



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region  
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[www.nwr.noaa.gov](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:  
The Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140

NMFS-SEA-10-17  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 6, 2010

### PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

#### Trawl Rationalization Program

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

1. A final rule (75 FR 60868, October 1, 2010) implementing part of the trawl rationalization program (program).
2. Application period open until November 1, 2010.
3. A compliance guide for the final rule.

The initial issuance final rule, information on the applications, blank applications, and the compliance guide are posted on NMFS Trawl Program website at:

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

#### **Initial Issuance Final Rule & Compliance Guide**

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The “initial issuance” final rule implements the process for initial issuance of new permits and endorsements for the program, implements sector allocations, and restructures the entire groundfish regulations at 50 CFR part 660. This final rule does not address all of the components of the trawl rationalization program; an additional rulemaking for further details of the program was proposed on August 31, 2010 (75 FR 53380) (see the public notice dated August 31, 2010).

A small entity compliance guide (compliance guide) is available on NMFS Trawl Program website. The compliance guide provides a general overview of the program, a plain language guide to the application process for new permits and endorsements implemented through the initial issuance final rule, and responses to frequently asked questions.

#### **Applications**

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NMFS has sent out pre-filled applications by certified mail for the following new permits and endorsements:

- Quota share (QS) permit
- Mothership catcher vessel (MS/CV) endorsement
- Mothership (MS) permit
- Catcher/processor (C/P) endorsement

In addition, blank applications for these new permits and endorsements are available on NMFS Trawl Program website.

**ALL APPLICATIONS (either pre-filled or blank) MUST BE COMPLETED AND POSTMARKED OR HAND-DELIVERED TO NMFS NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE (Bldg. 1) BY 5pm LOCAL TIME ON NOVEMBER 1, 2010.**

The application instructions detail how to respond in the event that the applicant does not agree with

the calculations they receive from NMFS in the pre-filled application. Any corrections to the pre-filled application must be included with the application and returned to NMFS by the November 1, 2010 deadline. This is a one-time opportunity to apply for this permit and an initial issuance of QS and individual bycatch quota (IBQ). There are no hardship exemptions for missing this deadline. A compliance guide is available on NMFS Trawl Program website to assist applicants in the application and initial issuance process.

#### Application Fee

In order for an application to be considered complete, the application must include payment of the application fee. The application fee is payable by check or money order payable to “**U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA.**” Applicants should include an identifier, such as the permit number, first receiver name, or vessel number, on their payment. The following application fees apply:

- QS permit: \$600
- MS/CV endorsement: \$120
- MS permit: \$195
- C/P endorsement: \$70

#### Permit Transfers during Application Period

NMFS will not review or approve any request for a change in limited entry trawl permit owner at any time after either November 1, 2010, or the date upon which the application is received by NMFS, whichever occurs first, until a final decision is made by the Regional Administrator on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce regarding the initial issuance. Changes in vessel registration will continue to be allowed.

#### First Receiver Site License, QS Account, Vessel Account

Applications for a first receiver site licenses, creation of QS accounts, and registration for vessel accounts is expected to begin in December 2010.

## **Observer and Catch Monitor Providers**

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In addition, NMFS encourages participants to begin contacting observer providers and catch monitor providers so that providers can adequately plan for participants’ needs in 2011. Contacts for observer providers are available on the NMFS Fact Sheet: *Observer Program Frequently Asked Questions* listed on NMFS Trawl Program website. Contacts for catch monitor providers are available on the NMFS Fact Sheet: *Catch Monitor Providers for IFQ First Receivers*. These providers are also listed below:

1. **Alaskan Observer, Inc.,**  
Contact: David Edick,  
(206) 283-7310,  
aoistaff@alaskanobservers.com
2. **MRAG Americas, Inc.,**  
Contact: Bryan Belay,  
(907) 677-8772,  
bryan.belay@mragamericas.com
3. **NWO, Inc.,**  
Contact: Stacey Hanson,  
(425) 673-6445,  
alaska@nwoinc.com
4. **Saltwater, Inc.,**  
Contact: Tim Carroll/Kathy Robinson,  
(907) 276-3241,  
tim@saltwaterinc.com,  
kathy@saltwaterinc.com
5. **TechSea International, Inc.,**  
Contact: Troy Quinlan,  
(206) 285-1408,  
Info@Techsea.com

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

Subscribe to “**wcgroundfish**” by visiting the following website: [http://listserver.afsc.noaa.gov/read/all\\_forums/subscribe?name=wcgroundfish](http://listserver.afsc.noaa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wcgroundfish)