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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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### PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

#### **Addition of Mandatory Reporting of Ex-Vessel Value on Electronic Fish Tickets in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery's Trawl Rationalization Program**

##### **Statement of Need**

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.113(b)(4)(i) require Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) first receivers to complete certain fields on an electronic fish ticket (e-ticket). Since the program was implemented in January 2011, NMFS has had mixed reporting of the ex-vessel value on the e-ticket because it is not currently listed in the "required information" section of the regulations.

NMFS has determined that the ex-vessel value of the landing by species is a mandatory reporting requirement for several reasons. In order for the states to have the option of adopting the Federal e-ticket to cover their state reporting requirements, the e-ticket must include the items required to be reported on the state fish tickets. The ex-vessel prices are a state reporting requirement for the state to be able to collect excise taxes and fees. The ex-vessel value will be also used in the cost recovery program that is currently being developed by the Council and NMFS. The ex-vessel value is not collected through the economic data collection program forms and is necessary information for that program to measure the economic changes in the fishery for the 5-year review of the program and beyond.

##### **Addition of Mandatory Reporting by the RA**

For these reasons, the ex-vessel value of landings by species will be a mandatory reporting requirement on the e-ticket. The regulations at 660.113(b)(4)(i) have a clause that the Regional Administrator may deem other information as required to be completed by the IFQ first receiver on the e-ticket.

**The RA has determined that the ex-vessel value of the landing by species is a mandatory field that must be completed by the IFQ first receiver. This determination is effective immediately** and the regulations will be updated to reflect this determination as soon as practicable.

##### **NMFS Trawl Program website:**

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Trawl-Program/index.cfm>

##### **Groundfish E-mail Group**

Subscribe to "wcgroundfish" by visiting the following website: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm> and clicking "sign up".