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Pacific Whiting – the first fishery outside of Alaska – achieves RFM Certification!



Certification without
Logo Licensing Fees

August 1, 2022 - The Pacific Whiting (Hake) Mid-Water Trawl fishery, covering US federal EEZ waters off Washington, Oregon, and California, has become the first fishery outside of Alaska to be certified to the Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) globally recognized sustainable fishery standard.

On behalf of the Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative (PWCC) in collaboration with all sectors of the US whiting fishery, the Pacific Whiting fishery joins other leading sustainable fisheries able to verify sustainability to the comprehensive RFM fishery standard. See the [RFM Certification Report for Pacific Whiting here](#).

“The Certified Seafood Collaborative (CSC), owners of the RFM program, are delighted to welcome Pacific Whiting as the first fishery outside of Alaska to be RFM certified,” states Mark Fina, Chairman of CSC Board. “We’re proud to see the continued extension of RFM’s reach and we believe RFM certification will be a welcome addition to the PWCC markets now and in the future.”

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Products containing Pacific Whiting harvested from January 10, 2022 forward, are now eligible to be sold with the RFM eco-label. MRAG Americas, Inc. conducted the independent assessment for PWCC in partnership with the entire US whiting fishery.

Photo Courtesy: John van Amerongen, Trident Seafoods, of the Seattle Enterprise, a Pacific Whiting catcher/processor, at work harvesting some of the freshest frozen fish available anywhere.

PWCC President, Mike Luchino, shares his thoughts, “This is a validating achievement for all those involved in our fishery, who tirelessly work to ensure the health of stocks and habitats. Collaborative efforts from all those involved in the management system, including NGOs, scientists, and fishing organizations are critical to the successful responsible management of Pacific Whiting.”

Daniel Waldeck, PWCC Executive Director says, “We are very pleased to show the world that we’ve joined other world-class RFM certified fisheries in helping our customers demonstrate proof of certified sustainable sourcing. Certification under the RFM Program ensures the availability of multiple sustainable certification sources and provides this benefit without having to pay logo licensing fees.”

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The PWCC is a Washington-based fishing and research cooperative, comprised of three Seattle-based companies that operate 10 catcher-processor vessels, home-ported in the Puget Sound region ([American Seafoods](#), [Glacier Fish Co.](#), and [Trident Seafoods](#)). PWCC was formed to promote rational harvest, optimal utilization, and minimal waste in the whiting fishery. Sustainability is of paramount importance, by working cooperatively, PWCC member companies greatly improved product recovery rates and significantly decreased bycatch, notably of salmonids and rockfish, in its sector of the whiting fishery. PWCC also funds and performs cooperative research to generally improve the Pacific coast fisheries.

[RFMCERTIFICATION.ORG](https://rfmcertification.org)

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