

## PACIFIC WHITING UTILIZATION IN THE MOTHERSHIP SECTOR

At the September 2020 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) confirmed its prioritization of the whiting mothership (MS) utilization agenda item and adopted a purpose and need statement for public review. During the March 2021 meeting, the Council is scheduled to continue the scoping process to assess any management needs for the whiting fishery.

Council staff provided a scoping document that discusses the industry-developed purpose and need statement and supporting options adopted by the Council for public review. In addition, staff provided a revised purpose and need statement as well as other options to consider (Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1). If the Council decides to start a fishery plan amendment process, a final purpose and need statement could be adopted along with the enclosed options as a range of alternatives for further development and analysis.

At the September 2020 Council meeting, the Council asked National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to provide information on how some issues under consideration for this agenda item will be cost recoverable. NMFS will provide a supplemental report that provides some preliminary thoughts and note that staff time spent on these recoverable proposals will be charged using a ratio-based approach.

### **Council Action:**

**Continue Scoping Whiting Fishery Utilization Issues; Adopt Final Purpose and Need and a Range of Alternatives.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1: Scoping Whiting Fishery Utilization Issues, Including Draft Purpose and Need and a Range of Alternatives.
2. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

- G.3 Pacific Whiting Utilization in the Mothership Sector Brett Wiedoff
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Continue Scoping Whiting Fishery Utilization Issues; Adopt Final Purpose and Need and a Range of Alternatives