



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

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www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

***Trawl Rationalization Program:* Midwater Trawl Fishery Season Date Change**

Effective May 15, 2015

The National Marine Fisheries Service announces a change in the season opening date in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for midwater trawl fisheries targeting whiting and other non-whiting groundfish. **Beginning in 2015, north of 40°30' N. lat. to the U.S./Canada border, the Shorebased IFQ Program midwater trawl fishing season will open May 15.** This moves the season a month earlier off Washington and Oregon, and a month and half later off northern California (north of 40°30' N. lat.), increasing consistency in the season start date along the coast and between the shorebased and at-sea midwater trawl fleets.

<i>Shorebased Midwater Season Start Dates</i>	<i>1997-2014</i>	<i>2015 & beyond</i>
North of 42° N. lat. to U.S./Canada border	June 15	May 15
Between 42° - 40°30' N. lat.	April 1	May 15
South of 40°30' N. lat. to U.S./Mexico border	April 15	April 15

The final rule is available at:

<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/2015/80fr19034.pdf>

The Environmental Assessment is available at:

<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/nepa/groundfish/midwaterseasonea.pdf>

This public notice serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide for the midwater trawl fishery season date change final rule (80 FR 19034, April 9, 2015). This public notice was prepared pursuant to section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, Pub.L. 104-121. The statements in this document are intended solely as guidance. This document is intended to provide a plain-language summary of how small businesses can comply with these final regulations. Any discrepancies between this public notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.



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