



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
[www.nwr.noaa.gov](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:  
Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140  
Fisheries Permit Office (206) 526-4353

NMFS-SEA-12-11  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 21, 2012

### PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

#### *Trawl Rationalization Program:*

#### **Reconsideration of the Allocation of Whiting, Delay of Relevant Regulations Proposed Rule, Available for Public Comment**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the publication of a *Federal Register* notice related to the trawl rationalization program, a catch share program. A proposed rule to delay or revise several portions of the regulations potentially impacted by the reconsideration of allocation of whiting (RAW 1) published on May 21, 2012 (77 FR 29955). The public comment period on the proposed rule is open through June 29, 2012.

This proposed rule is available on the NMFS Northwest Region website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Regulations/Index.cfm>.

More information on this proposed rule follows.

#### **Public Comment Open on Proposed RAW 1 Rule**

NMFS announces publication of a proposed rule which would delay or revise several portions of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Trawl Rationalization Program (program) regulations. These changes are necessary to enable the NMFS to implement new regulations for the program to comply with a court order requiring NMFS to reconsider the initial allocation of Pacific whiting (whiting) to the shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) fishery and the at-sea mothership fishery. The proposed rule would affect the transfer of quota share (QS) and individual bycatch quota (IBQ) between QS accounts in the shorebased IFQ fishery, and severability in the mothership fishery, both

#### NOTE:

**Beginning October 1, 2012,  
NMFS will no longer mail  
paper copies of public notices.**

Public notices will continue to be available through our groundfish email group or on our website (links below).



#### *Groundfish E-mail Group*

Subscribe to “*wcgroundfish*” by visiting the following website:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm>  
and clicking “sign up”.

#### *NMFS Trawl Program Website*

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Trawl-Program/index.cfm>

of which would be delayed until NMFS can implement any necessary new regulations in those areas required by the court's order.

NMFS solicits written public comments on the proposed RAW 1 rule. **Comments must be received by NMFS no later than 5 p.m. local time on June 29, 2012.**

You may submit written comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2012-0062, by any of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submissions:*  
Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal, at <http://www.regulations.gov>. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the "submit a comment" icon, then enter NOAA-NMFS-2012-0062 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the "Submit a Comment" icon on the right of that line.
- *Fax:* 206-526-6736; Attn: Ariel Jacobs.
- *Mail:* William W. Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator  
Attn: Ariel Jacobs  
Northwest Region, NMFS  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (if submitting comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking portal, enter "N/A" in the relevant required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.