

FINAL ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE 2016 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY
UNDER THE U.S.-CANADA PACIFIC WHITING AGREEMENT

A new stock assessment for Pacific whiting has been conducted (Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1), reviewed, and used for decision-making in the international whiting treaty process. The Joint Management Committee (JMC) met on March 17-18 to formalize their recommendations on the 2016 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) of 439,995 mt for 2016, essentially the same as the 2015 TAC of 440,000 mt. The U.S. share (73.88%) of this TAC is 325,068 mt for 2016. An adjustment of 42,485 mt is recommended to be added to the U.S. share of the 2016 TAC (to account for carry-over from 2015 fishery) for a final recommended U.S. TAC of 367,553 mt. 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 2007-2014 research activities and in historical pink shrimp fisheries (Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2) before deciding how much Pacific whiting yield to set aside for 2016. 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 2016 U.S. annual catch limit for Pacific whiting and other associated issues.

Council Action:

- 1. Determine yield set-asides of whiting to accommodate 2016 research activities and incidental catch in the pink shrimp fishery.**
- 2. Consider any other necessary action for implementation of the 2016 Pacific whiting fishery.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1: Executive Summary of Status of the Pacific Hake (Whiting) Stock in U.S. and Canadian Waters in 2016. (*Full Version Available Electronic Only*).
2. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2: Table 1. Estimates of Pacific whiting mortality from 2007-2014 for Research and the Pink Shrimp Fishery.

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Final Action to Implement the 2016 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 2016 Pacific Whiting Fishery

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