

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON
GROUNDFISH EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) discussed the Whiting Exempted Fishing Permit Application ([F.4 Attachment 2](#)) which requests exemption from prohibition on processing Pacific whiting between 40° 10' N and 42° N latitudes.

The STT reiterates concerns from the [September 2023, Supplemental STT Report 1](#):

The STT is concerned with the potential bycatch of Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) in the whiting fleet's fall fishing season. Under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan section 6.5.2 Bycatch and Incidental Take of Non-Groundfish Species in Groundfish Fisheries, the STT is permitted to bring attention to a non-groundfish bycatch species facing conservation problems. While the whiting sectors are still within their bounds of Chinook bycatch at this time, we remind the Pacific Fishery Management Council of the critically low forecasted abundance of KRFC, and that the stock has remained in an overfished condition since 2018 (2023 Preseason Report II). Additionally, KRFC is facing further conservation concerns this year resulting from Klamath River dam removal including habitat disruption and decreases to hatchery production.

The STT notes that KRFC remains overfished, and effects of recent dam removals are not fully known at this time.

PFMC
11/15/25