



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration  
 National Marine Fisheries Service  
 Sustainable Fisheries Division  
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DATE: November 3, 2008  
 TO: DISTRIBUTION  
 FROM: F/NWR2 -Becky Renko  
 SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY Report 12 -- 2008 Pacific Whiting Fishery

This report consolidates preliminary state, federal, and tribal data for the 2008 Pacific whiting fishery. Due to concerns about the incidental catch of overfished species, bycatch limits are in place in the non-tribal sectors of the fishery. On October 12, the non-tribal sectors were reopened and the bycatch limits were revised. The current bycatch limits are: 6.4 mt for canary rockfish (increasing to 6.7 mt on October 26), 40 mt for darkblotched rockfish, and 287 mt for widow rockfish. When a bycatch limit is reached, the primary whiting seasons for the non-tribal fisheries are ended regardless of the amount of whiting allocation remaining.

	Allocation		Whiting Catch* (mt)	Overfished Species and Chinook salmon catch	Thru [date]	Status	Percent of allocation taken
	Percentages	Metric Tons					
California (south of 42° N. lat.)	(5% of the shore – based allocation)	4,880	4,815			started 4/1, closed noon 5/21	98.7%
Coastwide			40,700			started 6/15, ended 8/19, reopened 10/12	
<b>WOC shore-based</b>	42% commercial OY	<b>97,669</b>	45,515	Canary – 1.62 mt Widow – 97.19 mt Darkblotched – 0.94 mt Chinook # 1,718	10/28		46.6%
<b>Mothership</b> (n. of 42 N. lat.)	24% commercial OY	<b>55,811</b>	53,431	Canary – 0.74 mt Widow – 60.76 mt Darkblotched – 3.92 mt Chinook # 225	10/31	started 5/15, ended 8/19, reopened 10/12	95.7%
<b>Catcher/processor</b> (n. of 42 N. lat.)	34% commercial OY	<b>79,065</b>	69,228	Canary – 2.40 mt Widow – 39.31 mt Darkblotched – 2.36 mt Chinook # 89	10/31	started 5/15, ended 8/19, reopened 10/12	87.6%
Total nontribal	commercial OY	232,545	168,174	Canary – 4.76 mt Widow – 197.26 mt Darkblotched – 7.22 mt Chinook # 2,032	--	--	72.3%
<b>Tribal (Makah)</b>		<b>35,000</b>	11,022	Canary – 0.55 mt Widow – 0.46 mt Darkblotched – 0.00 mt Chinook # 27	10/31		31.5%
Total directed fishing		267,545	179,196	Canary – 5.31 mt Widow – 197.72 mt Darkblotched – 7.22 mt Chinook # 2,059	--		67.0%
Total	OY=optimum yield	269,545	--	--	--	--	--

\* Catch includes: discards from at-sea processors; weigh-backs from shore-based vessels; and catch landed under trip limits prior to the season. The values for at-sea processing sectors are based on NMFS observer data. Data for shore-based vessels were derived from electronic fish ticket submissions. Data for the at-sea processing portion of the Makah fishery are based on preliminary NMFS observer data and shore-based catch provided by tribal samplers. All weights are in metric ton (2,204.6 pounds).