

Rulemaking Plan for 2016
Groundfish and Halibut

In addition to a list of groundfish and halibut actions that have published in 2016, NMFS is providing a list of rulemakings that are currently in progress.

Published

1. Reapportionment of Tribal Whiting (81 FR 183, 1/5/2016)
2. Proposed Rule for comprehensive ecosystem-based amendment 1 (81 FR 215, 1/19/2016)
3. Proposed Rule to revise scale requirements (81 FR 2831, 1/19/2016)
4. Notice of Intent, EIS on gear change action (81 FR 5102, 2/1/2016)

In Progress

	<i>Rule</i>	<i>Timing (Tentative)</i>	<i>Sectors Affected</i>
1	Midwater Recreational Fishery off Oregon	Proposed Rule – summer 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	Oregon Recreational
2	Sablefish Rule Includes: Registering a LE trawl and fixed gear permit to a vessel at same time (joint registration), sablefish-endorsed LE fixed gear ownership issues, electronic fish tickets	Proposed Rule – summer 2016 Final Rule – fall 2016 Effective January 1, 2017	LE Trawl (IFQ), LE fixed gear, OA
3	Scale Changes	Proposed rule –2016 Final rule – May 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ/MS/CP)
4	Gear Modifications	Proposed rule – summer 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ/MS/CP)
5	Tribal Whiting	Proposed rule – February 2016	Tribal
6	Pacific Whiting	Final rule – May 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ/MS/CP), Tribal
7	Pacific Halibut Annual Regulations	Proposed rule – February 2016 Final Rule – April 2016	LE FG Primary
8	Electronic monitoring	Proposed rule – summer 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ)
9	Widow reallocation	TBD – effective 2017	LE Trawl
10	Tribal U&A boundary modifications	Final Rule – spring 2016	Tribal

11	2017-2018 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures	Proposed Rule – fall 2016 Final Rule – January 1, 2017	LE, OA, Tribal, Recreational
12	Vessel Movement Monitoring	Proposed rule – fall 2016 Final Rule – January 1, 2017	LE and OA
13	Inseason adjustments to incidental halibut retention in the sablefish primary fishery	Final Rule – effective April 2016	LE FG Primary

NMFS Near-Term Priorities

As stated in November 2014 ([Agenda Item J.1.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#)) and consistent with the previous groundfish workload priorities from November 2015 ([Agenda Item F.6., Attachment 4](#)), NMFS maintains attention to routine actions (e.g. groundfish, whiting, and halibut specifications & inseason actions) and several actions already at various stages of implementation (e.g., electronic monitoring, ecosystem/Am 25, sablefish, widow reallocation, and Essential Fish Habitat phase 3/regulations).

In addition to rulemakings, NMFS has the following near-term priorities:

- Salmon ESA Section 7 Consultation for Groundfish FMP.
- Eulachon ESA Section 7 Consultation for Groundfish FMP.
- ESA section 7 Consultation on Pacific Halibut Fisheries and Catch Sharing Plan