

shore-based processors provide thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of revenue during the Pacific whiting season. Shore-based processors are allocated 20% of the shore-based whiting individual quota. They are registered, regulated, observed and inspected. It is time that NMFS treats the shore-based sector with the same attention they seem willing to give to the offshore sector.

3. Reapportionment of whiting - We understand that - pending necessary and appropriate discussions with tribal authorities - NMFS may reapportion some or all of the remaining tribal whiting set-aside to the non-tribal fishery. If that does occur, we note that several shore-based processing plants are still operating and will continue to operate through the end of the year. Earlier this week I provided information via email to the Office of Sustainable Fisheries at the NMFS West Coast Region in response to an informal request. The text of that email, sent to Kevin Duffy and Frank Lockhart, is as follows:

I know you're on leave but thought I would follow up on the question you asked me regarding processing schedules for shoreside companies: of the 4 I talked with, one is shut down, two are likely to keep going through this month, and one will keep going as long as there is fish. Hope that helps you out.

Since that time I have received information that 3 other companies are continuing to operate; as they are not members of WCSPA I will defer to them for their comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the pending emergency action.

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Thank you for your comments to the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Your comments have been received and will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member for processing.

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