



National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115
www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html



PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140

NMFS-SEA-14-24
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2014

PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY

REAPPORTIONMENT OF PACIFIC WHITING ACTUAL NOTICE

Effective: 2000 (8p.m.) local time, October 23, 2014

Reapportionment

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.131 (h) provide for the reapportionment of Pacific whiting tribal allocations that the Regional Administrator determines will not be used by the end of the fishing year. The best available information on October 22, 2014 indicates that at least 20,000 metric tons (mt) of the tribal allocation for the 2014 Pacific whiting fishery will not be used by December 31, 2014. The initial tribal allocation of Pacific whiting in 2014 was 55,336 mt. On September 12, 2014 NMFS reallocated 25,000 mt from the tribal to the non-tribal sectors, bringing the 2014 tribal allocation 30,336 mt. Recent conversations with tribal fishery managers indicate that reapportioning an additional 20,000 mt, leaving a tribal allocation of 10,336 mt, will not limit tribal harvest opportunities for the remainder of the year. Therefore, NMFS is taking action at this time to reapportion 20,000 mt of Pacific whiting.

The Catcher/ Processor, Mothership, and Shorebased sectors have expressed an interest in additional harvest of Pacific whiting. Because of Chinook salmon bycatch conservation measures taken by the Catcher/Processor and Mothership sectors, NMFS has concluded that distributing the reapportioned whiting to these sectors immediately upon reapportionment will not increase Chinook bycatch rates over current levels for these two sectors. For the shore-based sector, the Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended that any additional reapportioned fish be distributed in conjunction with salmon conservation measures implemented after attainment of their existing allocation. NMFS is currently evaluating the Council's recommendation. Until a decision has been reached on the Council's recommendation, the reapportionment will be distributed to only the Catcher/ Processor and Mothership sectors, in proportion to their allotments (34% and 24%, respectively) of the fishery harvest guideline. The remaining portion of the reapportioned amount (8,400 mt or 42%) will be held for the exclusive use of the shorebased sector but not distributed at this time.

Effective **2000 (8p.m.) local time, October 23, 2014**, 20,000 mt of Pacific whiting is reapportioned from the tribal allocation to the non-tribal commercial fishery. The revised Pacific whiting allocations by sector for 2014 are: Catcher/Processor 103,486 mt; Mothership 73,049 mt; and Shorebased 127,835 mt. Shorebased sector IFQ accounts have not been updated to reflect this reapportionment.

This communication serves as official notice of the reapportionment.

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