

Whiting Mothership Cooperative

4005 20th Avenue West, Suite 116
Seattle, WA 98199

August 14th, 2017

Ryan Wulff, Acting Asst. Regional Administrator for the Sustainable Fisheries Division
National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Ste 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gretchen Hanshew, Acting Groundfish/CPS Branch Chief
National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Re: Widow Rockfish Reapportionment

Dear Mr. Wulff and Ms. Hanshew,

This letter will serve as a cease fishing report, pursuant to 50 CFR 660.150 (c)(4). The 2017 mothership sector allocation of widow rockfish is 290.3 metric tons (mt). The current members of the Whiting Mothership Cooperative (WMC) have approved a transfer of 47mt of widow rockfish from the Mothership sector to the Catcher Processor sector of the at-sea whiting fishery. The members of the WMC agree that they will stop fishing for Pacific whiting for the remainder of the 2017 calendar year at such time as (1) the participants have harvested all whiting quota made available to the Mothership sector (including any reapportionment from the tribal whiting allocation), or (2) upon the harvest of the mothership coop's remaining 243.3mt of widow rockfish.

Because the mothership sector does not intend to harvest these 47mt of widow rockfish from its current 2017 allocation, and per the regulations at 50 CFR 660.150 (c)(4), NMFS may redistribute this 47mt of widow rockfish to the Catcher Processor sector. The Pacific Fishery Management Council discussed voluntary reapportionments between at-sea sectors to manage bycatch under the Inseason Agenda Item (F.10) at the June 2017 Council meeting in Spokane, Washington. The Council encouraged NMFS to

implement allocation changes should a voluntary reapportionment be forwarded to NMFS.

Thank you for making this widow rockfish transfer from the Mothership sector to the Catcher Processor sector in a timely manner, and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "dave fraser". The signature is written in a cursive style with several overlapping loops.

dave fraser,
WMC Coop Manager

cc: Mr. Phil Anderson, Chairman of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Chuck Tracy, Executive Director of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Dan Waldeck, Executive Director of the Pacific Whiting Conservation
Cooperative