

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2024 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE U.S./CANADA AGREEMENT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the U.S./Canada Whiting Agreement Joint Management Committee (JMC) and Advisory Panel (AP) meeting that was held February 27-29, 2024 in Lynnwood, Washington, from Maggie Sommer, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR), and participants in the treaty process.

2024 Whiting Fishery

The GAP is pleased that the JMC provided a consensus recommendation to the Parties for a 2024 coastwide total allowable catch (TAC) of 555,000 mt. Whiting fishery participants highlighted for the GAP that the bilateral scientific research and assessment process that is the foundation of managing the whiting fishery is strong and working well. The whiting fishery is a critically important piece of the West Coast groundfish fisheries, and the GAP appreciates the collaborative approach among scientists, managers, and fishery participants.

The GAP anticipates timely implementation of the JMC recommendation by NMFS. As reported during the NMFS Report (Agenda Item F.1), it is our understanding that the proposed rule should publish in March, interim allocations will be provided in advance of the May 1 season start, and final allocations (consistent with the JMC TAC) will be provided when the final rule is published (likely in May 2024).

The Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended a 750 mt set-aside amount for 2024 research and incidental catch in November 2023, as recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#)) and the GAP ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, November 2023](#)), and we continue to support implementation of this set-aside amount in determining 2024 whiting sector allocations.

Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey

The GAP commented on the integrated hake/coastal pelagic species survey in our statement under the NMFS Report ([Agenda Item F.1.d, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2024](#)).

PFMC
03/08/24