



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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2018-2020 Commercial Whiting Fishery Specifications

Effective Date: June 14, 2018

NOAA Fisheries announces final 2018 and projected 2019-2020 specifications for the small-mesh multispecies (whiting) fishery (Table 1).

Table 1. Small-Mesh Multispecies Specifications for Fishing Years 2018-2020, in metric tons

| Stock | Overfishing Limit | Acceptable Biological Catch | Annual Catch Limit | Total Allowable Landings |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Northern Silver Hake | 58,350 | 31,030 | 29,475 | 26,604 |
| Northern Red Hake | 840 | 721 | 685 | 274 |
| Southern Whiting* | 31,180 | 19,395 | 18,425 | 14,465 |
| Southern Red Hake | 1,150 | 1,060 | 1,007 | 305 |

*Southern whiting includes southern silver hake and offshore hake

All other management measures in the small-mesh multispecies fishery (such as possession limits) remain unchanged. These catch limits and quotas for the 2018 fishing year are effective on **June 14, 2018**.

These specifications are predicted to be unchanged for fishing years 2019 and 2020, and are provided early for planning purposes. The New England Fishery Management Council will review the catch limits for these years, and we will provide notice of the final 2019 and 2020 quotas prior to the start of each fishing year.

For more information on the whiting fishery, please visit our [website](#).

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.