

FINAL ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE 2015 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE
U.S.-CANADA PACIFIC WHITING AGREEMENT

A new stock assessment for Pacific whiting has been conducted (Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1), reviewed, and used for decision-making in the international whiting treaty process. The Joint Management Committee (JMC) met on March 18-19 to formalize their recommendations on the 2015 coastwide total allowable catch for Pacific whiting. Following a review of the advice of the Joint Technical Committee, the Scientific Review Group, and the Advisory Panel, the JMC recommended a coastwide adjusted total allowable catch (TAC) 440,000 mt for 2015 up from 428,000 mt in 2014. The U.S. share of this TAC is 325,072 mt for 2015. This recommendation is not final until approved by the Governments of Canada and the United States. Mr. Phil Anderson will brief the Council on the JMC's recommendations.

The Council should consider the estimated mortality of Pacific whiting in 2007-2013 research activities and in historical pink shrimp fisheries (Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 2) before deciding how much Pacific whiting yield to set aside for 2015. It is anticipated that there will be a Pacific whiting acoustic/trawl survey and continued gear testing research this year which may result in a higher than average research catch of Pacific whiting.

The Council should consider advisory body and public comment before deciding on any actions necessary regarding the 2015 U.S. annual catch limit for Pacific whiting and other associated issues.

Council Action:

- 1. Determine yield set-asides of whiting to accommodate 2015 research activities and incidental catch in the pink shrimp fishery.**
- 2. Consider any other necessary action for implementation of the 2015 Pacific whiting fishery.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of Status of the Pacific Hake (Whiting) Stock in U.S. and Canadian Waters in 2015. (*Full Version Available Electronic Only*).
2. Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 2: Table 1. Estimates of Pacific whiting mortality from 2007-2013 for Research and the Pink Shrimp Fishery.

Agenda Order:

E.9 Final Action to Implement the 2015 Pacific Whiting Fishery under the
U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Agreement

- a. Joint Management Committee Report
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider any Necessary Action for Implementation of the 2015 Pacific Whiting Fishery

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