



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Trawl Rationalization Program:

IFQ – Change in Observer Discard Data Uploads in Vessel Accounts, September 1 QP Transfer Deadline from QS Accounts

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces a change in the frequency of observer discard data uploads to vessel accounts in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program; and reminds quota share (QS) permit owners that the deadline to transfer quota pounds (QPs) from a QS account to vessel account is September 1, 2013.

Observer Discard Data in Vessel Accounts

Beginning on Monday, August 19, 2013, the IFQ vessel account system will upload observer discard data four nights per week: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights.

The vessel account system currently uploads catch monitor and first receiver landings data every night, and observer discard data once weekly, on Sunday nights. In order to provide observer discard data more quickly and to improve timeliness of updates to data, observer discard data will now upload four times per week to the vessel account system.

NMFS would like to remind vessel owners that any vessel with a deficit (negative balance) for any species/species group in its vessel account is prohibited from fishing in the shorebased IFQ fishery. However, if a vessel has already left on

a fishing trip at the time the deficit occurs, the vessel may complete its current trip, but may not leave on another trip until all deficits are covered. Deficits must be covered within 30 days.

Reminder to QS Permit Owners

As a reminder, **all QPs in a QS account must be transferred to a vessel account no later than September 1, 2013 (11:59 pm)** in order to be available for use in 2013. Any QPs remaining in a QS account after September 1, 2013 will expire in the QS account. Any pending QP transfers from a QS account to a vessel account that have not yet been accepted in the vessel account as of September 1 will be retracted, and the QPs will expire in the QS account. If you have any questions about QS or vessel accounts, please call the Fisheries Permit Office at (206) 526-4353.

Groundfish E-mail Group

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http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/groundfish/public_notices/recent_public_notices.html

NMFS Trawl Program Website

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

