

List of Council Decisions at the June 2000 Meeting

Tuesday, June 27

Agenda Item: A. Call to Order

Subject: Approve March 2000 Minutes

Action: March 2000 minutes were approved with one minor clarification to name a California Department of Fish and Game representative, Mr. Harvey Reading, on page 14 of the draft minutes.

Agenda Item: B. Salmon Management

Subject: Salmon Methodology Reviews

Guidance: The Council will not review the Chinook Selective Fishery Model this year. Later this fall, the Council anticipates an SSC review of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model and abundance forecasts for at least some salmon stocks in Washington. In addition, some portion of the Coho Cohort Analysis Project will be available for SSC review. Priorities for SSC review will be set in September.

Subject: Status of Amendment 14 and Implications for 2001 Overfishing Concerns

Action: The Council concluded that the status of wild Queets coho will trigger an overfishing concern when Amendment 14 of the Salmon FMP is implemented. The Council will request WDFW and the Quinault Indian Nation to take the lead in initiating the review process, with completion of a formal overfishing assessment by September 2001.

Subject: Update on Review of Oregon Coastal Natural Coho Management Criteria

Action: The Council complimented the Amendment 13 Work Group on their initial progress in reviewing the technical basis for allowable fishery impacts on Oregon coastal natural coho salmon. They were encouraged to add a sensitivity analysis for changes being considered to the existing fishery impacts matrix.

Agenda Item: C. Marine Reserves

Subject: Staff Report on Phase 1 Considerations of Marine Reserves as a Management Measures

Action: The Council approved the release, with various edits, of the Draft Report "Marine Reserves to Supplement Management of West Coast Groundfish Resources: Phase I Technical Analysis" for public review. Phase I of consideration of marine reserves is designed to conclude with a Council decision on whether or not marine reserves have a role in fishery management. Public comment received over the summer will be considered at the September Council meeting in Sacramento, towards a decision on final approval of Phase I considerations and whether or not to

List of Council Decisions at the June 2000 Meeting

begin Phase II.

Tuesday, June 27 *(Continued)*

Agenda Item: H. Administrative and Other Matters

Subject: Report of the Budget Committee

Action: The Council adopted a Budget Committee report for the record. Highlights of the report included an update on the selection process for meeting venues for 2003 and an update on FY2000 funding and expenditures.

Agenda Item: G. Habitat Issues

Subject: Report of the Habitat Steering Group

Action: The Council approved release, with minor edits, a letter from the Council to the Co-Chairs of the CalFed policy group regarding CalFed's strategic plan and management programs. The Council tabled until Friday consideration of two other letters.

Agenda Item: D. Groundfish Management

Subject: Rockfish Bycatch Rates

Action: The Council adopted the use of a 16% discard rate for minor rockfish and bocaccio for limited entry and open access commercial groundfish fisheries.

Wednesday, June 28

Agenda Item: D. Groundfish Management

Subject: Stock Assessment Priorities for 2001

Guidance: The Council endorsed conducting biological data collection assessments for the following species in 2001: sablefish, shortspine thornyhead rockfish, black rockfish (south), silvergrey rockfish, Dover sole, and cabezon. Depending on the availability of additional financial and staffing resources, yelloweye rockfish and the "remaining rockfishes" complex may also have assessments conducted, however Pacific whiting will not be assessed in 2001. The results of these biological assessments in 2001 will be used to manage fisheries in 2002.

List of Council Decisions at the June 2000 Meeting

Wednesday, June 28 (Continued)

Agenda Item: D. Groundfish Management

Subject: Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments

Action: The Council adopted in-season increases in the cumulative trip limits for several species in both limited entry (all gears) and open access commercial fisheries. A reduction was also adopted for the southern shelf rockfish cumulative limit, for all commercial gears, to 500 pounds per month. For recreational fisheries, the Council will author a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission and NMFS to ensure the preseason catch estimates for bocaccio, lingcod, canary rockfish, and cowcod rockfish south of Cape Mendocino are not exceeded. This likely means closures or other catch restrictions later this summer.

Subject: Strategic Plan

Action: The Council adopted, with minor edits, the draft Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan for public review over the summer, and adopted a public hearing schedule that includes nine ports in Washington, Oregon and California between July 25 and August 9. One important element of the Groundfish Strategic Plan calls for a 50% or more reduction in the number of vessels in all commercial fishing sectors, through a license limitation program. The Plan will be considered for final adoption at the September Council meeting in Sacramento, California.

Subject: Sablefish Three-Tier Fishery Season and Limits

Action: The Council adopted a nine-day season with an opening date of August 6 for the sablefish three-tier fishery. The following cumulative trip limits apply by tier: Tier 1- 81,000 pounds; Tier 2- 37,000 pounds; Tier 3- 21,000 pounds. A new transfer date of August 1, 2000 was also adopted for limited entry fixed gear permits.

Subject: Plan Amendment to Address Bycatch and Management Measure Issues

Action: The Council approved a draft amendment to the groundfish FMP that addresses a variety of bycatch and regulatory issues. Key provisions include the possibility of a full retention program for at-sea whiting fisheries, implementation of an observer program as soon as funding becomes available, and greater regulatory flexibility to minimize bycatch.

List of Council Decisions at the June 2000 Meeting

Wednesday, June 28 (Continued)

Agenda Item: D. Groundfish Management

Subject: Observer Program

Action: The Council took no further action at this time regarding refinements to the Observer Program regulation language, however, refinements to existing language are expected before final regulation adoption.

Thursday, June 29

Agenda Item: D. Groundfish Management

Subject: Process for Technical Review and Monitoring of Rebuilding Plans

Guidance: The Council accepted conceptual recommendations from NMFS staff regarding organizing the process for developing and monitoring rebuilding plans for overfished groundfish species. The Council will review final terms of reference for the recommended approach at the September Council meeting.

Subject: Preliminary Feedback on the 2000 Stock Assessment Review Panel Meetings (Draft Stock Assessments for 2001)

Guidance: No preliminary results of the new stock assessments were available at this time, therefore, the Council did not discuss early guidance on the question of the 2000 stock assessment for groundfish stocks.

Subject: American Fisheries Act Management Measures

Action: The Council set aside further consideration of protective measures for the processor component of the groundfish fishery from the effects of the American Fisheries Act (AFA), provided however, that this decision would be reconsidered if adverse impacts can be demonstrated. The Council also set a control date of June 29, 2000 for permits from AFA qualified vessels, regarding future restrictions related to adverse impacts from the effects of the AFA.

List of Council Decisions at the June 2000 Meeting

Thursday, June 29 (Continued)

Agenda Item: D. Groundfish Management

Subject: Canary Rockfish Rebuilding Plan Development

Action: The Council will convene a meeting of the allocation committee, Council staff, and state and federal agencies to conduct analyses for a canary rockfish draft rebuilding plan. The plan will be considered at the September Council meeting. This plan will include options for allocation between fisheries, fishery regulations, a rebuilding schedule, and catch levels during the rebuilding timeframe.

Subject: Cowcod Rebuilding Plan Development

Action: The Council will rely on allocation recommendations from the State of California. Council staff and state and federal agencies will conduct analyses for a cowcod rockfish draft rebuilding plan. The plan will be considered at the September Council meeting. This plan will include options for allocation between fisheries, fishery regulations, a rebuilding schedule, and catch levels during the rebuilding timeframe.

Subject: Default Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) Fishing Rate within the Harvest Rate Policy

Action: The Council adopted new default maximum sustainable yield fishing rates for five groups of groundfishes. The effect of adjusting these new rates will be a more conservative fishing approach, amounting to a 10%-20% reduction in the fishing pressure for several groundfish species.

Subject: Fishing Capacity Reduction Measures

Action: The Council initiated the first step in considering a measure to reduce fishing capacity in the sablefish fixed gear fishery. The Council instructed staff to analyze a "permit stacking" proposal, and to report the results of this analysis at the September Council. The primary goal of "permit stacking" would be to reduce the number of fishermen participating in the fishery.

List of Council Decisions at the June 2000 Meeting

Friday, June 30

Agenda Item: E. Highly Migratory Species Management

Subject: Update on Plan Development

Guidance: The Council provided guidance on eleven elements involved in the development of the Fishery Management Plan for highly migratory species. One element was an extension in the schedule of about five months, such that final Council action would occur at the September 2001 Council meeting.

Agenda Item: F. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

Subject: Exempted Fishing Permits to Harvest Anchovy in Closed Area

Action: The Council took action to recommend that NMFS not grant an Exempted Fishing Permit to take 2,000-3,000 metric tons of anchovy in the Farallon Islands closed area.

Subject: Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline and Other Specifications for 2001

Action: The Council adopted a harvest guideline of 20,740 metric tons of Pacific mackerel for the season beginning July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

Subject: Pacific Sardine Harvest Guideline Suballocation

Action: The Council took no action at this time regarding a proposal for a separate suballocation of the Pacific sardine harvest guideline for the area north of the California-Oregon state line. The issue will be reconsidered at the November 2000 meeting.

Subject: CPS Finfish Limited Entry Permit Issues: Capacity Goal and Squid Permit Transferability

Action: The Council adopted a motion to reconsider the issue of extending the CPS limited entry permit transferability deadline of December 31, 2000 after an analysis is concluded on the economic effects of such action, and such analysis is reviewed by the Council advisory bodies.

List of Council Decisions at the June 2000 Meeting

Friday, June 30 (Continued)

Agenda Item: F. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

Subject: Amendment 9 to the CPS Fishery Management Plan

Action: The Council adopted for public review a draft Amendment to the CPS Fishery Management Plan. Elements of the draft Amendment include bycatch measures, market squid MSY and acceptable biological catch.

Agenda Item: H. Administrative and Other Matters

Subject: Research and Data Needs/Economic Data Plan

Action: The Council delayed until September any action on the subject of a public review draft document for research and data needs.

Subject: Council Staff Workload Priorities and Schedules

Guidance: The analysis and report on the issue of permit stacking in the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery (D.15.) is a workload measure additional to the current staffing budget. The Council placed this new issue above completion of the draft American Fisheries Act FMP Amendment in the spectrum of staff workload priorities.

Subject: Appointment to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

Action: The Council appointed Dr. Mark Powell as the Conservation Representative on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel. The California Department of Fish and Game appointed Mr. Michael Rhode as the replacement for Mr. Larry Week on the Habitat Steering Group.

Subject: Draft Agenda for September 2000

Action: The Council commented on a draft September 2000 agenda, and suggested several modifications for inclusion to the proposed agenda to be distributed in mid-August.