



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

***Trawl Rationalization Program:* Additional interim 2015 quota pounds available early next week**

To start 2015, the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program is operating under interim allocations because the 2015 groundfish harvest specifications are not yet in place. The harvest specifications are expected to be in place beginning in March 2015. Once the final harvest specifications are announced in the *Federal Register*, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will issue additional quota pounds (QP) to quota share (QS) accounts.

NMFS has increased the interim quota pounds available, above those issued on January 1, 2015. We anticipate adding those pounds to accounts during the week of January 12, 2015. Comments were received following the mid-December accounts preview; some permit holders replied that the January 1 amounts would cause them financial hardship. NMFS concluded that we could increase the amounts and be consistent with the regulation. The new, increased interim amounts will be posted on the online IFQ system website (listed in the box). Updated vessel limits based on the interim 2015 allocations will also be available on the online IFQ system website, and NMFS Trawl Program website under the "Vessel Accounts" link.

The proposed 2015 allocations can be found in the Proposed Rule for the 2015-16 harvest specifications at:

<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fm/2015/80fr687.pdf>

If you have any questions about the IFQ account system, please contact the Fisheries Permit Office at 206-526-4353 or at kevin.ford@noaa.gov or sarah.towne@noaa.gov.



IFQ Account Website

<https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/>

NMFS Trawl Program Website

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish_catch_shares/index.html