

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2013
 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE U.S.-CANADA PACIFIC WHITING
 AGREEMENT**

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the 2013 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) recommendation of the Pacific whiting Joint Management Committee (JMC). Council action under this agenda item is to review the JMC recommendation and plan for the 2013 fishery, including deductions from the TAC to account for Pacific whiting mortality in research and non-groundfish fisheries (primarily pink shrimp).

Table 1 includes the final estimates of Pacific whiting mortality from 2007 to 2011 for research and the pink shrimp fishery from the West Coast Groundfish Mortality Reports. The 2012 data are not yet final; therefore, the GMT provided an estimate based on data from the 2013 stock assessment and expected research activities. Increasing abundance, due in part to high recruitment in the 2010 year class could cause the 2013 catch to exceed the 2011 catch of 1,344 mt (Table 1). Further, estimated research mortality in 2012 and 2013 is expected to be higher than in 2011 (2,000 mt, compared to 1,062 mt). **Given this information, the GMT recommends a set-aside of 2,500 mt be adopted to accommodate for Pacific whiting mortality in research and pink shrimp.**

Table 1. Estimates of Pacific whiting mortality from 2005-2011.

	2013 estimate	2012 estimate	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Research ^{1/}	2,000	2,000	1061.9	133	35	12	49
Pink shrimp ^{1/}	500	500	282.1	398.9	1,937	684	2,808
Total	2,500	2,500	1,344	532	1,972	696	2,857

1/ Estimates for 2013 are based on correspondence with the Science Centers and on planned research projects. Catch from 2011-2007 are those reported in the West Coast Groundfish Mortality Reports (2012 is not yet available).