



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115
www.nwr.noaa.gov



PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
 The Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140

NMFS-SEA-11-20
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 December 19, 2011

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY Groundfish fishery management measures

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces publication of a Secretarial Amendment affecting the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California, and are **effective at 0001 hours (local time) on January 1, 2012**, until modified, superseded or rescinded. These minor changes to harvest specifications and management measures are being implemented in a *Federal Register* notice that published on December 13, 2011.

IFQ Commercial Fishery

NMFS is not implementing the proposed lingcod geographical split at 42° N. lat., and is referring the issue back to the Council for further consideration. The Council has already added the geographic lingcod management issue for consideration in the 2013-2014 specifications and management measures.

Therefore, no changes to lingcod area management are made from 2011, and lingcod will continue to be managed as a coastwide stock in 2012. For details, please see the trawl rationalization public notice regarding the program improvements and enhancements for 2012.

Non-IFQ Commercial Fishery

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Primary Fishery Landings Limits

For complete details pertaining to the limited entry primary sablefish fishery, see § 660.231.

Landing Limits: NMFS announces a change to the cumulative landing limits in the 2012 primary sablefish fishery from those that published in the 2011-2012 harvest specifications and management measures. **The following primary fishery annual limits are in effect in 2012 and beyond: Tier 1 at 46,238 pounds; Tier 2 at 21,017 pounds; and Tier 3 at 12,010 pounds.** Tier limits listed above and in regulations are in round weight. To convert sablefish from round weight to headed and gutted weight, divide by 1.6. All other non-primary 2012 sablefish landing limits (e.g. trip limits) will be announced in a separate public notice.

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

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/index.cfm>

Visit the NMFS Northwest Region website to sign up for e-mail notifications of changes to groundfish fishing regulations.

Subscribe to “**wcgroundfish**” by visiting the following website:

http://listserver.afsc.noaa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wcgroundfish

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*.