



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Sustainable Fisheries Division
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 Seattle, WA 98115-0070

DATE: September 24, 2004
 TO: DISTRIBUTION
 FROM: F/NWR2 -Becky Renko
 SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY Report #7 -- 2004 Pacific Whiting Fishery

This report consolidates preliminary state, federal, and tribal data for the 2004 Pacific whiting fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. Due to concerns about the incidental catch of canary and darkblotched rockfish, NMFS intends to close the mothership fishery on October 1, 2004. NMFS also intends to close the catcher processor fishery if the the total catch or darkblotched rockfish reaches 9.5 mt for all sectors of the whiting fishery or if the total catch of canary rockfish reaches 6.2 mt for all sectors of the whiting fishery. Through September 23, 2004, 8.11 mt of darkblotched rockfish and 5.92 mt of canary rockfish had been taken.

	Allocation		Catch* (mt)	Thru [date]	Status	Percent of allocation taken
	Percentages	Metric Tons				
California (south of 42 N lat.)	(5% shore alloc'n; included in WOC shore allocation)	4,526	4,589	--	CA season began April 1; temporary closure from May 22 to June 15	
Oregon	--	NA	58,637	--		
Washington	--	NA	25,659	--		
WOC shore-based	42% commercial OY	90,510	88,885	8/14	Began June 15; ended 1600 August 14	98.2%
Mothership (n. of 42 N. lat.)	24% commercial OY	51,720	24,102	6/12	Began May 15	46.6%
Catcher/processor (n. of 42 N. lat.)+-'	34% commercial OY	73,270	52,224	9/23	Began May 15	71.3%
Total nontribal	commercial OY	215,500	165,211	--	--	76.7%
Tribal (Makah)		32,500	28,648	8/15	Began May 20	
Total directed fishing		248,000	193,859	--	--	78.2%
Other (research & incidental catch in non- groundfish fisheries)		2,000	unknown at this time			--
Total	OY=optimum yield	250,000	--	--	--	--

* Catch includes discards from at-sea processors; weigh-backs from shore-based catcher vessels; and small amounts landed under the trip limit between the seasons. The data for at-sea processing (catcher/processors and motherships) are preliminary and are based on reports from NMFS-trained observers. Data for shore-based processors also are preliminary and are provided by each State to NMFS for the purpose of monitoring the fishery. Preliminary data for the Makah fishery are from NMFS-trained observers or state fish tickets. All weights are round weight (the weight of the whole fish before processing) or round-weight equivalents. One metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds.

