

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY UNDER THE U.S.- CANADA PACIFIC WHITING AGREEMENT

The U.S. - Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty was first implemented this year. A new stock assessment for Pacific whiting has been conducted and reviewed and used for decision-making in the new international whiting treaty process. The Joint Management Committee (JMC), the decision-making body in the new international whiting treaty process, adopted a coastwide (U.S. + Canada) 2012 total allowable catch (TAC) at their March 14-15 meeting in Vancouver British Columbia. The U.S. share of the coastwide whiting TAC according to the allocation specified in the treaty is 73.88 percent.

According to the U.S. - Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty, the Secretary of Commerce shall implement the recommendations of the JMC if both parties to the JMC reach agreement on the Pacific whiting TAC. In the event the JMC had not reached agreement, the Secretary of Commerce would have established the U.S. Pacific whiting TAC based on (1) any recommendations from the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the JMC, and the various advisory bodies and technical committees in the treaty process; (2) the best scientific information available; (3) the default harvest rate of  $F_{40\%}$ , with a 40-10 adjustment, unless the Secretary determines that the scientific evidence demonstrates that a different rate is necessary to sustain the offshore whiting resource; and (4) establish the U.S. share of the TAC and make any adjustments consistent with the agreement.

The JMC did reach agreement on the 2012 Pacific whiting TAC and the Council is expected to only receive a briefing on this decision. The 2012 U.S. Pacific whiting TAC, according to the specified allocation and a 15 percent carry-over of the unattained 2011 U.S. allocation, is 186,037 mt. The tribal whiting allocation and a set-aside to accommodate research activities and bycatch in non-groundfish fisheries will be subtracted from the U.S. TAC before the non-tribal sector allocations (42 percent to shoreside trawl, 34 percent to catcher-processors, and 24 percent to motherships) are made.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Receive a briefing on the 2012 Pacific whiting decision.**

### **Reference Materials:**

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
  - b. JMC Report
  - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. **Council Action:** Consider any Necessary Action for Implementation of the 2012 Pacific Whiting Fishery
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Phil Anderson, Frank Lockhart

PFMC  
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