

RULEMAKING PLAN FOR 2016/2017
 GROUND FISH

NMFS provides notice of groundfish actions that have published since the September, 2016 Council meeting (Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1), as well as a list of rulemakings that are currently in progress.

In Progress:

	<i>Rule</i>	<i>Timing (Tentative)</i>	<i>Sectors Affected</i>
1	Midwater Recreational Fishery off Oregon	Proposed rule – December 2016 Final rule – winter/spring 2017	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	Final rule – October 2016 Effective November 2016, except requirements for use of electronic fish tickets, which will be effective January 1, 2017	Limited Entry (LE) Trawl (e.g Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)), LE fixed gear, Open Access (OA)
3	Trawl Gear Modifications	Contingent on EFP and ESA Consultation Rulemaking Schedule To be Determined	LE Trawl IFQ, Mothership (MS), Catcher-Processor (C/P)
4	Electronic monitoring	Proposed rule – September 2016 Final rule – mid November 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ)
5	Widow reallocation	Final rule – mid November 2016	LE Trawl
6	2017-2018 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures and Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 27	Proposed rule – October 2016 Final rule – January 2017	LE, OA, Tribal, Recreational
7	Vessel Movement Monitoring	Proposed rule – January 2017 Final rule – April 2017	LE and OA
8	Amendment 21 At-Sea Sector Set-Asides for darkblotched rockfish and Pacific Ocean perch	Proposed rule – summer 2017 Final rule – Fall 2017	LE Trawl At-Sea Sectors (MS, C/P)

NMFS Near-Term Priorities

In addition to rulemakings and responding to litigation (including recent Ninth Circuit Court Decision on Cost Recovery), and divestiture (Pacific Choice), NMFS has the following near-term priorities:

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

Trawl Gear EFP. An EFP to test components of the trawl gear modifications rule. Target date, if possible, is early February 2017.

Non-whiting Midwater Trawl and Bottom Trawl EFP. An EFP to continue allowing these trawl vessels to test Electronic Monitoring in 2017 through 2018.

NMFS also maintains attention to routine actions (e.g. groundfish, whiting, halibut specifications & inseason actions) and actions already at various stages of implementation (e.g., Essential Fish Habitat/RCA's).