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FISHERIES**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2015

Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery **2015-2016 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments**

REDISTRIBUTION OF DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH

NMFS announces inseason changes to management measures in the Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries. This action, which is authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP), is intended to allow fisheries to access more abundant groundfish stocks while protecting overfished and depleted stocks.

Effective October 29, 2015, 7 metric tons (mt) of darkblotched rockfish is redistributed to the Mothership (MS) and Catcher/Processor (C/P) sectors equally (3.5 mt to each sector). This same amount of darkblotched rockfish (7 mt) was deducted from the incidental open access sector, because it is anticipated to go unharvested through the end of 2015.

This action is taken as a partial approval of the recommendations made by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) at its September meeting. These changes are based on the best available information and are consistent with the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its implementing regulations. The specifications and management measures for Pacific groundfish are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (50 CFR part 660, subparts C through G).

Darkblotched rockfish set-asides are modified to 10 mt for the MS sector and 12.7 mt for the C/P sector.

Final rule; inseason adjustments to biennial groundfish management measures, RIN 0648-BF44 is currently available for public review on the Federal Register website, and will publish in the Federal Register on November 3, 2015. The document can be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/03/2015-27995/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-2015-2016-biennial-specifications>

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