

upon a specific date, the tilefish TAL for the specific limited access category has been harvested and no commercial quota is available for harvesting tilefish by that category for the remainder of the fishing year, from within the Golden Tilefish Management Unit.

The Regional Administrator has determined, based upon dealer reports and other available information, that the 2007 tilefish TAL for the Part-time category has been harvested. Therefore, effective 0001 hr local time, December 29, 2006, further landings of tilefish harvested from within the Golden Tilefish Management Unit by tilefish vessels holding Part-time category Federal fisheries permits are prohibited through October 31, 2007. The 2008 fishing year for commercial tilefish harvest will open on November 1, 2007. Federally permitted dealers are also advised that, effective December 29, 2006, they may not purchase tilefish from Part-time category federally permitted tilefish vessels who land tilefish harvested from within the Golden Tilefish Management Unit for the remainder of the 2007 fishing year (through October 31, 2007).

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 22, 2006.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 060424108-6204-02; I.D. 121906B]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; North Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota Cost Recovery Program

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of standard prices and fee percentage.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes IFQ standard prices for the individual fishing quota (IFQ) cost recovery program in the

halibut and sablefish fisheries of the North Pacific. This action is intended to provide holders of halibut and sablefish IFQ permits with the 2006 standard prices and fee percentage to calculate the required payment for IFQ cost recovery fees due by January 31, 2007.

DATES: Effective December 29, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Troie Zuniga, Fee Coordinator, 907-586-7231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS Alaska Region administers the halibut and sablefish IFQ programs in the North Pacific. The IFQ programs are limited access systems authorized by section 303(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982. Fishing under the IFQ programs began in March 1995. Regulations implementing the IFQ program are set forth at 50 CFR part 679.

In 1996, the Magnuson-Stevens Act was amended (by Public Law 104-297) to, among other things, require the Secretary of Commerce to "collect a fee to recover the actual costs directly related to the management and enforcement of any . . . individual fishing quota program" (section 304(d)(2)(A)). Section 304(d)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifies an upper limit on these fees, when the fees must be collected, and where the fees must be deposited. Section 303(d)(4) allows NMFS to reserve up to 25 percent of the fees collected for use in an IFQ loan program to aid in financing the purchase of IFQ or quota share (QS) by entry-level and small-vessel fishermen.

On March 20, 2000, NMFS published regulations implementing the IFQ cost recovery program (65 FR 14919), which are set forth at § 679.45. Under the regulations, an IFQ permit holder incurs a cost recovery fee liability for every pound of IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish that is landed on his or her IFQ permit(s). The IFQ permit holder is responsible for self-collecting the fee liability for all IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish landings on his or her permit(s). The IFQ permit holder is also responsible for submitting a fee liability payment to NMFS on or before the due date of January 31 following the year in which the IFQ landings were made. The dollar amount of the fee due is determined by multiplying the annual IFQ fee percentage (3 percent or less) by the ex-vessel value of each IFQ landing made on a permit and summing the totals of each permit (if more than one).

Standard Prices

The fee liability is based on the sum of all payments of monetary worth made to fishermen for the sale of the fish during the year. This includes any retro-payments (e.g., bonuses, delayed partial payments, post-season payments) made to the IFQ permit holder for previously landed IFQ halibut or sablefish.

For purposes of calculating IFQ cost recovery fees, NMFS distinguishes between two types of ex-vessel value: "actual" and "standard." "Actual" ex-vessel value is the amount of all compensation, monetary or non-monetary, that an IFQ permit holder received as payment for his or her IFQ fish sold. "Standard" ex-vessel value is the default value on which to base fee liability calculations. However, IFQ permit holders have the option of using actual ex-vessel value if they can satisfactorily document them.

Regulations at § 679.45(c)(2)(i) require the Regional Administrator to publish IFQ standard prices during the last quarter of each calendar year. These standard prices are used, along with estimates of IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish landings, to calculate standard values. The standard prices are described in U.S. dollars per IFQ equivalent pound for IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish landings made during the year. IFQ equivalent pound(s) is the weight (in pounds), for an IFQ landing calculated as the round weight for sablefish and headed and gutted net weight for halibut. NMFS calculates the standard prices to closely reflect the variations in the actual ex-vessel values of IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish landings by month and port or port-group. The standard prices for IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish are listed in the following tables. Data from ports are combined as necessary to protect confidentiality.

Fee Percentage

Section 304(d)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides for a maximum fee of 3 percent of the ex-vessel value of fish harvested under an IFQ Program. NMFS annually sets a fee percentage for sablefish and halibut IFQ holders that is based on the actual annual costs associated with certain management and enforcement functions as well as the standard ex-vessel value of the catch subject to the IFQ fee for the current year. The method used by NMFS to calculate the IFQ fee percentage is described at § 679.45(d)(2)(ii).

Regulations at § 679.45(d) require NMFS to publish the IFQ fee percentage for the halibut and sablefish IFQ fisheries in the **Federal Register** during

or before the last quarter of each year. use a fee liability percentage of 1.0 holder is responsible for submitting the
 For the 2006 sablefish and halibut IFQ percent to calculate his or her fee for fee liability payment to NMFS on or
 fishing season, IFQ permit holders are to landed IFQ in pounds. The IFQ permit before January 31, 2007.

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR 2006 IFQ SEASON

LANDING LOCATION	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE (\$)	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE (\$)
CORDOVA	February 28	-	-
	March 31	3.36	-
	April 30	3.16	2.33
	May 31	3.42	-
	June 30	3.50	2.59
	July 31	-	-
	August 31	4.08	-
	September 30	4.20	-
	October 31	4.20	-
	November 30	4.20	-
DUTCH HARBOR	February 28	-	-
	March 31	-	-
	April 30	-	-
	May 31	-	-
	June 30	3.53	-
	July 31	3.38	2.71
	August 31	3.81	-
	September 30	-	-
	October 31	-	-
	November 30	-	-
HOMER	February 28	-	-
	March 31	-	-
	April 30	-	-
	May 31	3.64	-
	June 30	3.64	-
	July 31	4.03	-
	August 31	4.06	-
	September 30	4.17	-
	October 31	4.17	-
	November 30	4.17	-
KETCHIKAN	February 28	-	-
	March 31	-	-
	April 30	-	-
	May 31	-	-
	June 30	3.82	-

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR 2006 IFQ SEASON—
Continued

LANDING LOCATION	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE (\$)	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE (\$)
	July 31	—	—
	August 31	—	—
	September 30	—	—
	October 31	—	—
	November 30	—	—
KODIAK	February 28	3.40	2.31
	March 31	3.40	2.31
	April 30	3.18	2.32
	May 31	3.37	2.37
	June 30	3.47	2.48
	July 31	3.73	2.86
	August 31	3.89	2.52
	September 30	4.18	2.68
	October 31	4.18	2.68
	November 30	4.18	2.68
PETERSBURG	February 28	—	—
	March 31	3.45	—
	April 30	3.28	—
	May 31	3.49	—
	June 30	3.55	—
	July 31	3.76	—
	August 31	4.01	—
	September 30	—	—
	October 31	—	—
November 30	—	—	
SEWARD	February 28	3.57	2.20
	March 31	3.57	2.20
	April 30	—	—
	May 31	—	—
	June 30	—	—
	July 31	—	—
	August 31	4.10	—
	September 30	—	—
	October 31	—	—
	November 30	—	—
SITKA	February 28	3.57	2.37

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY LANDING LOCATION FOR 2006 IFQ SEASON—
Continued

LANDING LOCATION	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE (\$)	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX- VESSEL PRICE (\$)
	March 31	3.57	2.37
	April 30	3.19	2.36
	May 31	3.59	2.51
	June 30	3.72	2.64
	July 31	3.93	2.92
	August 31	4.02	2.64
	September 30	4.13	2.73
	October 31	4.13	2.73
	November 30	4.13	2.73
YAKUTAT	February 28	–	–
	March 31	–	–
	April 30	3.30	–
	May 31	3.29	–
	June 30	–	–
	July 31	–	–
	August 31	–	–
	September 30	–	–
	October 31	–	–
	November 30	–	–

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY PORT GROUP FOR 2006 IFQ SEASON

PORT GROUP	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX -VESSEL PRICE (\$)	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICE (\$)
BERING SEA ¹	February 28	–	–
	March 31	–	–
	April 30	–	2.24
	May 31	3.28	2.20
	June 30	3.46	2.34
	July 31	3.48	2.38
	August 31	3.78	2.21
	September 30	3.86	2.26
	October 31	3.86	2.26
	November 30	3.86	2.26
CENTRAL GULF ²	February 28	3.49	2.28
	March 31	3.49	2.28
	April 30	3.20	2.45

REGISTERED BUYER STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY PORT GROUP FOR 2006 IFQ SEASON—Continued

PORT GROUP	PERIOD ENDING	HALIBUT STANDARD EX -VESSEL PRICE (\$)	SABLEFISH STANDARD EX -VESSEL PRICE (\$)
	May 31	3.42	2.44
	June 30	3.47	2.53
	July 31	3.81	2.58
	August 31	3.97	2.52
	September 30	4.10	2.51
	October 31	4.10	2.51
	November 30	4.10	2.51
SOUTHEAST ³	February 28	3.54	2.34
	March 31	3.54	2.34
	April 30	3.34	2.38
	May 31	3.54	2.38
	June 30	3.68	2.63
	July 31	3.77	2.88
	August 31	4.01	2.67
	September 30	4.18	2.62
	October 31	4.18	2.62
	November 30	4.18	2.62
ALL ⁴	February 28	3.50	2.32
	March 31	3.50	2.32
	April 30	3.26	2.41
	May 31	3.45	2.40
	June 30	3.54	2.53
	July 31	3.71	2.58
	August 31	3.92	2.50
	September 30	4.06	2.51
	October 31	4.06	2.51
	November 30	4.06	2.51

¹Landing locations Within Port Group - Bering Sea: Adak, Akutan, Akutan Bay, Atka, Bristol Bay, Chefornak, Dillingham, Captains Bay, Dutch Harbor, Egegik, Ikatan Bay, Hooper Bay, King Cove, King Salmon, Kipnuk, Mekoryuk, Naknek, Nome, Quinhagak, Savoonga, St. George, St. Lawrence, St. Paul, Togiak, Toksook Bay, Tununak, Beaver Inlet, Ugadaga Bay, Unalaska

²Landing Locations Within Port Group - Central Gulf of Alaska: Anchor Point, Anchorage, Alitak, Chignik, Cordova, Eagle River, False Pass, West Anchor Cove, Girdwood, Chinitna Bay, Halibut Cove, Homer, Kasilof, Kenai, Kenai River, Kodiak, Port Bailey, Nikiski, Ninilchik, Old Harbor, Palmer, Sand Point, Seldovia, Resurrection Bay, Seward, Valdez, Whittier

³Landing Locations Within Port Group - Southeast Alaska: Angoon, Baranof Warm Springs, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Excursion Inlet, Gustavus, Haines, Hollis, Hoonah, Hyder, Auke Bay, Douglas, Tee Harbor, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Klawock, Metlakatla, Pelican, Petersburg, Portage Bay, Port Alexander, Port Graham, Port Protection, Point Baker, Sitka, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Wrangell, Yakutat

⁴Landing Locations Within Port Group - All: **For Alaska:** All landing locations included in 1, 2, and 3. **For California:** Eureka, Fort Bragg, Other California. **For Oregon:** Astoria, Aurora, Lincoln City, Newport, Warrenton, Other Oregon. **For Washington:** Anacortes, Bellevue, Bellingham, Nagai Island, Edmonds, Everett, Granite Falls, Ilwaco, La Conner, Port Angeles, Port Orchard, Port Townsend, Rainier, Fox Island, Mercer Island, Seattle, Standwood, Other Washington. **For Canada:** Port Hardy, Port Edward, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Haines Junction, Other Canada

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 21, 2006.

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