



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

**National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region**  
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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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NMFS-SEA-15-25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 4, 2015

### **PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY**

*Process for Divestiture of Excess Quota Shares in the Individual Fishing Quota Fishery*

**Final Rule filed and effective November 4, 2015**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announces that the Process for Divestiture Final Rule is effective today, Wednesday, November 4, 2015, and will publish in the Federal Register on Monday, November 9, 2015.

This final rule makes narrow procedural additions to regulations to clarify how divestiture and revocation of excess quota share (QS) will occur. The rule:

1. Clarifies the revocation protocols for cases where QS permit owners do not voluntarily divest of QS holdings in excess of the control limits by the divestiture deadline.
2. Adds an option where QS permit owners who exceed the aggregate nonwhiting control limit can abandon excess QS to NOAA Fisheries by November 15, 2015.
3. Establishes procedures if divestiture becomes necessary in 2016 and beyond.

View the final rule at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/11/09/2015-28412/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-process-for-divestiture-of-excess>.

After publication, this rule can also be found by searching for Docket Number 150721634-5999-02 at: <http://www.regulations.gov/> and on the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region website at: [http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish\\_frn.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish_frn.html).

Please find the small entity compliance guide associated with this rule on the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region website.

## National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

NOAA Fisheries would like to remind QS permit owners who exceed a control limit that the deadline to divest of excess QS is **November 30, 2015**, and QS permit owners who exceed the aggregate nonwhiting control limit that the deadline to abandon excess QS to NOAA Fisheries is **November 15, 2015**. Please find the abandonment request form on the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region website, or call Sarah Towne at the phone number above if you would like a copy of the form mailed or faxed to you.

### Groundfish E-mail Group

Subscribe to “**wcgroundfish**” by visiting the following website:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery\\_management/groundfish/public\\_notices/groundfish\\_email\\_group\\_signup.ht](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/groundfish/public_notices/groundfish_email_group_signup.ht)