

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)
5. Proposed Rule, Pacific Halibut Fisheries, Catch Sharing Plan (81 FR 8466, 2/19/2016)
6. Tribal whiting proposed rule (81 FR 12676, 3/10/2016)

In Progress

	<i>Rule</i>	<i>Timing (Tentative)</i>	<i>Sectors Affected</i>
1	Midwater Recreational Fishery off Oregon	Proposed rule – summer/fall 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	Proposed rule – spring 2016 Final rule – late summer 2016 Effective January 1, 2017	LE Trawl (IFQ), LE fixed gear, OA
3	Scale Changes	Proposed rule –2015 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	Pacific Whiting	Final rule – May 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ/MS/CP), Tribal
6	Pacific Halibut Annual Regulations	Final rule – April 2016	LE FG Primary
7	Electronic monitoring	Proposed rule – summer 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ)

	<i>Rule</i>	<i>Timing (Tentative)</i>	<i>Sectors Affected</i>
8	Widow reallocation	Proposed rule – May 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	LE Trawl
9	Tribal U&A boundary modifications	Final rule – spring 2016	Tribal
10	2017-2018 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures	Proposed rule – fall 2016 Final rule – January 1, 2017	LE, OA, Tribal, Recreational
11	Vessel Movement Monitoring	Proposed rule – fall 2016 Final rule – January 1, 2017	LE and OA
12	Inseason adjustments to incidental halibut retention in the sablefish primary fishery	Final rule – effective April 2016	LE FG Primary

NMFS Near-Term Priorities

NMFS maintains attention to routine actions (e.g. groundfish, whiting, 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/RCA).

In addition to rulemakings and responding to litigation, 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