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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

***Trawl Rationalization Program – Shorebased IFQ Program:
Additions to Quota Share Accounts and Vessel Accounts:
Pacific Whiting Top-Up and Surplus Carryover***

Pacific whiting quota pounds (QP) were issued to quota share (QS) accounts on May 14, 2015 and surplus carryover QP will be issued to vessel accounts on or before May 26, 2015. To view each NMFS transfer, participants may log into their QS or vessel account and click on the 'Transfer Summary' tab.

Pacific Whiting Top-Up

In January 2015, NMFS issued interim allocations to the Shorebased IFQ Program and to QS permit owners through their QS accounts. The interim value for Pacific whiting was a conservative allocation to remain in place until the final harvest specifications for the whiting fishery were implemented. NMFS credited additional Pacific whiting QP (i.e., "topped-up") to QS accounts on May 14, 2015 based on the final harvest specifications. Please move all QP from QS accounts to vessel accounts before the September 1, 2015 deadline.

Surplus Carryover – Vessel Accounts

In the Shorebased IFQ Program, NMFS will credit surplus carryover pounds for some species from 2014 vessel accounts to eligible 2015 vessel accounts, up to the daily and annual vessel limits. Surplus carryover pounds will be issued on or before Tuesday, May 26, and the IFQ message will be updated when pounds are added.

Because of the April 4, 2014 *Conservation Law Foundation v. Pritzker* ruling, NMFS cannot issue carryover for any IFQ species in an amount where the sum of surplus carryover and the annual catch limit (ACL) would exceed the acceptable biological catch (ABC). NMFS issued surplus carryover for the following species using the normal 10% carryover limit, since this issuance of pounds will not exceed the ABC: Bocaccio rockfish south of 40°10' N., Canary rockfish, Cowcod south of 40°10' N.,

Darkblotched rockfish, Dover sole, Longspine thornyheads north of 34°27' N., Pacific cod, Pacific halibut (IBQ) north of 40°10' N., Pacific ocean perch north of 40°10' N., Sablefish north of 36° N., Sablefish south of 36° N., Widow rockfish, Yelloweye rockfish, Shortspine thornyheads north of 34°27' N., Shortspine thornyheads south of 34°27' N. In addition, NMFS issued surplus carryover for the following two species using *reduced* carryover limits so that the issuance of pounds would not exceed the ABC: Minor Shelf Rockfish south of 40°10' N. and Minor Slope Rockfish south of 40°10' N.

Consistent with the PFMC's March 2013 recommendation, NMFS will not issue surplus carryover for Pacific whiting, to adhere to the international whiting treaty agreement, where a method for carryover of unused Pacific whiting already exists. Since the Pacific halibut Total Constant Exploitation Yield for area 2A (Washington, Oregon and California) is set by international agreement, and there is no ACL, the court's holding is not applicable to this species, and NMFS will continue with its past practice.

NMFS will issue surplus carryover to be consistent with daily or annual vessel limits, and any surplus carryover putting vessel accounts above vessel limits will be permanently expired. Additional information can be found on the top of the IFQ Accounts Log-in page, at www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/, under "Important Messages".