



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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www.nwr.noaa.gov



PUBLIC NOTICE

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NMFS-SEA-08-02
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2008

PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY

SHORESIDE WHITING EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP)

VESSEL OWNER AND FIRST RECEIVER MEETINGS

On March 28, 2008, NMFS published a Federal Register Notice (73 FR 16642) on its intent to issue an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for both Pacific whiting first receivers and vessels in the 2008 fishery. NMFS will accept all comments received by April 14, 2008. NMFS Northwest Region and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) are transitioning the Pacific Whiting Shoreside Fishery to a federally managed maximized retention and monitoring program (Amendment 10). Although it was expected that the program would be in place at the start of the 2008 fishing season, it will not be possible given the complexity of the rulemaking and other unanticipated workload. Therefore, NMFS is proposing a transitional EFP whose purpose would be to investigate the new components of the overall monitoring program before regulatory implementation.

Pending public comments, the intent of NMFS would be to require Pacific whiting shoreside fishery vessel owners and first receivers to obtain an EFP if they retain unsorted Pacific whiting catch for delivery or accept deliveries of unsorted Pacific whiting catch. NMFS has scheduled preseason meetings given below. All vessel owners/captains and first receivers are encouraged to attend. NMFS will send out information about similar meetings to be held in Washington and Oregon in the near future.

For additional information contact: Lori Jesse at (541) 867-0300 ext. 289;
2032 SE OSU Drive; Newport, OR 97365

Meeting Dates and Locations

Processor/First Receiver Meeting

Eureka, CA:

Wednesday, April 2nd @ 9 - 12 pm
Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center; 921 Waterfront Drive, Room 110

Vessel Meeting

Eureka, CA:

Monday, April 14th @ 9 – 12
Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center; 921 Waterfront Drive, Room 208

Visit the NMFS Northwest Region website for current groundfish management regulations, VMS information, and RCA boundary coordinates. <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/index.cfm>
The Federal Register Notice referenced above will be posted to the website.

Groundfish E-mail Group: Subscribe to “**wcgroundfish**” by visiting the following website:
http://listserver.afsc.noaa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wcgroundfish

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>, click on “Pacific Coast Groundfish;” NMFS Southwest Region at 562-980-4000; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

Any discrepancies between this public notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.