



*National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region*  
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www.nwr.noaa.gov



## PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY**

**Pacific whiting vessels fishing under exempted fishing permits  
and Pacific whiting shoreside processors/first receivers**

**Requirements for Pacific whiting vessels fishing under exempted fishing permits and Pacific whiting shoreside processors/first receivers during the 2007 fishery have been posted at [www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Groundfish-Fishery-Management/Public-Notices/Index.cfm) The changes include the following:**

**For Vessels Fishing Under Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)** The following are substantive changes being made to the terms and conditions of the 2007 EFP:

- ▶ EFP vessels will be required to have Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) coverage on all trips. Beginning in 2007, vessels will be required to pay the EMS provider directly for EMS services. (see website above for EMS provider contact information)
- ▶ If the fishery is approaching the canary rockfish bycatch limit, NMFS may chose to require all EFP participants to fish seaward of the 150-fathom depth contour.
- ▶ A Salmon Conservation Zone is defined in Federal groundfish regulations. If NMFS projects that the Pacific whiting fishery will exceed the take of 11,000 Chinook salmon, fishing shoreward of the 100 fathom depth contour could be prohibited.
- ▶ Trip limits specific to the EFP landings are specified in the EFP.

**For Pacific Whiting Shoreside Processors and First Receivers** NMFS is in the process of preparing new regulations that will affect Pacific whiting shoreside processors/first receivers during the 2007 whiting season. The effective date of the rulemaking is unknown at this time. The following provisions will be implemented by the new rulemaking:

- ▶ Pacific whiting processors/first receivers will be defined as persons who receive, buy, or accept whiting deliveries of 4,000 lbs or more from vessels using mid-water trawl gear during the primary whiting season.
- ▶ Requirements for daily (within 24 hours from date of landing) electronic fish ticket submissions.
- ▶ The Pacific whiting shoreside processors/first receivers will be responsible for obtaining, installing and updating electronic fish tickets software provided by Pacific States Marine Fish Commission (PSMFC) or software that is compatible with the standards specified by PSMFC, and for maintaining internet access sufficient to email data files. (see website above for electronic fish ticket contact information)
- ▶ Minimum hardware and software needed to support the electronic fish ticket software provided by PSMFC will be defined in regulation.
- ▶ Catch needs to be sorted by Federal species (species groups) before weighing after offloading from the vessel and prior to transport away from the point of landing.
- ▶ All electronic fish ticket weight must be from scales with appropriate weighing capacity for the amount being weighed.
- ▶ Catch cannot be offloaded from a Pacific whiting shoreside vessel that does not have a properly functioning EMS system as required by an EFP, unless a waiver for EMS coverage was granted.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The new Federal rulemaking for processors will not replace any state recordkeeping and reporting requirements. All federal reporting requirements will be in addition to reporting requirements under applicable state law.

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For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on “Pacific Coast Groundfish;”; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

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Any discrepancies between this public notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.