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PUBLIC NOTICE

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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Trawl Rationalization Program:

- Coops - Whiting allocations available**
- IFQ - QS Account Adjustment for Whiting**
- IFQ - Vessel Account Adjustment for Carryover**
- IFQ – Changes to online IFQ system**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the following:

1. Allocation of Pacific whiting for the Mothership and Catcher/Processor Coop Programs;
2. Adjustments to quota share (QS) accounts for Pacific whiting and some additional species caught on whiting trips in the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program;
3. Adjustments to vessel accounts for surplus carryover in the Shorebased IFQ Program; and
4. Changes to the online IFQ system

The final Pacific whiting harvest specifications published in the *Federal Register* and are effective on May 7, 2013.

Whiting Allocations available for Coops

The Pacific whiting season for the at-sea sectors begins May 15, 2013. The allocation of Pacific whiting between the at-sea sectors is as follows:

- 48,970 mt for the mothership sector; and
- 69,373 mt for the catcher/processor sector.

For 2013, there is one mothership cooperative

(coop). All mothership catcher vessel (MS/CV) endorsed limited entry trawl permits owners elected to participate in the coop fishery. There is no allocation to the non-coop fishery because no permits are assigned to the non-coop fishery. Accordingly, the mothership coop is allocated 100% of the mothership sector allocation. 100% of the catcher/processor sector allocation is allocated to the single catcher/processor coop, as per §660.160(c)(2). The coops will be notified of their allocation of Pacific whiting and allocations of non-groundfish species through a cover letter with their coop permit.

QS Accounts - Whiting

In January 2013, NMFS issued interim allocations of Pacific halibut, Pacific whiting, and some additional

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NMFS Trawl Program Website

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species caught on whiting trips, to the Shorebased IFQ Program and to quota share (QS) permit owners through their QS accounts. On April 11, 2013, NMFS credited QS accounts with additional Pacific halibut QP (i.e., “topped-up”), based on the final Area 2A TCEY.

The interim amount for Pacific whiting was a conservative allocation to remain in place until the final harvest specifications for the whiting fishery were implemented and until NMFS responded to the court order on *Pacific Dawn v. Bryson*, No. C10-4829 TEH (N.D. Cal.). The interim amount for some additional species associated with whiting trips was a conservative amount until NMFS responded to the court order. Both of these NMFS actions have occurred.

The shorebased sector allocation of Pacific whiting for 2013 is 85,697 mt.

By close of business on May 7, 2013, NMFS will credit QS accounts with additional Pacific whiting QP (i.e., “topped-up”) and additional QP for species associated with whiting trips. QS permit owners should check their QS accounts for this additional QP. To see the exact amount of additional QP added, users should go to the transfer or message tab in their QS account. As a reminder, all QP in a QS account must be transferred to one or more vessel accounts by September 1 each year. See the attached table titled, “*2013 Shorebased Trawl Vessel Limits*” which has been updated to reflect the final whiting allocation to the Shorebased IFQ Program, and shows the resulting pounds associated with vessel limits.

Vessel Accounts – Carryover

In the Shorebased IFQ Program, NMFS will issue surplus carryover from 2012 to 2013 vessel accounts for most IFQ species except:

- Pacific whiting,
- Petrale sole,
- Lingcod north of 40°10’ N. lat., and
- Lingcod south of 40°10’ N. lat.

NMFS considered the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (PFMC’s) recommendation on carryover from its March 2013 meeting in making its surplus carryover decision. Consistent with the PFMC

recommendation, NMFS will not issue surplus carryover for Pacific whiting at this time to adhere to the international whiting treaty agreement, where a method for addressing the fact that carryover of unused Pacific whiting already exists.

However, NMFS will not issue surplus carryover for petrale sole and lingcod. NMFS is not issuing surplus carryover for petrale sole due to the high risk of exceeding the 2013 ACL for this overfished species, and issuing surplus carryover would further increase this risk. NMFS is not issuing surplus carryover for lingcod until the PFMC and NMFS have considered how reallocations by geographic area affect surplus carryover. In this case lingcod changed from a coastwide IFQ species to being divided north and south of 40°10’ N. lat. The final rule for the 2013/2014 harvest specifications and management measures (78 FR 580, 1/3/2013) highlighted this issue on p.584, stating “the PFMC and NMFS need to consider how reallocations affect surplus carryover, QS control limits (including aggregate non-whiting groundfish species), and potentially, a different solution to deficit carryover.”

For 2013 vessel accounts with IFQ species eligible for surplus carryover, NMFS will credit surplus carryover QPs from 2012 by close of business on May 7, 2013. In addition, due to the complex nature of calculating surplus carryover, NMFS will mail individual surplus carryover calculations to each vessel owner eligible for surplus carryover. NMFS will also post surplus carryover frequently asked questions to the NWR vessel account page, under Manage an Existing Vessel Account.

NMFS will not issue surplus carryover in excess of daily or annual vessel limits and any surplus carryover above vessel limits will be permanently expired.

Changes to Online IFQ System

NMFS would like to remind online IFQ account holders about the changes made to the system on May 7, 2013, and previously announced in our April 11, 2013 public notice. Last year, vessel account owners needed to initiate separate transfers for three distinct “currencies” or types of quota pounds (QPs): current year QPs, surplus carryover QPs, and tribal

whiting reapportionment QPs. In the future, set-aside QPs could also be credited to the Shorebased IFQ sector, which could create an additional currency. In an effort to streamline and simplify the IFQ account system, NMFS will now track two “currencies”: current year QPs and other QPs. “Current year QPs” will continue to consist of QPs allocated to the shorebased IFQ sector in the current year and will continue to be eligible towards the calculation of any surplus carryover in the following year. “Other QPs” will consist of any surplus carryover QPs, tribal whiting reapportionment QPs and any future set-aside QPs, and this currency type will continue to expire at the end of the year and will not be eligible towards the calculation of any surplus carryover in the following year.

CURRENT 2013 SHOREBASED IFQ VESSEL LIMITS

4/22/2013

Below is a table showing the shorebased trawl vessel limits for IFQ species in pounds based on the shorebased trawl allocations and resulting pounds for the Shorebased IFQ Program, for 2013 (77 FR 67974, dated November 14, 2012; 50 CFR 660.140(d)(1)(ii)(D)) and the vessel limits specified at 50 CFR 660.140(e)(4). These values are used to calculate the amount of QP that can be transferred to a vessel account. Values for Pacific halibut and Pacific whiting change between interim and final. Values in this table that increased from the previous update in 2013 Shorebased IFQ Program allocation (4/11/2013) are denoted in bold (only Pacific whiting changed).

The **Annual QP Limit** is the total amount of QP (used, unused available, and pending outgoing transfers) that may be registered to a single vessel during the year. It applies to the sum of your catch to date (landings + discards), available QP balance, and pending outgoing transfers, which is displayed in the year to date column (for annual vessel limit calculation) on your vessel account summary page. The Non-whiting Groundfish Species Annual QP Limit is an overall limit applying to the sum of every IFQ species (excluding Pacific whiting and Pacific halibut).

The **Daily QP Limit** is the total amount of unused QP (available QP balance plus pending outgoing transfers) that may be registered to a vessel at any time.

IFQ Category	Shorebased trawl allocation (mt)	Total Pounds for Shorebased IFQ Program	QP Vessel Limit (Annual Limit, %)	Associated Annual QP Limit (lbs.)	Unused QP Vessel Limit (Daily Limit, %)	Associated Daily QP Limit (lbs.)
Arrowtooth flounder	3846.1	8,479,264	20.0%	1,695,853		
Bocaccio rockfish South of 40°10' N.	74.9	165,126	15.4%	25,429	13.2%	21,797
Canary rockfish	39.9	87,964	10.0%	8,796	4.4%	3,870
Chilipepper rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1099.5	2,423,983	15.0%	363,597		
Cowcod South of 40°10' N.	1.0	2,205	17.7%	390	17.7%	390
Darkblotched rockfish	266.7	587,976	6.8%	39,982	4.5%	26,459
Dover sole	22234.5	49,018,682	3.9%	1,911,729		
English sole	6365.0	14,032,486	7.5%	1,052,436		
Lingcod N. of 40°10' N. lat.	1222.6	2,695,305	5.3%	142,851		
Lingcod S. of 40°10' N. lat.	494.4	1,089,993	13.3%	144,969		
Longspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	1859.9	4,100,267	9.0%	369,024		
Minor shelf rockfish North of 40°10' N.	508.0	1,119,948	7.5%	83,996		
Minor shelf rockfish South of 40°10' N.	81.0	178,574	13.5%	24,108		
Minor slope rockfish North of 40°10' N.	776.9	1,712,835	7.5%	128,463		
Minor slope rockfish South of 40°10' N.	376.1	829,181	9.0%	74,626		
Other flatfish	4189.6	9,236,501	15.0%	1,385,475		
Pacific cod	1125.3	2,480,830	20.0%	496,166		
Pacific halibut (IBQ) North of 40°10' N.	107.3	236,660	14.4%	34,079	5.4%	12,780
Pacific ocean perch North of 40°10' N.	109.4	241,241	6.0%	14,474	4.0%	9,650
Pacific whiting	85,697	188,929,545	15.0%	28,339,432		
Petrale sole	2318.0	5,110,315	4.5%	229,964		
Sablefish North of 36° N.	1828.0	4,030,050	4.5%	181,352		
Sablefish South of 36° N.	602.3	1,327,800	15.0%	199,170		
Shortspine thornyheads North of 34°27' N.	1385.4	3,054,183	9.0%	274,877		
Shortspine thornyheads South of 34°27' N.	50.0	110,231	9.0%	9,921		
Splitnose rockfish South of 40°10' N.	1518.1	3,346,838	15.0%	502,026		
Starry flounder	751.5	1,656,774	20.0%	331,355		
Widow rockfish	993.8	2,191,016	8.5%	186,236	5.1%	111,742
Yelloweye rockfish	1.0	2,205	11.4%	251	5.7%	126
Yellowtail rockfish North of 40°10' N.	2635.3	5,809,905	7.5%	435,743		
Sum Non-whiting Groundfish Species	NA	125,210,079	3.2%	4,006,723		

