

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF OPENING DATE OF CALIFORNIA SHORE-BASED
WHITING FISHERY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the proposal to open the California shore-based whiting fishery south of 40E30' on March 15.

In general, the GAP agrees with the proposal, subject to the following conditions:

1. The fishery meets the same requirements for monitoring and shore sampling as other shore-based whiting fisheries conducted currently under an exempted fishing permit (EFP) and in the future under Amendment 10 to the Pacific groundfish fishery management plan.
2. The whiting taken in this area be included as part of the 5% allocation of shore-based whiting assigned to California.
3. Opening at the earlier date will not result in an unacceptable level of salmon bycatch.

On the last point, the GAP has no information that salmon bycatch will be higher, but notes a later opening date (April 15) was originally set based on those concerns.

PFMC
06/14/05