Whiting Mothership Cooperative

An Amendment 20 Mothership Catcher Vessel Cooperative

Annual Report on the 2024 Pacific Whiting Fishery

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Introduction

In March of 2011, the owners of the 37 trawl limited entry catcher vessel permits (MS/CV LEPs) endorsed for operation in the Mothership sector of the Pacific whiting fishery formed a fishing cooperative to coordinate harvesting efforts. This cooperative is the Whiting Mothership Cooperative (WMC). Following transfers of MSCV catch history assignments (CHAs), there are currently 34 endorsed permits, three of which carry two MSCV CHAs. The owners of all of the current MS/CV LEPs remained members in good standing for the 2024 fishing year.

The WMC receives an allocation of whiting based on the cumulative catch histories of the members of the cooperative. The WMC operates under the WMC Membership Agreement contract which allocates whiting to members proportionate to the contribution to the cooperative's allocation made by NMFS on the basis of the whiting catch history assigned to the Cooperative by the members.

One of the primary purposes of the WMC cooperative is the management of bycatch of constraining rockfish species and Chinook salmon. To that end the members of the WMC have all signed a WMC Bycatch Agreement that sets out the rules for modification of fishing behavior with which members are obligated to comply.

Purpose of Report

This report is intended to disclose all information required or identified in Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 660.113(d)(3). The catch data in this report is for the 2024 fishing year beginning May 1 and ending December 31. The catch data was provided by Sea State, Inc. and was obtained from the NMFS – At-Sea Hake Observer Program.

Reporting Requirements

The required Annual Report elements (i-v) are found in the 50 CFR 660.113(d)(3)

> *(3) Annual coop report. The designated coop manager for the mothership coop must submit an annual report to NMFS and the Council by March 17 each year, before a coop permit is issued for that year. The annual coop report will contain information about the previous year's fishery, including:*
>
> *(i) The mothership sector's annual allocation of Pacific whiting and the permitted mothership coop allocation;*
>
> *(ii) The mothership coop's actual retained and discarded catch of Pacific whiting, salmon, Pacific halibut, rockfish, groundfish, and other species on a vessel-by- vessel basis;*
>
> *(iii) A description of the method used by the mothership coop to monitor performance of coop vessels that participated in the fishery;*
>
> *(iv) A description of any actions taken by the mothership coop in response to any vessels that exceed their allowed catch and bycatch; and*
>
> *(v) Plans for the current year's mothership coop fishery, including the companies participating in the cooperative, the harvest agreement, and catch monitoring and reporting requirements.*

(i) Annual allocation of Pacific whiting to the WMC coop

The Mothership sector of the Pacific Whiting fishery was initially allocated 81,006.73 metric tons of whiting, followed by a re-apportionment on September 26th of 10,800 metric tons, for a total of 91,806.73 metric tons. 100% of the Mothership sector whiting was allocated to the Whiting Mothership Cooperative.

(ii) The Mothership coop's actual retained and discarded catch of Pacific whiting, salmon, Pacific halibut, rockfish, groundfish, and other species on a vessel-by-vessel basis

All 34 of the current MS/CV endorsed trawl limited entry permit holders joined the Whiting Mothership Cooperative (WMC). As of December 31st, 2024, nine MS/CVs had fished in the MS sector of the whiting fishery, harvesting 20,942 metric tons of whiting. Data on the catch of Whiting, Salmon, Halibut, Rockfish, Groundfish and Other Species, as of December 31, 2024, is shown in tables 1-5 (Attachment 1). In interpreting the tables a cell with "0.00 mt" indicates at least a trace amount of this species was caught; a blank cell indicates no amount of that species was caught.

Note: Some species were not included in the table because there was no catch reported in the data. Salmon are reported in numbers. Halibut, Dungeness crab and eulachon data are reported in metric tons, as the data on numbers of fish was not available.

(iii) A description of the method used by the mothership coop to monitor performance of coop vessels that participated in the fishery

The WMC retains Sea State, Inc. as the Monitoring Agent for the coop. All WMC members provide confidentiality waivers to allow Sea State, Inc. to access NMFS Observer data and location data from VMS providers in real time.

The WMC provided Sea State, Inc. with a harvest schedule of each MS/CVs share of whiting and pro-rata portion of the allocated bycatch species. Sea State, Inc. queries the NORPAC observer database to obtain the Mothership observer reports on a daily basis. Sea State, Inc. uses this data to produce daily reports which are distributed by email to all WMC members, the Coop manager, and to the Mothership processors.

The Sea State, Inc. daily report shows several tables of information, including:

- daily catch and bycatch amounts for the fleet as a whole for most recent 10 days,
- the overall YTD rates and percent of whiting quota and bycatch harvested for the fleet in aggregate,
- the YTD bycatch rates for each Mothership's fleet,
- the YTD bycatch rates and amounts for each vessel,
- the percent and amounts of whiting quota and bycatch allocations harvested by each seasonal pool,
- the balance of whiting available in each seasonal pool by vessel.

As MS/CV observers are debriefed, their data is incorporated into NORPAC and Sea State, Inc. updates its accounting accordingly. On the basis of the Sea State, Inc. data, the Coop manger audits vessel harvest amounts relative to the individual members' share of the quota and transfers between members to see that the coop's allocations are not exceeded.

In addition to the email distribution of the daily report, Sea State maintains a website for the Coop where members can access this information. The website also provides GIS mapping of VMS tracks of any hauls where bycatch rates exceed a base rate. These high bycatch maps are shared with the shorebased and catcher-processor cooperatives and provide members access to historic and current hotspots with high resolution mapping.

A copy of a Sea State daily report from the last week of the fishery is included as Attachment 2.

(iv) A description of any actions taken by the mothership coop in response to any vessels that exceed their allowed catch and bycatch

No vessels exceeded their allowed whiting catch amounts under the Coop Agreement. The Coop makes vessel specific whiting allocations; however, the bycatch allocations are managed as a common pool resource. This is not to say that vessels are not subject to individual accountability measures for bycatch performance.

The Coop agreement includes a variety of measures that serve to mitigate against the possibility of exceeding allowed catch limits. These include:

- Precautionary closures of past bycatch hotspots
- Night fishing restrictions
- Fleet relocation triggers and fleet to fleet reporting
- Required test tows upon relocation to new fishing area
- In season "hot spot" closure authority
- Seasonal apportionments ("pools") of whiting and bycatch allowances
- Sanctions against vessels that have exceeded a bycatch rate within a seasonal pool.

<u>Precautionary Closures of Past Bycatch Hotspots</u>

Prior to the beginning of the 2011 whiting fishery, the WMC created a "Bycatch Committee" which met several times to develop proposed closures that would apply seasonally. The committee reviewed GIS analysis of 10 years of at-sea observer data overlaid on fine scale bathymetry. The analysis included bycatch rates and amounts as well as amounts of whiting. VMS track-lines of high bycatch tows were also incorporated in the review. Additionally, the committee reviewed logbook information from individual captains' historic directed rockfish experience, which provided insight into habitat associations for rockfish species. The committee ended up recommending closure of 9 areas, totaling nearly 2000 square kilometers, which were adopted by the WMC board. The board also identified several other "cautionary" areas.

Prior to the start of the 2024 fishery, the Bycatch Committee met to review the current list of closed and cautionary areas, many of which have been in place for over ten years. The Committee carefully analyzed recent plotter data and bycatch trends. The Committee recommended the modification of several pre-season closed and or advisory areas. The changes provided the opportunity for increased operational efficiencies when towing along specific banks and created more acute closures in other locations. The proposal was adopted by the Board and put in place at the start of the 2024 season.

Night Fishing

Based on the recommendations of the bycatch committee, the board retained the following night fishing restriction: From the annual opening date of the MS sector of the Pacific whiting fishery through August 31 of such fishing year, no vessel harvesting Pacific whiting from the MS sector allocation shall fish between 10:00 pm and 5:30 am Pacific time *except outside 200 fathoms*. From September 1 through December 31 of such fishing year, no vessel harvesting Pacific whiting from the MS sector allocation shall fish between 10:00 pm and 5:30 am Pacific time, *except outside 100 fathoms*.

Fleet Relocation and Real Time Fleet to Fleet Reporting

The Coop established Base Rates which were based on the pro-rata amounts of bycatch allocations relative to whiting allocations to the MS sector. Each Mothership processor maintains a spreadsheet reporting its fleet performance, measured against the Base Rates. The spreadsheet reports are shared each day between all the processing ships.

Each fleet's performance relative to the Base Rates constitutes a trigger requiring the fleet to relocate if they encounter a bycatch "hotspot". Relocation is required in the event of any of the following situations:

- If a fleet's three day rolling average rate exceeds the Base Rate for any bycatch species, and that Fleet's cumulative year to date bycatch rate exceeds half of the Base Rate for that species,
- If a fleet's three day rolling average rate exceeds 125% of the Base Rate for a bycatch species
- If a fleet's bycatch rate during any single day exceeds 200% the Base Rate for a bycatch species,

This real time mechanism for response to bycatch encounters coupled with a requirement for test tows upon entering a new area, have served to limit bycatch.

In-season Hot Spot Closures

The WMC board delegated authority to Sea State, Inc. to impose "In-season Hot Spot Closures" if they perceive a problem. This authority was used during the 2018 season to respond to high Chinook encounters. In response to Shortbelly rockfish encounters in 2019, the WMC provided authority to the Coop manager to also implement and remove hotspot closures as necessary to avoid bycatch events. In 2022, the Coop manager utilized this authority to respond to Sablefish bycatch and closed an apparent hot spot. There were no in season hot spots in 2024.

Seasonal Pools

The Coop agreement provides for dividing the whiting allocation into five pools with various start dates. Each pool received a share of the bycatch allocations pro-rata to whiting. The Coop Agreement provides that if a pool reaches its share of the bycatch prior to harvesting its whiting allocation, the members of the pool must cease fishing.

Sanctions Against Member Vessels

In the event that a pool closes because of bycatch, if a member of that pool has a cumulative bycatch amount exceeding their pro-rata share by 25%, that vessel is restricted from harvesting additional whiting in a subsequent seasonal pool.

Closure of At-Sea Sectors

The WMC suspended fishing October 14, 2024. There were no violations of the WMC Bycatch Agreement.

(v) Plans for the next year's mothership coop fishery, including the companies participating in the cooperative, the harvest agreement, and catch monitoring and reporting requirements.

The WMC provides that membership in the Coop continues in the following year unless a member provides notice of intent to withdraw before November 1st. No members filed notice of intent to withdraw. The ownership of member permits is shown in Exhibit A of the WMC Membership Agreement (Attachment 3 & Exhibits) filed with the MS cooperative permit application NMFS for the 2025 season.

Attachments:

1- WMC's actual retained and discarded catch of Pacific whiting, salmon, Pacific halibut, rockfish, groundfish, and other species on a vessel-by- vessel basis
2- Sea State daily report from the last week of the fishery
3- Whiting Mothership Cooperative Salmon Mitigation Plan Postseason Report 2023

Attachment 1

WMC's actual retained and discarded catch of Pacific whiting, salmon, Pacific halibut, rockfish, groundfish, and other species on a vessel-by- vessel basis.

Table 1. Retained and discarded catch of Pacific whiting (mt) by vessel.

	Leslie Lee	Lisa Melinda	Marathon	Miss Berdie	Miss Sarah	Muir Milach	Nordic Star	Pegasus	Sea Storm
Whiting retained catch (mt)	1,591	132	1,910	2,175	1,214	5,106	1,834	3,399	3,226
Whiting discard (mt)	11	17	13	20	5	179	52	128	20
Total (mt)	1,603	149	1,923	2,196	1,219	5,285	1,886	3,527	3,246

Table 2. Retained Salmonids by vessel (# fish)

	Leslie Lee	Lisa Melinda	Marathon	Miss Berdie	Miss Sarah	Muir Milach	Nordic Star	Pegasus	Sea Storm	Total
Coho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3. Discarded Salmonids by vessel (# fish).

	Leslie Lee	Lisa Melinda	Marathon	Miss Berdie	Miss Sarah	Muir Milach	Nordic Star	Pegasus	Sea Storm	Total
Coho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinook	0	0	15	8	6	10	2	40	8	90

Table 4. Retained Non-whiting and non-salmonid catch by vessel (mt).

Species	Leslie Lee	Lisa Melinda	Marathon	Miss Berdie	Miss Sarah	Muir Milach	Nordic Star	Pegasus	Sea Storm
American Shad	0.01		0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
Argentine Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Arrowtooth Flounder	0.13	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
Ascidian - Sea Squirt - Tunicate Unident.	0.00			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aurora Rockfish	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Rockfish	0.00			0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Barracudina Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Basket Starfish	0.00							0.00	0.00

Big Skate	0.00			0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
Bigscale Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Black-Footed Albatross	0.00							0.00	0.00
Blackgill Rockfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Blue King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Blue Shark	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bocaccio	0.02		0.00			0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Brittle Starfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Brown Cat Shark	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canary Rockfish	0.09		0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42
Chilipepper Rockfish	0.02		0.00			0.02		0.00	0.00
Chum Salmon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corals-Bryozoans Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Crab Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Cutlassfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Daggertooth	0.00							0.00	0.00
Dark Blotched Rockfish	0.23	0.00	0.09	0.30	0.22	0.12	0.08	0.01	0.31
Deepsea Smelt Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dover Sole	0.01	0.00	0.00		0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dragonfish Unidentified	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dreamer Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Duckbill Barracudina	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Eelpout Unidentified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Sole	0.00			0.00				0.00	0.00
Eulachon	0.00							0.00	0.00
Fangtooth	0.00							0.00	0.00
Fish Unidentified	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Fish Waste	0.01		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flatfish Unidentified	0.01							0.00	0.00
Flathead Sole	0.00							0.00	0.00
Golden King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grenadier Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Groovedtanner Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hermit Crab Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Invertebrate Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Jack Mackerel	0.90	0.00	2.55	0.34	0.13	0.22	0.00	0.03	2.46
Jellyfish	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
King-of-the-Salmon	0.02		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lamprey Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lanternfish Unidentified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leach's Storm-Petrel	0.00							0.00	0.00

Lingcod	0.03					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Longnose Lancetfish	0.00						0.00	0.00	0.00
Longnose Skate	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Longspine Thornyhead Rockfish	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loosejaws Unidentified	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manefish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Medusafish	0.00		0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Miscellaneous Unidentified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Fulmar	0.00							0.00	0.00
Nudibranch Unidentified	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Ocean Sunfish	0.00			0.00				0.00	0.00
Octopus Unidentified	0.00						0.00	0.00	0.00
Opah	0.00							0.00	0.00
Oxeye Oreo	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pacific Electric Ray	0.00			0.00				0.00	0.00
Pacific Halibut	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pacific Herring	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pacific Lamprey	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pacific Mackerel	0.04			0.10	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.11
Pacific Ocean Perch	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02
Pacific Pomfret	0.00			0.01				0.00	0.00
Pacific Sardine	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pacific Saury	0.00			0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Pacific Sleeper Shark	0.00			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paperbones Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pearleyes Unidentified	0.00			0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
Pink Salmon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Poacher Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pollock	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pomfret Unidentified	0.00			0.00				0.00	0.00
Ragfish	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Red Banded Rockfish	0.00			0.00	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.00
Red King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Redstripe Rockfish	0.00		0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rex Sole	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Ribbonfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Rock Sole	0.00							0.00	0.00
Rockfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Rough Pomfret	0.00		0.01			0.00		0.00	0.00
Rougheye Rockfish	0.01	0.21		0.14	0.23	0.66	0.17	0.01	0.06
Roundfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00

Sablefish	0.92	0.13	0.25	0.78	1.70	0.18	0.01	0.02	6.57
Salmon Shark	0.00							0.00	0.00
Salmon Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sandpaper Skate	0.00				0.00			0.00	0.00
Scarlet King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sea Anemone Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sea Cucumber Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sea Devil Unidentified	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Sea Pen-Sea Whip Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Shark Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sharpchin Rockfish	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Shortbelly Rockfish	0.00			0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Shortraker Rockfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Shortspine Thornyhead	0.23	0.01	0.01	0.00	1.13	0.09	0.14	0.00	0.33
Shrimp Unidentified	0.00				0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Silvergray Rockfish	0.01						0.00	0.00	0.00
Sixgill Shark	0.00							0.00	0.00
Skate Egg Case Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Skate Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Slender Barracudina	0.00							0.00	0.00
Slender Sole	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Smalleye Squaretail	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snail Egg Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snail Shell Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snail Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snailfish Unidentified	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Snipe Eel Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snow Crab, Opilio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sockeye Salmon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soupfin Shark	0.00							0.00	0.00
Spiny Dogfish Shark	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Splitnose Rockfish	0.33	0.01	0.10	0.04	0.74	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.31
Sponge Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Spookfish Unidentified	0.00						0.00	0.00	0.00
Spotted Ratfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Squid Unidentified	0.97	0.00	0.95	2.20	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.36
Starfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Steelhead	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stripetail Rockfish	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swordfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Tanner Crab, Bairdi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Thornyhead Rockfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Thresher Shark	0.00			0.20				0.00	0.00
Triangle Tanner Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tubeshoulder Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Viperfish Unidentified	0.00	0.00				0.00		0.00	0.00
White Barracudina	0.00			0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Widow Rockfish	1.44	0.00	0.67	0.01	2.82	0.02	0.00	0.00	3.59
Yellowmouth Rockfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Yellowtail Rockfish	4.96		1.25			0.00	0.00	0.00	2.07

Table 5. Discarded Non-whiting and non-salmonid catch by vessel (mt).

Species	Leslie Lee	Lisa Melinda	Marathon	Miss Berdie	Miss Sarah	Muir Milach	Nordic Star	Pegasus	Sea Storm
American Shad	0.00		0.00				0.01	0.00	0.00
Argentine Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Arrowtooth Flounder	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.33	0.17	0.21	0.01
Ascidian - Sea Squirt - Tunicate Unident.	0.00			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Aurora Rockfish	0.00					0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Rockfish	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Barracudina Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Basket Starfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Big Skate	0.00			0.06	0.04			0.00	0.06
Bigscale Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Black-Footed Albatross	0.00							0.00	0.00
Blackgill Rockfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Blue King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Blue Shark	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.29		0.01	0.01	0.21	0.09
Bocaccio	0.00		0.00			0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Brittle Starfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Brown Cat Shark	0.18	0.04	0.10	0.84	0.96	2.64	0.52	1.58	0.50
Canary Rockfish	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.01
Chilipepper Rockfish	0.00		0.00			0.02		0.01	0.00
Chum Salmon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corals-Bryozoans Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Crab Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Cutlassfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Daggertooth	0.00							0.00	0.00
Dark Blotched Rockfish	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.75	0.51	0.51	0.00
Deepsea Smelt Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dover Sole	0.00	0.01	0.00		0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00

Dragonfish Unidentified	0.00	0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dreamer Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Duckbill Barracudina	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04		0.06	0.03	0.02	0.02
Eelpout Unidentified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Sole	0.00			0.00				0.00	0.00
Eulachon	0.00							0.00	0.00
Fangtooth	0.00							0.00	0.00
Fish Unidentified	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Fish Waste	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00
Flatfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Flathead Sole	0.00							0.00	0.00
Golden King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grenadier Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Groovedtanner Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hermit Crab Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Invertebrate Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Jack Mackerel	0.01	0.02	0.02	2.07	0.00	2.06	0.02	1.38	0.01
Jellyfish	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.17	0.16	0.05	0.05
King-of-the-Salmon	0.39		0.75	2.15	0.76	1.97	0.08	1.84	1.88
Lamprey Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lanternfish Unidentified	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leach's Storm-Petrel	0.00							0.00	0.00
Lingcod	0.00					0.01	0.10	0.01	0.00
Longnose Lancetfish	0.00						0.01	0.00	0.00
Longnose Skate	0.02			0.05	0.11	0.16		0.10	0.00
Longspine Thornyhead Rockfish	0.00	0.00				0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Loosejaws Unidentified	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manefish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Medusafish	0.00		0.00	0.04	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.02
Miscellaneous Unidentified	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Northern Fulmar	0.00							0.00	0.00
Nudibranch Unidentified	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Ocean Sunfish	0.00			0.04				0.00	0.00
Octopus Unidentified	0.00						0.00	0.00	0.00
Opah	0.00							0.00	0.00
Oxeye Oreo	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pacific Electric Ray	0.00			0.03				0.01	0.00
Pacific Halibut	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pacific Herring	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00
Pacific Lamprey	0.01		0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01
Pacific Mackerel	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00

Pacific Ocean Perch	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.22	0.11	0.00
Pacific Pomfret	0.00			0.01				0.01	0.00
Pacific Sardine	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pacific Saury	0.00			0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Pacific Sleeper Shark	0.00			0.01		0.07	0.09	0.01	0.10
Paperbones Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pearleyes Unidentified	0.00			0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
Pink Salmon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Poacher Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pollock	0.00							0.00	0.00
Pomfret Unidentified	0.00			0.00				0.00	0.00
Ragfish	0.00					0.11		0.04	0.08
Red Banded Rockfish	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.02		0.00	0.00
Red King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Redstripe Rockfish	0.00		0.00			0.00	1.18	0.00	0.00
Rex Sole	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.11	0.01	0.00
Ribbonfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Rock Sole	0.00							0.00	0.00
Rockfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Rough Pomfret	0.00		0.00			0.00		0.00	0.00
Rougheye Rockfish	0.00	0.14		0.00	0.00	0.82	1.14	0.25	0.00
Roundfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sablefish	0.03	0.12	0.00	0.34	0.00	4.83	0.75	8.51	0.05
Salmon Shark	0.00							0.12	0.00
Salmon Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sandpaper Skate	0.00				0.00			0.00	0.00
Scarlet King Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sea Anemone Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sea Cucumber Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sea Devil Unidentified	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Sea Pen-Sea Whip Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Shark Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Sharpchin Rockfish	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Shortbelly Rockfish	0.00			0.00	0.00	2.03	0.00	0.30	0.00
Shortraker Rockfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Shortspine Thornyhead	0.01	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.18	3.12	0.02	0.00
Shrimp Unidentified	0.00				0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Silvergray Rockfish	0.00						0.03	0.00	0.00
Sixgill Shark	0.00							0.00	0.00
Skate Egg Case Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Skate Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00

Slender Barracudina	0.00							0.00	0.00
Slender Sole	0.00					0.00		0.00	0.00
Smalleye Squaretail	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snail Egg Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snail Shell Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snail Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snailfish Unidentified	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Snipe Eel Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Snow Crab, Opilio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sockeye Salmon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soupfin Shark	0.00							0.00	0.00
Spiny Dogfish Shark	0.24	0.14	0.27	1.53	0.84	2.37	1.08	1.22	0.68
Splitnose Rockfish	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.04	0.00	9.19	0.29	0.25	0.00
Sponge Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Spookfish Unidentified	0.00						0.00	0.00	0.00
Spotted Ratfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Squid Unidentified	0.06	0.17	0.00	1.55	0.07	3.32	0.49	2.66	0.02
Starfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Steelhead	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stripetail Rockfish	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swordfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Tanner Crab, Bairdi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thornyhead Rockfish Unidentified	0.00							0.00	0.00
Thresher Shark	0.00			0.00				0.18	0.00
Triangle Tanner Crab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tubeshoulder Unidentified	0.00					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Viperfish Unidentified	0.00	0.00				0.00		0.00	0.00
White Barracudina	0.00			0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Widow Rockfish	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.70	0.00	2.05	0.33	0.76	0.04
Yellowmouth Rockfish	0.00							0.00	0.00
Yellowtail Rockfish	0.04		0.01			0.76	4.47	0.80	0.01

Attachment 2 Sea State Daily Report

Vessel Allocation and Catch YTD (MT)

Pool	Harvesting Vessel	Processing Vessel	Most Recent Haul Date	Most Recent Haul Number	Pacific Hake Allocation	Pacific Hake Remaining	Pacific Hake	Canary Rockfish	Widow Rockfish	Dark Blotched Rockfish	Pacific Ocean Perch	Chinook Salmon	Yellowtail Rockfish	Sablefish
4	Arctic Fury	Excellence	-	-	1,403	1,403	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Leslie Lee	Arctic Storm	8/21/2024	1096	2,720	1,127	1593	0.095	1.459	0.233	0.018	0	0	0.939
1	Lisa Melinda	American Empress II	10/12/2024	300	67	0	67	0	0.017	0.038	0.011	0	0	0.046
2	Lisa Melinda	American Empress II	10/13/2024	306	567	484	83	0	0.004	0.004	0.004	0	0	0.2
3	Lisa Melinda	American Empress II	-	-	3,533	3,533	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Lisa Melinda	American Empress II	-	-	1,887	1,887	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Marathon	Arctic Storm	8/8/2024	1032	567	0	567	0	0.192	0.004	0	11	0	0
3	Marathon	Arctic Storm	8/21/2024	1097	2,153	802	1352	0.142	0.485	0.089	0.004	4	0	0.248
4	Mark I	Excellence	-	-	1,700	1,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Miss Berdie	American Empress II	8/22/2024	123	500	0	500	0	0.694	0.083	0	2	0	0.176
2	Miss Berdie	Arctic Storm	9/5/2024	1127	567	0	567	0	0.006	0.289	0.007	4	0	0.148
3	Miss Berdie	American Empress II	8/25/2024	141	1,000	674	326	0	0.008	0.018	0	0	0	0.165
3	Miss Berdie	Arctic Storm	9/11/2024	1163	2,153	1,357	796	0.003	0.001	0.011	0.001	2	0	0.634
1	Miss Sarah	Arctic Storm	9/12/2024	1172	2,400	1,182	1218	0.002	2.821	0.224	0.013	6	0	1.705
1	Muir Milach	American Empress II	8/24/2024	134	2,267	0	2267	0.003	1.999	0.383	0.008	2	0	0.483
3	Muir Milach	American Empress II	10/13/2024	305	3,967	972	2995	0	0.066	0.48	0.185	8	0	4.512
4	Muir Milach	American Empress II	-	-	2,475	2,475	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Nordic Star	American Empress II	10/13/2024	307	2,833	949	1885	0.003	0.329	0.588	0.228	2	0	0.761
4	Nordic Star	American Empress II	-	-	6,233	6,233	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Pegasus	American Empress II	9/1/2024	148	2,267	0	2267	0.13	0.727	0.462	0.105	33	0	2.14
3	Pegasus	American Empress II	9/12/2024	210	2,590	1,373	1216	0	0.015	0.049	0.003	6	0	6.365
4	Pegasus	American Empress II	-	-	3,946	3,946	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Sea Storm	Arctic Storm	9/12/2024	1171	3,400	155	3245	0.426	3.63	0.316	0.017	8	0	6.618
2	Sea Storm	Arctic Storm	-	-	567	567	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Sea Storm	Arctic Storm	-	-	2,153	2,153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	Seeker	Arctic Storm	-	-	320	320	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Seeker	Arctic Storm	-	-	2,720	2,720	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Traveler	Excellence	-	-	5,698	5,698	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Attachment 3

Whiting Mothership Cooperative

An Amendment 20 Mothership Catcher Vessel Cooperative

Salmon Mitigation Plan Postseason Report on the 2024 Pacific Whiting Fishery

Prepared by: Kristin McQuaw, Cooperative Manager

Submitted to NMFS & the PFMC: March 2025

Purpose of Report

The Whiting Mothership Cooperative is submitting a Salmon Mitigation Plan (SMP) Report for the 2024 season on behalf of its membership, all of whom are party to SMP-2024-01. This report is intended to disclose all information required or identified in 50 CFR 660.113(e)(6).

SMP Report Requirements

(6) ***SMP postseason report.*** The designated SMP representative for an approved SMP must submit a written postseason report to NMFS and the Council for the year in which the SMP was approved.

(i) ***Submission deadline.*** The SMP postseason report must be received by NMFS and the Council no later than March 31 of the year following that in which the SMP was approved.

(ii) ***Information requirements.*** The SMP postseason report must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(A) Name of the SMP and SMP identification number.

(B) A comprehensive description of Chinook salmon bycatch avoidance measures used in the fishing year in which the SMP was approved, including but not limited to, information sharing, area closures, movement rules, salmon excluder use, and internal bycatch guidelines.

(C) An evaluation of the effectiveness of these avoidance measures in minimizing Chinook salmon bycatch.

(D) A description of any amendments to the terms of the SMP that were approved by NMFS during the fishing year in which the SMP was approved and the reasons the amendments to the SMP were made.

(A) Name of the SMP and SMP identification number.

Salmon Mitigation Plan for the Whiting Mothership Cooperative. SMP identification number: SMP-2024-01

(B) A comprehensive description of Chinook salmon bycatch avoidance measures used in the fishing year in which the SMP was approved, including but not limited to, information sharing, area closures, movement rules, salmon excluder use, and internal bycatch guidelines.

In 2024, the WMC consistently shared information regarding Chinook salmon encounters amongst its members as well as with the Catcher Processor and Shorebased Whiting Cooperatives. Information sharing is a critical component to bycatch mitigation; alerting vessels to when and where Chinook are prevalent in near real time helps to prevent unnecessary lighting strikes. The Cooperative implemented area closures, fishing time and depth restrictions, movement rules and additional internal bycatch guidelines to minimize Chinook bycatch. Lastly, the Cooperative required all participants to utilize a salmon excluder, designed with escapement panels to encourage salmon to exit the net.

(C) An evaluation of the effectiveness of these avoidance measures in minimizing Chinook salmon bycatch.

In 2024, the Cooperative caught 90 Chinook, less than 1% of the 11,000 fish Chinook guideline. The lower-than-average chinook encounters are in part due to the lower-than-average fishing effort and the timing and location at which fishing occurred in 2024. However, when Chinook was encountered, the Cooperative's avoidance measures, specifically its internal movement rules, time and depth restrictions and salmon excluder use, were undoubtedly effective at minimizing salmon bycatch. Restrictions on the time of day and depth reduced the likelihood of fishing when hake and salmon often overlap. Additionally, the Cooperative's use of salmon excluders continues to minimize Chinook bycatch. While the effectiveness of excluders is dependent on individual vessels and their unique gear configurations, recent EFP studies in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery have shown possible salmon escapement of 15-40% in vessels with comparable horsepower and gear to those in the whiting mothership fishery.

(D) A description of any amendments to the terms of the SMP that were approved by NMFS during the fishing year in which the SMP was approved and the reasons the amendments to the SMP were made.

No amendments to the SMP were made in 2024.