

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE
U.S./CANADA AGREEMENT

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the incidental catches of Pacific whiting in the research and pink shrimp sectors (Table 1) and recommends a 1,500 metric ton set-aside. Based on the most recent five years, this amount should be sufficient to cover catches in both fisheries.

Table 1: Incidental Catch of Pacific Whiting, 2011-2015. (Source: Groundfish Total Mortality Reports)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Research	1,062	473	1,056	253	12
Pink Shrimp	282	19	30	228	1,157
Total	1,344	492	1,086	481	1,169

In addition, the GMT recommends the Council consider including this action in the future within the biennial harvest specifications cycle, or at the November Council meeting prior to the current year (i.e., November 2017 for the 2018 fishing year), in order to facilitate a more expedited rulemaking process.

PFMC
02/10/2017