



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region  
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[www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html)



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 17, 2014

### **PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY**

#### **Implementation of the Ocean Salmon Conservation Zone and Reapportionment of Darkblotched Rockfish between Catcher/Processor and Mothership Sectors**

##### **Ocean Salmon Conservation Zone**

**Effective: 0800 (8 a.m.), local time, October 20, 2014**

When NMFS projects that the Pacific whiting fishery may take in excess of 11,000 Chinook salmon (known as incidental take) within a calendar year, an Ocean Salmon Conservation Zone closing waters shoreward of approximately 100 fathoms (fm) (183 m) is implemented through automatic action, defined at 50 CFR 660.60(d) subpart C, per §660.131(c).

As of October 17, 2014, the best available information indicates that the Pacific whiting fishery had taken at least 11,000 Chinook salmon. Accordingly, vessels fishing in the Pacific whiting primary seasons for the Shorebased IFQ Program, Mothership (MS) Coop Program, or Catcher/ Processor (C/P) Coop Programs shall not target Pacific whiting with midwater trawl gear in all waters shoreward of a boundary line approximating the 100 fm (183 m) depth contour as of **0800, local time, October 20, 2014**. Coordinates for the 100-fm boundary line are available at §660.73 and can be downloaded from the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region website at:

[www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/groundfish\\_closures/rockfish\\_areas.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/groundfish_closures/rockfish_areas.html)

##### **Reapportionment of Darkblotched Rockfish**

**Effective: 2000 (8 p.m.) local time, October 17, 2014**

The best available information on October 14, 2014 indicated that the 6.3 metric ton (mt) darkblotched rockfish bycatch limit for the Pacific whiting mothership sector (§660, Subpart C, Table 2b) had been reached and exceeded by approximately 0.7 mt. Catch estimates were based on NMFS observer data. The MS Coop fleet has suspended fishing operations after reaching their darkblotched rockfish bycatch quota in accordance with §660.150(c).

Reapportionment of unused portions of non-whiting groundfish species from the catcher/ processor sector to the mothership sector of the Pacific whiting fishery through automatic action are provided for in regulations at 50 CFR 660.160(c) and 660.60(d) when participants in the catcher/processor sector do not intend to harvest the remaining sector allocation. On October 17th, 2014 the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative submitted a cease fishing report to NMFS indicating that 3.0 mt of the catcher/ processor allocation of darkblotched rockfish will not be used and is available to redistribute to the mothership sector. Therefore, NMFS is taking action at this time to reapportion the surplus darkblotched rockfish.

For the reasons stated here and in accordance with the regulations at § 660.60(d) and 660.150(c)(5), NMFS herein announces that effective **2000 (8 p.m.) local time, October 17, 2014** a surplus of 3.0 mt of darkblotched rockfish is reallocated from the catcher/processor sector to the mothership sector. The revised darkblotched rockfish allocations by sector for 2014 are:

Catcher/Processor	6.0 mt,
Mothership	9.3 mt, and
Shorebased	11.1 mt (unchanged from original allocation).

This communication serves as official notice of the reapportionments, and of ocean salmon conservation zone implementation.

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