

(b) \* \* \*

(2) *Fee assessments during 1996.*

Processors of Research Plan fisheries will not be assessed fees based on catch from Research Plan fisheries that is retained during the 1996 calendar year.

(3) *Fee assessments applicable after December 31, 1996.* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

3. In § 677.10, the headings for paragraphs (a) and (b), the introductory text to paragraph (g), and paragraphs (a)(1)(ii)(A) through (F) are revised, paragraphs (a)(1)(i)(C) through (a)(1)(i)(F) are redesignated as paragraphs (a)(1)(i)(D) through (a)(1)(i)(G), respectively, and paragraphs (a)(1)(i)(C) and (a)(2)(iii) are added to read as follows:

**§ 677.10 General requirements.**(a) *Observer requirements applicable through December 31, 1996—(1)* \* \* \*

(i) \* \* \*

(C) Each mothership processor vessel that receives pollock harvested by catcher vessels in the catcher vessel operational area, defined at § 675.22(g) of this chapter, during the second pollock season that starts on August 15 under § 675.23(e) of this chapter, is required to have a second NMFS-certified observer aboard, in addition to the observer required under paragraphs (a)(1)(i)(A) and (B) of this section, for each day of the second pollock season until the chum salmon savings area is closed under § 675.22(h)(2) of this chapter, or October 15, 1996, whichever occurs first.

\* \* \* \* \*

(ii) \* \* \*

(A) *Pollock fishery.* Directed fishing for groundfish that results in a retained catch of pollock, during any fishing trip, that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (a)(1)(ii).

(B) *Pacific cod fishery.* Directed fishing for groundfish that results in a retained catch of Pacific cod, during any fishing trip, that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (a)(1)(ii).

(C) *Sablefish fishery.* Directed fishing for groundfish that results in a retained catch of sablefish, during any fishing trip, that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (a)(1)(ii).

(D) *Rockfish fishery.* Directed fishing for groundfish that results in a retained aggregate catch of rockfish of the genera *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus*, during any fishing trip, that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (a)(1)(ii).

(E) *Flatfish fishery.* Directed fishing for groundfish that results in a retained aggregate catch of all flatfish species, except Pacific halibut, during any fishing trip, that is greater than the retained catch of any other groundfish species or species group that is specified as a separate groundfish fishery under this paragraph (a)(1)(ii).

(F) *Other species fishery.* Directed fishing for groundfish that results in a retained catch of groundfish, during any fishing trip, that does not qualify as a pollock, Pacific cod, sablefish, rockfish, or flatfish fishery as defined under paragraphs (a)(1)(ii)(A) through (E) of this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) \* \* \*

(iii) Each shoreside processor that offloads pollock at more than one location on the same dock and has distinct and separate equipment at each location to process those pollock and that receives pollock harvested by catcher vessels in the catcher vessel

operational area, defined at § 675.22(g) of this chapter, during the second pollock season that starts on August 15, under § 675.23(e) of this chapter, is required to have a NMFS-certified observer, in addition to the observer required under paragraphs (a)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section, at each location where pollock is offloaded, for each day of the second pollock season until the chum salmon savings area is closed under § 675.22(h)(2) of this chapter, or October 15, 1996, whichever occurs first.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Observer requirements applicable after December 31, 1996—(1)* \* \* \* (i) \*

\* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

(g) *Vessel safety requirements applicable after December 31, 1995.* Any vessel that is required to carry observers under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section must have onboard either:

\* \* \* \* \*

4. In § 677.11, paragraph (a)(4) is revised to read as follows:

**§ 677.11 Annual Research Plan specifications.**

(a) \* \* \*

(4) *Observer coverage.* For the period January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996, observer coverage levels in Research Plan fisheries will be as required by § 677.10(a). After December 31, 1996, the level of observer coverage will be determined annually by NMFS, after consultation with the Council and the State of Alaska, and may vary by fishery and vessel or processor size, depending upon the objectives to be met for the groundfish, halibut, and king and Tanner crab fisheries. The Regional Director may change observer coverage inseason pursuant to § 677.10(b)(2)(ii).

\* \* \* \* \*

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