



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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



FISHERY CLOSURE NOTICE

For Information Contact:
Groundfish Branch at (206) 526-6140
Groundfish Permits at (206) 526-4140

NMFS-SEA-15-30
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 25, 2015

Prohibition On The Use of Midwater Trawl Gear Shoreward of the 150 Fathom Line in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program

Effective Thursday, November 26, 12:00 Noon Pacific Standard Time

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is prohibiting the use of midwater trawl gear in the Shorebased IFQ Program for the remainder of 2015, shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 150 fathom depth contour in the Shorebased IFQ Program. Vessels on a trip using midwater trawl gear in the Shorebased IFQ Program must cease fishing at 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 26, 2015 and either 1) fish seaward of the boundary line approximating the 150 fm depth contour or, 2) return to port. Vessel operators are encouraged to record their actions regarding this noon area closure in their logbook.

This bycatch reduction measure is being taken as an automatic action and provides actual notice, per regulations at 50 CFR 660.60(d) and 50 CFR 660.140(a)(3), to reduce potential impacts on canary rockfish, an overfished species subject to rebuilding requirements under the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. In light of the most recent canary catch estimates, all participants in groundfish fisheries should take extra care to avoid canary rockfish when fishing.

Latitude and longitude coordinates for the boundary line approximating the 150 fm depth contour are defined at 50 CFR 660.73(h) and can be downloaded from the NMFS West Coast Region website at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/gis_maps/gis_data/groundfish/rca_coordinates_03102015.zip