



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-12-2
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2010

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY **Extension of Proposed Rule Comment Period**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces an extension to the comment period on the proposed rule for the 2011-2012 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures until January 4, 2010. The original proposed rule published on November 3, 2010 (75 FR 67810) and can be downloaded by clicking on the following link [2011-2012 Spex Proposed Rule](#)

The comment period is being extended to allow the public more time to comment on the proposed rule. The proposed rule establishes the 2011–2012 harvest specifications and management measures for groundfish taken in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP). The proposed rule revises the collection of management measures in the groundfish fishery regulations that are intended to keep the total catch of each groundfish species or species complex within the harvest specifications. The proposed rule also includes regulations to implement Amendments 16–5 and 23 to the PCGFMP. Amendment 16–5 would revise existing rebuilding plans, create a new rebuilding plan for Petrale sole, which was declared overfished on February 9, 2010, and revise status determination criteria and a harvest control rule for flatfish. This action is consistent with and partially implements Amendment 23 to the PCGFMP. Amendment 23 would make the PCGFMP consistent with the

revised National Standard 1 Guidelines (74 FR 3178, January 16, 2009).

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>

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”