



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Shorebased IFQ Program: Additions to Vessel Accounts: Surplus Carryover

In the Shorebased IFQ Program, NMFS will credit surplus carryover pounds for some species from 2015 vessel accounts to eligible 2016 vessel accounts, up to the daily and annual vessel limits. Surplus carryover pounds will be issued on or before Friday, June 3, and the IFQ message will be updated when pounds are added.

Because of the April 4, 2014 *Conservation Law Foundation v. Pritzker* ruling, NMFS cannot issue carryover for any IFQ species in an amount where the sum of surplus carryover and the annual catch limit (ACL) would exceed the acceptable biological catch (ABC). NMFS issued surplus carryover for the following species using the normal 10% carryover limit, since this issuance of pounds will not exceed the ABC: bocaccio rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., canary rockfish, cowcod south of 40° 10' N. lat., darkblotched rockfish, Dover sole, longspine thornyheads north of 34° 27' N. lat., of 40° 10' N. lat., Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch, sablefish north of 36° N. lat., sablefish south of 36° N. lat., widow rockfish, yelloweye rockfish.

For five additional species, NMFS issued surplus carryover species using *reduced* carryover limits so that the issuance of pounds would not exceed the ABC; these include minor shelf rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., minor shelf rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., minor slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat., shortspine thornyheads south of 34° 27' N. lat., and shortspine thornyheads north of 34° 27' N. lat.

Consistent with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's March 2013 recommendation, NMFS will not issue surplus carryover for Pacific whiting, to adhere to the international whiting treaty agreement, where a method for carryover of unused Pacific whiting already exists. Since the Pacific halibut Total Constant Exploitation Yield for area 2A (Washington, Oregon and California) is set by international agreement, and there is no ACL, the court's holding is not applicable to this species, and NMFS will continue with its past practice.

NMFS will issue surplus carryover to be consistent with daily or annual vessel limits, and any surplus carryover putting vessel accounts above vessel limits will be permanently expired. Additional information can be found on the top of the IFQ Accounts Log-in page, at www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/, under "Important Messages".