



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

## National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast 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: Cost Recovery starts January 10, 2014***

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces implementation of cost recovery for the Pacific coast groundfish trawl rationalization program effective January 10, 2014. The final rule implementing regulations for cost recovery published in the *Federal Register* on December 11, 2013 (78 FR 75268).

This public notice includes general information on the following:

- Overview, 2014 Fee % and Mothership (MS) Pricing
- NMFS Annual Report
- Compliance Guide
- “How To” Workshop – January 7

##### **Overview, 2014 Fee % and MS Pricing**

Since implementation of the trawl rationalization program in January 2011, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and NMFS have been working to address additional regulatory requirements associated with the program. One such requirement is cost recovery. The final rule implements cost recovery for the trawl rationalization program in compliance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and based upon a recommended structure and methodology developed in coordination with the Council. In accordance with the MSA, NMFS will

collect mandatory fees of up to three percent of the ex-vessel value of groundfish by sector under the trawl rationalization program. NMFS will collect the fees to cover the incremental costs of management, data collection, and enforcement of the trawl rationalization program.

The fee percentages for 2014 are low because NMFS only included the incremental costs of employees’ time in the fee percentage calculation rather than all incremental costs of management, data collection, and enforcement. For 2015 and beyond, NMFS expects to include all NMFS incremental costs, potentially including some federal costs resulting from duties performed by the states.

*For 2014, the fee percentages by sector are:*

- 3.0 % for the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program,
- 2.4 % for the MS Coop Program
- 1.1 % for the Catcher/Processor (C/P) Coop Program

NMFS also announces the MS pricing to be used by the C/P Coop Program to determine their fee amount due. The “MS pricing” is the MS Coop Program’s average price per pound and is used as a proxy for the C/P Coop Program. *For 2014, the MS pricing is:*

- \$ 0.14/lb for Pacific whiting.



Fish sellers in the trawl rationalization program are expected to begin paying the appropriate fees beginning January 10, 2014. Fees will not be retroactive to January 1, 2014. Fish buyers in the Shorebased IFQ and MS Coop Programs are expected to make their first payment to NMFS for all fees collected in January no later than February 14, 2014. Fish buyers in the C/P Coop Program will be expected to make their first payment to NMFS once fishing is completed (i.e., for all fees collected in 2014) in the last quarter of the calendar year and by December 31, 2014. Fish sellers and fish buyers are further defined in the final rule and in the compliance guide.

Cost recovery fees can only be paid online through the Federal Government's online payment system, Pay.gov. Users can access Pay.gov through a link on our West Coast Region trawl catch share program website. Users can also access the Pay.gov website directly and click on the link to Pacific Coast Groundfish Cost Recovery for their sector (IFQ, MS, or C/P):

[https://pay.gov/paygov/agencySearchForms.html?nc=1375298963306&agencyDN=ou%3DFA\\_National+Oceanic+and+Atmospheric+Administration%2Cou%3DFA\\_Department+of+Commerce%2Cou%3DFA\\_Executive+Branch%2Cou%3DFederal+Agency%2Cou%3DTreasury+Web+Application+Infrastructure%2Cou%3DFiscal+Service%2Cou%3DDepartment+of+the+Treasury%2Co%3DU.S.+Government%2Cc%3DUS&alphabet=N](https://pay.gov/paygov/agencySearchForms.html?nc=1375298963306&agencyDN=ou%3DFA_National+Oceanic+and+Atmospheric+Administration%2Cou%3DFA_Department+of+Commerce%2Cou%3DFA_Executive+Branch%2Cou%3DFederal+Agency%2Cou%3DTreasury+Web+Application+Infrastructure%2Cou%3DFiscal+Service%2Cou%3DDepartment+of+the+Treasury%2Co%3DU.S.+Government%2Cc%3DUS&alphabet=N)

Further information on the calculation of the fee percents and the MS pricing for 2014 is available in the NMFS Annual Report. Further information on the new cost recovery requirements is available in the final rule and in the small entity compliance guide (compliance guide). Finally, NMFS will hold a "How To" workshop on January 7 to present these new requirements.

### **NMFS Annual Report**

NMFS intends to publish a NMFS Annual Report in the spring of each year that would provide information on the fees collected from the previous calendar year. The report would also provide further details on the current year's cost recovery calculations and the data used by NMFS, including the fee percentage calculation, program costs, ex-vessel value by sector, and MS pricing calculation.

Because 2014 is the first year of cost recovery, NMFS does not yet have information on the previous year's fee collection to report and does not need to wait for final fee collection information to be available. To provide the public information on the 2014 cost recovery calculations sooner, NMFS will publish the report on our trawl catch share program website in 2013, shortly after publication of the final rule.

### **Compliance Guide**

NMFS will publish a compliance guide intended to provide a plain-language summary of how small businesses can comply with the cost recovery requirements. NMFS plans to publish the compliance guide next week and will post it on our trawl catch share program website. Paper copies of the compliance guide are available upon request and will be mailed to all limited entry permit owners, QS permit owners, vessel owners, and first receiver license holders.

### **"How To" Workshop**

NMFS will hold a cost recovery workshop on January 7, 2014 from 9am to 12pm PST. This workshop will be held via GoTo Meeting and will include a conference call-in line and an online presentation regarding cost recovery. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

Attendance is limited, and will be managed on a "first come, first served" basis. If there is sufficient demand, additional workshops will be scheduled. If you would like to attend the cost recovery workshop, please RSVP to Ariel Jacobs, (206) 526-4491, [ariel.jacobs@noaa.gov](mailto:ariel.jacobs@noaa.gov).

#### **Groundfish E-mail Group**

Subscribe to "wcgroundfish" by visiting the following website: [http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery\\_management/groundfish/public\\_notices/recent\\_public\\_notices.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/groundfish/public_notices/recent_public_notices.html) and clicking "subscribe".

#### **NMFS Trawl Program Website**

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish\\_catch\\_shares/index.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish_catch_shares/index.html)