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FISHERIES**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-17-15a
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2017

PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY

Reapportionment of Widow Rockfish between Catcher/Processor and Mothership Sectors

Reapportionment of Widow Rockfish

Effective: 2000 (8 p.m.) local time, August 30, 2017

As of August 23, 2017, the best available information indicated that the mothership sector of the Pacific whiting fishery had taken only 7% of its widow rockfish allocation of 290.3 metric tons (mt). At the same time, the catcher/processor sector had taken more than 50% of its allocation of 411.2 mt. Catch estimates were based on fish ticket data from PacFIN and NMFS observer data.

Reapportionment of unused portions of non-whiting groundfish species between the mothership sector and the catcher/processor sectors of the Pacific whiting fishery when participants in the one sector do not intend to harvest the remaining allocation, are described at 50 CFR 660.150(c)(4)(ii). This may be done via automatic action provided for at §660.60(d). On August 14, 2017 the Whiting Mothership Cooperative submitted a cease fishing report to NMFS indicating that they do not intend to use 47 mt of the mothership allocation of widow rockfish which is therefore available to redistribute to the catcher/processor sector. The mothership sector indicated that they will cease fishing for Pacific whiting for the remainder of 2017 upon harvesting all whiting quota available to that sector, or harvesting the remaining 243.3 mt of widow rockfish, whichever occurs first. Therefore, NMFS is reapportioning the surplus widow rockfish.

For the reasons stated here and in accordance with the regulations at §§ 660.60(d) and 660.150(c)(4), NMFS herein announces that, effective **2000 (8 p.m.) local time, August 30, 2017**, 47.0 mt of widow rockfish is reallocated from the mothership sector to the catcher/processor sector of the Pacific whiting fishery. The revised widow rockfish allocations by sector for 2017 are:

Catcher/Processor	458.2 mt,
Mothership	243.3 mt, and
Shorebased IFQ	508.0 mt (unchanged from original allocation).

This communication serves as official notice of the reapportionments.

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Groundfish E-mail Group

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