HISTORICAL MORTALITY OF PACIFIC WHITING IN RESEARCH AND PINK SHRIMP

The following presents the estimated Pacific whiting mortality in research activities and the pink shrimp fisheries. These data are used to inform the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in setting the 2023 Pacific whiting set-asides for these fisheries. Data are derived from the West Coast Observer Program's draft report "*Estimated Discard and Catch of Groundfish Species in the 2021 U.S. West Coast Fisheries*" (Agenda Item G.1.b, NWFSC Report 1, September 2022) data tables (Agenda Item G.1.b, NWFSC Report 2, September 2022).

Table 1 shows the total mortality of Pacific whiting in research activities and the pink shrimp fishery by year for 2016-2021 in metric tons (mt). In the past, staff provided the annual estimates from 2011 to the present; however, staff determined the most recent five years provides a better reflection of recent fishery behavior and adjusted the table accordingly. Table 2 displays the average annual Pacific whiting mortality in the research and pink shrimp fisheries from 2011-2021 for reference.

The five-year average (2016-2021) estimated annual Pacific whiting mortality is 266 mt and 202 mt in research and pink shrimp fisheries, respectively. The ten-year average (2011-2021) estimated annual Pacific whiting mortality is 429 mt and 267 mt in research and pink shrimp fisheries, respectively.

Table 1: Estimated total Pacific whiting mortality in research and pink shrimp (in mt) for 2016-2021 by year. Amounts are rounded to nearest whole number.

	Pacific Whiting Morality (mt)						
	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**Ave**
Research (mt)	654	84	14	18	0	828	266
Pink Shrimp (mt)	525	377	119	39	97	55	202
Total (mt)	1,179	461	133	57	97	883	468

Table 2. Average estimated total Pacific whiting mortality per year in research and pink shrimp (in mt) for 2011 through 2021. Amounts are rounded to nearest whole number.

	2011-2021 average (mt) mortality
Research (mt)	429
Pink Shrimp (mt)	267
Summed Ave (mt)	696

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