

used by the species for foraging, cover, migration, and spawning.

Questions regarding whether specific activities may constitute a violation of section 9 should be directed to the Field Supervisor of the Service's Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section). Requests for copies of the regulations concerning listed animals and inquiries regarding prohibitions and permits may be addressed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Permits, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (telephone 503/231-6241; facsimile 503/231-6243).

National Environmental Policy Act

The Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements, as defined under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Act. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

Required Determinations

This rule does not contain any new collections of information other than those already approved under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, and assigned Office of Management and Budget clearance number 1018-0094. For additional information concerning permit and associated requirements for endangered species, see 50 CFR 17.32.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein is available upon request from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Author: The primary authors of this emergency rule include —Jeffery Chan, Western Washington Fishery Resource Office, Olympia, WA; Timothy Cummings, Columbia River Fisheries Program Office, Vancouver, WA; Stephen Duke, Snake River Basin Office, Boise, ID; Robert Hallock, Upper Columbia River Basin Office, Spokane, WA; Samuel Lohr, Snake River Basin Office, Boise, ID; Leslie Propp, Western Washington State Office, Olympia, WA;

Selena Werdon, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, the Service amends part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361-1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201-4245; Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

2. Amend § 17.11(h) by adding the following, in alphabetical order under Fishes, to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife to read as follows:

§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific Name						
* FISHES	*	*	*	*	*		*
* Trout, bull	* Salvelinus confluentus.	* U.S.A. (Pacific NW) Canada (NW Territories).	* Jarbridge R. Basin (U.S.A.—ID, NV).	* E	* 639E	* NA	* NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*

Dated: August 6, 1998.

John G. Rogers,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 98-21550 Filed 8-7-98; 10:09 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

Docket No. 971229312-7312-01; I.D. 072798A]

Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Whiting Closure for the Catcher/Processor Sector

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Fishing restrictions; requests for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces closure of the 1998 catcher/processor fishery for whiting at 3 p.m. local time (l.t.) August 7, 1998, because the allocation for the catcher/processor sector will be reached by that time. 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. This action is intended to keep the harvest of whiting within the allocations NMFS announced on January 6, 1998.

DATES: Effective from 3 p.m. l.t. August 7, 1998, until the start of the 1999 primary season for the catcher/processor sector, unless modified, superseded or

rescinded, which will be published in the **Federal Register**. Comments will be accepted through August 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit comment to William Stelle, Jr., Administrator, Northwest Region (Regional Administrator), NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115-0070; or William Hogarth, Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 1 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine King at 206-526-6140 or Svein Fougner at 562-980-4040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 6, 1998 (63 FR 419), NMFS published regulations announcing the annual management measures for Pacific Coast whiting. The regulations at 50 CFR 660.323(a) (4) (62 FR 27519, May 20, 1997) established separate

allocations for the catcher/processor, mothership, and shore-based sectors of the whiting fishery. Each allocation is a harvest guideline, which, when reached, results in the end of the primary season for that sector. The regulations at 50 CFR 600.323(a)(3)(i) describe the primary season for catcher/processors as the period(s) when at-sea processing is allowed and the fishery is open for the catcher/processor sector. The catcher/processor sector is composed of catcher/processors, which are 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 shore-based processors. The allocations, which are based on the 1998 commercial harvest guideline for whiting of 207,000 metric tons (mt), are 70,400 mt (34 percent) for

the catcher/processor sector, 49,700 mt (24 percent) for the mothership sector, and 86,900 mt (42 percent) for the shoreside sector. The mothership fishery reached its allocation and was closed on May 31, 1998 (63 FR 30147, June 3, 1998). The shore-based sector allocation has not yet been attained.

The best available information on August 5, 1998, indicated that the 70,400-mt catcher/processor allocation would be reached by 3 p.m. l.t. August 7, 1998.

NMFS Action

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

Effective 3 p.m. l.t. August 7, 1998, (1) further taking and retaining, receiving, or at-sea processing of whiting by a catcher/processor are prohibited. No additional unprocessed whiting may be brought on board after at-sea processing is prohibited, but a catcher/processor

may continue to process whiting that was on board before at-sea processing was prohibited.

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 Northwest Region (see ADDRESSES) during business hours. This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR 660.323(a)(4)(iii)(A) and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

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

Dated: August 6, 1998.

Gary C. Matlock,

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

[FR Doc. 98-21495 Filed 8-6-98; 3:07 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F