

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE
U.S./CANADA AGREEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the 2020 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) consideration that occurred at the U.S./Canada Whiting Agreement Joint Management Committee (JMC) in March 2020. The GAP understands that the JMC did not provide a recommended 2020 TAC to the parties and, therefore, per the terms of the [Pacific Whiting Act of 2006](#), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will implement a 2020 U.S. TAC via the rulemaking process. It appears that the proposed rule for the 2020 whiting fishery, including the TAC and tribal fishery allocation, is in the final clearance stage at NMFS headquarters and that NMFS is endeavoring to implement a final rule before May 15, 2020 (that is, the start of the 2020 whiting season). The GAP highlights that timely implementation of the final rule is critical to the U.S. whiting industry and recommends the Council request NMFS move forward expeditiously with the TAC and tribal fishery rulemaking.

PFMC
04/06/20