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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Trawl Rationalization Program:

IFQ - QS Account Adjustment for Halibut IFQ - Vessel Account Preparation for Carryover IFQ – Changes to online IFQ system

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the following:

1. Adjustments to quota share (QS) accounts for Pacific halibut in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program;
2. Plans for vessel accounts to prepare for surplus carryover in the Shorebased IFQ Program; and
3. Changes to the online IFQ system

In May, NMFS will announce coop allocations and further adjustments to QS accounts and vessel accounts. Coop allocations and further adjustments to QS accounts will be announced after the final Pacific whiting harvest specifications are effective. Further adjustments to QS accounts will be for Pacific whiting and some additional species caught on whiting trips. Further adjustments to vessel accounts will be for issuance of surplus carryover.

QS Accounts - Halibut

In January 2012, NMFS issued interim allocations to the Shorebased IFQ Program and to quota share (QS) permit owners through their QS accounts. The interim allocations were only for Pacific halibut, Pacific whiting, and some additional species caught on whiting trips. The interim amount for Pacific whiting was a conservative allocation to remain in place until the final harvest specifications for the whiting fishery are implemented. The interim

amount for some additional species associated with whiting trips was a conservative amount until NMFS responded to the court order on *Pacific Dawn v. Bryson*, No. C10-4829 TEH (N.D. Cal.).

Like Pacific whiting, Pacific halibut starts the year with an interim, conservative amount which is increased once the final amount of halibut is known. The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) made their decision on a final halibut harvest amount (Area 2A TCEY) in late January. The U.S. Secretary of State then had to approve the resulting amounts for the U.S. fishery and NMFS had to calculate the amount available to the IFQ fishery.

In a March 28, 2013 public notice (NMFS-SEA-13-5), NMFS announced our plan to adjust the IFQ allocation for whiting and halibut in QS accounts, and credit surplus carryover to vessel accounts at the

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NMFS Trawl Program Website

http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish_trawl_catch_share/groundfish_trawl_catch_share_program.html



same time and by May 15 in an effort to streamline the IFQ allocation process. However, after feedback from industry, NMFS has decided to issue the remaining halibut quota pounds (QP) to QS accounts separately in advance.

NMFS will credit QS accounts with additional Pacific halibut QP (i.e., “topped-up”) based on the final Area 2A TCEY within the week. QS permit owners should check their QS accounts for this additional QP. To see the exact amount of additional halibut QP added, users should go to the transfer or message tab in their QS account. As a reminder, all QP in a QS account must be transferred to one or more vessel accounts by September 1 each year. See the attached table titled, “*2013 Shorebased Trawl Vessel Limits*” which has been updated to reflect the final halibut allocation to the Shorebased IFQ Program, and shows the resulting pounds associated with vessel limits.

Vessel Accounts – Prepare for Carryover

In the Shorebased IFQ Program, NMFS plans to issue surplus carryover from 2012 to 2013 to vessel accounts in May. NMFS will not issue surplus carryover in excess of daily or annual vessel limits and any surplus carryover above vessel limits will be permanently expired. In preparation for surplus carryover, NMFS advises vessel account owners to make sure their vessel accounts are ready.

NMFS will credit surplus carryover in the amount each individual vessel account is eligible for up to the vessel limits. For vessel accounts that would be over vessel limits with issuance of surplus carryover, those vessel account owners must get their account under the vessel limit by trading QPs. NMFS has provided tools on our website to help vessel account owners calculate what their surplus carryover might be.

Within the next week, the Trawl Program website (see box) will be updated with some useful tools, including [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) to further explain the surplus carryover process, a [step-by-step guide](#) describing the calculation of surplus carryover for individual vessel accounts, and a [carryover calculator](#) fillable Excel file to calculate your own surplus carryover.

Changes to Online IFQ System

Last year, vessel account owners needed to initiate separate transfers for three distinct “currencies” or types of quota pounds (QPs): current year QPs, surplus carryover QPs, and tribal whiting reapportionment QPs. In the future, set-aside QPs could also be credited to the Shorebased IFQ sector, which could create an additional currency. In an effort to streamline and simplify the IFQ account system, NMFS will now track two “currencies”: current year QPs and other QPs. “Current year QPs” will continue to consist of QPs allocated to the shorebased IFQ sector in the current year and will continue to be eligible towards the calculation of any surplus carryover in the following year. “Other QPs” will consist of any surplus carryover QPs, tribal whiting reapportionment QPs and any future set-aside QPs, and this currency type will continue to expire at the end of the year and will not be eligible towards the calculation of any surplus carryover in the following year. NMFS anticipates making this revision on or about May 1, 2013, before surplus carryover is credited to vessel accounts.

CARRYOVER CALCULATOR & VESSEL LIMITS TABLE

A fillable Excel file to calculate your own surplus carryover, along with other useful information, including the 2013 vessel limits table (with IFQ allocations), will be posted on NMFS Trawl Program website under “vessel accounts” at:

http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish_trawl_catch_share/vessel_accounts/index.htm

INTERIM 2013 SHOREBASED TRAWL VESSEL LIMITS

4/11/2013

Below is a table showing the shorebased trawl vessel limits for IFQ species in pounds based on the Shorebased IFQ Program allocation for 2013 (77 FR 67974, dated November 14, 2012; 50 CFR 660.140(d)(1)(ii)(D)) and the vessel limits specified at 50 CFR 660.140(e)(4). These values are used to calculate the amount of QP that can be transferred to a vessel account. Values for Pacific halibut and Pacific whiting will change between interim and final.

The **Annual QP Limit** is the total amount of QP (used, unused available, and pending outgoing transfers) that may be registered to a single vessel during the year. It applies to the sum of your catch to date (landings + discards), available QP balance, and pending outgoing transfers, which is displayed in the year to date column (for annual vessel limit calculation) on your vessel account summary page. The Non-whiting Groundfish Species Annual QP Limit is an overall limit applying to the sum of every IFQ species (excluding Pacific whiting and Pacific halibut).

The **Daily QP Limit** is the total amount of unused QP (available QP balance plus pending outgoing transfers) that may be registered to a vessel at any time.

IFQ Category	Shorebased trawl allocation (mt)	Total Pounds for Shorebased IFQ Program	QP Vessel Limit (Annual Limit, %)	Associated Annual QP Limit (lbs.)	Unused QP Vessel Limit (Daily Limit, %)	Associated Daily QP Limit (lbs.)
Arrowtooth flounder	3846.1	8,479,264	20.0%	1,695,853		
Bocaccio rockfish South of 40°10' N.	74.9	165,126	15.4%	25,429	13.2%	21,797
Canary rockfish	39.9	87,964	10.0%	8,796	4.4%	3,870
Chilipepper rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1099.5	2,423,983	15.0%	363,597		
Cowcod South of 40°10' N.	1.0	2,205	17.7%	390	17.7%	390
Darkblotched rockfish	266.7	587,976	6.8%	39,982	4.5%	26,459
Dover sole	22234.5	49,018,682	3.9%	1,911,729		
English sole	6365.0	14,032,486	7.5%	1,052,436		
Lingcod N. of 40°10' N. lat.	1222.6	2,695,305	5.3%	142,851		
Lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat.	494.4	1,089,993	13.3%	144,969		
Longspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	1859.9	4,100,267	9.0%	369,024		
Minor shelf rockfish North of 40°10' N.	508.0	1,119,948	7.5%	83,996		
Minor shelf rockfish South of 40°10' N.	81.0	178,574	13.5%	24,108		
Minor slope rockfish North of 40°10' N.	776.9	1,712,835	7.5%	128,463		
Minor slope rockfish South of 40°10' N.	376.1	829,181	9.0%	74,626		
Other flatfish	4189.6	9,236,501	15.0%	1,385,475		
Pacific cod	1125.3	2,480,830	20.0%	496,166		
Pacific halibut (IBQ) North of 40°10' N.	107.3	236,660	14.4%	34,079	5.4%	12,780
Pacific ocean perch North of 40°10' N.	109.4	241,241	6.0%	14,474	4.0%	9,650
Pacific whiting *	NA	15,999,373	15.0%	2,399,906		
Petrale sole	2318.0	5,110,315	4.5%	229,964		
Sablefish North of 36° N.	1828.0	4,030,050	4.5%	181,352		
Sablefish South of 36° N.	602.3	1,327,800	15.0%	199,170		
Shortspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	1385.4	3,054,183	9.0%	274,877		
Shortspine thornyheads South of 34°27' N.	50.0	110,231	9.0%	9,921		
Splitnose rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1518.1	3,346,838	15.0%	502,026		
Starry flounder	751.5	1,656,774	20.0%	331,355		
Widow rockfish	993.8	2,191,016	8.5%	186,236	5.1%	111,742
Yelloweye rockfish	1.0	2,205	11.4%	251	5.7%	126
Yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10' N.	2635.3	5,809,905	7.5%	435,743		
Sum Non-whiting Groundfish Species	NA	125,210,079	3.2%	4,006,723		

* Indicates a preliminary value, used for issuance; to be updated when a final amount is available.

