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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery
2019 Pacific whiting harvest specifications
Tribal Allocation & Reapportionment Provision

NOAA Fisheries is issuing a final rule to implement 2019 harvest specifications and allocations for Pacific whiting, and to revise reapportionment provisions which implement the non-discretionary terms and conditions of a recently completed Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion on salmonids in the Pacific coast groundfish fishery.

The U.S. Pacific whiting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2019 is 441, 433 metric tons (mt), unchanged from 2018. The 2019 harvest specifications and allocations are as follows:

Tribal Allocation	7,251 mt
Research and Bycatch set-aside	1,500 mt
Harvest Guideline:	362,682 mt

The Harvest Guideline is allocated among the non-tribal sectors as follows:

Sector	2019 Pacific whiting allocation (mt)
Catcher/Processor (C/P) Coop Program	123,312 (34%)
Mothership (MS) Coop Program	87,044 (24%)
Shorebased IFQ Program	152,326.5 (42%)

The proposed and final rules can be found by searching for docket NOAA-NMFS-2019-0001 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. After publication, this rule can also be found on the NMFS website at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/frn/groundfish_frns.html

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