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FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115
www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html



PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:
Miako Ushio (206) 526-4644
Groundfish Branch (206) 526-6140

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

2017 Pacific whiting harvest specifications and tribal allocation

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the U.S. Pacific whiting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2017 is 441,433 metric tons (mt). 2017 harvest specifications and allocations are as follows:

<u>Tribal Allocation:</u>	77,251 mt
<u>Research and Bycatch set-aside:</u>	1,500 mt.
<u>Harvest Guideline:</u>	362,682 mt.

The Harvest Guideline is allocated per 50 CFR 660.55 (f)(2) among the non-tribal catcher/processor, mothership, and shorebased sectors as follows:

<u>Catcher/Processor Coop Program:</u>	123,312 mt (34%).
<u>Mothership Coop Program:</u>	87,044 mt (24%).
<u>Shorebased IFQ Program:</u>	152,327 mt (42%).

The Federal Register notice of the final rule establishing these allocations can be found at:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/08/2017-09288/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-annual-specifications-and>

The proposed and final rules can also be found by searching for docket NOAA-NMFS-2017-0005 at
<https://www.regulations.gov>.

For the shorebased sector, NMFS plans to add Pacific whiting to quota share accounts immediately. Once these pounds have been added, NMFS will post a message on the IFQ homepage to notify account owners.

Groundfish E-mail Group

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