



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:  
Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140  
Fisheries Permit Office (206) 526-4353

NMFS-SEA-13-14  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 19, 2013

### PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

#### **A proposed rule, the Program Improvement and Enhancement Rule (PIE 2) is available for public comment**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the publication of a proposed rule, the Program Improvement and Enhancement Rule (PIE 2), in the Federal Register that proposes revisions to the Pacific coast groundfish trawl rationalization program (program), a catch share program, and includes clarifications of regulations that affect the limited entry trawl and limited entry fixed gear sectors managed under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

This proposed action would include the following, by category of a) implementation of original program, b) increasing flexibility or efficiency, and c) minor revisions/clarifications:

(A) Implementation of Original Program

1. Establish quota share (QS) permit application and QS transfer regulations,

(B) Increasing Flexibility or Efficiency

2. Clarify exceptions for lenders from control rules,
3. Change the opt-out requirement for quota pound (QP) deficits,
4. Eliminate double filing of co-op reports (November and March),
5. Revise first receiver site license requirements (FRSL), including site inspection and expiration date,
6. Remove end of the year ban on QP transfers between vessel accounts,

(C) Minor Revisions/Clarifications

7. Remove the term “permit holder” from groundfish regulations and replace with “vessel owner”, “permit owner”, or “owner of a vessel registered to a limited entry permit” as applicable,
8. Revise the process for a permit holder (vessel owner) to change their vessel ownership,
9. Clarify that the processor obligation may be to more than one mothership (MS) permit,
10. Revise the mothership catcher vessel (MS/CV) endorsement restriction given severability,
11. Clarify sorting requirement for full retention so “predominant species” means only one species,
12. Clarify the accumulation limits calculation for compliance with the annual QP vessel limit in vessel accounts,
13. Add a prohibition against failing to establish a new vessel account, following a change in vessel ownership, prior to fishing in the Shorebased IFQ program, and
14. Add a prohibition against landing fish from an IFQ trip to a first receiver without a valid FRSL.

The Federal Register notice for this proposed rule published on July 19, 2013, and is available

on the NMFS Northwest Region website at:

[http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish\\_trawl\\_catch\\_share/groundfish\\_trawl\\_catch\\_share\\_program.html](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/fisheries/groundfish_trawl_catch_share/groundfish_trawl_catch_share_program.html)

NMFS solicits written public comments on the proposed PIE 2 rule. Comments must be received by NMFS no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on August 19, 2013.

You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2013-0086, 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-2013-0086](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0086), 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.

**Paperwork Reduction Act**

NMFS is requesting, from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), a revision and three-year extension of a previously approved information collection, OMB Control No. 0648-0620. This collection includes applications and registrations for all sectors of the trawl rationalization program. NMFS is soliciting written public comments on the collection as part of the public comment process on the PIE 2 rulemaking. To submit a comment on this collection of information, please follow the PIE 2 instructions for public comment discussed in this public notice.

***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>