

<<DRAFT 2008 Whiting dates\_caps-options.doc>> This is being discussed amongst some in industry as an alternative approach to our present start up process. It is thought that it may lend itself to a majority of industry supporting it however it is too early to say what reception we may achieve. Briefly objectives by Priority: Use season start up dates to mitigate by-catch. Allow the greatest number of industry participants in all sectors to realize the best individual economic gain. And as a subset of this second sentence is the goal of allowing present whiting participants that participate in two whiting sectors presently, not to give up present opportunity and; for those that participate in the Pollock fishery a better chance to realize full economic opportunity in that fishery. Some of us think this would be accomplished if we followed one of these options.

Thank you  
Best regards

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## **DRAFT OPTION 1 FOR 2008 WHITING SEASON OPENING DATES / BYCATCH CAPS**

### **April 1 – May 1** (date to be determined)

California shore-based fishery between 42° and 40° 30', limited to 5% of the shore-based whiting allocation

### **April 1 – May 1** (same date as above)

California shore-based fishery south of 40° 30'

*Bycatch amount available: 2% of total cap (includes all fishing south of 42°)*

### **June 1**

Catcher-processor and mothership fisheries open

*Bycatch amount available: (options: 13% - 15% - 18%) of total cap (less amount taken in California fishery)*

### **July 5**

Primary shore-based fishery opens, mothership and catcher-processor fisheries continue

*Bycatch amount available: (options: 68% - 73% - 75%) of total cap (less amount taken in previous openings)*

### **August 15 - September 1**

*Bycatch amount available: 100% of total cap (less amount taken in previous openings)*

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## **DRAFT OPTION 2 FOR 2008 WHITING SEASON OPENING DATES / BYCATCH CAPS**

### **April 1 – May 1** (date to be determined)

California shore-based fishery between 42° and 40° 30', limited to 5% of the shore-based whiting allocation

### **April 1 – May 1** (same date as above)

California shore-based fishery south of 40° 30'

*Bycatch amount available: 2% of total cap (includes all fisheries south of 42°)*

### **July 5**

Primary shore-based fishery opens

*Bycatch amount available: 42% of total cap (less amount taken in previous openings)*

### **August 15 - September 1** (date to be determined)

Mothership and catcher-processor fisheries open

*Bycatch amount available: 100% of total cap (less amount taken in previous openings)*

## **EXPLANATION**

1. From a procedural standpoint,\* Council will set total bycatch cap in March at a value equal to 2% of the presumed final value of the cap for each species. In April, Council will take in-season action to raise the bycatch cap to the higher values for the June (if option 1) and July openings. In June, Council will take in-season action to raise the bycatch cap to 100% of the final value as of August 15 - September 1, whatever date is chosen to open the offshore sectors.

Using darkblotch rockfish as an example, the bycatch caps could look as follows after each inseason action:

### Option 1 Example

April 15 - .5 mt  
June 1 – 3.75 mt  
July 5 – 18.25 mt  
September 1 – 25 mt

### Option 2 Example

April 15 - .5 mt  
July 5 – 10.5 mt  
September 1 – 25 mt

\* NOTE: If possible, Council could do all of this in a single action in March so that there is some certainty for the whiting industry and enable fishermen and processors to make appropriate business plans.

2. The opening date for the CA whiting fishery will have to be decided by the participants based on weather, fish quality and availability, and impacts on salmon bycatch. The bycatch level of 2% is approximately equal to what a pro rata share of the cap would be.

3. The bycatch releases at each date are based on the goals of:

- a) accommodating the fishery that is likely to occur
- b) moving as much of the fishery as possible to later in the year to reduce bycatch and improve recovery
- c) preventing any one sector or group of sectors from pre-empting the others
- d) allowing vessels that participate in both mothership and shore-based fisheries, or whiting and pollock fisheries (or any other combination that has historically occurred) to continue to do so.
- e) for option 2, letting vessels that fish in Alaska complete their pollock “B” season early, then move down to the west coast to prosecute the whiting fishery. Along with the bycatch savings advantages to the whiting fishery, it reduces cost and promotes efficiency for the vessels that fish in both areas.