

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE
U.S./CANADA AGREEMENT

A new stock assessment for Pacific whiting has been conducted (Agenda Item I.4, Supplemental Attachment 1), reviewed, and used for decision-making in the international whiting treaty process. The Joint Management Committee (JMC) met on February 28-March 2 to formalize their recommendations on the 2017 coastwide total allowable catch for Pacific whiting. Mr. Phil Anderson will brief the Council on the JMC's recommendations.

The Council should consider the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) recommendations on specifying yield set-asides to accommodate the incidental catch of Pacific whiting in 2017 research activities and in the pink shrimp fishery (Agenda Item I.4.b, GMT Report) before deciding how much Pacific whiting yield to set aside for 2017.

The Council should consider advisory body and public comment before deciding on any actions necessary regarding the 2017 U.S. annual catch limit for Pacific whiting and other associated issues.

Council Action:

- 1. Determine yield set-asides of whiting to accommodate 2017 research activities and incidental catch in the pink shrimp fishery.**
- 2. Consider any other necessary action for implementation of the 2017 Pacific whiting fishery.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.4, Supplemental Attachment 1: Executive Summary of the draft Status of the Pacific Hake (Whiting) Stock in U.S. and Canadian Waters in 2017.
2. Agenda Item I.4.b, GMT Report: Groundfish Management Team Report on Implementation of the 2017 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement.

Agenda Order:

- I.4 Implementation of the 2017 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement
- a. Joint Management Committee Report
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2017 Pacific Whiting Fishery, Including Yield Set-Asides
- John DeVore
Phil Anderson