

## **Rockfish Pilot Program Final Fishery Denominators For Initial Quota Share (QS) Issuance**

February 26, 2007

NOAA Fisheries Service, Restricted Access Management (RAM) has established numbers that reflect the catch of primary rockfish species used for initial rockfish quota share (QS) awards. These numbers are called the “Final Fishery Denominators”. Using denominators enables us to provide applicants with final summaries displaying initial quota share awards in a fishery. While these “Final Denominators” differ from those used previously to determine eligibility and derive preliminary quota estimates, these final data will not be updated further. Any initial QS issued at a later time as a result of approved claims or adjudicated appeals will be based on these same “Final Denominators”.

A “Fishery Denominator” for a primary rockfish species is the sum of the highest five of seven years of all eligible rockfish landings. The “Final Fishery Denominator” for each primary rockfish species is (expressed in pounds):

Northern Rockfish	34,285,058
Pelagic Shelf Rockfish	33,436,219
Pacific Ocean Perch	86,766,815

The formula for determining QS units by LLP license for each primary rockfish species, as set forth in federal regulations at 50 CFR 680.80, is as follows:

An LLP’s Highest 5 Years/Fishery Denominator = The LLP’s Percentage of Total  
The LLP’s Percentage of Total \* Initial Rockfish QS Pool = QS Units

These calculations provide an LLP license’s initial issuance of QS. The amount of annual rockfish pounds that result from any particular amount of QS units may change in the future due to delayed initial QS issuance from approved claims and adjudicated appeals.