



Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

Checklist for the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program

Applications and Reports

- Application for Rockfish Quota Share is due January 17, 2012. [§ 679.80] **Text in brackets shows regulation citation, see <https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/>**
 - This application deadline also pertains to applicants who qualify to be permanently excluded from the Rockfish Program.
 - If an Application for Rockfish Quota Share is not submitted to NMFS by a qualifying applicant, sideboard provisions will apply to that LLP license, as applicable. [§ 679.81]
- Annual Application for Rockfish Cooperative Fishing Quota for the Rockfish Program is due March 15, 2012, the first year of the program, and then March 1 for all subsequent years. [§ 679.81]
 - NMFS will assume a rockfish eligible harvester has opted-out of participating in a rockfish cooperative if his or her LLP license with assigned rockfish QS is not named on a timely Annual Application for Cooperative Fishing Quota. [§ 679.81]
- A rockfish processor must annually submit a Rockfish Ex-vessel Volume and Value Report no later than December 1 of that year. [§ 679.5]
- Rockfish cooperatives must submit an annual Rockfish Cooperative Report to NMFS by December 15 of that year. [§ 679.5]

Cost Recovery Fees

- Rockfish CQ cost recovery fees for a rockfish cooperative fishing season must be submitted by February 15 of the following year. [§ 679.5]
- Fee liability payment is a maximum of 3% of the ex-vessel value of rockfish primary and secondary species (No fees for the entry level longline fishery). [§ 679.85]
- All rockfish CQ holders who receive rockfish CQ are responsible for submitting the cost recovery payment for all rockfish CQ landings made under the authority of their rockfish CQ permit. [§ 679.85]

Recordkeeping and Reporting

- VMS Check-in Report (Submit prior to first departure). [§ 679.28]
- Submit a U.S. Vessel Activity Report (as required). [§ 679.5]
- Maintain a valid Federal Fisheries Permit onboard a vessel at all times. [§ 679.85]
- Maintain a valid LLP license onboard the vessel at all times. [§ 679.4]
- Maintain a valid Federal Processor Permit at a processing facility at all times. [§ 679.85]
- Ensure that VMS and computers meet requirements. [§ 679.28]
- Catcher/processors must use eLandings to complete an electronic logbook (ELB) and to record and report groundfish production and PSC information daily. [§ 679.5]
- Shoreside processors must use eLandings to record Rockfish Program landings and production. [§ 679.5]
- Catcher/processors and shoreside processors must submit a product transfer report (PTR) when those species are transferred out of the facility or off the vessel. [§ 679.5]

General Provisions

- Rockfish QS is non-severable from an LLP license, except when the LLP license exceeds rockfish QS use caps. [§ 679.80]

Rockfish Cooperatives

- The rockfish cooperative season is from May 1 through November 15 of each calendar year. [§ 679.80]
- A catcher vessel cooperative must be formed in association with a rockfish processor. [§ 679.81]
- Rockfish cooperatives may form with no minimum number of licenses or rockfish QS. [§ 679.81]
- Submit a complete cooperative member contract annually to NMFS with the Application for Rockfish Cooperative Fishing Quota. [§ 679.81]
- LLP licenses and vessels may only be used in the rockfish cooperative to which it was initially assigned for that fishing year. [§ 679.7]
- Must maintain a copy of the CQ permit onboard the vessel. [§ 679.81]
- An LLP license that was excluded from the Rockfish Program or that opted out of the fisheries for that calendar year may not be used in a cooperative. [§ 679.7]
- Vessel check-in/check-out (as applicable). [§ 679.5]
- Unharvested CQ balance must be greater than zero before starting a fishing trip. [§ 679.7]
- Retain all rockfish primary and secondary species caught when fishing under a CQ permit. [§ 679.7]
- Submit an Application for Inter-cooperative Transfer of Cooperative Quota electronically to transfer CQ. [§ 679.81]
- After November 15, a cooperative may use CQ for transfer only. [§ 679.81]
- After November 15, or upon submission of a rockfish cooperative termination of fishing declaration, a cooperative may not use halibut PSC CQ for transfer. [§ 679.21]
- Ensure the CQ account is balanced by the end of the calendar year. [§ 679.81]
- CQ permits may be terminated for the year by submitting a declaration of termination (electronically) to NMFS. [§ 679.4]

Entry Level Longline Fishery

- The entry level longline fishery season is from January 1 through November 15 of each calendar year, unless otherwise closed by NMFS. [§ 679.7]
- May deliver to a shoreside processor only. [§ 679.7]
- Catcher vessels fishing under a CQ permit must first be checked-out of the Rockfish Program to take part in the entry level longline fishery. [§ 679.83]
- No observer coverage or monitoring requirements.

Use Caps

- A person may not hold or use more than:
 - 4% of the QS assigned to the catcher vessel sector. [§ 679.82]
 - 40% of the QS assigned to the catcher/processor sector. [§ 679.82]
- Catcher vessel cooperatives may not hold or use more CQ than:
 - 30% QS assigned to the catcher vessel sector. [§ 679.82]
- A vessel may not harvest more than:
 - 8% CQ issued to the catcher vessel sector. [§ 679.82]
 - 60% CQ issued to the catcher/processor sector. [§ 679.82]
- Processors may not receive or process more than:
 - 30% CQ issued to catcher vessel sector (rockfish primary species, Pacific cod, and sablefish). [§ 679.82]

Sideboard Limits

- Ensure sideboard limits are not exceeded during July 1 through July 31 of each year. (as applicable). [§ 679.82]

Sideboard provisions for catcher vessels

- Prohibited fishing restrictions. [§ 679.82]
 - West Yakutat District/Western GOA (rockfish primary species).

- Deep-water complex—arrowtooth flounder, deep-water flatfish, rex sole.
- ❑ Catcher vessel exemptions from sideboard limits. [§ 679.82]
 - Any AFA CVs not exempt under AFA regulations.
 - Vessels that have been selected as being voluntarily excluded from the Rockfish Program.
 - Any vessels assigned an LLP license that has been selected as being voluntarily excluded from the Rockfish Program.

Rockfish and halibut PSC sideboard provisions for catcher/processor vessels

- ❑ Prevent directed fishing in GOA groundfish fisheries without previous participation in 2000–2006. [§ 679.82]
- ❑ West Yakutat/Western GOA limitation (rockfish primary species). [§ 679.82]
- ❑ Deep- and shallow-water halibut PSC limit. [§ 679.82]
- ❑ Prohibited from fishing rockfish primary species in the Western GOA and West Yakutat District for non-Amendment 80 vessels. [§ 679.82]
- ❑ After November 15, or upon submission of a rockfish cooperative termination of fishing declaration, 55 percent of the unused halibut PSC will be added to the last seasonal apportionment for trawl gear during the current fishing year. [§ 679.21]

Sideboard provisions for catcher/processor or opt-out vessels (as applicable). These vessels will receive the portion of each rockfish sideboard limit not assigned to rockfish cooperatives. [§ 679.82]

- ❑ Prevent directed fishing in GOA groundfish fisheries without previous participation in 2000–2006. [§ 679.82]
- ❑ Prohibit directed fishing for rockfish primary species in Western GOA and West Yakutat for non-Amendment 80 vessels. [§ 679.82]

Catch monitoring requirements

Catcher/processors

- ❑ Weigh each haul separately on a NMFS-approved scale and make all catch available for sampling by an observer. [§ 679.84]
- ❑ No mixing of hauls with catch from another haul prior to sampling by an observer. [§ 679.84]
- ❑ Maintain an observer sampling station approved by NMFS at all times. [§ 679.28]
- ❑ Catcher/processors must have at least two observers onboard for each day that the vessel is used to harvest or process in the Central GOA from May 1 through November 15, or before a declaration of termination. [§ 679.50]
- ❑ A catcher/processor that is subject to a sideboard and fishing under the authority of a CQ permit must have at least two observers onboard for each day that the vessel is used to harvest or process fish in the West Yakutat District, Central GOA, or Western GOA management areas from July 1 through July 31. [§ 679.50]
- ❑ A catcher/processor vessel that is subject to a sideboard limit must have at least one observer onboard for each day that the vessel is used to harvest or process in the West Yakutat District, Central GOA, or Western GOA management areas from July 1 through July 31. [§ 679.50]
- ❑ Ensure the vessel has no more than one operational line or other conveyance for the mechanized movement of catch between the scale used to weigh total catch and the location where the observer collects species composition samples. [§ 679.84]
- ❑ No fish outside the codend are allowed to remain on deck unless an observer is present. [§ 679.84]
- ❑ Provide sufficient space, within or adjacent to the observer sample station, to accommodate a minimum of 10 observer sampling baskets. [§ 679.84]
- ❑ Call NMFS (907-271-1702) at least 24 hours prior to departure if the vessel is carrying an observer who has not been on the vessel within the last 12 months. NMFS may choose to arrange a pre-cruise meeting with the vessel skipper or manager and other observers. [§ 679.84]
- ❑ The vessel operator must stop the flow of fish and clear all belts between the bin doors and the area where the observer collects samples of unsorted catch when requested to do so by the observer. [§ 679.84]
- ❑ Maintain a bin monitoring system approved by NMFS at all times—either option 1: no crew in bins; option 2: line-of-sight; or option 3: video. If an observer determines a line-of-sight or video bin monitoring system is inadequate, the vessel operator must use option 1, and inform the observer if crew are entering the fish bin and give an opportunity to observe the activities in the bin. [§679.28]

Opt-out vessels

- No mixing of hauls prior to sampling by a NMFS-certified observer. [§ 679.84]
- Ensure catch is available for sampling by a NMFS-certified observer. [§ 679.84]
- Ensure the vessel has no more than one operational line or other conveyance for the mechanized movement of catch between the scale used to weigh total catch and the location where the observer collects species composition samples. [§ 679.84]
- No fish outside the codend are allowed to remain on deck unless an observer is present. [§ 679.84]
- The vessel operator stops the flow of fish and clears all belts between the bin doors and the area where the observer collects samples of unsorted catch when requested to do so by the observer. [§ 679.84]
- Maintain a bin monitoring system approved by NMFS at all times—either option 1: no crew in bins; option 2: line-of-sight; or option 3: video. If an observer determines a line-of-sight or video bin monitoring system is inadequate, the vessel operator must use option 1, and inform the observer if crew are entering the fish bin and give an opportunity to observe the activities in the bin. [§679.28]

Catcher vessels

- Catcher vessels must have an observer onboard at all times the vessel is used to harvest fish in the Central GOA from May 1 through November 15. [§ 679.50]
- Provide a computer with NMFS supplied software for data entry. [§ 679.50]
- Catcher vessels may only deliver groundfish harvested under a CQ permit to shoreside processors within the geological boundaries of Kodiak. [§ 679.7]

Shoreside processors

- Ensure the NMFS-approved catch monitoring and control plan (CMCP) submitted by the shoreside processor is followed for all program deliveries. [§ 679.28]
- Must describe in the CMCP how the CMCP specialist will be notified of deliveries of groundfish harvested under the authority of a Rockfish CQ permit. [§ 679.28]
- All groundfish landed by catcher vessels must be sorted, weighed on a scale approved by the State of Alaska, and be made available for sampling by an observer, NMFS staff, or any individual authorized by NMFS. [§ 679.84]
- Shoreside processors that process 1,000 mt or more in round-weight equivalent of groundfish during a calendar month are required to have an observer present at the facility each day they receive or process groundfish during that month. [§ 679.50]
- Shoreside processors that process 500 mt to 1,000 mt in round-weight equivalent of groundfish during a calendar month are required to have an observer present at the facility at least 30 percent of the days they receive or process groundfish during that month. [§ 679.50]

Program Contacts

For exact regulatory language please refer to the NOAA Fisheries website: www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/

Questions about NMFS Permits or Application Process

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Restricted Access Management (RAM) 1-800-304-4846 (press 2) or 907-586-7202, Fax 907-586-7354. Email: ram.alaska@noaa.gov.

Questions about Enforcement

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Alaska Region PO Box 21767, 709 W. 9th Street, Room M09C Juneau, AK 99802-1767, 907-586-7225.

Questions about the Regulatory Process

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Sustainable Fisheries Division 1-800-304-4846 (press 3) or 907-586-7228 Website: www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov.

Inseason Management: Steve Whitney (stevenwhitney@noaa.gov) or Mary Furuness (mary.furuness@noaa.gov) 907-586-7228.

eLandings: Susan Hall (susan.hall@noaa.gov) 907-586-7462.

Catch Monitoring: Jennifer Watson (jennifer.watson@noaa.gov) 907-586-7537 or Alan Kinsolving (alan.kinsolving@noaa.gov) 928-774-4362.

Observer Program: 206-526-4240.

About this Checklist

This checklist provides a general overview for the Central GOA Rockfish Program and does not replace regulatory requirements. For more information on program requirements see the Central GOA Rockfish Program Informational Guide. If you are required to comply with the regulations, you should consult with and rely on the actual regulatory text. The Central GOA Rockfish Program regulations can be found under 50 CFR part 679.

