

AMENDMENT 40 - TEXT TO AMEND THE FMP FOR THE GROUND FISH FISHERY
OF THE BERING SEA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA

1. In Chapter 2.0, section entitled "History and Summary of Amendments," add the following:

Amendment 40 implemented on _____, 1997

- (1) Established the C. opilio crab prohibited species catch limit in the C. opilio Bycatch Limitation Zone.
2. In Section 14.4.2.1 entitled "Prohibited Species Bycatch Limitation Zones and Areas", a new paragraph E is added as follows:

E. The C. Opilio Bycatch Limitation Zone (COBLZ) is an area defined as that portion of the Bering Sea Subarea north of 56°30' N. latitude that are west of a line connecting the following coordinates in the order listed:

56°30' N. lat.,	165°00' W. long.
58°00' N. lat.,	165°00' W. long.
59°30' N. lat.,	170°00' W. long.

and north along 170°00' W. longitude to its intersection with the U.S.-Russian Boundary.

Upon attainment of the COBLZ bycatch allowance of C. opilio crab specified for a particular fishery category, the COLBZ will be closed to directed fishing for each species and/or species group in that fishery category for the remainder of the year or for the remainder of the season.

3. In Section 14.4.2.2 entitled "Prohibited Species Catch Limits" paragraph C is amended as follows:
 - C. The PSC limit(s) for C. opilio crab is established by regulation based on total abundance of C. opilio crab as estimated by the NMFS bottom trawl survey. Minimum and maximum PSC limits also are established by regulation.
4. In Section 14.4.2.3 entitled "Apportionment of PSC Limits to Target Fisheries" paragraph A is amended as follows:
 - A. The Pacific halibut bycatch mortality limit for trawl gear and the PSC limits for red king crab, C. bairdi crab, C. opilio crab, and herring apply to trawl fisheries for groundfish that are categorized by target species or species groups....

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