

Shorebased Whiting Cooperative

Salmon Mitigation Plan Postseason Report on the 2021 Pacific Whiting Fishery

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Purpose of Report

The Shorebased Whiting Cooperative is submitting a Salmon Mitigation Plan (SMP) Report for the 2021 season on behalf of its membership, all of whom are party to SMP-2021-02. This report is intended to disclose all information required or identified in 50 CFR 660.113(e)(6).

SMP Report Requirements

(6) ***SMP postseason report.*** The designated SMP representative for an approved SMP must submit a written postseason report to NMFS and the Council for the year in which the SMP was approved.

(i) ***Submission deadline.*** The SMP postseason report must be received by NMFS and the Council no later than March 31 of the year following that in which the SMP was approved.

(ii) ***Information requirements.*** The SMP postseason report must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(A) Name of the SMP and SMP identification number.

(B) A comprehensive description of Chinook salmon bycatch avoidance measures used in the fishing year in which the SMP was approved, including but not limited to, information sharing, area closures, movement rules, salmon excluder use, and internal bycatch guidelines.

(C) An evaluation of the effectiveness of these avoidance measures in minimizing Chinook salmon bycatch.

(D) A description of any amendments to the terms of the SMP that were approved by NMFS during the fishing year in which the SMP was approved and the reasons the amendments to the SMP were made.

(A) Name of the SMP and SMP identification number.

Salmon Mitigation Plan for the Shorebased Whiting Cooperative. SMP identification number: SMP-2021-02

(B) A comprehensive description of Chinook salmon bycatch avoidance measures used in the fishing year in which the SMP was approved, including but not limited to, information sharing, area closures, movement rules, salmon excluder use, and internal bycatch guidelines.

The Shorebased Whiting Cooperative relied on timely information sharing to minimize encounters with Chinook salmon in 2021. Near real time catch data was shared with Cooperative members and the At-sea Cooperatives. The SWC also utilized salmon excluders and internal

bycatch guidelines to avoid Chinook. No in-season area closures were implemented as the fleet did not encounter any Chinook hot spots.

(C) An evaluation of the effectiveness of these avoidance measures in minimizing Chinook salmon bycatch.

The SWC caught 433 Chinook, well below the Chinook cap, while landing 211,345,184 lbs of whiting. Few Chinook were observed where the whiting CPUE was highest this year, this was likely driven by environmental conditions. The timing and general location of fishing effort, in combination with the avoidance measures described in section B, were effective at minimizing Chinook salmon bycatch.

(D) A description of any amendments to the terms of the SMP that were approved by NMFS during the fishing year in which the SMP was approved and the reasons the amendments to the SMP were made.

No amendments to the SMP were made in 2021.