions of hauls.

\* \* \* \* \*

7. In part 679, table 19 is revised and table 20 to part 679 is added to read as follows:

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