

Summary of NMFS Management 1991
(Compiled from FR Notices and News Releases)

- Sept 30: In the Gulf of Alaska, all trawlers over 60 ft are required to have 100% observer coverage.
- Sept 16: Directed fishing for "other rockfish" closes in Central Gulf.
- Sept 7: Commence daily reporting by shoreside and at-sea observers in the Bering Sea flatfish fishery. Similar requirements will be placed on the Gulf of Alaska fourth quarter pollock fishery when it commences.
- Sept 4: Directed fisheries for pollock close in Bering Sea Subarea.
- August 20: NMFS announces bycatch retention limits for groundfish in the directed halibut fisheries.
- August 14: Permissible halibut bycatch rates in mid-summer BSAI flatfish fisheries increased to 5 kg halibut /mt groundfish for August 14 through September 1, and then will revert to 3 kg/mt.
- August 12: Two Amendment 16a measures become effective in BSAI: hotspot closure authority, and authority for the Regional Director to limit the amount of pollock that may be harvested using non-pelagic trawl gear.
- July 26: Trawling for groundfish in Southeast Outside District of Gulf closed to prevent overfishing of demersal shelf rockfish. Some limited trawling in SEO District for some groundfish species with low DSR bycatch rates may be allowed by emergency rule to be announced.
- July 24: Western Gulf closed to directed pollock fishing until September 30 when the fourth quarter apportionment will become available. 25,471 mt was available for the third quarter and 900 mt was saved for bycatch purposes.
- July 20: Central Gulf closes to directed pollock fishing until September 30 when the fourth quarter apportionment will become available. 36,065 mt was available for the third quarter and 900 mt was saved for bycatch purposes.
- July 14: Herring PSC for DAP flatfish fishery exceeded in BS subarea thus closing Summer Herring Savings Area 2 (south of 56 30 N, 164 - 167 W from July 14 to August 15, 1991. Winter Herring Savings Area (58 - 60 N, 172 - 175 W) closes September 1, 1991 to March 1 1992.
- July 12: Herring bycatch measures in amendment 16a take effect.
- July 10: Aleutian Islands closed to all trawling to prevent overfishing of Atka mackerel. Area 515 east of 167 W is also closed to directed fishing for Pacific cod with trawl

gear, and pollock with trawls other than pelagic trawls.

- July 8: Gulf of Alaska hook and line fishery closes for rest of year because 750 mt hlibut PSC is reached. Jig and troll gear are not included in the closure.
- July 8: Directed fishing ends for BSAI pollock with non-pelagic trawls and Pacific cod with any trawls because secondary halibut PSC is reached.
- July 5: Can no longer retain hook and line sablefish in Central Gulf and in West Yakutat because gear shares have been reached.
- July 2: New requirements for observer program take effect. Shoreside processors now required to determine monthly, rather than yearly, their need for observer coverage. The monthly criteria for observer coverage are 1000 mt or more groundfish, 500 mt to 1000 mt groundfish, and less than 500 mt groundfish per month for 100%, 30%, and 0% coverage respectively. This applies to motherships also.
- July 1: NMFS clarifies pollock availability in Gulf of Alaska. With carryovers and other adjustments, second quarter apportionments were 14,476 mt in the Western Gulf and 12,040 mt in the Central Gulf. Maximum available in a subarea per quarter is 18,750 mt.
- July 1: NMFS seeks volunteer vessels for sampling tests in vessel incentive program and to test equipment to measure total catch weights.

NEWS RELEASE
Steven Pennoyer
907-586-7221

September 19, 1991
3:56pm
For Immediate Release

AGENDA B-3
SUPPLEMENTAL

UPDATE ON FOURTH QUARTER
GULF OF ALASKA OBSERVER COVERAGE

The Regional Director announces that the fourth quarter pollock fishery in the Western and Central Regulatory subareas of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) is not expected to open as scheduled on September 30, 1991. Therefore, the 100 percent observer coverage requirement for vessels 60 - 124 feet length overall (LOA), as announced in an August 30, 1991, news release, will not begin on September 30.

A Court decision regarding the fourth quarter pollock fishery is expected on October 11, 1991. If the Court rules in favor of a fourth quarter pollock fishery in the GOA, 100 percent observer coverage will be required on all trawl vessels 60 - 124 feet LOA when the fourth quarter pollock fishery opens and will continue until NMFS determines that conditions in the GOA trawl fisheries have stabilized. In making this determination, NMFS will consider factors such as accuracy and completeness of catch and discard reporting, stability of fishing effort and harvest rates, and remaining groundfish and prohibited species catch amounts.

The NMFS anticipates that the pollock fishery and the 100 percent observer coverage requirement would begin at 12:00 noon Alaska local time (A.l.t.) October 21, 1991. This opening provides sufficient time for planning and logistics of observer deployment. Observer coverage for the period of time 100 percent coverage is required will not count toward fulfilling coverage requirements for 30 percent vessels 60 - 124 feet LOA. These vessels will still be responsible for meeting the 30 percent coverage requirement as described in the Observer Plan for any fishing effort during the fourth quarter before and after the period of time the 100 percent requirement is in effect.

If the Court does not permit a fourth quarter GOA pollock fishery, then 100 percent observer coverage for vessels 60 - 124 feet LOA will not be required, and all trawl vessels will be responsible for meeting the usual coverage requirements as described in the Observer Plan.

This news release summarizes proposed regulatory requirements and is for informational purposes only. For more information concerning regulatory requirements, consult the applicable regulations or contact the Fisheries Management Division, NMFS, 907-586-7228.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

National Marine Fisheries Service

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

AGENDA B-3
Supplemental
September 1991

NEWS RELEASE
Steven Pennoyer
907-586-7221

September 13, 1991

For Immediate Release

**DIRECTED FISHERY FOR YELLOWFIN SOLE AND
"OTHER FLATFISH" CLOSED IN
ZONES 1 & 2H OF THE BERING SEA SUBAREA**

The primary bycatch allowance of Pacific halibut for the flatfish fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management area (BSAI) has been reached according to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The NMFS is announcing a closure of directed fishing with trawl gear for yellowfin sole and "other flatfish" in the aggregate in Zones 1 and 2H of the BSAI (statistical areas 511, 512, 516, 517) at 12:00 noon, Alaska local time, September 16, 1991. This closure is effective through the remainder of the fishing year.

The primary halibut PSC allowance for the flatfish fishery in the BSAI is 660 metric tons. The directed fishery for yellowfin sole and "other flatfish" outside of Zones 1 & 2H continues in statistical areas 513, 514, 515, 521, 522, and 530. The Aleutian Islands subarea (statistical area 540) remains closed to trawling.

For the remainder of the fishing year, vessels fishing with trawl gear in Zones 1 & 2H of the BSAI area may not, at any time, retain amounts of yellowfin sole and "other flatfish", in the aggregate, that are equal to or greater than 20 percent of the total retained amount of other fish or fish products, as calculated in round weight equivalents.

This press release summarizes regulatory requirements and is for informational purposes only. For more information concerning regulatory requirements, consult the applicable regulations or contact the Fisheries Management Division, NMFS, 907-586-7228.



NEWS RELEASE
Steven Pennoyer
907-586-7221

September 20, 1991
1:45pm
For Immediate Release

CLOSURE TO RETENTION OF ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER BY
VESSELS FISHING IN THE CENTRAL REGULATORY
AREA OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

Vessels fishing in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (Federal reporting areas 62, 621, 63) may not retain arrowtooth flounder after 12:00 noon, Alaska local time, September 25, 1991, according to Steven Pennoyer, Director, Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service. This closure is effective through the remainder of 1991.

The entire total allowable catch of arrowtooth flounder in the Central Regulatory Area (10,000 metric tons) has been taken. After the closure, arrowtooth flounder caught by vessels fishing in the Central Regulatory Area must be treated as a prohibited species and discarded.

This press release summarizes regulatory requirements and is for informational purposes only. For more information concerning regulatory requirements, consult the applicable regulations or contact the Fisheries Management Division, NMFS, 907-586-7228.

NEWS RELEASE
Steven Pennoyer
907-586-7221

September 20, 1991
1:42pm
For Immediate Release

CLOSURE OF THE BERING SEA WINTER HERRING SAVINGS AREA
TO DIRECTED FISHING FOR POLLOCK BY VESSELS USING TRAWL GEAR

The 1991 prohibited species catch allowance of Pacific herring for the "DAP midwater pollock fishery" in the Bering Sea subarea has been reached, according to Steven Pennoyer, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). As a result, the Secretary of Commerce is closing certain areas of the Bering Sea subarea designated as the "Winter Herring Savings Area" to directed fishing for pollock by vessels using ANY trawl gear as follows:

Winter Herring Savings Area (between 58° and 60° N. latitude and between 172° and 175° W. longitude) closed from 12:00 noon, A.L.T., September 21, 1991, through 12:00 noon, A.L.T., March 1, 1992.

Within the closed area, vessels using trawl gear may not retain amounts of pollock at any time during a trip that are equal to or greater than 20 percent of the aggregate amount of other fish or fish products retained, at the same time during the same trip, as calculated in round weight equivalents.

This press release summarizes regulatory requirements and is for informational purposes only. For more information concerning regulatory requirements, consult the applicable regulations or contact the Fisheries Management Division, NMFS, 907-586-7228.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration***National Marine Fisheries Service*

P.O. Box 21668

Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

P.2/2

AGENDA C-1

SEPT 1991

SUPPLEMENTAL

September 19, 1991

Clarence G. Pautzke
Executive Director
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Clarence,

Thank you for your August 30, 1991, letter providing information about action taken by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council with respect to the closures to all fishing around the Walrus Islands. These closures are part of Amendment 17, which the Council approved for Secretary review during its August 13-16, 1991, meeting. Under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, we have authority to implement closures to groundfish fishing.

We currently are preparing draft regulations that we will soon send to your office to close the areas to groundfish fishing. We are exploring with General Counsel-Alaska other authorities to close all fishing in response to the Council recommendation.

Sincerely,

Steven Pennoyer
Director, Alaska Region

cc: GCAK

