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species for personal use and may not sell, trade or barter, or attempt to sell, trade or barter any prohibited species that is retained under the PSD program, except that processors may convert offal from salmon or halibut that has been retained pursuant to the PSD program into fish meal, fish oil, or bone meal, and sell or trade these products.

(4) No prohibited species that has been sorted from a vessel's catch or landing may be retained by a vessel or processor, or delivered to a delivery location under this section, unless the vessel or processor and delivery location is included on the list provided to the Regional Administrator under paragraph (b)(1)(xi), (b)(1)(xiii) or (b)(3)(v) of this section.

[61 FR 38359, July 24, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 32145, 32146, June 12, 1998; 65 FR 78121, Dec. 14, 2000; 66 FR 53122, Oct. 19, 2001; 67 FR 4148, Jan. 28, 2002; 69 FR 52612, Aug. 27, 2004]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 67 FR 4158, Jan. 28, 2002, § 679.26 was amended in paragraph (c)(3) by removing the words "until 1 year after" and inserting in its place "until 3 years after". The amendment contains information collection and recordkeeping requirements and will not become effective until approval has been given by the Office of Management and Budget.

§ 679.27 Improved Retention/Improved Utilization Program.

(a) *Applicability.* The owner or operator of a vessel that is required to obtain a Federal fisheries or processor permit under § 679.4 must comply with the IR/IU program set out in this section while fishing for groundfish in the GOA or BSAI, fishing for groundfish in waters of the State of Alaska that are shoreward of the GOA or BSAI, or when processing groundfish harvested in the GOA or BSAI.

(b) *IR/IU species.* The following species are defined as "IR/IU species" for the purposes of this section:

- (1) Pollock.
- (2) Pacific cod.
- (3) Shallow-water flatfish species complex in the GOA as defined in the annual harvest specifications for the GOA (beginning January 1, 2003).

(c) *Minimum retention requirements—*

(1) *Definition of retain on board.* Notwithstanding the definition at 50 CFR 600.10, for the purpose of this section, to retain on board means to be in possession of on board a vessel.

(2) The following table displays minimum retention requirements by vessel category and directed fishing status:

If you own or operate a ...	and ...	you must retain on board until lawful transfer ...
(i) Catcher vessel	(A) Directed fishing for an IR/IU species is open. (B) Directed fishing for an IR/IU species is prohibited. (C) Retention of an IR/ IU species is prohibited.	all fish of that species brought on board the vessel. all fish of that species brought on board the vessel up to the MRA for that species. no fish of that species.
(ii) Catcher/processor	(A) Directed fishing for an IR/IU species is open. (B) Directed fishing for an IR/IU species is prohibited.	a primary product from all fish of that species brought on board the vessel. a primary product from all fish of that species brought on board the vessel up to the point that the round-weight equivalent of primary products on board equals the MRA for that species.
(iii) Mothership	(C) Retention of an IR/IU species is prohibited (A) Directed fishing for an IR/IU species is open. (B) Directed fishing for an IR/IU species is prohibited. (C) Retention of an IR/IU species is prohibited	no fish or product of that species. a primary product from all fish of that species brought on board the vessel a primary product from all fish of that species brought on board the vessel up to the point that the round-weight equivalent of primary products on board equals the MRA for that species. no fish or product of that species.

(d) *Bleeding codends and shaking longline gear.* Any action intended to discard or release an IR/IU species prior to being brought on board the

vessel is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to bleeding codends and shaking or otherwise removing fish from longline gear.

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(e) *At-sea discard of product.* Any product from an IR/IU species may not be discarded at sea, unless such discarding is necessary to meet other requirements of this part.

(f) *Discard of fish or product transferred from other vessels.* The retention requirements of this section apply to all IR/IU species brought on board a vessel, whether harvested by that vessel or transferred from another vessel. At-sea discard of IR/IU species or products that were transferred from another vessel is prohibited.

(g) *IR/IU species as bait.* IR/IU species may be used as bait provided that the deployed bait is physically secured to authorized fishing gear. Dumping of unsecured IR/IU species as bait (chumming) is prohibited.

(h) *Previously caught fish.* The retention and utilization requirements of this section do not apply to incidental catch of dead or decomposing fish or fish parts that were previously caught and discarded at sea.

(i) *Minimum utilization requirements.* If you own or operate a catcher/processor or mothership, the minimum utilization requirement for an IR/IU species harvested in the BSAI is determined by the directed fishing status for that species according to the following table:

If...	then your total weight of retained or lawfully transferred products produced from your catch or receipt of that IR/IU species during a fishing trip must...
(1) directed fishing for an IR/IU species is open,	equal or exceed 15 percent of the round-weight catch or round-weight delivery of that species during the fishing trip.
(2) directed fishing for an IR/IU species is prohibited,	equal or exceed 15 percent of the round-weight catch or round-weight delivery of that species during the fishing trip or 15 percent of the MRA for that species, whichever is lower.

If...	then your total weight of retained or lawfully transferred products produced from your catch or receipt of that IR/IU species during a fishing trip must...
(3) retention of an IR/IU species is prohibited,	equal zero.

[62 FR 63890, Dec. 3, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 65381, Dec. 12, 1997; 68 FR 52144, Sept. 2, 2003; 69 FR 32903, June 14, 2004]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 71 FR 17381, Apr. 6, 2006, §679.27 was amended by adding paragraphs (b)(4) and (j), effective Jan. 20, 2008. For the convenience of the user the added text follows:

§ 679.27 Improved Retention/Improved Utilization Program.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(4) All species listed in Table 2a to this part for purposes of the GRS program described in paragraph (j) of this section, except for groundfish in prohibited species status at the end of each reporting week.

* * * * *

(j) *Groundfish retention standard*—(1) *Applicability.* The operator of a catcher/processor that is 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA or longer, not listed in §679.4(1)(2)(i), and using trawl gear must comply with the GRS set forth under paragraph (j)(2)(ii) of this section while fishing for or processing groundfish caught from the BSAI from January 1 through December 31 of each year. The owner of a catcher/processor 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA or longer is required to ensure that the operator complies with the GRS program set forth under paragraph (j)(2)(ii) of this section. No part of the GRS program supersedes minimum retention or utilization requirements for IR/IU species found in this section.

(2) *Percent of groundfish retained calculation.*

(i) For any fishing year, the percent of groundfish retained by each vessel identified under paragraph (j)(1) of this section would be calculated using the following equations:

$$GF_{roundweight} = \sum_{i=1}^n (PW_{species_n} / PRR_{species_n})$$

Substituting the value for GF_{roundweight} into the following equation,

$$GRF\% = (GF_{roundweight} / TotalGF) * 100$$

Where:

GF_{roundweight} = the total annual round weight equivalent of all retained product weights for each IR/IU groundfish species.

PW_{species_n} = the total annual product weight for each groundfish species listed in

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Table 2a to this part by product type as reported in the vessel's weekly production report required at § 679.5(i).

$PRR_{species_n}$ = the standard product recovery rate for each groundfish species and product combination listed in Table 3 to this part.

GFR% = the groundfish retention percentage for a vessel calculated as GFR_{weight} divided by the total weight of groundfish catch.

TotalGF = the total groundfish catch weight as measured by the flow scale measurement, less any non-groundfish, PSC species or groundfish species on prohibited species status under § 679.20.

(ii) The following table displays annual minimum groundfish retention requirements for each vessel required to comply with the GRS program under paragraph (j)(1) of this section:

GROUND FISH RETENTION STANDARD	
GRS Schedule	Annual GRS
2008	65%
2009	75%
2010	80%
2011 and each year after	85%

(3) *Monitoring requirements*—(i) *Observer coverage requirements*. In addition to complying with minimum observer coverage requirements at § 679.50(c), the owner or operator of a vessel required to comply with the GRS program must comply with observer coverage requirements as described at §§ 679.50(c)(6) and 679.7(m)(3) at all times the vessel is used to harvest groundfish in the BSAI with trawl gear.

(ii) *Catch weighing*. For each haul, all catch caught by a vessel required to comply with the GRS program must be weighed on a NMFS-approved scale and made available for sampling by a NMFS certified observer at a single location. The owner or operator of a vessel required to comply with the GRS program must ensure that the vessel is in compliance with the scale requirements described at § 679.28(b), that each haul is weighed separately, and that no sorting of catch takes place prior to weighing. All weighed catch must be recorded as required at § 679.5(a)(7)(iv)(C).

(iii) *Observer sampling station*. The owner or operator of a vessel required to comply with the GRS program must provide an observer sampling station as described at § 679.28(d) and the owner of a vessel required to comply with the GRS program must ensure that the vessel operator complies with the observer sampling station requirements described at § 679.28(d) at all times the vessel is used to harvest groundfish in the BSAI. In addition to the requirements at § 679.28(d)(7)(ii), ob-

servers must be able to sample all catch from a single point along the conveyer belt conveying unsorted catch, and when standing where unsorted catch is collected, the observer must be able to see that no catch has been removed between the bin and where unsorted catch is collected.

(4) *Requirements for vessels that also harvest groundfish outside of the BSAI*. The operator of a vessel required to comply with the GRS program must offload or transfer all fish or fish product prior to harvesting fish outside the BSAI, unless the operator of the vessel is in compliance with the recordkeeping and reporting and monitoring requirements described at § 679.5(a)(7)(iv)(C) and paragraph (j)(3) of this section at all times the vessel harvests or processes groundfish outside the BSAI.

(5) *Requirements for vessels receiving deliveries of unsorted catch*. The owner or operator of a vessel required to comply with paragraph (j) of this section at any time during a fishing year and also receives deliveries of unsorted catch at any time during a fishing year must comply with paragraph (j)(3) of this section while processing deliveries of unsorted catch.

§ 679.28 Equipment and operational requirements.

(a) *Applicability*. This section contains the requirements for scales, observer sampling stations, bins for volumetric estimates, and vessel monitoring system hardware. This section does not require any vessel or processor to provide this equipment. Such requirements appear elsewhere in this part.

(b) *Scales used to weigh catch at sea*. In order to be approved by NMFS a scale used to weigh catch at sea must meet the type evaluation requirements set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section and the initial inspection and annual reinspection requirements set forth in paragraph (b)(2) of this section. Once a scale is installed on a vessel and approved by NMFS for use to weigh catch at sea, it must be reinspected annually and must be tested daily and meet the maximum permissible error (MPE) requirements described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(1) *List of scales eligible for approval*. The model of scale must be included on the Regional Administrator's list of scales eligible to be approved for weighing catch at sea before an inspector will schedule or conduct a scale inspection under paragraph (b)(2) of this