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FISHERIES**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-14-25
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2014

PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY DARKBLOTCHED ROCKFISH TO THE CATCHER/PROCESSOR SECTOR

NMFS took automatic action on October 17, 2014 to reduce the amount of darkblotched rockfish available to the catcher/processor (C/P) sector, and reapportion that quota to the mothership (MS) sector to reopen the MS fishery, allowing them to continue to harvest their 2014 Pacific whiting allocation. As a result of that automatic action, the allocation of darkblotched rockfish to the MS sector was 9.3 mt, and the allocation of darkblotched rockfish to the C/P sector was 6.0 mt.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council met on October 17, 2014 to address a request by the C/P sector to raise their allocation for darkblotched rockfish back to 9.0 mt. Best estimates indicated catch of darkblotched rockfish was lower than anticipated in non-groundfish fisheries (e.g. incidental open access fisheries) and over 3 mt of the amount set-aside for these fisheries would go unharvested by non-groundfish fisheries through the end of the year. As of October 17, the C/P sector still had approximately 13,000 mt left to harvest of their 2014 Pacific whiting allocation. Therefore, the Council recommended and NMFS is transferring 3 mt of darkblotched rockfish from incidental open access fisheries onto the C/P allocation.

Effective **0001 hours local time November 12, 2014**, the C/P sector of the Pacific whiting fishery was supposed to be allocated a total of 9.0 mt of darkblotched rockfish. The regulatory text associated with this action incorrectly stated that the revised allocation to the C/P sector resulted in a total allocation of 6.3 mt for 2014. The correct amount is 9.0 mt of darkblotched rockfish. NMFS is taking immediate steps to correct this error in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Table 1. Changes to darkblotched rockfish allocations for the at-sea sectors of the Pacific whiting fishery over the course of 2014.

Dates	Mothership Sector	Catcher/Processor Sector
January 1 – October 17, 2014	6.3 mt	9.0 mt
October 17 – November 11, 2014	9.3 mt	6.0 mt
November 12 – December 31, 2014	9.3 mt	9.0 mt

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