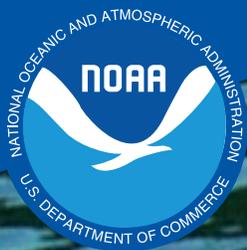


West Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program

2012



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

For more details on the
Catch Share Program,
call 206-526-6140
or go to our website:

[www.nwr.noaa.gov/
Groundfish-Halibut/
Groundfish-Fishery-
Management/Trawl-
Program/index.cfm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Trawl-Program/index.cfm)

For the full groundfish
regulations, see
the Code of Federal
Regulations (CFR) at 50
CFR part 660, subparts
C-G.



Shorebased IFQ Program First Receiver

Overview

In January 2011, the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Fishery transitioned to a new, innovative management approach known as a Catch Share Program. The Catch Share Program consists of a Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for the shorebased trawl fleet and cooperative programs for the at-sea mothership and catcher/processor trawl fleets. The Shorebased IFQ Program requires fishermen to land their catch at IFQ first receivers.

An IFQ first receiver is a person who holds a first receiver site license issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and receives, purchases, or takes custody, control, or possession of catch onshore from a vessel that harvested the catch while fishing under the Shorebased IFQ Program. A first receiver site license is required for each IFQ first receiver (i.e., each person with a state buyer's license) and each physical location where the IFQ first receiver will receive, purchase or take custody, control, or possession of an IFQ landing from a vessel.

The following information highlights what IFQ first receivers need to know to participate in the Shorebased IFQ Program. This information reflects improvements made to the program one year into implementation.

Who is required to apply for a first receiver site license?

All buyers of fish are required to have a first receiver site license for each physical location at which they receive, purchase, or take custody, control, or possession of an IFQ landing. The buyer, as represented on the e-ticket, is required to be the first receiver in all cases.

Persons interested in being licensed as an IFQ first receiver for a specific physical

What are the requirements for a first receiver?

First receivers are *required* to:

1. Hold a current NMFS-issued first receiver site license (Please note that catch monitoring plans must be submitted with first receiver site license applications. They detail how the first receiver will comply with regulatory requirements);
2. Comply with equipment requirements (e.g., scales, computer hardware/software requirements for electronic fish tickets);
3. Report landings through an electronic fish ticket system; and
4. Have a certified catch monitor for the entire duration of an IFQ offload.

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location must submit a complete application for a first receiver site license to NMFS, Northwest Region, Permits Office, ATTN: Catch Monitor Coordinator, Bldg. 1, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. The application must include: a signed, dated, and notarized application form; the application fee; a copy of their state buyer's license; and a catch monitoring plan. NMFS will also check for economic data collection compliance. After receiving a complete first receive site license application, NMFS will contact applicants to arrange a site inspection. NMFS strives to conduct site inspections within 60 days from the date NMFS receives the complete application. After a site inspection is conducted, the applicant may be required to submit an updated catch monitoring plan. NMFS will then issue a letter (also called an initial administrative determination, or IAD) that either approves or disapproves the application. If approved, the IAD will include a first receiver site license. Regulations specific to the first receiver site license and catch monitoring plan are found at § 660.140(f).

What needs to be included in a catch monitoring plan?

Catch monitoring plan guidelines and a template are available on our website at: www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Trawl-Program/index.cfm

How often must I renew a first receiver site license?

The first receiver site license is an annual registration. If a first receiver wants to continue to receive IFQ landings on a continual basis, they must submit a new application in advance of the expiration of their existing license (please allow adequate time and see the calendar handout for dates related to the renewal process).

What are the IFQ first receivers' responsibilities to catch monitors?

A catch monitor must be present at each IFQ first receiver whenever an IFQ landing is received (offloaded, sorted, or weighed), unless a waiver has

been granted by NMFS. Owners or managers of each IFQ first receiver must arrange for catch monitor services from a certified catch monitor provider prior to accepting IFQ landings.

Catch monitoring requirements for IFQ first receivers are specified in regulation at § 660.140(i) and (j).

Generally, IFQ first receivers *must*:

- Adhere to all applicable rules, regulations, or statutes pertaining to safe operation and maintenance of a processing and/or receiving facility;
- Ensure that an individual catch monitor does not work more than 16 hours per calendar day, with a maximum of 14 hours being work other than the summary and submission of catch monitor data;
- Provide catch monitors with a minimum of 6 hours break following a monitoring shift of more than 10 hours;
- Allow catch monitors free and unobstructed access to the catch throughout the sorting and weighing process, and to any documentation required by regulation (e.g. fish tickets, scale printouts, scale test results);
- Provide a secure, dry, and lockable cabinet or locker with the minimum interior dimensions of two feet wide by two feet tall by two feet deep for the exclusive use of the catch monitor and NMFS staff or NMFS-authorized agents;
- Designate a plant liaison responsible for orienting new catch monitors to the facility, assisting in the resolution of catch monitoring concerns, and informing NMFS if changes must be made to the catch monitoring plan;
- Provide reasonable assistance to the catch monitors to enable each catch monitor to carry out his or her duties, including but not limited to: informing the monitor when bycatch species will be weighed, and providing a secure place to store equipment and gear; and
- Notify catch monitors of the offloading schedule to ensure they are present for the entire offloading process.

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What are the requirements for the trucking/transport of IFQ catch?

Beginning in 2012, there are additional reporting requirements for IFQ first receivers and catch monitors to address the trucking or transport of catch. These requirements differ depending on whether the catch is processed at the offload site or whether it is trucked or transported away for processing at a different location.

First Receiver Requirements for Processing Catch at the Offload Site

When offloading at an IFQ first receiver where the fish will be processed at the offload site or if an electronic fish ticket is recorded prior to transport, the following process applies:

1. The first receiver will communicate the e-ticket number to the catch monitor;
2. After completing the offload, the e-ticket information will be recorded immediately;
3. Prior to submittal of the e-ticket, the information recorded for the e-ticket will be reviewed by the catch monitor and the vessel operator who delivered the fish;
4. After review, the first receiver and the vessel operator will sign a printed hard copy of the e-ticket or the original dock ticket if the delivery occurs outside of business hours;
5. Three copies of the signed e-ticket will then be produced by the first receiver with the following distribution: one copy retained by the vessel operator, one copy retained by the first receiver, and one copy sent to the state of origin if required by state regulations; and
6. After review and signature, the e-ticket will be submitted within 24 hours of the completion of the offload.

First Receiver Requirements for Processing Catch at a Different Location than the Offload Site

For offloading at a first receiver where the fish will be transported or trucked for processing at a different location or if an electronic fish ticket is not recorded prior to transport, the following process applies:

1. The first receiver will communicate the e-ticket number to the catch monitor at the beginning of the offload;
2. The vessel name and the e-ticket number will be recorded on each dock ticket related to that delivery. The term "dock ticket," as used here, means a form generally accepted by the state to record the landing, receipt, purchase, or transfer of fish;
3. Upon completion of the dock ticket, but prior to transfer of the offload to another location, the dock ticket information used to complete the e-ticket will be reviewed by the catch monitor and the vessel operator who delivered the fish;
4. After review, the first receiver and the vessel operator will sign the original copy of each dock ticket related to that delivery;
5. Three copies of the signed dock ticket will then be produced by the first receiver with the following distribution: one copy retained by the vessel operator, one copy retained by the first receiver, and one copy sent to the state of origin if required by state regulations;
6. Based on the information contained in the signed dock ticket, the e-ticket will be completed and submitted within 24 hours of completion of the offload;
7. To facilitate monitoring and catch tracking, original dock tickets must be retained by the first receiver submitting the e-ticket as required by state and Federal regulations; and
8. Upon submittal of the e-ticket, three copies of the e-ticket will be produced by the first receiver with the following distribution: one copy retained by the vessel operator, one copy retained by the first receiver, and one copy sent to the state of origin if required by state regulations.

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What must IFQ first receivers include in each electronic fish ticket?

All IFQ first receivers *must* provide the following information in each electronic fish ticket submission:

- Date of landing;
- Vessel making the delivery;
- Vessel account number;
- Name of the vessel operator;
- Gear type used;
- Catch area;
- First receiver site license owner information (state buyer/dealer information);
- Actual weights of all species landed, listed by species or species group, including species with no value;
- Condition of species landed;
- Number of salmon by species;
- Number of Pacific halibut;
- Ex-vessel value of the landing by species;
- Fish caught inside/outside 3 miles or both; and
- Any other information deemed necessary by the Regional Administrator as specified on the appropriate electronic fish ticket form.

In addition, the printed electronic fish ticket includes signature blocks for the vessel operator's written signature and first receiver's written signature. These must be signed accordingly.

IFQ first receivers are required to submit a completed electronic fish ticket for every IFQ landing no later than 24 hours after the fish are received. In the event that a data error occurs, electronic fish ticket submissions may be revised by resubmitting the revised form. Electronic fish tickets are to be used for the submission of final data. Preliminary data, including estimates of fish weights or species composition, must not be submitted on electronic fish tickets.

NMFS requires the information reported by IFQ first receivers on the e-ticket to be true and accurate. If any of the information on the e-ticket changes after submission, including the ex-vessel value of the landing, then the e-ticket should be revised. For example, if the price of Pacific whiting is not known until after the e-ticket is submitted, then the initial e-ticket would report the best estimate of the ex-vessel value and would be revised once the ex-vessel value is known. Because ex-vessel value as reported on the e-ticket may change after sorting or marketing, the first receiver or processor must either edit the e-ticket or submit a revised e-ticket according to state requirements. Similarly, other information on an e-ticket, such as the species and offload weight, may change after the original e-ticket has been submitted due to new information.

How long can a catch monitor be assigned to the same first receiver?

A catch monitor cannot be assigned to the same first receiver for more than 90 days in a 12 month period.

Where can I learn more about requirements for first receivers?

For more information, please see:

- The regulations at §§ 660.140(f), (i), and (j);
- The Compliance Guides for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program, December 2010 and December 2011 (both available on NMFS website); and
- The Catch Monitoring Plan Guidelines and template (also available on NMFS website).