

package containing anhydrous ammonia, the package must be marked in accordance with § 172.313 of this subchapter and labeled and placarded with "POISON INHALATION HAZARD" or "POISON GAS", as appropriate, in accordance with subparts E and F, respectively, of part 172 of this subchapter. For shipments of anhydrous ammonia, the shipping paper must contain an indication that the markings, labels and placards have been applied in conformance with the TDG Regulations and this paragraph (b)(5);

(iv) Until October 1, 2001, the package may be labeled in accordance with the TDG Regulations if transported in a closed transport vehicle or freight container marked with identification numbers for the materials in any quantity in the manner specified in paragraphs (c) and (c)(3) of § 172.313 of this subchapter and placarded as required by subpart F of part 172 of this subchapter.

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#### § 171.14 [Amended]

4. In § 171.14, paragraph (e) is removed.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 13, 1999, under the authority delegated in 49 CFR part 1.

**Stephen D. Van Beek,**

*Deputy Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 98123133-9127-03; I.D. 091399B]

#### Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; End of the Primary Season and Resumption of Trip Limits for the Shoreside Whiting Sector

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Fishing restrictions; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the end of the 1999 primary season for the shoreside fishery for Pacific whiting (whiting), and resumption of a 10,000-lb (4,536-kg) trip limit, at 12:00 noon local time (l.t.) September 13, 1999, because the allocation for the shoreside

sector will be reached by that time. This action is intended to keep the harvest of whiting within the 1999 allocation levels.

**DATES:** Effective from 12:00 noon l.t. September 13, 1999, until the effective date of the 2000 annual specifications and management measures for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery, which will be published in the **Federal Register**, unless modified, superseded, or rescinded. Comments will be accepted through October 1, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to William Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region (Regional Administrator), NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or Rodney McInnis, Acting Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Katherine King at 206-526-6145 or Becky Renko at 206-526-6110.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action is authorized by regulations implementing the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which governs the groundfish fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. On January 8, 1999 (64 FR 1316), the 1999 fishing seasons for Pacific whiting were published in the **Federal Register**. A new whiting stock assessment was completed in early 1999, and an allowable biological catch (ABC) and optimum yield (OY) of 232,000 metric tons (mt) were recommended for all U.S. harvests. On May 24, 1999, (64 FR 27928), NMFS announced the 1999 whiting ABC and OY of 232,000 mt, the tribal whiting allocation of 32,500 mt, and the commercial OY of 199,500 mt.

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.323(a)(4) divide the commercial allocation into separate allocations for the catcher/processor, mothership, and shoreside sectors of the whiting fishery. When each sector's allocation is reached, the primary season for that sector is ended. The catcher/processor sector is composed of vessels that harvest and process whiting. The mothership sector is composed of motherships and catcher vessels that harvest whiting for delivery to motherships. Motherships are vessels that process, but do not harvest, whiting. The shoreside sector is composed of vessels that harvest whiting for delivery to shoreside processors. The allocations, which are based on the 1999 commercial harvest guideline for whiting of 199,500 mt, are 67,800 mt (34 percent) for the catcher/processor sector, 47,900 mt (24 percent)

for the mothership sector, and 83,800 mt (42 percent) for the shoreside sector.

Regulations at 50 CFR 660.323(a)(3)(i) describe the primary season for the shoreside sector as the period(s) when the large-scale target fishery is conducted (when trip limits under § 660.323(b) are not in effect). The 10,000 lb (4,536-kg) trip limit, which also had been in effect before the primary season, is intended to accommodate small bait and fresh-fish markets, as well as bycatch in other fisheries.

The best available information on September 10, 1999, indicated that the 83,800 mt shoreside allocation would be reached by 12:00 noon l.t. September 13, 1999.

#### NMFS Action

For the reasons stated above, and in accordance with the regulations at 50 CFR 660.323(a)(4)(iii)(C), NMFS herein announces:

Effective 12:00 noon l.t. September 13, 1999—No more than 10,000 lb (4,536 kg) of whiting may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed by a catcher vessel participating in the shoreside sector.

#### Classification

This action is authorized by the regulations implementing the FMP. The determination to take this action is based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which the determination is based are available for public inspection at the Office of the Regional Administrator (see **ADDRESSES**) during business hours. This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.323(a)(4)(iii)(C) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: September 13, 1999.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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