



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-03-18
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 23, 2003

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY DECLARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LIMITED ENTRY, OPEN ACCESS AND TRIBAL FISHERS

Effective January 1, 2004, declaration reports will be required from the following vessel groups:

Limited Entry, Open Access, and Tribal Vessels Using Trawl Gear

All limited entry vessels with trawl endorsements, and open access or tribal vessels using trawl gear will be required to send a declaration report before the vessel is used to fish (applies to all State of Federal fisheries) in any trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) or a Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA).

Limited Entry Fixed gear vessels

Limited entry vessels with longline and pot endorsements, must send a declaration report before the vessel can fish (applies to all State of Federal fisheries) in any non-trawl RCA or the CCA's.

- Declaration reports must be submitted using the Interactive-Voice-Recording (IVR) system described below and they must be received by NMFS Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) before the vessel leaves port on a trip in which the vessel is used to fish in an RCA or a CCA.
- A declaration report must be submitted and received by NMFS OLE before leaving port on the first trip during the calendar year where a vessel will be used to fish in a RCA or a CCA.
- A declaration report will be valid until a new declaration report is received by NMFS or until a declaration report to cancel fishing in a RCA or CCA is submitted and received by NMFS OLE.

Visit the NMFS Northwest Region website for current groundfish management regulations, VMS information, and RCA boundary coordinates and maps.

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfish/gdfsh01.htm>

Join our email list to receive public notices electronically by sending an email to:

- After a declaration report to cancel fishing in a RCA or a CCA was received by NMFS OLE and before a vessel leaves port on another trip in which the vessel will be used to fish in an RCA or a CCA, a new declaration report must be submitted and received by NMFS OLE.
- If the type of fishing gear used to fish in a RCA or CCA changes to a different gear declaration category (shown below), a new declaration report must be submitted and received by NMFS before the vessel leaves port.
- A declaration report needs to be cancelled when a new gear type, that is no longer consistent with the RCA requirements, will be used by the vessel. Following the cancellation of a declaration report, a new declaration report must be sent before the vessel leaves port on a trip in which the vessel is used to fish in an RCA or a CCA.

Gear Declaration Categories

- 10 - Limited entry fixed gear
- 20 - Limited entry midwater trawl gear
- 30 - Limited entry bottom trawl gear
- 41 - Pink shrimp or ridgeback prawn trawl gear
- 42 - California halibut trawl gear
- 43 - Sea cucumber trawl gear
- 50 - Tribal trawl gear
- 60 - Spot and ridgeback prawns non-trawl gear
- 61 - Crab or lobster gear
- 62 - Pacific Halibut gear
- 63 - Salmon troll gear
- 64 - California halibut gear
- 65 - California Sheephead gear
- 66 - Gear used to take species under the Highly Migratory Species FMP
- 67 - Gear used to take species under the Coastal Pelagic Species FMP
- 68 - Gear used to take species managed by

The Interactive-Voice-Recording System

Declaration reports will be submitted by using a toll free phone-in system also referred to as an Interactive-Voice-Recording (IVR) system. The IVR system can be accessed by dialing 1-888-585-5518. The caller will be asked a series of questions and will use the touch-tone key pad on the phone to respond. The phone-in system allows vessel operators to submit their report 24 hours a day. The phone-in system will provide a confirmation number that you should keep on record in case you need to verify to NMFS OLE that a report was submitted.

When accessing the IVR system for the first time, please have the following information available:

- Passcode (if a passcode has already been assigned to you, be prepared to enter it. If you do not have a passcode, follow the prompts and you will be assigned one)
- Vessel Documentation Number
- Vessel Name
- Telephone Number
- Declaration Type + Gear code

A declaration report worksheet can be found on NMFS Northwest Region's web page at http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Isustfsh/groundfish/VMS/VMS_Declaration_final.pdf

NMFS, Office for Law Enforcement Web Site
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/Northwest/index.htm>