



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region  
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[www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html)



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 15, 2017

### **PACIFIC WHITING FISHERY**

#### **REAPPORTIONMENT OF PACIFIC WHITING ACTUAL NOTICE**

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.131 (h) provide for the reapportionment of Pacific whiting tribal allocations that the Regional Administrator determines will not be used by the end of the fishing year. The best available information in early September 2017 indicates that at least 41,000 metric tons (mt) of the tribal allocation of 77,251 mt for the 2017 tribal Pacific whiting fishery will not be used by December 31, 2017. Reapportioning this amount to the non-tribal fishery is expected to allow for greater attainment of the Total Allowable Catch while not limiting tribal harvest opportunities for the remainder of the year. Recent conversations with tribal fishery managers indicate that reapportioning 41,000 mt, leaving a tribal allocation of 36,251 mt, will not limit tribal harvest opportunities for the remainder of the year. Therefore, NMFS is taking action at this time to reapportion 41,000 mt of Pacific whiting. Such reapportionments are disbursed to the other Pacific whiting fishery sectors in the same proportion as each sector's allotted portion of the fishery harvest guideline. All non-tribal commercial sectors have expressed an interest in this potential for additional 2017 harvest of Pacific whiting. Whiting quota pounds will be allocated to quota share accounts as soon as feasible.

Effective **1200 Noon, local time, on September 15, 2017**, 41,000 mt of Pacific whiting are reallocated from the tribal allocation to the non-tribal commercial Pacific whiting fishery. The revised Pacific whiting allocations by sector for 2017 are listed below:

- Tribal: 36,251 mt
- Catcher/processor: 137,252 mt
- Mothership: 96,884 mt
- Shorebased: 169,547 mt

**This communication serves as official notice of the reapportionment.**

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