

PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
Frank Lockhart (206) 526-6142
Miako Ushio (206) 526-4644

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Call for Nominations to the Advisory Panel for the Pacific Whiting Treaty

NMFS is soliciting nominations for appointments to the United States Advisory Panel (AP) established in the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting (Pacific Whiting Treaty). Nominations are being sought to fill two positions on the AP for terms that begin on January 23, 2016 and end September 15, 2019.

DATES: Nominations must be received by December 18, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit nominations by any of the following methods:

E-mail: whiting.nominations.wcr@noaa.gov

Fax: 206-526-6736, Attn: Frank Lockhart.

Mail: William W. Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator
West Coast Region, NMFS
7600 Sand Point Way, NE.
Seattle, WA 98115-0070.

Advisory Panel Qualifications: AP member nominees must be knowledgeable or experienced in the harvesting, processing, marketing, management, conservation, or research of the offshore Pacific whiting resource; and must not be employees of the United States government.

Nomination packages for appointments should include:

- 1) The name of the applicant or nominee, position they are being nominated for and a description of his/her interest in Pacific whiting; and
- 2) A statement of background and/or description of how the nominee is knowledgeable or experienced in the harvesting, processing, marketing, management, conservation, or research of the offshore Pacific whiting resource. Letters of support for nominees will also be considered.

Pacific Whiting Treaty Committees Background: The Pacific Whiting Act of 2006 (Pacific Whiting Act), 16 U.S.C §§ 7001–10, implements the 2003 Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting. Among other provisions, the Pacific Whiting Act provides for the establishment of an Advisory Panel (AP). The AP advises the Joint Management Committee on bilateral Pacific whiting management issues. AP members must be knowledgeable or experienced in the harvesting, processing, marketing, management, conservation, or research of the offshore Pacific whiting resource. Eight individuals represent the United States on the AP, and nominations for two of those positions (*id.* at § 7005) are solicited through this notice.

Members appointed to the U.S. sections of the AP will be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of Title 5. (*Id.* at § 7008). NMFS anticipates that 1-2 meetings of the AP will be held annually, and these meetings will be held in the United States or Canada. AP members will need a valid U.S. passport.



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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



The Pacific Whiting Act also states that while performing their appointed duties, members “other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall not be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, except for purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28.” (*Id.*)

Information on the Pacific Whiting Treaty, including current committee members can be found at:
www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/whiting/pacific_whiting_treaty.html

Public Notices from the Groundfish Branch, including this one, can be found at:
[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/groundfish/public_notices/cent_public_notices.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/groundfish/public_notices/recent_public_notices.html)

The *Federal Register* Notice for this action can be found at: www.federalregister.gov by searching RIN 0648-XE273 or Pacific Whiting; Advisory Panel.