



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115
www.nwr.noaa.gov



PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140
Fisheries Permits Office (206) 526-4353

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY **Pacific whiting harvest specifications and sector allocations for 2013**

This announces the 2013 fishery specifications for Pacific whiting in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and state waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, as authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The information includes: the U.S. Total Allowable Catch (TAC); the tribal allocation; the fishery harvest guideline; and allocations to the non-tribal commercial sectors.

The U.S. Pacific whiting TAC for 2013 is 269,745 metric tons (mt). The tribal allocation for 2013 is 63,205 mt. The 2013 fishery harvest guideline (HG) for Pacific whiting is 204,040 mt. This amount was determined by deducting from the total U.S. TAC of 269,745 mt, the 63,205 mt tribal allocation, along with 2,500 mt for research catch and bycatch in non-groundfish fisheries.

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.55 (f)(2) allocate the fishery HG among the non-tribal catcher/processor, mothership, and shorebased sectors of the Pacific whiting fishery. The catcher/processor sector is allocated 34 percent (69,373 mt for 2013), the mothership sector is allocated 24 percent (48,970 mt for 2013), and the shorebased sector is allocated 42 percent (85,697 mt for 2013). The fishery south of 42° N. lat. may not take more than 4,284 mt (5 percent of the shorebased allocation) prior to the start of the primary Pacific whiting season north of 42° N. lat.

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