



*National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region*  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-03-07  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 12, 2003

### **PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY** **LIMITED ENTRY FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH PRIMARY SEASON BEGINS APRIL 1, 2003**

The primary sablefish season will begin on April 1, 2003 at noon, local time and end on October 31, 2003 at noon, local time. No vessel may land any sablefish other than sablefish taken in the daily trip limit fishery before noon on April 1.

After noon on April 1, only limited entry permit holders with sablefish endorsements may fish against primary season cumulative limits. Limited entry, fixed gear vessels without sablefish endorsements and open access vessels may continue to operate in their respective daily trip limit fisheries during the primary season.

During the primary season, each vessel with a limited entry permit with a sablefish endorsement may land up to the cumulative trip limit for each of the sablefish-endorsed limited entry permits registered for use with that vessel. No vessel may be registered for use with more than 3 permits. No vessel may have sablefish landings in excess of the combined tier limits associated with the permits registered for use with that vessel.

For 2003, the following tier limits are in effect:

Tier 1 – 53,000 lb  
Tier 2 – 24,000 lb  
Tier 3 – 14,000 lb

All limits are in *round weight or round weight equivalent*. For dressed sablefish, a product recovery rate of 1.6 is used by the States of Washington, Oregon, and California.

The primary season ends at noon, local time, on October 31, 2003. There is no post-season closure, which means that all offloading must be complete by October 31, 2003, at noon. No vessel may land sablefish against both its primary season tier limits and against the daily trip limits within the same day (24 hour period from 0001 hour to 2400 hours). If a vessel has taken all of its tier limit except for an amount that is smaller than the daily trip limit amount, that vessel's next sablefish landings are automatically subject to the daily and/or weekly trip limits.

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*For more information contact:* NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfsh/gdfsh01.htm>; NMFS Southwest Region at 562-980-4000; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

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**To receive Pacific Coast Groundfish public notices via e-mail, please e-mail your request to [westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov](mailto:westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov)**