



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY **Commercial limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish season tier limits**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces an increase in the commercial limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery's tier limits for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. These changes will publish in the Federal Register on June 15, 2011, and **are effective at 1:15 P.M. Pacific standard time on June 10, 2011.** Tier limits were adjusted to more appropriately account for the discard mortality of sablefish caught in the limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery, and this change increased the available sablefish for harvest in this fishery. The increased limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery tier limits for the 2011 season are as follows:

Tier 1 = 47,697 lb

Tier 2 = 21,680 lb

Tier 3 = 12,389 lb

All limits are given in round weight. For dressed weight, divide the round weight amount by 1.6 (e.g., for 2010 56,081/1.6 = 35,050; 25,492 /1.6 = 15,932.5; 14,567/1.6 = 9,104). For more detailed regulations applying to the limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery, see § 660.231 and § 660.232 of the Pacific Coast groundfish regulations. The limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery occurs north of 36° N. lat.

No other changes to fishing regulations that pertain to vessels participating in the limited entry fixed gear fishery are made. No changes to the 2012 tier limits are made at this time. It is anticipated that the 2012 tier limits will be adjusted in a subsequent rulemaking prior to the April 1, 2012 primary season start date.

Answers to other frequently asked questions by vessels that are participating in this fishery will be provided in a separate public notice later next week.

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on "Groundfish & Halibut"; 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 Game 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*.