



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:  
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NMFS-SEA-12-14  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 September 17, 2012

### PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

#### *Correction*

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces publication of a *Federal Register* notice correcting Federal groundfish regulations (77 FR 55153, September 7, 2012). The corrections will be effective September 24, 2012, except for the correction to the date NMFS will mail permit renewals which was effective September 7, 2012.

This rule includes, but is not limited to, corrections to coordinates defining depth contours that apply to all fisheries, permit renewal dates, observer requirements, recreational regulations, processor obligations in the mothership (MS) sector, and the forms used to transfer a mothership catcher vessel (MS/CV) endorsement. A short description of the corrections is included in this public notice.

The *Federal Register* notice is available on the NMFS Northwest Region website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Regulations/Index.cfm>.

#### **Permit renewal date**

This rule changes the date that NMFS will mail annual limited entry permit renewal notices from September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. This correction also makes corresponding changes to the renewal process for Quota Share (QS) permits/accounts and vessel accounts to allow NMFS' Fisheries Permits Office to complete pending transfers (changes in vessel registration or permit ownership) by the start of the September 1 cumulative limit period and

NOTE:

**Beginning October 1, 2012, NMFS will no longer mail paper copies of public notices.**

Public notices will continue to be available through our groundfish email group or on our website (links below).

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#### ***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".

#### ***NMFS Trawl Program Website***

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

before sending out permit renewal notices. NMFS notes that this change gives the affected public adequate time to renew their permits because it allows two weeks advance notice of the October 1-November 30 permit renewal period.

## **Coordinates**

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This rule corrects two coordinates which define the 10-fm (18-m) through 40-fm (73-m) depth contour. The coordinates are expressed in degrees latitude and longitude, and define large-scale boundaries utilized in managing the groundfish fishery. These corrections change incorrect and transposed coordinate numbers; and better define the intended boundary lines.

## **Observer requirements**

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This rule corrects regulations to specify that all commercial vessels processing groundfish at sea carry an observer. During implementation of Amendment 20 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), this existing provision, which required observers on all commercial vessel processing at-sea, was inadvertently changed from applying to all commercial fisheries to only applying to the at-sea whiting fisheries. To correct the regulations to be consistent with the original intent, this action modifies the observer requirement language to include all vessels that process groundfish at sea. The affected fisheries are as follows: Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program, the limited entry fixed gear fishery, and the open access fishery.

For the Shorebased IFQ Program, this correction specifies that an observer must be on the vessel while in port unless the observer provides a form to the catch monitor documenting the weight and number of select overfished species (bocaccio, canary rockfish, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish) retained on board by the vessel during that IFQ trip. Additionally, this correction clarifies that a vessel must carry an observer in port any time the vessel is underway, not just between delivery points.

## **Shorebased IFQ Program – e-ticket software**

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This rule corrects regulations regarding software requirements for electronic fish tickets to say the operating system may include Windows 7.

## **MS Coop Program – processor obligation**

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This rule corrects regulations for the MS Cooperative (Coop) Program to clarify that processor obligations are to an MS permit and not to the MS vessel.

## **MS Coop Program – form to transfer MS/CV endorsement**

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This rule corrects in the MS Coop Program regulations to specify the proper form used to transfer an MS/CV endorsement. A request to change an MS/CV endorsement requires use of a unique form from the Fisheries Permit Office and may not be requested using the change in vessel registration and permit ownership form as previously stated in regulations.

## **MS and C/P Coop Programs – IADs and final decision**

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This rule corrects language in the MS Coop Program and the C/P Coop Program to specify that if an applicant does not appeal an initial administrative decision (IAD) in the trawl rationalization program within 30 calendar days, that the decision in the IAD becomes the final decision. This correction will make this provision consistent with the limited entry permit regulations at for IADs.

## **C/P Coop Program – submission of EDC form**

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This rule corrects language which specifies who is required to submit an Economic Data Collection (EDC) form. This change clarifies that the owners, lessees, and charterers of a vessel registered to a C/P endorsed limited entry trawl permit are required to submit an EDC form.

## **Recreational fishery – spearfishing for lingcod in CA**

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This rule corrects language to allow spearfishing for lingcod in California during the same seasons as all of the other modes of the California recreational fishery. This correction extends the lingcod season for spearfishers by exempting anglers using only spearfishing gear from lingcod season restrictions.