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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

Whiting harvest specifications and allocations for 2014 Coops - Whiting Allocations Available

Coming Soon: Additional Actions Affecting Shorebased IFQ Program

The National Marine Fisheries Service announces the 2014 fishery specifications for Pacific whiting in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and state waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, as authorized by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The information includes: the U.S. Total Allowable Catch (TAC); the tribal allocation; the fishery harvest guideline; and allocations to the non-tribal commercial sectors.

The U.S. Pacific whiting TAC for 2013 is 316,206 metric tons (mt). The tribal allocation for 2014 is 55,336 mt. The 2014 fishery harvest guideline (HG) for Pacific whiting is 259,370 mt. This amount was determined by deducting from the total U.S. TAC of 316,206 mt, the 55,336 mt tribal allocation, along with 1,500 mt for research catch and bycatch in non-groundfish fisheries.

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.55 (f)(2) allocate the fishery HG among the non-tribal catcher/processor, mothership, and shorebased sectors of the Pacific whiting fishery. The catcher/processor sector is allocated 34 percent (88,186 mt for 2014), the mothership sector is allocated 24 percent (62,249 mt for 2014), and the shorebased sector is allocated 42 percent (108,935 mt for 2014). The fishery south of 42° N. lat. may not take more than 5,447 mt (5 percent of the shorebased allocation) prior to the start of the primary Pacific whiting season north of 42° N. lat.

For 2014, there is one mothership cooperative (coop). All mothership catcher vessel (MS/CV) endorsed limited entry trawl permits owners elected to participate in the coop fishery. There is no allocation to the non-coop fishery because no permits are assigned to the non-coop fishery. Accordingly, the mothership

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National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

coop is allocated 100% of the mothership sector allocation. 100% of the catcher/processor sector allocation is allocated to the single catcher/processor coop, as per §660.160(c)(2). The coops will be notified of their allocation of Pacific whiting and allocations of non-groundfish species through a cover letter with their coop permit.

COMING SOON:

NMFS will take additional actions in the coming weeks that will affect the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program participants, both QS accounts and vessel accounts. These actions will be announced in a separate public notice. These actions will likely be coordinated to top-up online accounts at the same time and to update values in the daily and annual vessel limit table.

IFQ - QS Account Adjustment for Whiting

In the near future, NMFS will credit quota share (QS) accounts with additional Pacific Whiting quota pounds (QP) based on the 2014 shorebased sector allocation. For the Shorebased IFQ Program, the whiting season north of 42° N. lat. begins June 15th. NMFS will top-up QS accounts after the correction publishes (see next item). Once issued, QS permit owners should check the QS accounts to see the exact amount added to their accounts. As a reminder, all QP in a QS account must be transferred to one or more vessel accounts by September 1 of this year.

IFQ – QS Account Adjustment for Select IFQ Species, Correction to 2014 Harvest Specifications

NMFS will be correcting the 2014 shorebased trawl allocation for several species. During the development of the shorebased trawl allocation, due to a spreadsheet error, some shorebased fishery allocations were incorrect. As a result, the shorebased trawl sector did not receive its full 2014 allocation for certain IFQ species. The affected species are: English sole, lingcod, minor slope rockfish north of 40°10' N. latitude, Other Flatfish, Pacific cod, shortspine thornyhead N. of 34°27' N. latitude, and yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N latitude. Once the correction publishes, NMFS will announce further details about this correction and will credit QS accounts with additional QP for these species.

IFQ - Vessel Account Adjustment for Carryover

In the near future, NMFS will issue surplus carryover from 2013 to 2014 vessel accounts for the Shorebased IFQ Program. A separate public notice will be issued notifying the public of this surplus carryover action and NMFS will post a message announcing this action on the IFQ login page at: <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/ifq/>