

Washington Fish Dealer's Responsibilities Under NOAA Fisheries Capacity Reduction Program

As a Licensed Commercial Fish Business in the state of Washington, you are obligated under Title 50 Section 600.1102, Pacific Coast Groundfish Fee, to collect fees for repaying the \$35,662,471 reduction loan which financed the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishing Capacity Reduction Program.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

If you are the first buyer of fish, you are responsible for collecting from the vessels (fish sellers) the fee for every pound of fee fish landed on every day until further notice. Fee fish for buyers in Washington are now:

- Groundfish harvested under a Limited Entry Trawl Permit (except whiting catcher-processors)

HOW DO I COLLECT THE FEE?

You simply deduct the fee from the net trip proceeds owed to the fish seller. For example, a fish seller sells \$1,000 worth of fish to you. With the 2.25% fee rate, the fee is \$22.50 ($\$1,000 \times .0225 = \22.50). You pay the fish seller \$977.50 and retain and remit the \$22.50 collected fee. The fee is based on the full, fair-market value of the fee fish which the vessel sells to you. This includes the value of all in-kind compensation or all other goods and services which you pay the vessel in lieu of cash plus any and all deferred cash compensation.

FEE RATE

Each fee rate is a percentage of the full, fair market, gross ex-vessel value of the fee fish and is subject to change:

- Groundfish – 2.25%

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE FEES I COLLECT?

At a minimum, at the end of each month you must deposit the fees collected for that month into a Federally insured depository institution. All deposit accounts must be Federally insured.

You must disburse to NOAA Fisheries the collected fees in the depository accounts at least once a month so that the disbursement reaches NOAA Fisheries by the 14th calendar day of the following month. However, if the depository account of any month is less than \$100, then you do not have to disburse the collected fees until there is over \$100 in the account, except at the end of the year, all funds must be disbursed and received by NOAA Fisheries by the 14th day of the new year.

You may disburse the collected fees to us either electronically or by check. The electronic payment system is named Pay.Gov and can be access at:

<https://www.pay.gov>

You have two Pay.Gov payment options: 1) Bank account debit (ACH) or 2) Credit Card.

Paper checks shall be mailed to the following address:

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Coast
Groundfish Buyback
Post Office Box 979008
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

FEE COLLECTION REPORT

With each disbursement, you are required to submit a Fee Collection Report that identifies you (the buyer), the fee fish on which the collected fees are being disbursed, and how the disbursement is to be credited to one or more of the fee fisheries. If paying electronically, the report can be completed and transmitted electronically at the same time of payment. If paying by check, the fee collection report must be submitted with the payment. The Fee Collection Report is available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-and-financial-services/pacific-coast-groundfish-buyback>

PENALTIES

Fee payment and fee collection is mandatory. There are severe penalties for you and the fish sellers for failing to pay or collect/disburse fees.

This represents a portion of the full regulations governing your responsibilities under the NOAA Fisheries Groundfish Capacity Reduction Program, for a complete set of rules and regulations please visit our website at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-and-financial-services/pacific-coast-groundfish-buyback>

or contact the person listed below:

NOAA FISHERIES:
William Fritz: 301-427-8078
E-mail: William.Fritz@noaa.gov

Species list of Groundfish

The term “groundfish” is officially defined at 50 CFR 660.11, which may be amended from time to time. Fish sellers and fish buyers are officially guided by the “groundfish” definition in 50 CFR 660.11 available at:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-660/subpart-C/section-660.11>

A list of species, as of January 1, 2025, is provided below.

Groundfish include:

(a) Sharks, (b) Skates, (c) Sablefish, (d) Morids, (e) Grenadiers, (f) Roundfish, (g) Rockfish, (h) All genera and species of the family Scorpaenidae, and (i) Flatfish.

Species list

1 Leopard shark	32 Kelp rockfish	63 Stripetail rockfish
2 Soupfin shark	33 Olive rockfish	64 Sunset rockfish
3 Pacific spiny dogfish	34 Quillback rockfish	65 Swordspine rockfish
4 Aleutian skate	35 Treefish	66 Tiger rockfish
5 Bering/sandpaper skate	36 California scorpionfish	67 Vermillion rockfish
6 Big skate	37 Bronzespotted rockfish	68 Yellowtail rockfish
7 California skate	38 Bocaccio	69 Darkblotched rockfish
8 Longnose skate	39 Chameleon rockfish	70 Pacific ocean perch
9 Roughtail/Black skate	40 Chilipepper	71 Splitnose rockfish
10 Ratfish	41 Cowcod	72 Aurora rockfish
11 Finescale codling	42 Dusky rockfish	73 Bank rockfish
12 Giant grenadier	43 Dwarf-red rockfish	74 Blackgill rockfish
13 Pacific grenadier	44 Flag rockfish	75 Blackspotted rockfish
14 Cabezon	45 Freckled rockfish	76 Redbanded rockfish
15 Kelp greenling	46 Greenblotched rockfish	77 Rougheye rockfish
16 Lingcod	47 Greenspotted rockfish	78 Sharpchin rockfish
17 Pacific cod	48 Greenstriped rockfish	79 Shortraker rockfish
18 Pacific whiting (hake)	49 Halfbanded rockfish	80 Yellowmouth rockfish
19 Sablefish	50 Harlequin rockfish	81 Arrowtooth flounder (turbot)
20 Longspine thornyhead	51 Honeycomb rockfish	82 Butter sole
21 Shortspine thornyhead	52 Mexican rockfish	83 Curlfin sole
22 Black rockfish	53 Pink rockfish	84 Dover sole
23 Black and yellow rockfish	54 Pinkrose rockfish	85 English sole
24 Blue rockfish	55 Pygmy rockfish	86 Flathead sole
25 Brown rockfish	56 Redstripe rockfish	87 Pacific sanddab
26 Calico rockfish	57 Rosethorn rockfish	88 Petrale sole
27 China rockfish	58 Rosy rockfish	89 Rex sole
28 Copper rockfish	59 Silvergray rockfish	90 Rock sole
29 Deacon rockfish	60 Speckled rockfish	91 Sand sole
30 Gopher rockfish	61 Squarespot rockfish	92 Starry flounder
31 Grass rockfish	62 Starry rockfish	