

## 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 2023 U.S. West Coast Fisheries*” ([Agenda Item I.1.b, NWFS Report 1, September 2024](#)) data tables ([Agenda Item I.1.b, NWFS Report 2, September 2024](#)).

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 2019-2023 in metric tons (mt). Table 2 displays the average annual Pacific whiting mortality in the research and pink shrimp fisheries from 2011-2023 for reference.

The five-year average (2018-2022) estimated annual Pacific whiting mortality is 175 mt and 43 mt in research and pink shrimp fisheries, respectively. The thirteen-year average (2011-2023) estimated annual Pacific whiting mortality is 365 mt and 228 mt in research and pink shrimp fisheries, respectively.<sup>1</sup> 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 2019-2023 by year and average annual mortality. Amounts are rounded to nearest whole mt.**

	Pacific Whiting Morality (mt)					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Ave
Research (mt)	18	0	828	10	17	175
Pink Shrimp (mt)	39	97	55	12	13	43
<b>Total (mt)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>218</b>

**Table 2. Average estimated total Pacific whiting mortality per year in research and pink shrimp (in mt) for 2011 through 2023. Amounts are rounded to nearest whole number.**

	2011-2023 average (mt) mortality per year
Research (mt)	365
Pink Shrimp (mt)	228
<b>Summed Ave (mt)</b>	<b>593</b>

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<sup>1</sup> In the past, staff provided the annual estimates from 2011 to the present; however, the most recent five years provides a more accurate reflection of recent fishery behavior. All years available upon request.