



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115
 www.nwr.noaa.gov



PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
 The Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140

NMFS-SEA-10-01
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 January 29, 2010

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Intersector Allocation: DEIS out for public comment

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the availability of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) titled, "Allocation of Harvest Opportunity between the Sectors of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery."

Amendment 21 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) would allocate select groundfish species among sectors within the groundfish fishery, including trawl versus non-trawl, shoreside trawl versus at-sea trawl, and whiting versus non-whiting. These allocations are needed to support Amendment 20 to the FMP, a trawl rationalization program. Amendment 20 to the FMP, if approved, is intended to rationalize the west coast groundfish trawl fishery by managing the shoreside sectors (i.e., sectors of the limited entry trawl fleet that deliver groundfish to shoreside processing plants) under a system of individual fishing quotas (IFQs) and the at-sea whiting sectors under a system of closed harvesting cooperatives. The DEIS is available for review and public comment as announced in a notice of availability published January 29, 2010 (75 FR 4812).

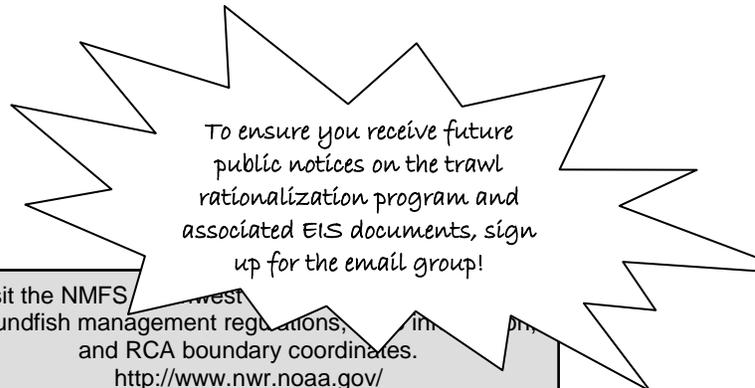
The DEIS is available electronically through the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at www.pcouncil.org, or more specifically at <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gffmp/gfa21.html>. Copies of the DEIS may also be obtained from the Responsible Program Official identified below.

Written comments should be submitted through mail, fax, or email to the Responsible Program Official identified below. **Written comments must be received by 11:59pm (PST) on March 15, 2010.** When submitting fax or email comments include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: **Groundfish Allocation DEIS.**

Responsible Program Official:

Barry A. Thom
 Acting Regional Administrator
 NOAA/NMFS/NWR
 7600 Sand Point Way NE
 Seattle, WA 98115

Phone: (206) 526-6150
 Fax: (206) 526-6426
 E-Mail: Comment.AllocationDEIS@noaa.gov



Visit the NMFS Northwest groundfish management regulations, IFQs, and RCA boundary coordinates.
<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/index.cfm>

Groundfish E-mail Group
 Subscribe to "wgroundfish" by visiting the following website: http://listserver.afsc.noaa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wgroundfish