



*National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region*  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
[www.nwr.noaa.gov](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:  
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NMFS-SEA-13-1  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 2, 2013

### PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

***A proposed rule, the Reconsideration of Allocation of Whiting (RAW 2) is available for public comment***

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the publication of a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* that proposes revisions to several portions of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Trawl Rationalization Program regulations and requests comments on NMFS' preliminary conclusion that the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council's) selection of the no action alternative regarding the reconsideration of initial allocation of Pacific whiting (whiting) is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and other applicable law.

This action is necessary to comply with a court order requiring NMFS to reconsider the initial allocation of whiting to the shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery and the at-sea mothership fishery. The proposed regulatory changes would affect the transfer of quota share (QS) and individual bycatch quota (IBQ) between QS accounts in the shorebased IFQ fishery, and severability of catch history assignments in the mothership fishery, both of which would be allowed on specified dates with the exception of widow rockfish. Widow rockfish is no longer an overfished species and transfer of QS for this species will be reinstated pending reconsideration of the allocation of widow rockfish QS in a future action. The divestiture period for widow rockfish QS in the IFQ fishery is also proposed to be delayed indefinitely.

The *Federal Register* notice for this proposed rule published on January 2, 2013, and is available on the NMFS Northwest Region website at:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Regulations/Index.cfm>.

#### ***Groundfish E-mail Group***

Subscribe to "wcgroundfish" by visiting the following website:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm>  
and clicking "sign up".

#### ***NMFS Trawl Program Website***

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Trawl-Program/index.cfm>

NMFS solicits written public comments on the proposed RAW 2 rule. **Comments must be received by NMFS no later than 5 p.m. local time on February 1, 2013.**

You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2012-0063, by any of the following methods:

•*Electronic Submission:*

Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2012-0063](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2012-0063), click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

•*Mail:* Submit written comments to William W. Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070; Attn: Ariel Jacobs.

•*Fax:* 206-526-6736; Attn: Ariel Jacobs.

Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.