

EXCERPT FROM THE GROUND FISH BOTTOM TRAWL AND MIDWATER TRAWL
GEAR IN THE TRAWL RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM – FINAL RULE REFERENCING
CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED RULE

For full text, refer to [83 FR 62269](#)

VI. [Changes From the Proposed Rule](#)

The proposed rule for this action contained all the measures that the Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended, including a measure that would eliminate the requirement to use selective flatfish trawl gear north of 40°10' N lat. and shoreward of the trawl RCA, and replace it with a small footrope trawl gear requirement. The proposed rule also highlighted NMFS' concerns that the removal of the requirement to use selective flatfish trawl gear shoreward of the trawl RCA between 40°10' N lat. and 42° N lat. may be inconsistent with the terms and conditions of the 2017 Salmon Biological Opinion.

After consideration of public comment we preliminarily determined that, in order to maintain consistency with the 2017 Salmon Biological Opinion, it was only appropriate to remove the selective flatfish trawl requirement north of 42° N lat. This final rule would implement a revised version of the regulation put forward in the proposed rule, and would maintain the selective flatfish trawl requirement between 40°10' N lat. and 42° N lat. Vessels fishing in the area between 40°10' N lat. and 42° N lat. would be required to use selective flatfish trawl gear in a two- or four-seam net. North of 42° N lat., vessels would be allowed to fish with any type of small footrope trawl gear, including selective flatfish trawl gear.