

DRAFT

**AMENDMENT 15
(VESSEL PARTICIPATION LIMITATION
IN THE PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY)**

TO THE

**PACIFIC COAST
GROUND FISH FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND
WASHINGTON GROUND FISH FISHERY**

**PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
7700 NE AMBASSADOR PLACE, SUITE 200
PORTLAND, OR 97220
503-820-2280
866-806-7204
WWW.PCOUNCIL.ORG**

March 2008

Preface

This document shows proposed changes to the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) developed by federal and state staff based on the preferred alternative identified by the Council at its September 2007 meeting for Amendment 15 to the FMP, which would implement a limited entry program for the Pacific Coast whiting fishery. Amendment 15 only affects FMP text in Chapter 11, "Groundfish Limited Entry."

In this document, deletions are marked by ~~striketrough~~ and insertions by double underline. Notes, for example explaining why the text of a particular sub-section of Chapter 11 may not appear herein, are in *[boldface italic brackets]*. Readers interested in the substance of those sections of the FMP not provided herein are referred to the Council's FMP website: <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gffmp/fmpthru19.html>.

11.0 GROUND FISH LIMITED ENTRY

All references to fishing activities in these proposals are references to catching activities occurring off the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts unless otherwise noted.

[Note: Sections 11.1, 11.2.1-11.2.11, 11.2.13, 11.3 and 11.4 are not proposed to be revised by Amendment 15; therefore, they are not provided here.]

11.2.12 Permit Renewal

1. Permits must be renewed each year between October 1 and November 30 in order to remain valid for the following calendar year.
2. Notice of upcoming renewal periods will be sent by September ~~15~~ each year to the most recent address as provided to the permit issuing authority by the permit holder. It shall be the permit holder's responsibility to provide the permit issuing authority with address changes in a timely manner.
3. An annual fee will be charged which reflects the administrative costs of maintaining the permit system.
4. Failure to renew during this period will result in expiration of the permit at the end of the calendar year.
5. Once a permit has expired because of failure to renew during the renewal period, it may not subsequently be renewed or reissued, except through an appeals process.
6. If a permit expires because of failure to renew, the permit holder may appeal for reissuance, provided the appeal is received by the issuance review authority by March 31 of the following year. Conditions for reissuance of a permit are listed in Section 11.4.1 paragraph 1.h.

* * *

11.5 Limited Entry Program for the Pacific Coast Whiting Fishery

Until the implementation of a trawl IQ or cooperative management program in the Pacific whiting fishery, no vessel may participate in the shoreside, mothership, or catcher-processor sector of the Pacific Whiting Fishery unless that vessel meets the following participation requirements for such vessel in such sector:

For catcher vessels participating in the shore-based sector, the participation requirements are that the vessel with a limited entry trawl-endorsed permit using mid-water trawl gear made at least one whiting delivery to a shoreside whiting processor in at least one primary whiting season for the shore-based sector between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2007.

For catcher vessels participating in the mothership sector, participation requirements are that the vessel made at least one delivery to a mothership whiting processor during the at-sea processing season for the mothership sector between January 1, 1997 and January 1, 2007.

For catcher/processors vessels, participation requirements are having caught and processed whiting during the at-sea processing season for the catcher/processor sector in any one qualifying year from January 1, 1997 through January 1, 2007.

For mothership vessels, participation requirements are having received at least one delivery of whiting during the at-sea processing season for the mothership sector in any one qualifying year from January 1, 1997 through January 1, 2007.

A vessel may qualify for participation in each sector for which it meets the above standards.

Implementing regulations will specify the application procedures. NMFS will maintain a list of vessels or issue a certificate to vessels that qualify for participation in each sector.

[Note: Sections 11.5 – 11.7 are proposed to be re-numbered as Sections 11.6 – 11.8, but would otherwise be unchanged by Amendment 15; therefore, they are not provided here.]