

RULEMAKING PLAN FOR 2016
 GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT

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

Published

1. Final Rule for comprehensive ecosystem-based amendment 1 (81 FR 19054, 4/05/2016).
2. Final Rule to revise scale requirements (81 FR 27006, 5/05/2016).
3. Final Rule for Pacific whiting for 2016 (81 FR 30203, 5/12/2016).

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 – May 2016 Final rule – late summer 2016 Effective January 1, 2017	LE Trawl (IFQ), LE fixed gear, OA
3	Gear Modifications	Proposed rule – summer 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ/MS/CP)
4	Electronic monitoring	Proposed rule – summer 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	LE Trawl (IFQ)
5	Widow reallocation	Proposed rule – June 2016 Final rule – fall 2016	LE Trawl
6	Tribal U&A boundary modifications	Final rule – June 2016	Tribal
7	2017-2018 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures	Proposed rule – fall 2016 Final rule – January 1, 2017	LE, OA, Tribal, Recreational
8	Vessel Movement Monitoring	Proposed rule – fall 2016 Final rule – January 1, 2017	LE and OA

NMFS Near-Term Priorities

NMFS maintains attention to routine actions (e.g. groundfish, whiting, halibut specifications and 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