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National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115
www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html



PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140
Miako Ushio (206) 526-4644

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Pacific whiting annual harvest specifications and allocations for 2015

Final Rule will publish May 14th 2015, effective May 14th, 2015

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the U.S. Pacific whiting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2015 is 325,072 metric tons (mt). 2015 harvest specifications and allocations are as follows:

<u>Tribal Allocation:</u>	56,888 mt.
<u>Research and Bycatch set-aside:</u>	1,500 mt.
<u>Harvest Guideline (HG):</u>	266,684 mt.

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 as follows:

<u>Catcher/Processor Coop Program:</u>	90,673 mt for 2015 (34%).
<u>Mothership Coop Program:</u>	64,004 mt for 2015 (24%).
<u>Shorebased IFQ Program:</u>	112,007 mt for 2015 (42%).

This final rule also authorizes NMFS to reapportion unused tribal allocation to the non-tribal sectors earlier in the fishing season.

View the final rule at <http://www.federalregister.gov/a/2015-11607>

After publication, this rule can also be found at by searching for Docket Number 141219999-5174-01 at <http://www.regulations.gov>, and on NMFS website at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish_frns.html

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