



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2015

PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY

REAPPORTIONMENT OF PACIFIC WHITING ACTUAL NOTICE

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.131 (h) provide for the reapportionment of Pacific whiting allocations that the Regional Administrator determines will not be used by the end of the fishing year. The best available information on September 14, 2015 indicated that at least 30,000 mt of the tribal allocation of 56,888 mt for the 2015 tribal Pacific whiting fishery will not be used by December 31, 2015. Reapportioning this amount is expected to allow for greater attainment of the TAC while not limiting tribal harvest opportunities for the remainder of the year. Recent conversations with tribal fishery managers indicate that there have been no tribal harvests of Pacific whiting to date in 2015, and that reapportioning 30,000 mt, leaving a tribal allocation of 26,888 mt, will not limit tribal harvest opportunities for the remainder of the year. Therefore, the National Marine Fisheries Service is taking action at this time to reapportion 30,000 mt of Pacific whiting. Such reapportionments are disbursed to the other sectors in the same proportion as each sector's allotted portion of the fishery harvest guideline, and all non-tribal commercial sectors have expressed an interest in additional harvest of Pacific whiting. Whiting quota pounds will be allocated to quota share accounts as soon as practicable.

Effective 1200 Noon, local time on September 21, 2015, 30,000 mt of Pacific whiting is reallocated from the tribal allocation to the non-tribal commercial fishery. The revised Pacific whiting allocations by sector for 2015 are:

Catcher/processor 100,873 mt;
Mothership 71,204 mt;
Shorebased 124,607.45 mt; and
Tribal 26,888 mt

This communication serves as official notice of the reapportionment.

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