



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Sustainable Fisheries Division F/NWR2  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1  
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

**MAY 31 2012**

Mr. Dan Wolford, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

**RE: Final 2013-2014 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures, Agenda Item D.5, June 2012**

Dear Chairman Wolford:

This letter pertains to the incidental catch set-asides for the at-sea Pacific whiting (whiting) trawl sectors. Amendment 21 to the groundfish FMP established long-term allocations between the trawl and non-trawl sectors, and among other things it established incidental catch set-asides for the at-sea whiting trawl sectors (mothership and catcher/processor sectors). While set-aside amounts were preliminarily decided under Amendment 21, the set-aside amounts were intended to be reconsidered in the biennial harvest specifications and management measures decision process using the best available information.

Regulations at 660.55(j) establish regulatory provisions for the at-sea whiting trawl sector set-asides. The set-asides for the catcher/processor and mothership sectors are also specified in regulations at Table 1d (for 2011) and Table 2d (for 2012) to part 660 subpart C. The set-aside amounts are deducted from the limited entry trawl fishery allocations and the remaining amount is made available to the IFQ fishery. The final 2011 catch data for the at-sea whiting trawl sectors are provided below in Table 1, as are the set-aside amounts by species.

Comparisons between the at-sea whiting trawl sector set-asides and the 2011 total catch estimates show that the set-aside for most species or species complexes were well within the specified set-aside. However, the estimated total catch of three species, arrowtooth flounder, minor slope rockfish, and other fish did exceed the set-asides. The estimated catch of arrowtooth flounder is 45.2 mt as compared to the set-aside of 10 mt (452% of the set-aside). The estimated catch of minor slope rockfish is 78.81 mt as compared to the set-aside of 55 mt (143% of the set-aside). Of the "other fish" complex nearly 100% was dogfish (725.31 mt out of 725.84 mt). The estimated catch of "other fish" was 140% of the set-aside of 520 mt.

The information provided here is considered to be the best available information on total catch for the 2011 at-sea whiting trawl sectors. This information should be taken into consideration when making recommendations for the 2013-2014 harvest specifications and management measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Lockhart".

Frank Lockhart  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Sustainable Fisheries  
NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region



cc: Don McIsaac  
Kelly Ames  
John DeVore  
Corey Niles

**Table 1: Pacific Whiting Summary for the At-sea Whiting Trawl Sectors, 2011**

	<b>Mothership</b>	<b>Catcher/ Processors</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>At-sea set-asides (Table 1d, part 660 subpart C)</b>
<b>ROUNDFISH (mt)</b>				
Pacific whiting	50,051	71,679	121,730	NA
Pacific cod	0.00	0.01	0.01	5
Lingcod	0.12	0.04	0.16	6
Sablefish N.	2.04	2.94	4.98	50
<b>FLATFISH (mt)</b>				
Arrowtooth	7.23	37.98	45.21	10
Dover sole	0.25	0.93	1.18	5
English sole	0.00	0.02	0.02	5
Petrale sole	0.00	0.00	0	5
Starry flounder	0.00	0.00	0	5
Other flatfish	1.91	3.95	5.86	20
<b>ROCKFISH (mt)</b>				
POP	0.66	6.51	7.17	NA
Shortbelly	0.00	0.00	0	NA
Widow	12.85	24.41	37.26	NA
Canary	0.08	0.46	0.54	NA
Chilipepper	0.01	0.00	0.01	NA
Splitnose	7.13	4.78	11.91	NA
Yellowtail N.	66.67	14.70	81.37	300
Shortspine thornyhead	1.44	11.84	13.28	20
Longspine thornyhead	0.02	0.37	0.39	5
Thornyhead, unident.	0.00	0.13	0.13	NA
Darkblotched	1.70	10.29	11.99	NA
Yelloweye	0.00	0.00	0	0
Minor Shelf N	0.41	0.27	0.68	35
Minor Slope N	4.08	74.73	78.81	55
Rockfish unidentified	0.03	0.00	0.03	NA
<b>REMAINING GROUNDFISH</b>				
Longnose Skate	0.12	0.29	0.41	5
Spiny Dogfish	85.01	640.30	725.31	
Other Fish	0.12	0.41	0.53	520
<b>PROHIBITED and PROTECTED SPECIES (numbers)</b>				
Chinook salmon	1,296	2,695	3991	
Coho salmon	5	0	5	
Chum salmon	12	34	46	
Pink salmon	2	10	12	
Sockeye salmon	0	0	0	
Salmon, unident.	0	6	6	
Steelhead	0	0	0	
Pacific Halibut	12	55	67	
Dungeness crab	4	0	4	
Eulachon	54	1,268	1,322	
<b>NON-GROUNDFISH SPECIES (mt)</b>				
American shad	17.99	15.75	33.74	
Pacific Herring	0.00	0.00	0	
Squid (unidentified)	19.63	58.58	78.21	
Jack Mackerel	13.90	0.33	14.23	
Pacific Mackerel	0.11	0.00	0.11	
Pacific Sardine	0.00	0.01	0.01	
All other non-groundfish	31.49	160.63	192.12	