

REVISIONS TO AGENDA ITEM G.3, ATTACHMENT 1

After the submission to the March Briefing Book, errors were identified in Agenda Item G.3, Attachment 1, March 2021. These errors are corrected in this attachment as shown in ~~strikeouts~~ and underlined text.

Page 10

Each sector has a different portfolio of ~~species~~ products that it produces for the whiting market.

Page 14

This section finds that, the majority of at-sea processors and a large portion of catcher vessels participate also in the Alaska pollock fishery. Recent high catch limits for Alaska pollock are thought to have limited available processor vessels during the primary whiting season.

- ~~17 of the 19~~ All processors registered to fish Pacific whiting from 2011-2020 were also registered to fish Alaska pollock in the same year.
- An average of 93~~82~~ percent of processors registered to fish in both whiting and pollock fisheries actually fished in both, while the remaining processors only fished pollock.
- Over half of MSCVs and SS whiting catcher vessels are registered to fish or participate in both whiting and Alaska pollock.

(continued on Page 16)

From 2011-2020, ~~there have been two processors annually registered to participate in the U.S. whiting fishery only compared to 17~~ all Pacific whiting processors ~~annually that~~ were registered to participate in both the Bering Sea pollock fishery and the U.S. whiting fishery annually. ~~Seven~~ Eleven processors were only registered in Alaska. Note that this does not mean that the vessel participated in that year for that fishery (or both fisheries where applicable). Therefore, the overwhelming majority of processors are registered to participate in both fisheries. Most processors have a consistent registration record in that they either continuously participate in one or both of the fisheries in the last decade. ~~Four~~ Six vessels have had changes in their participation history.

Overall, an average of 14 of the ~~17~~ 15 processing vessels (~~82~~ 93 percent) registered to fish in both the pollock and whiting fisheries have actually fished in both. In some years, up to ~~three~~ four vessels chose to only participate in Alaska instead of coming back south to fish whiting. As noted by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) in their September 2020 statement, “Many Pacific whiting vessels earn the majority of their revenue in Alaska fisheries, and most West Coast permitted MS and CP processors process about 60-90 percent of their annual product in Alaska each year”. Therefore, depending on market conditions in both the pollock and whiting fisheries, processors may choose to prioritize pollock over whiting, thereby decreasing the number of available processors in the whiting fishery. As noted in the GMT statement though, “processors may be responding to the higher volumes in both the walleye pollock and Pacific whiting fisheries by increasing capacity, as public comment indicates that a new mothership processor vessel

currently being developed is expected to be larger than any existing vessels in the fishery and is planned for use in primarily the Alaska walleye pollock fishery.”

Page 23 and 24

Evaluation of the Draft Purpose and Need Statement

“This action is needed because the mothership (MS) sector of the Trawl Catch Share Program is underattaining its post-reapportionment allocations for whiting. Causes of underattainment identified by the industry include limited availability of motherships for delivery of catch due to seasonal overlap of the Alaska pollock fishery. In addition, existing regulations may be limiting some catcher vessels’ ability to harvest or deliver fish to MS processors, or limiting the ability for available processors to accept fish from catcher vessels. The purpose of this action is to improve the MS sector’s ability to utilize their whiting allocation by identifying and revising regulations that may be constraining to the sector.

This action is also needed to create flexibility in harvest opportunities for the MS, catcher processor, and shorebased IFQ sectors of the Trawl Catch Share Program. The purpose of this action is to balance the use of the whiting fishery resource while maintaining fair and equitable allocation of the resource amongst all sectors of the program.

The actions identified support elements of the Council’s Trawl Catch Share Program goals to “create and implement a capacity rationalization plan that increases net economic benefits, creates individual economic stability, [and] provides for full utilization of the trawl sector allocation. Specifically, the action may meet Management Goals 2 and 3 of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, respectively, which seek to maximize the value of the groundfish resource as a whole and to achieve the maximum biological yield of the overall groundfish fishery. In addition, this action supports National Standard 1 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to achieve the optimum yield from the fishery.”