



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY **Pacific whiting harvest specifications and sector allocations for 2010**

This announces the 2010 fishery specifications for Pacific whiting in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and state waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, as authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The information includes: the U.S. acceptable biological catch (ABC); the U.S. optimum yield (OY); the tribal allocation; allocations to the non-tribal commercial sectors; and bycatch limits for the 2010 Pacific whiting fishery.

The U.S. Pacific whiting ABC for 2010 is 336,560 mt, with a U.S. OY of 193,935 mt. The tribal allocation for the 2010 Pacific whiting fishery is 49,939 mt. The 2010 commercial (non-tribal) OY for Pacific whiting is 140,996 mt. This amount was determined by deducting from the total U.S. OY of 193,935 mt, the 49,939 mt tribal allocation, along with 3,000 mt for research catch and bycatch in non-groundfish fisheries.

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.323(a)(2) allocate the commercial OY among the non-tribal catcher/processor, mothership, and shorebased sectors of the Pacific whiting fishery. For 2010, the catcher/processor allocation of Pacific whiting is 47,939 mt (34 percent), the mothership allocation of Pacific whiting is 33,839 mt (24 percent), and the shore-based allocation of Pacific whiting is 59,218 mt (42 percent). The California fishery south of 42°N. lat., scheduled to start on May 1, 2010, may not take more than 2,961 mt (5 percent of the shorebased allocation) prior to the start of the primary Pacific whiting season.

Sector-specific bycatch limits for the non-tribal commercial sector in 2010 are: For catcher/processors, 4.8 mt of canary rockfish, 95 mt of widow rockfish, and 8.5 mt of darkblotched rockfish; for motherships, 3.3 mt of canary rockfish, 67 mt of widow rockfish, and 6 mt of darkblotched rockfish; and for shore-based, 5.9 mt of canary rockfish, 117 mt of widow rockfish, and 10.5 mt of darkblotched rockfish.

The *Federal Register* notice for the 2010 Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures is scheduled to publish on Monday, May 3, 2010.

Visit the NMFS Northwest Region website for current groundfish management regulations, VMS information, and RCA boundary coordinates.

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/index.cfm>

Groundfish E-mail Group

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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 "Groundfish & Halibut;"; 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).

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