

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON IMPLEMENT 2014 PACIFIC  
WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE U.S.-CANADA PACIFIC WHITING AGREEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) was briefed about the 2014 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination by the Whiting Agreement Joint Management Committee (JMC). The JMC process addressed issues relevant to setting the 2014 TAC and reached a consensus recommendation, which was forwarded to the Parties for implementation. Given that the JMC provided a consensus recommendation, the GAP has identified one issue ripe for Council action.

Council action is required to establish a set-aside amount for incidental catches of whiting in non-whiting fisheries and catches in research surveys. The GAP recommends 1,000 metric tons be established as the 2014 set-aside to accommodate research and incidental catch. From data provided to the GAP (Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2: Table 1. Estimates of Pacific whiting mortality from 2007-2012 for Research and the Pink Shrimp Fishery) this amount is sufficient to cover research and incidental catches. Moreover, relative to potential catches of hake in research and incidental to the pink shrimp fishery, it is the GAP's understanding that there will not be a hake acoustic survey in 2014 and, as the pink shrimp fishery continues to refine excluder devices, incidental catch of hake will decline. Therefore, the GAP concluded that it is reasonable to expect that 1,000 metric tons will be adequate for the 2014 set aside.

PFMC  
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