



PUBLIC NOTICE

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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY **Commercial limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish season tier limits**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the commercial limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery's tier limits for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. These tier limits were recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) and previously announced in the NMFS public notice for the 2005-2006 fishing years dated December 17, 2004 (NMFS-SEA-04-09).

The limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery tier limits for the 2006 season are as follows:

Tier 1 = 62,700 lb
Tier 2 = 28,500 lb
Tier 3 = 16,300 lb

All limits are given in round weight. For more detailed regulations applying to the limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery, see § 660.372 of the Pacific Coast groundfish regulations. The limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery occurs north of 36° N. lat. The primary sablefish season for limited entry, fixed gear vessels begins at 12 noon l.t. on April 1 and ends at 12 noon l.t. on October 31. If a vessel is registered for use with a sablefish-endorsed limited entry permit, all sablefish taken after April 1 count against the cumulative limits associated with the permit(s) registered for use with that vessel.

A vessel that is eligible to participate in the primary sablefish season may participate in the daily trip limit fishery for sablefish once that vessel's primary season sablefish limit(s) have been taken, or after October 31, whichever occurs first. No vessel may land sablefish against both its primary season cumulative sablefish limits and against the daily trip limit fishery limits within the same 24 hour period of 0001 hour l.t. to 2400 hours l.t. If a vessel has taken all of its tier limit except for an amount that is smaller than the daily trip limit amount, that vessel's subsequent sablefish landings are automatically subject to daily and/or weekly trip limits.

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

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>

Join our email list to receive public notices electronically by sending an email to: westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on "Pacific Coast Groundfish;" NMFS Southwest Region at 562-980-4000; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

Any discrepancies between this public notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.