IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2024 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE U.S./CANADA AGREEMENT

Pacific whiting is managed jointly by Canada and the United States through the <u>Pacific</u> <u>Hake/Whiting Treaty</u> (Treaty) as a transboundary stock. Under this agreement, Canada and the United States share the resource. The coastwide (United States and Canada) total allowable catch (TAC) is developed on an annual basis. Canada has a right to 26.12 percent of the overall TAC and the United States has a right to 73.88 percent. A <u>Joint Management Committee</u> (JMC) and <u>Advisory Panel (AP)</u>, consisting of U.S. and Canadian government and industry representatives, meet each year to review the annual Pacific whiting stock assessment and develop management advice on the TAC for their respective governments.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), under the delegation of authority of the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, will accept or reject the recommendation of the JMC. In years when the JMC is unable to reach agreement, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) may recommend a TAC to National Marine Fisheries Service for its consideration in setting the U.S. TAC.

The JMC/AP is scheduled to meet February 27–29, 2024 to formalize their recommendations. Their recommendations were not available as of the printing of the March 2024 Briefing Book. Mr. Frank Lockhart and Mr. Phil Anderson are members of the JMC and are expected to inform the Council on the outcomes of the Treaty process at this meeting.

Council Action:

Consider management measures necessary for implementation of the 2024 Pacific whiting fishery, as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see e-portal).

Agenda Order:

- F.5 Implementation of the 2024 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement Todd Phillips
 - a. Joint Management Committee Report Phil Anderson/Frank Lockhart
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2024 Pacific Whiting Fishery

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