



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Trawl Rationalization Program **Scale Requirements**

NMFS published a proposed rule on January 19, 2016 that would revise scale requirements for processing vessels that are required to weigh fish at sea and Shorebased Individual Fishery Quota Program (IFQ) first receivers. For motherships and catcher/processors that weigh fish at sea, the proposed action would require the use of updated scale technology, require enhanced daily scale testing for flow scales (also known as belt scales), and require the use of video to monitor the flow scale and the area around the flow scale. For Shorebased IFQ first receivers, the proposed action would add criteria for inseason flow scale tests. In addition, the action includes housekeeping changes that are intended to better align the regulations with defined terms, and to provide clarity and consistency between paragraphs. The comment period ends February 18, 2016.

- The proposed rule is available at www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish_frns.html