



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html



PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140
Fisheries Permit Office (206) 526-4353

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

***Trawl Rationalization Program:* Midwater Trawl Fishery Season Date Change**

Proposed rule & Request for comments

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a proposed rule that would change the season opening date in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for midwater trawl fisheries targeting whiting and other non-whiting groundfish. This action would change the season opening date to May 15 north of 40°30' N. lat. to the U.S./Canada border. This moves the season a month earlier off Washington and Oregon, and a month and half later off northern California (north of 40°30' N. lat.), increasing consistency in the season start date along the coast and between the shorebased and at-sea midwater trawl fleets.

Public comments on this rule are due March 19, 2015.

View the proposed rule and submit comments at www.regulations.gov by searching for Docket Number NOAA-NMFS-2015-0016 or by following the link below:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0016>

This proposed rule can also be found on NMFS website at:

<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/2015/80fr8280.pdf>

The Environmental Assessment can be found at:

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/nepa/groundfish/catch_shares_nepa/midwater-season-dea.pdf

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

