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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Proposed Rule to Modify Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Regulations Pertaining to Certified Observers and Catch Monitors in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

The West Coast Region has published a proposed rule pertaining to permitting requirements for businesses that provide certified observers and catch monitors. This rule would remove the existing regulations requiring vessels to obtain certified observers from permitted providers for the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program, and would establish provider permitting requirements specific to the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. In addition, regulations specifying certification procedures for catch monitor providers would be converted to permitting procedures. Because some provider businesses in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery provide both observers and catch monitors, a combined permitting process for observer and catch monitor providers would be implemented at 50 CFR § 660.18. In addition, the proposed rule updates observer provider and vessel responsibilities relative to observer safety, and addresses numerous minor administrative changes.

This proposed rule can be found on the West Coast Region's website at:
<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/2014/79fr9592.pdf>