



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

October 17, 2014

Mr. Will Stelle, Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region  
7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700  
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Re: Council Recommendations for Inseason Adjustments to the 2014 Pacific Whiting Fisheries

Dear <sup>Will</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Stelle:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) met October, 17 2014 in an emergency meeting conducted via webinar and teleconference to consider inseason adjustments to 2014 Pacific whiting fisheries. This letter transmits the Council recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Detailed information and analysis supporting the Council recommendations can be found on the Council web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org/2014/10/33496/oct-17-2014-emrgcy-pfmc-mtg/>.

The Council considered the performance of the 2014 Pacific whiting fishery in relation to the incidental take of darkblotched rockfish and Chinook salmon. The Council recommended the following inseason adjustments for the 2014 Pacific whiting fishery to NMFS for timely implementation:

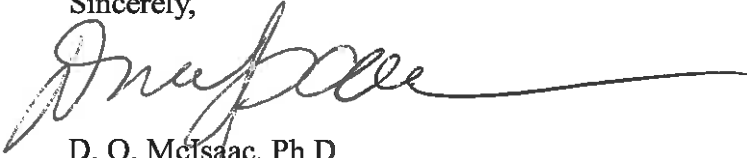
1. Through an automatic action, implement the Ocean Salmon Conservation Zone in the Pacific whiting fishery;
2. Through an automatic action, reapportion darkblotched rockfish between the at-sea whiting sectors; specifically, transfer 3 mt of darkblotched rockfish from the catcher-processor whiting sector to the mothership sector;
3. Through an automatic action, reapportion the unused portion of the tribal allocation of Pacific whiting to the IFQ, mothership, and catcher-processor Pacific whiting fisheries, to be distributed pro-rata among these sectors; provided the following actions are taken at the time of reapportionment:
  - a. For the mothership and catcher-processor sectors, NMFS should continue to work with them to ensure measures are taken through their respective co-ops to fish seaward of 150 fms to minimize salmon bycatch; and
  - b. For the shoreside whiting fishery, distribution would be implemented upon attainment or projected attainment of their original whiting allocation.
4. Through inseason action, concurrent with the reapportionment of whiting to the shoreside sector, implement a Pacific whiting bycatch reduction area to prohibit fishing shoreward

of a boundary line approximating the 150-fm depth contour for all whiting sectors (shoreside and at-sea) to minimize salmon bycatch; and

5. Through inseason action, reduce the set aside of darkblotched rockfish to the Incidental Open Access sector by 3 mt, and transfer those 3 mt of darkblotched rockfish to the catcher-processor whiting sector.

Should your staff have any questions regarding the Council's recommendations, please contact Ms. Kelly Ames or Mr. John DeVore at the Council office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. O. McIsaac", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

KLA

C: Council members  
Ms. Mariam McCall  
Mr. Ryan Couch