

## **Supplemental NMFS Report Agenda Item F.1.a Regulatory Activities**

This supplemental NMFS report is intended to notify the Council and affected fishery participants of a change NMFS intends to make to the regulations for permit and IFQ forms.

### **Proposed Change in the Notarization Requirement for Permit and IFQ Forms**

The NMFS West Coast Region is proposing to remove the requirement for groundfish permit applications and other forms submitted to the Groundfish Permits Office to be notarized.

The West Coast Region typically requires permit applications and other forms to be notarized before being submitted to NMFS to certify the validity of their contents. However, this requirement was recently reviewed by the NOAA Office of General Counsel and determined to offer marginal legal benefit to the Agency. The certification statement given on groundfish permit forms is sufficient to hold the authorized representative certifying the form legally liable for its contents. Therefore, NMFS is proposing to eliminate the requirement for groundfish permit forms to be notarized to reduce the administrative burden of the permit requirements.

NMFS intends to propose this change to the groundfish regulations in the proposed rule for vessel movement monitoring. The proposed rule is expected to publish in the early spring of 2016. Interested parties can sign up on the West Coast Region's email list to receive a notification when the proposed rule publishes:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery\\_management/groundfish/public\\_notices/groundfish\\_email\\_group\\_signup.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/groundfish/public_notices/groundfish_email_group_signup.html)

In the meantime, we will be updating the following forms on our website to the notary requirement:

- Groundfish limited entry permit owner and vessel registration (transfer) form
- Sablefish ownership interest form
- Trawl ownership interest form
- First receiver site license application
- Mothership/catcher vessel transfer form