20256

hard disk storage with eight megabytes RAM to support the software program used by the observer.

Vessels and shoreside processing facilities would be required to maintain fully functional and operational electronic-data communication equipment.

The affected mothership processor vessels and shoreside processors must obtain for observers' use the data entry software program provided by the Regional Director.

# Classification

Section 304(a)(1)(D) of the Magnuson Act requires NMFS to publish regulations proposed by a Council within 15 days of receipt of the FMP amendment and regulations. At this time NMFS has not determined that the FMP amendment that these rules would implement is consistent with the national standards, other provisions of the Magnuson Act, and other applicable laws. NMFS in making that determination, will take into account the data, views, and comments received during the comment period.

The Council prepared an IRFA as part of the RIR, which describes the impact of this proposed rule on small entities, if adopted. The IRFA indicates that the preferred option was the most costeffective of the options considered.

Although, the groundfish historically caught in this area can be harvested elsewhere in the BS, this proposed action could have a significant economic impact on the segment of the fishing industry that fishes for nonroe pollock because all of the catcher vessels would be prohibited from trawling in the closure area and would have to relocate, incurring undeterminable expenses. Operating costs could increase for catcher vessels that are forced to fish in locations other than the closure area and the catch-perunit-effort in the locations that these vessels are displaced to may be less than in the closure area. These factors could contribute, for these catcher vessels, to reductions in gross revenues of more than 5 percent, annual compliance costs that increased total costs of production by more than 5 percent, or compliance costs for small entities that are at least 10 percent higher than compliance costs as a percent of sales for large entities.

A copy of this analysis is available from the Council (see ADDRESSES).

This proposed rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

# List of Subjects in 50 CFR Parts 675 and 677

Fisheries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

to be amended as follows:

Dated: April 19, 1995. **Richard H. Schaefer**, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,

National Marine Fisheries Service. For reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR parts 675 and 677 are proposed

# PART 675—GROUNDFISH OF THE **BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS** AREA

1. The authority citation for part 675 continues to read as follows:

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

2. Section 675.22, paragraph (h) is added to read as follows:

#### §675.22 Time and area closures. \*

\*

\*

(h) Chum Salmon Savings Area. (1) Trawling is prohibited from August 1 through August 31 in the area defined by straight lines connecting the following coordinates in the order listed:

\*

56°00' N. 167°00' W., 56°00' N. 165°00' W., 55°30' N. 165°00' W., 55°30' N. 164°00' W., 55°00' N. 164°00' W., 55°00' N. 167°00' W., 56°00' N. 167°00' W.

(2) When the Regional Director determines that 42,000 nonchinook salmon have been caught by vessels using trawl gear during the time period of August 15 through October 14 in the catcher vessel operational area, defined in paragraph (g) of this section, NMFS will prohibit fishing with trawl gear for the remainder of the period September 1 through October 14 in the area defined under paragraph (h)(1) of this section.

3. Section 675.25 is revised as follows:

## §675.25 Observer requirements.

(a) General. Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area groundfish observer requirements are contained in part 677 of this chapter.

(b) Additional observer coverage requirements applicable through December 31, 1995. (1) Each mothership processor vessel that receives pollock harvested by catcher vessels in the catcher vessel operational area, defined at §675.22(g), during the second pollock season that starts on August 15 under §675.23(e), is required to have a second NMFS-certified observer aboard, in addition to the observer required under

§677.10(a)(1)(i) of this chapter for each day of the second pollock season until the chum salmon savings area is closed under §675.22(h)(2).

(2) Each shoreside processor that offloads fish at more than one location on the same dock and has distinct and separate equipment at each location to process those fish and that receives pollock harvested by catcher vessels in the catcher vessel operational area, defined at §675.22(g), during the second pollock season that starts on August 15, under §675.23(e) is required to have a NMFS-certified observer, in addition to the observer required under §677.10(a)(1)(i) of this chapter, at each location where fish is offloaded, for each day of the second pollock season until the chum salmon savings area is closed under §675.22(h)(2).

# PART 677—NORTH PACIFIC **FISHERIES RESEARCH PLAN**

4. The authority citation for part 677 continues to read as follows:

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

\*

5. Section 677.10, paragraphs (c)(3) and (d)(3) are revised to read as follows:

### § 677.10 General requirements.

- \* \*
- (c) \* \* \*

(3) Facilitate transmission of observer data by:

(i) Allowing observers to use the vessel's communication equipment and personnel, on request, for the entry, transmission, and receipt of workrelated messages, at no cost to the observers, the State of Alaska, or the United States:

(ii) Ensuring that each mothership that receives pollock harvested in the catcher vessel operational area, defined at

§675.22(g) of this chapter, during the pollock nonroe season that starts on August 15, is equipped with **INMARSAT Standard A satellite** communication capabilities, cc:Mail remote, and the data entry software, provided by the Regional Director, for use by the observer. The operator of each mothership processing vessel shall also make available for the observers' use the following equipment compatible therewith and having the ability to operate the NMFS-supplied data entry software program: a personal computer with a 486 or better processing chip, a DOS 3.0, or better operating system with 10 megabytes free hard disk storage and 8 megabytes RAM; and

(iii) Ensuring that the communication equipment that is on mothership processor vessels as specified at paragraph (c)(3)(ii) of this section, and