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: NMFS-SEA-16-20
Gretchen Hanshew (206) 526-6147   FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
                                                                                                October 28, 2016

<u>Proposed 2017-2018 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures and Amendment 27 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP)</u>

NMFS is seeking public comment on proposed regulatory changes and an FMP amendment.

Public comments must be received by November 28, 2016.

This proposed rule would implement the following:

1) Amendment 27 to the FMP, which would reclassify big skate from an Ecosystem Component Species to "in the fishery," list deacon rockfish as "in the fishery," describe a new inseason management process in California, clarify several stock assessment descriptions, and make updates to reflect that canary rockfish and petrale sole stocks are now rebuilt;

2) revisions to the rebuilding plan harvest control rule for Pacific ocean perch to address recent catch events and meet the needs of fishing communities, while maintaining the target rebuilding year of 2051;

3) revisions to the rebuilding plan for darkblotched rockfish, based on the most recent stock assessment, which predicts the stock will be rebuilt by the start of 2016, while maintaining the target rebuilding year of 2025;

4) harvest specifications (overfishing limits, acceptable biological catches , annual catch limits, and allocations) for all 90-plus FMP groundfish species and stock complexes that are "in the fishery" (except Pacific whiting); and

5) management measures to achieve, but not exceed, harvest specifications.

View or download the proposed rule on the NMFS West Coast Region website at:
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/2016/81fr75266.pdf

Submit your comments online via the Federal electronic rulemaking portal:
https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0094-0002