



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
[www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html)



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

NMFS-SEA-13-23  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 21, 2013

### **PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY**

#### ***Trawl Rationalization Program: 2013 Year-End and Gearing Up for 2014***

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reminds the fishing industry of several changes to the groundfish fishery's trawl rationalization program, a catch share program, as we approach 2014. The categories are:

1. Cost Recovery begins January 10, 2014;
2. Quota pound (QP) transfers allowed year round;
3. Quota share (QS) permit applications and QS transfers; and
4. Fishing into the new year.

Regulations and compliance guides, along with other useful information, including applications and the 2014 interim IFQ allocations and vessel limits, are posted on the NMFS Trawl Program website (listed in the box below).

#### **Cost Recovery begins January 10, 2014**

A cost recovery program was implemented 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). 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, and 1.1 % for the Catcher/Processor

(C/P) Coop Program.

A Compliance Guide for cost recovery is available on the NMFS Trawl Program website here: [http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery\\_management/groundfish/public\\_notices/cost-recovery-compliance-guide.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/groundfish/public_notices/cost-recovery-compliance-guide.pdf)

NMFS will hold an online cost recovery workshop on January 7, 2014 from 9am to 12pm PST. 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).

#### **QP transfers allowed year round**

The second program improvement and enhancement rule (PIE 2) of the Pacific Coast groundfish trawl rationalization program made revisions that included removal of the end of year ban on QP transfers between vessel accounts (see 78 FR 68764). This revision was effective December 15, 2013; QP may be transferred between vessel accounts until December 31, 2013. For 2014 and beyond, QP may be transferred between vessel accounts year round.

# National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

## **QS permit applications and QS transfers**

QS permit applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2014. Instructions for applying for a QS permit may be found in the PIE 2 Compliance Guide. All PIE 2 publications may be found here:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish\\_catch\\_shares/rules\\_regulations/PIE2.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish_catch_shares/rules_regulations/PIE2.html).

QS transfer will begin on January 1, 2014 for all species, except widow rockfish. Any transfer of QS is a transfer of % value of QS to another QS permit owner; QPs are transferred separately from a QS account to a vessel account and between vessel accounts. Any transfer of QS must be made through the online QS account. While QS transfers will be registered in the QS account in the current year, NMFS will not allocate QP based on the changed QS amounts until the start of the following year. At that time, QP will be allocated in a manner reflecting any changes to QS amounts.

QS transfers will be tracked for compliance with accumulation limits, also called QS control limits. The QS account system will prevent trades from occurring that would result in exceeding the QS ownership accumulation limits at the QS permit level. However, NMFS is still developing the software that will track the aggregate non-whiting QS ownership accumulation limit and prevent transfers that would result in exceeding that limit. NMFS expects it to be available in early

2014. In the interim, you must certify that you are not exceeding these or any QS control limits. As always, it is ultimately up to the QS owner to be responsible for not exceeding QS control limits either by the individual QS permit or by any ownership or control interest a person has among multiple QS permits.

NMFS has developed a QS calculator tool to help QS permit owners and other interested participants calculate the relative worth of QS in terms of QP, or QP in terms of QS, across years. The calculator is available on the public IFQ website, <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/>, by clicking on the “Quota Share Calculator” tab.

As always, if you have any questions about the IFQ account system, including questions about QS accounts and QS trading, please contact the Fisheries Permit Office at 206-526-4353 or at [kevin.ford@noaa.gov](mailto:kevin.ford@noaa.gov) or [sarah.towne@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.towne@noaa.gov).

## **Fishing into the New Year**

If you are planning to fish during the last days of December 2013 and wait to offload until the first days of 2014, the discards and landings will be debited against your 2014 vessel account, even if the discards and target species harvests actually occurred in 2013. The offload date as reported on the electronic fish ticket determines the year in which the vessel account is debited.

### ***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 to the Groundfish Email Group”.

### ***IFQ Account Website***

<https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/>

### ***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)