



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region  
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[www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html)



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 27, 2015

### **Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery *Proposed Rule Revising Midwater Trawl Requirements***

#### **Proposed Rule and request for comments**

NMFS has published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (80 FR 52015; August 27, 2015) that would clarify the regulatory requirements for vessels using midwater trawl gear in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota Program. The proposed rule is currently available for public review and comment. The rulemaking is intended to eliminate inconsistencies and confusion in the current regulations. For vessels targeting Pacific whiting, the rule would clarify that the retention of prohibited and protected species is allowed until landing. The disposition of prohibited and protected species would be specified consistent with the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan, and other applicable law.

The rule is available at [www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish\\_frns.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish_frns.html)

**Public comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., local time on September 28, 2015.**