

**Concise Explanatory Statement**  
**Requirement of electronic fish tickets for all directed commercial groundfish landings**

**Rules amended as part of this rulemaking:**

WAC 220-69-210	Fish receiving ticket definitions
WAC 220-69-240	Duties of commercial purchasers and receivers
WAC 220-69-246	Description of Washington state electronic fish receiving ticket
WAC 220-69-250	Required information on nontreaty fish receiving tickets
WAC 220-69-274	Signature

**1. Background/Summary of Project:**

The purpose of this rulemaking is to amend existing rules to require the submission of electronic fish tickets for any directed commercial groundfish landings as authorized under 50 CFR, Part 660 into Washington. These changes will conform to the federal rule effective January 1, 2017 requiring all purchases of sablefish from vessels landing into Washington, Oregon, and California to be reported using the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) “ETix” system. The final rule can be found in the Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 266, Page 84431.

This rule-making would affect the directed commercial groundfish fisheries managed through the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (PFMC) Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. Deliveries from the PFMC Pacific Coast Groundfish individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery have already been reported to WDFW via the ETix system since 2011. Incidental landings of groundfish from the commercial ocean salmon troll and pink shrimp fisheries would not be affected by this rule-making.

**2. Reasons for adopting the rule:**

If Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) does not adopt the changes proposed by this rule-making, existing state regulations would require deliveries from the affected fisheries to be reporting using both the ETix system and the state paper form. Such duplicative reporting would be unnecessarily burdensome on those delivering and purchasing fish from the affected fisheries.

WDFW will continue to be responsible for collecting the official records of commercial fish deliveries into the state from the fisheries affected by the new federal rule. Currently, WDFW collects information on deliveries from these fisheries using marine fish receiving tickets in paper format. The PSMFC ETix system will collect the same information as is currently collected on the paper forms and transmit the data to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife electronically. Electronic submission of this data will improve the speed with which Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife receives the data and reduces data entry costs.

**3. Differences between the text of the proposed rule and the rule as adopted:**

There is no difference between the text of the proposed rules and the text of the rules as adopted.

#### **4. Public comments, response to comments, and consideration of comments**

A letter was sent out on November 15, 2016 to all buyers or dealers that bought groundfish since 2011 from the daily trip limit or primary season describing the proposed changes to state rule. No public comments were received.

