

§ 660.321

the limited entry and open access allocations are in the PCGFMP.

(e) *Treaty Indian fisheries.* Certain amounts of groundfish may be set aside biennially or annually for tribal fisheries prior to dividing the balance of the allowable catch between the limited entry and open access fisheries. Tribal fisheries conducted under a set-aside are not subject to the regulations governing limited entry and open access fisheries.

(f) *Recreational fisheries.* Recreational fishing for groundfish is outside the scope of, and not affected by, the regulations governing limited entry and open access fisheries. Certain amounts of groundfish may be specifically allocated to the recreational fishery, and will be set aside prior to dividing the commercial allocation between the commercial limited entry and open access fisheries.

[61 FR 34572, July 2, 1996, as amended at 68 FR 52523, Sept. 4, 2003. Redesignated at 69 FR 42350, July 15, 2004]

§ 660.321 Black rockfish harvest guideline.

From the commercial harvest of black rockfish off Washington State, a treaty Indian tribes' harvest guideline is set of 20,000 lb (9,072 kg) for the area north of Cape Alava, WA (48°09.50' N. lat) and 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) for the area between Destruction Island, WA (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point, WA (46°38.17' N. lat.). This harvest guideline applies and is available to the treaty Indian tribes identified in § 660.324(b).

[69 FR 77029, Dec. 23, 2004]

§ 660.322 Sablefish allocations.

(a) *Tribal-nontribal allocation.* The sablefish allocation to Pacific coast treaty Indian tribes identified at § 660.324(b) is 10 percent of the sablefish total catch OY for the area north of 36° N. lat. This allocation represents the total amount available to the treaty Indian fisheries before deductions for discard mortality. The annual tribal sablefish allocations are provided in § 660.385(a).

(b) *Between the limited entry and open access sectors.* Sablefish is allocated between the limited entry and open ac-

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cess fisheries according to the procedure described in § 660.320(a).

(c) *Between the limited entry trawl and limited entry nontrawl sectors.* The limited entry sablefish allocation is further allocated 58 percent to the trawl sector and 42 percent to the nontrawl (longline and pot/trap) sector.

(d) *Between the limited entry fixed gear primary season and daily trip limit fisheries.* Within the limited entry nontrawl sector allocation, 85 percent is reserved for the primary season described in § 660.372(b), leaving 15 percent for the limited entry daily trip limit fishery described in § 660.372(c).

(e) *Ratios between tiers for sablefish endorsed limited entry permit holders.* The Regional Administrator will biennially or annually calculate the size of the cumulative trip limit for each of the three tiers associated with the sablefish endorsement such that the ratio of limits between the tiers is approximately 1:1.75:3.85 for Tier 3:Tier 2:Tier 1, respectively. The size of the cumulative trip limits will vary depending on the amount of sablefish available for the primary fishery and on estimated discard mortality rates within the fishery. The size of the cumulative trip limits for the three tiers in the primary fishery will be announced in § 660.372.

[69 FR 77029, Dec. 23, 2004]

§ 660.323 Pacific whiting allocations, allocation attainment, and inseason allocation reapportionment.

(a) *Allocations.* (1) Annual treaty tribal whiting allocations are provided in § 660.385(e).

(2) The non-tribal commercial harvest guideline for whiting is allocated among three sectors, as follows: 34 percent for the catcher/processor sector; 24 percent for the mothership sector; and 42 percent for the shoreside sector. No more than 5 percent of the shoreside allocation may be taken and retained south of 42° N. lat. before the start of the primary whiting season north of 42° N. lat. Specific sector allocations for a given fishing year are found in tables 1a and 2a of this subpart.

(b) *Reaching an allocation.* If the whiting harvest guideline, commercial harvest guideline, or a sector's allocation is reached, or is projected to be

reached, the following action(s) for the applicable sector(s) may be taken as provided under paragraph (e) of this section and will remain in effect until additional amounts are made available the next fishing year or under paragraph (e) of this section.

(1) *Catcher/processor sector.* Further taking and retaining, receiving, or at-sea processing of whiting by a catcher/processor is prohibited. No additional unprocessed whiting may be brought on board after at-sea processing is prohibited, but a catcher/processor may continue to process whiting that was on board before at-sea processing was prohibited.

(2) *Mothership sector.* Further receiving or at-sea processing of whiting by a mothership is prohibited. No additional unprocessed whiting may be brought on board after at-sea processing is prohibited, but a mothership may continue to process whiting that was on board before at-sea processing was prohibited. Whiting may not be taken and retained, possessed, or landed by a catcher vessel participating in the mothership sector.

(3) *Shoreside sector.* Whiting may not be taken and retained, possessed, or landed by a catcher vessel participating in the shoreside sector except as authorized under a trip limit specified under § 660.370(c).

(4) *Shoreside south of 42° N. lat.* If 5 percent of the shoreside allocation for whiting is taken and retained south of 42° N. lat. before the primary season for the shoreside sector begins north of 42° N. lat., then a trip limit specified under § 660.370(c) may be implemented south of 42° N. lat. until the northern primary season begins, at which time the southern primary season would resume.

(c) *Reapportionments.* That portion of a sector's allocation that the Regional Administrator determines will not be used by the end of the fishing year shall be made available for harvest by the other sectors, if needed, in proportion to their initial allocations, on September 15 or as soon as practicable thereafter. NMFS may release whiting again at a later date to ensure full utilization of the resource. Whiting not needed in the fishery authorized under § 660.324 may also be made available.

(d) *Estimates.* Estimates of the amount of whiting harvested will be based on actual amounts harvested, projections of amounts that will be harvested, or a combination of the two. Estimates of the amount of Pacific whiting that will be used by shoreside processors by the end of the fishing year will be based on the best information available to the Regional Administrator from state catch and landings data, the survey of domestic processing capacity and intent, testimony received at Council meetings, and/or other relevant information.

(e) *Announcements.* The Assistant Administrator will announce in the FEDERAL REGISTER when a harvest guideline, commercial harvest guideline, or an allocation of whiting is reached, or is projected to be reached, specifying the appropriate action being taken under paragraph (b) of this section. The Regional Administrator will announce in the FEDERAL REGISTER any reapportionment of surplus whiting to others sectors on September 15, or as soon as practicable thereafter. In order to prevent exceeding the limits or to avoid underutilizing the resource, prohibitions against further taking and retaining, receiving, or at-sea processing of whiting, or reapportionment of surplus whiting may be made effective immediately by actual notice to fishermen and processors, by e-mail, internet (www.nwr.noaa.gov/sustfsh/groundfish/whiting_mgt.htm), phone, fax, letter, press release, and/or USCG Notice to Mariners (monitor channel 16 VHF), followed by publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER, in which instance public comment will be sought for a reasonable period of time thereafter. If insufficient time exists to consult with the Council, the Regional Administrator will inform the Council in writing of actions taken.

[69 FR 42350, July 15, 2004, as amended at 69 FR 77029, Dec. 23, 2004; 70 FR 22812, May 3, 2005; 70 FR 28853, May 19, 2005; 71 FR 29262, May 22, 2006]

§ 660.324 Pacific Coast treaty Indian fisheries.

(a) Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribes have treaty rights to harvest groundfish in their usual and accustomed fishing areas in U.S. waters.