## TABLE 4—EPA APPROVED CHATTANOOGA REGULATIONS

State section	Title/subject	Adoption date	EPA approval date	Explanation							
Article I. In General											
*	*	*	*	*	*	*					
Section 4–2	Definitions	10/3/17	3/26/20, [Insert citation of publication].	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *							
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[FR Doc. 2020–05913 Filed 3–25–20; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 200227-0066]

RTID 0648-XY092

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Temporary rule.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is reallocating the projected unused amounts of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) pollock directed fishing allowance (DFA) from the Aleutian Islands subarea to the Bering Sea subarea. This action is

necessary to provide opportunity for harvest of the 2020 total allowable catch of pollock, consistent with the goals and objectives of the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (BSAI).

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 26, 2020, through 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steve Whitney, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

In the Aleutian Islands subarea, the portion of the 2020 pollock total allowable catch (TAC) allocated to the CDQ DFA is 1,900 mt as established by the final 2020 and 2021 harvest

specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (85 FR 13553, March 9, 2020).

As of March 18, 2020, the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, (Regional Administrator) has determined that 1,900 mt of pollock CDQ DFA in the Aleutian Islands subarea will not be harvested. Therefore, in accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B)(4), NMFS reallocates 1,900 mt of pollock CDQ DFA from the Aleutian Islands subarea to the Bering Sea subarea CDQ DFA. The 2020 Bering Sea subarea pollock incidental catch allowance remains at 47,453 mt. As a result, the 2020 harvest specifications for pollock in the Aleutian Islands subarea included in the final 2020 and 2021 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (85 FR 13553, March 9, 2020) are revised as follows: 0 mt to CDQ DFA. Furthermore, pursuant to § 679.20(a)(5), Table 4 of the final 2020 and 2021 harvest specifications for groundfish in the BSAI (85 FR 13553, March 9, 2020) is revised to make 2020 pollock allocations consistent with this reallocation. This reallocation results in an adjustment to the 2020 CDO pollock allocation established at § 679.20(a)(5).

Table 4—Final 2020 Allocations of Pollock TACS to the Directed Pollock Fisheries and to the CDQ Directed Fishing Allowances (DFA) <sup>1</sup>

[Amounts are in metric tons]

	2020	2020 A season 1		2020 B season 1
Area and sector	Allocations	A season DFA	SCA harvest limit <sup>2</sup>	B season DFA
Bering Sea subarea TAC1 CDQ DFA ICA1	1,426,900 144,400 47,453	n/a 64,980 n/a	n/a 40,432 n/a	n/a 79,420 n/a

# Table 4—Final 2020 Allocations of Pollock TACS to the Directed Pollock Fisheries and to the CDQ DIRECTED FISHING ALLOWANCES (DFA) 1—Continued

[Amounts are in metric tons]

	2020	2020 A season 1		2020 B season 1
Area and sector	Allocations	A season DFA	SCA harvest limit <sup>2</sup>	B season DFA
Total Bering Sea non-CDQ DFA AFA Inshore  AFA Catcher/Processors 3  Catch by C/Ps  Catch by CVs 3  Unlisted C/P Limit 4  AFA Motherships  Excessive Harvesting Limit 5  Excessive Processing Limit 6  Aleutian Islands subarea ABC  Aleutian Islands subarea TAC 1  CDQ DFA  ICA  Aleut Corporation  Area harvest limit 7  541  542	1,235,048 617,524 494,019 452,027 41,992 2,470 123,505 216,133 370,514 55,120 17,100 0 2,400 14,700 n/a 16,536 8,268	555,771 277,886 222,309 203,412 18,896 1,112 55,577 n/a n/a n/a 0 1,200 14,700 n/a n/a	345,813 172,907 138,325 n/a n/a 34,581 n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a	679,276 339,638 271,710 248,615 23,095 1,359 67,928 n/a n/a n/a 0 1,200 0 n/a n/a
543	2,756 75	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a

¹Pursuant to §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A), the Bering Sea subarea pollock TAC, after subtracting the CDQ DFA (10 percent) and the ICA (3.7 percent), is allocated as a DFA as follows: inshore sector—50 percent, catcher/processor sector (C/P)—40 percent, and mothership sector—10 percent. In the Bering Sea subarea, 45 percent of the DFA is allocated to the A season (January 20—June 10) and 55 percent of the DFA is allocated to the B season (June 10–November 1). Pursuant to §679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B)(2)(i) through (iii), the annual Aleutian Islands pollock TAC, after subtracting first for the CDQ DFA (10 percent) and second for the ICA (2,400 mt), is allocated to the Aleut Corporation for a pollock directed fishery. In the Aleutian Islands subarea, the A season is allocated up to 40 percent of the ABC for Al pollock.

2 In the Bering Sea subarea, pursuant to §679.20(a)(5)(i)(C), no more than 28 percent of each sector's annual DFA may be taken from the

SCA before noon, April 1.

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(4), 8.5 percent of the DFA allocated to listed C/Ps shall be available for harvest only by eligible catcher vessels with a C/P endorsement delivering to listed C/Ps, unless there is a C/P sector cooperative for the year.

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to §679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(4)(iii), the AFA unlisted catcher/processors are limited to harvesting not more than 0.5 percent of the catcher/

processors sector's allocation of pollock.

<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(6), NMFS establishes an excessive harvesting share limit equal to 17.5 percent of the sum of the non-CDQ pollock DFAs.

<sup>6</sup> Pursuant to § 679.20(a)(5)(i)(A)(7), NMFS establishes an excessive processing share limit equal to 30.0 percent of the sum of the non-CDQ pollock DFAs.

Pursuant to §679.20(a)(5)(iii)(B)(6), NMFS establishes harvest limits for pollock in the A season in Area 541 of no more than 30 percent, in Area 542 of no more than 15 percent, and in Area 543 of no more than 5 percent of the Aleutian Islands pollock ABC

<sup>8</sup> Pursuant to § 679.22(a)(7)(B), the Bogoslof District is closed to directed fishing for pollock. The amounts specified are for incidental catch only and are not apportioned by season or sector.

Note: Seasonal or sector apportionments may not total precisely due to rounding.

## Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA (AA), finds good cause to waive the requirement to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the authority set forth at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) as such requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. This requirement is impracticable and contrary to the public interest as it would prevent NMFS from responding to the most recent fisheries data in a timely fashion and would delay the reallocation of Aleutian

Islands pollock. Since the pollock fishery opened January 20, 2020, it is important to immediately inform the industry as to the Bering Sea subarea pollock CDQ DFA. Immediate notification is necessary to allow for the orderly conduct and efficient operation of this fishery; allow the industry to plan for the fishing season and avoid potential disruption to the fishing fleet as well as processors; and provide opportunity to harvest increased seasonal pollock allocations while value is optimum. NMFS was unable to publish a notice providing time for public comment because the most recent, relevant data only became available as of March 19, 2020.

The AA also finds good cause to waive the 30-day delay in the effective date of this action under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3). This finding is based upon the reasons provided above for waiver of prior notice and opportunity for public comment.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

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

Dated: March 23, 2020.

### Hélène M.N. Scalliet.

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2020-06332 Filed 3-25-20: 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P