

DRAFT

**AMENDMENT 15
(VESSEL PARTICIPATION LIMITATION
IN THE PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY)**

TO THE

**PACIFIC COAST
GROUNDFISH FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND
WASHINGTON GROUNDFISH FISHERY**

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Preface

This document shows proposed changes to the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) developed by federal and state staff based on the range of alternatives identified by the Council at its June 2007 meeting for Amendment 15 to the FMP, which would implement a limited entry program for the Pacific Coast whiting fishery. Amendment 15 only affects FMP text in Chapter 11, “Groundfish Limited Entry.”

In this document, suggested deletions are marked by ~~striketrough~~ and insertions by double underline. Notes, for example explaining why the text of a particular sub-section of Chapter 11 may not appear herein, are in *[boldface italic brackets]*. Readers interested in the substance of those sections of the FMP not provided herein are referred to the Council’s FMP website: <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gffmp/fmpthru19.html>.

11.0 GROUND FISH LIMITED ENTRY

All references to fishing activities in these proposals are references to catching activities occurring off the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts unless otherwise noted.

[Note: Sections 11.1 – 11.4 are not proposed to be revised by Amendment 15; therefore, they are not provided here.]

11.5 Limited Entry Program for the Pacific Coast Whiting Fishery

[Note: At its June 2007 meeting, the Council recommended a range of alternatives for implementing a temporary limited entry program for the Pacific Coast whiting fishery, indicating its intent that this program sunset with the implementation of an individual quota or co-operative management program for the whiting fishery. The following proposed amendatory language shows how the FMP might be revised under either of the Action Alternatives (i.e. those alternatives other than status quo.)]

Alternative 1 FMP amendatory language:

Until the implementation of a trawl IQ or cooperative management program in the Pacific whiting fishery, no vessel may participate in the shoreside, mothership, or catcher-processor sector of the Pacific Whiting Fishery unless that vessel meets the following criteria for such vessel in such sector:

Alternative 1A: Any vessel that participated in a particular sector in at least one primary whiting season between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2006.

For catcher vessels participating in the mothership sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel has made at least one delivery to a mothership whiting processor during the at-sea processing season. For catcher vessels participating in the shore-based sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that a vessel with a limited entry trawl-endorsed permit and using mid-water trawl gear made at least one whiting delivery to a shoreside whiting processor during the primary whiting season.

For catcher/processors vessels, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel caught and processed whiting during an at-sea processing season.

For mothership vessels, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel received and processed whiting during an at-sea processing season.

Alternative 1B: For catcher vessels participating in either the shore-based or mothership sectors, participation in at least one primary whiting season between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2006. For catcher vessels participating in the mothership sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel has made at least one delivery to a mothership whiting processor during the at-sea processing season. For catcher vessels participating in the shore-based sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that a vessel with a limited entry trawl-endorsement and using mid-water trawl gear made at least one whiting delivery to a shoreside whiting processor during the primary whiting season.

For catcher/processors vessels, having caught and processed at least 1,000 metric tons (mt) of whiting in any one qualifying year from January 1, 1997 through January 1, 2006.

For mothership vessels, having received at least 1,000 mt of whiting in any one qualifying year from January 1, 1997 through January 1, 2006.

A vessel may qualify for participation in each sector for which it meets the above standards.

Implementing regulations will specify the application procedures. NMFS will maintain a list of vessels or issue a certificate to vessels that qualify for participation in each sector.

Alternative 2 FMP amendatory language:

Until the implementation of a trawl IQ or cooperative management program in the Pacific whiting fishery, no vessel may participate in the shoreside, mothership, or catcher-processor sector of the Pacific Whiting Fishery unless that vessel meets the following criteria for such vessel in such sector:

Alternative 2A: Any vessel that participated in a particular sector in at least one primary whiting season between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2007.

For catcher vessels participating in the mothership sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel has made at least one delivery to a mothership whiting processor during the at-sea processing season. For catcher vessels participating in the shore-based sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that a vessel with a limited entry trawl-endorsement permit and using mid-water trawl gear made at least one whiting delivery to a shoreside whiting processor during the primary whiting season.

For catcher/processors vessels, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel caught and processed whiting during an at-sea processing season.

For mothership vessels, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel received and processed whiting during an at-sea processing season.

Alternative 2B: For catcher vessels participating in either the shore-based or mothership sectors, participation in at least one primary whiting season between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2007. For catcher vessels participating in the mothership sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel has made at least one delivery to a mothership whiting processor during the at-sea processing season. For catcher vessels participating in the shore-based sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that a vessel with a limited entry trawl-endorsement permit and using mid-water trawl gear made at least one whiting delivery to a shoreside whiting processor during the primary whiting season.

For catcher/processors vessels, having caught and processed at least 1,000 metric tons (mt) of whiting in any one qualifying year from January 1, 1997 through January 1, 2007.

For mothership vessels, having received at least 1,000 mt of whiting in any one qualifying year from January 1, 1997 through January 1, 2007.

A vessel may qualify for participation in each sector for which it meets the above standards.

Implementing regulations will specify the application procedures. NMFS will maintain a list of vessels or issue a certificate to vessels that qualify for participation in each sector.

Alternative 3 FMP amendatory language:

Until the implementation of a trawl IQ or cooperative management program in the Pacific whiting fishery, no vessel may participate in the shoreside, mothership, or catcher-processor sector of the Pacific Whiting Fishery unless that vessel meets the following criteria for such vessel in such sector:

Any vessel that participated in a particular sector in at least one primary whiting season between January 1, 1997 and January 1, 2007.

For catcher vessels participating in the mothership sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel has made at least one delivery to a mothership whiting processor during the at-sea processing season. For catcher vessels participating in the shore-based sector, participation in a primary whiting season means that a vessel with a limited entry trawl-endorsed permit and using mid-water trawl gear made at least one whiting delivery to a shoreside whiting processor during the primary whiting season.

For catcher/processors vessels, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel caught and processed whiting during an at-sea processing season.

For mothership vessels, participation in a primary whiting season means that the vessel received and processed whiting during an at-sea processing season.

A vessel may qualify for participation in each sector for which it meets the above standards.

Implementing regulations will specify the application procedures. NMFS will maintain a list of vessels or issue a certificate to vessels that qualify for participation in each sector.

[Note: Sections 11.5 – 11.7 are proposed to be re-numbered as Sections 11.6 – 11.8, but would otherwise be unchanged by Amendment 15; therefore, they are not provided here.]