



National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces changes to commercial fishery trip limits and recreational groundfish management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended changes to management measures at its March 2017 meeting. Changes included increasing incidental Pacific halibut retention in the Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) primary sablefish fishery, a reduction in daily and aggregate bag limits, and the removal of minimum lingcod size limits in the Washington recreational groundfish fishery **effective May 11, 2017.**

Incidental Pacific Halibut Retention in the LEFG Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis.

Vessels harvesting sablefish in the primary fishery with longline gear, north of Pt. Chehalis, WA, and with an IPHC license, have an increased Pacific halibut limit, effective May 11, 2017. These vessels may possess and land up to 140 lb (63.5kg) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 lbs (453.6 kg) of sablefish landed, and up to 2 additional halibut in excess of the 140 lbs-per-1000-pound ratio per landing. Limits are in dressed weight. "Dressed" means eviscerated with their heads on. Pacific halibut taken and retained in the sablefish primary fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA, may only be possessed or landed north of Pt. Chehalis, WA.

Revisions to Washington Recreational Groundfish Fishery Management Measures.

NMFS is also taking action to revise Federal recreational fishery management measures for Washington. These changes are consistent with regulatory changes in Washington state recreational regulations that went into effect over winter. Daily recreational groundfish bag limits are reduced from 10 to 7 fish per day, aggregate recreational groundfish bag limits are reduced from 12 to 9 fish per day, and the 22 inch recreational lingcod size restriction is removed for all areas. Visit <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/bottomfish/> for more detailed information on Washington recreational fishing regulations for groundfish (also referred to as bottomfish).

Visit the NMFS West Coast Region website for current groundfish regulations, VMS information, and RCA boundary coordinates.

<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

Groundfish E-mail Group

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For more information contact: NMFS West Coast Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov>; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 650-631-6789 (Belmont), 831-649-2804 (Monterey), 562-342-7111 (Los Alamitos).

Any discrepancies between this public notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.