



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2016

PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY

REAPPORTIONMENT OF PACIFIC WHITING ACTUAL NOTICE

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.131 (h) provide for the reapportionment of Pacific whiting allocations that the Regional Administrator determines will not be used by the end of the fishing year. The best available information in early September 2016 indicates that at least 34,000 metric tons (mt) of the tribal allocation of 64,322 mt for the 2016 tribal Pacific whiting fishery will not be used by December 31, 2016. Reapportioning this amount is expected to allow for greater attainment of the Total Allowable Catch while not limiting tribal harvest opportunities for the remainder of the year. Recent conversations with tribal fishery managers indicate that reapportioning 34,000 mt, leaving a tribal allocation of 30,322 mt, will not limit tribal harvest opportunities for the remainder of the year. Therefore, NMFS is taking action at this time to reapportion 34,000 mt of Pacific whiting. Such reapportionments are disbursed to the other Pacific whiting fishery sectors in the same proportion as each sector's allotted portion of the fishery harvest guideline. Whiting quota pounds will be allocated to quota share accounts as soon as feasible.

Effective 1200 Noon, local time, on September 15, 2016, 34,000 mt of Pacific whiting are reallocated from the tribal allocation to the non-tribal commercial Pacific whiting fishery. The revised Pacific whiting allocations by sector for 2016 are listed below:

- Catcher/processor: 114,149 mt
- Mothership: 80,575 mt
- Shorebased: 141,007 mt
- Tribal: 30,322 mt

This communication serves as official notice of the reapportionment.

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