

**GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PLANNING AND  
 NECESSARY ACTIONS FOR THE 2012 PACIFIC WHITING SEASON**

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reminds the Council that in 2011 there was a set-aside in regulations for research catch and bycatch in the pink shrimp trawl fishery of 3,000 mt. This amount comes off the top of the U.S. optimum yield (OY) in addition to the tribal allocation prior to allocation to the other sectors. The GMT notes that there is little additional information to inform this set-aside for 2012 compared to 2011. However, the Oregon and Washington state requirements to reduce bar spacing in shrimp trawl bycatch reduction devices from 1” to 3/4” may reduce interactions with small whiting compared to previous years when that requirement was being phased in. Below is a table showing recent years’ mortality in both the research and pink shrimp fisheries as well as the maximum projection for proposed research in 2011 which is expected to be pursued in 2012 as well (Table 1). The GMT recommends a set-aside of 3,000 mt be adopted for the 2012 U.S. optimum yield (OY).

Table 1. Total mortality or estimates of potential catch of Pacific whiting to inform set-asides, i.e. deducted from the OY (mt), 2005-2011.

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Research <sup>1/</sup>	1,200	133	35	12	49	16	42
Incidental Catch in the Pink Shrimp Fishery <sup>2/</sup>	--	398.9	1,937	684	2,808	--	--
<b>Total</b>	--	531.9	1972	696	2857	--	--

1/ Research estimates for 2011 are based on correspondence with the Science Centers and on planned research projects. Research estimates from 2010-2005 are those reported in the total mortality reports from those years.

2/ Reported catch from non-whiting fisheries (i.e. pink shrimp) are from the total mortality reports (2010-2007). Prior to 2007, the total mortality reports did not report catches of groundfish specifically for the pink shrimp trawl fishery, so no values are reported in this table for 2006 and 2005. 2011 values are not yet available.