

DECISION SUMMARY DOCUMENT
PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
JUNE 20-25, 2013

Council Meeting Decision Summary Documents are highlights of decisions made at Pacific Council meetings. For a more detailed account of Council meeting discussions, see the [Council meeting minutes](#) and voting logs or the [Council newsletter](#).

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Response to Pacific Bluefin Tuna Overfished Status

The Council tasked the Executive Director with sending a letter recommending the U.S. government advocate for a higher level of protection in international fisheries, where 98 percent of the fishing mortality occurs, including catch curtailments in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC) regional fishery management organizations. The Council also decided to evaluate current catch limits for Pacific bluefin in West Coast recreational fisheries as part of the biennial management process beginning in June 2014.

North Pacific Albacore Tuna Precautionary Management Framework

The Council directed staff to consolidate the content of the two Highly Migratory Species Management Team Reports and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Report provided at this meeting with Council discussion, and present these to the U.S. delegation to the WCPFC Northern Committee. As a matter of emphasis, the Council recommends the adoption of spawning potential ratio (SPR) based biological reference points and a simple linear harvest control rule comparable to what is described in the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan as part of the precautionary management framework.

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Vessel Monitoring System Declaration Regulations

The Council recommended that under the groundfish regulations, fishery declarations be required of any vessel which registers its vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), regardless of the fishing activity in which the vessel will be engaged. The Council also recommended that, for clarity purposes, category 24 in the current list of declarations (660.13.(d)(5)(iv)) be modified from "other gear" to "other," to encompass declarations to fish in unlisted fisheries and research activities. Finally, the Council decided to move forward with consideration of a VMS requirement for commercial tuna fishing vessels 24 meters or more in length, with this meeting as the first meeting of a two-meeting process for that consideration; the second meeting may be the November 2013 Council meeting.

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT

Mid-Water Sport Fishery

The Council advanced consideration of a mid-water recreational fishery in Oregon and California, by designating a target implementation date of January 1, 2015, contingent on a detailed analysis of all relevant considerations to be conducted by NMFS that would be reviewed at a future Council meeting. The fishery is intended to provide increased access to healthy pelagic groundfish while minimizing overfished species bycatch and is based on a proposal included in the June Briefing Book (<http://tinyurl.com/lfcx6xa>).

Seabird Avoidance Regulations

The Council recommended alternatives, which are intended to reduce incidental take of seabirds as described in the preliminary draft environmental assessment, be released for public review (see <http://tinyurl.com/jwshycj>). The action alternative would require that streamer lines be deployed during setting operations on commercial longline vessels 55 feet or greater in length with a safety exemption in the event of rough weather. Additionally, the Council recommended a new alternative be added, which would not include the rough weather exception. Final action is tentatively scheduled for the November 2013 Council meeting.

Approve Stock Assessments

The Council adopted new data-moderate stock assessments for sharpchin rockfish, stripetail rockfish and yellowtail rockfish north of 40°10' N lat., English sole, and rex sole; new full assessments for darkblotched rockfish and petrale sole, and; new catch reports for canary rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and yelloweye rockfish. The Council will consider further review of draft data-moderate stock assessments for brown rockfish, China rockfish, and copper rockfish for the September mop-up panel, which will explore alternative models that consider an area stratification north and south of 42° N lat. All stock assessments and catch reports approved in this year's process will be used to inform management decisions for 2015 and beyond.

Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions

The Council established seats for an electronic monitoring (EM) workgroup on development of alternatives for EM consideration, consistent with the objectives described in Agenda Item F.6.a, Attachment 1; a companion technical advisory group was also established. Work on a white paper on performance standards was redirected to a fuller scoping document, with comprehensive scoping of a regulatory process considering EM scheduled for the September Council meeting.

Also in September, a scoping session will be held on the next round of trawl trailing actions, including (1) any new or delayed trailing actions, (2) implementation of the Adaptive Management Program, and (3) a NMFS proposal to change the trailing action process by

proceeding with a trawl flexibility rule to eliminate or modify regulations outdated by the trawl rationalization program, and to move all other trailing actions into the more general management measure process the Council is scheduled to take up at the June 2014 Council meeting.

Consideration of 2015-2016 and Beyond Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

The Council took the following actions.

1. Changed the alternatives to be analyzed in the environmental impact statement for 2015-2016 and beyond harvest specifications and management measures such that the No Action alternative is based on management actions during a baseline window period (e.g., 2003-2012) and the action alternatives are based on a range of P* values of 0.25 to 0.45. The alternatives will be structured to ensure that a broad range of potential impacts of setting harvest specifications over the long term can be evaluated.
2. Adopted recreational and commercial projection models, the IOPAC income impact model, and Economic Data Program products for use in evaluating impacts for 2015-2016 harvest specifications and beyond, consistent with SSC recommendations.
3. Adopted the proposed schedule for completing the 2015-2016 harvest specifications and management measures as presented in [Agenda Item F.7.a, Attachment 3](#).
4. Deferred adoption of revisions to Council Operating Procedure 9, describing the decision process for harvest specifications related management measures, until September 2013

Adopt Preliminary Stock Complex Aggregations

The Council adopted replacement alternatives for restructuring the slope groundfish and other groundfish stock complexes. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will fully analyze the implications of these alternatives and as the next priority, examine the need for and potentially analyze alternatives for the shelf rockfish complexes. Restructuring the Other Flatfish complex was given a low priority and alternatives for restructuring the nearshore rockfish complexes were dropped from further consideration during this cycle.

Consideration of Inseason Adjustments

The Council recommended increasing the fixed gear trip limits for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude, shortspine thornyhead north of 34°27' N. latitude, shelf rockfish of south 34°27' N. latitude, and bocaccio rockfish south of 34°27' N. latitude (see the "[Groundfish Inseason Actions from June 2013 PFMC Meeting](#)"). The Council also adopted an approach for issuing 2012 lingcod surplus carryover into the 2013 shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery (<http://tinyurl.com/kt5vhn3>). The GMT was also tasked with evaluating the issuance of 2012 petrale sole surplus carryover into the 2013 shorebased IFQ fishery for Council consideration in September.

HABITAT

Current Habitat Issues

The Council directed staff to send the letter drafted by the Habitat Committee to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council ([Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 1](#)) with minor editorial changes. They also directed the Habitat Committee to prepare a draft letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, responding to its request for information on the environmental effect of offshore wind, for the September Council meeting advance briefing book.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

Update List of Fisheries

The Council adopted for public review the revised Federal List of Authorized Fisheries and Gear shown in [Agenda Item H.1.b, Supplemental EPDT Report 2](#), along with the recommendations in H.1.b, [Supplemental CPSAS report](#), with the following changes:

- Line 3: add a category B for recreational fisheries, and copy and paste the recreational gear types listed under 18B into this line
- Line 7D: correct misspelling of “crab loop”
- Line 8: Add a new category indicating coonstripe shrimp is allowed in Oregon using pot/trap gear only
- Line 8: Keep pot/trap gear on the list
- Line 8B: remove area delineation
- Line 8C: change category to “commercial pink shrimp”
- Line 8D: For California commercial fisheries, keep pot/trap gear on the list
- Line 15: The Ecosystem Plan Development Team should revisit the rationale for this section and its subsections, in order to more clearly distinguish individual fisheries
- Line 18a: Revise this to apply south of 46 15 N. latitude (Oregon/Washington border)
- Add lobster and rock crab pot/trap fishery to the list
- Incorporating state border labels in addition to latitude designations, for more clarity.

The Council scheduled final action on changes to the list of fisheries for the purpose of forage fish protection for the September 2013 Council meeting.

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Northern Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy

The Council scheduled further consideration of responding to a court order regarding the remand of a northern anchovy maximum sustained yield designation to the Council, tentatively for the November 2013 Council meeting.

Pacific Mackerel Management Status and Management Measures

The Council adopted management measures and harvest specifications for the 2013-2014 fishing year. These include an overfishing limit of 57,316 mt, a P* choice of 0.45, acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit (ACL) set equal to 52,358 mt, and an annual catch target (ACT) equal to 39,268 mt. The 13,089 mt difference between the ACL and ACT is an incidental catch buffer. At the April 2014 meeting, the Council may consider releasing some of the incidental buffer if the ACT has been met or approached.

The Council also voted to amend the management and assessment schedule for Pacific mackerel. The new schedule calls for full stock assessments every four years starting in 2015, alternating with catch-only projection estimates every four years, in off-science years. Biennial harvest specifications will be made for two years at a time.

Sardine Fishery Start Date and Management Schedule

The Council voted to change the fishery start date for Pacific sardine to July 1, starting in 2014. A biomass projection estimate will be used to set harvest specifications for the January 1-June 30 period during the 2014 transition year. The Council anticipates a full stock assessment will be available to inform annual harvest specifications for the fishing year beginning July 1, 2014.

Adjustments to Sardine Harvest Parameters

The Council postponed further consideration of changes to the temperature/recruitment relationship until corrections to the temperature station measurements can be incorporated into the risk assessment analysis and further analysis is conducted by the SSC, Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel regarding policy and scientific boundary questions, an assessment of change in the level of precautionary intent relative to current management, a full listing of ancillary ramifications, and an assessment of economic implications of changes that are associated with a change in the temperature data source or temperature-recruitment relationship. Further consideration of adjustments to sardine harvest parameters are tentatively scheduled for the November 2013 Council meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Reports on Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 Conference and the Councils Coordination Committee Meeting

Draft proceedings for the Conference and additional staff analysis will not be available until late summer; therefore, the Council will consider changes to current policy and regulatory approaches to be developed by the Council or implemented by NMFS, as well as legislative changes via reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act at its September 2013 Council meeting.

Fiscal Matters

The Council approved a calendar year 2013 budget which should maintain near status quo operations for the year.

Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

It was announced that Mr. Dan Wolford and Mr. Herb Pollard were reappointed to their current Council seats for an additional 3-year term.

The Council appointed Ms. Dorothy Lowman Council Chair and Mr. Herb Pollard Council Vice-Chair for the 2013-2014 term.

The Council made the following advisory body appointments:

- Mr. Pete Adams for the California seat on the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel
- Ms. Heidi Taylor for the NMFS Southwest Region seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team
- Acting SAC Bill Giles for the NMFS Northwest Region seat on the Enforcement Consultants
- Mr. Eric Wilkins for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife seat on the Habitat Committee
- Dr. Emmanis Dorval for the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team

The Council eliminated the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team.

The Council dissolved the Ecosystem Plan Development Team.

The Council appointed members to the ad hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, assigned the sole purpose of addressing Initiative 1 of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (additional forage fish protection), as follows:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Deb Wilson-Vandenberg
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Richard Scully
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Cyreis Schmitt
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Corey Niles
Coastal Treaty Tribe
Larry Gilbertson
NMFS West Coast Region
Yvonne DeReynier
Josh Lindsay

The Council established an ad hoc Trawl Electronic Monitoring Work Group consisting of:

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)

Dave Hanson serving as Chair

At-sea whiting representative

Brent Paine

Shoreside mid-water trawl representative

Heather Mann

Shoreside bottom trawl representatives

Paul Kujala

Travis Hunter

Individual fishing quota fixed gear representatives

Bob Alverson

Geoff Bettencourt

Electronic monitoring provider (with observer experience if possible)

Howard McElderry

Conservation representative

Shems Jud

The Council also established an ad hoc Trawl Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee consisting of:

PSMFC

Dave Colpo

NMFS West Coast Region

Colby Brady

NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Jon McVeigh

NMFS Office of Law Enforcement

Dayna Matthews

NOAA General Counsel

Mariam McCall

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dan Chadwick

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Maggie Sommer

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Bob Puccinelli

The Council established an Endangered Species Work Group to work on Endangered Species Act issues related to groundfish management, and will solicit nominations for the following seats to be filled at the September Council meeting:

- 1- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 1- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 1- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 1- Washington Coastal Treaty Tribe
- 1- NMFS West Coast Region Sustainable Fisheries Division
- 1- NMFS West Coast Region Protected Resources Division
- 1- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 1- Fish Taxon Expert
- 1- Seabird Taxon Expert
- 1- Marine Mammal Taxon Expert
- 1- Sea Turtle Taxon Expert

The Council will solicit nominations for one vacant at-large seat on the Scientific and Statistical Committee to be filled at the September Council Meeting.

Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for September 2013 in Boise, Idaho. The preliminary proposed agenda presented the last day of this Council meeting [Agenda Item C.7.a Supplemental Attachment 4](#) represents the agenda expectations for the September 2013 Council meeting until a draft detailed proposed agenda is available on the Council website around mid-August.

PFMC
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