

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. The data are derived from the West Coast Observer Program’s draft report “*Estimated Discard and Catch of Groundfish Species in the 2022 U.S. West Coast Fisheries*” ([Agenda Item G.1.b, NWFSC Report 1, September 2023](#)) data tables (Agenda Item [G.1.b, NWFSC Report 2, September 2023](#)).

Table 1 shows the total mortality of Pacific whiting in research activities and the pink shrimp fishery by year for the five-year period of 2018-2022 in metric tons (mt). Table 2 displays the average annual Pacific whiting mortality in the research and pink shrimp fisheries from 2011-2022 for reference.

The five-year average (2018-2022) estimated annual Pacific whiting mortality is 174 mt and 64 mt in research and pink shrimp fisheries, respectively. The twelve-year average (2011-2022) estimated annual Pacific whiting mortality is 394 mt and 245 mt in research and pink shrimp fisheries, respectively.¹ The 0 mt mortality in 2020 research fisheries is a result of research cruises being canceled due to COVID-19.

Table 1: Estimated five-year Pacific whiting mortality in research and pink shrimp (in mt) for 2018-2022 by year and average annual mortality. Amounts are rounded to nearest whole number.

	Pacific Whiting Morality (mt)					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Ave
Research (mt)	14	18	0	828	10	174
Pink Shrimp (mt)	119	39	97	55	12	64
Total (mt)	133	57	97	883	22	238

Table 2. Average estimated total Pacific whiting mortality per year in research and pink shrimp (in mt) for 2011 through 2022. Amounts are rounded to nearest whole number.

	2011-2022 average (mt) mortality per year
Research (mt)	394
Pink Shrimp (mt)	245
Summed Ave (mt)	639

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¹ In the past, staff provided the annual estimates from 2011 to the present; however, staff determined the most recent five years provides a more accurate reflection of recent fishery behavior.