

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT
ON PROPOSED MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE SHORE-BASED
PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the proposed alternatives for a shoreside whiting monitoring program as listed in the preliminary draft environmental assessment for Amendment 10.

While the GAP appreciates the effort by NMFS to come up with logical alternatives, the GAP notes there has been no opportunity for the whiting industry - either harvesters or processors - to help NMFS develop alternatives. Since there is very little chance that final regulations can be put in place prior to the start of the 2004 whiting season, and since there are tentative plans for a meeting between NMFS and industry this fall, the GAP suggests the Council defer choosing a range of alternatives until the November meeting, at which time a better set of alternatives can be presented.

PFMC
09/11/03