

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) will briefly report on recent regulatory developments relevant to groundfish fisheries and issues of interest to the Council (Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Reports 1 and 2).

In April 2015, the Council narrowed the scope of actions to be considered within the groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) amendment and rockfish conservation area (RCA) package (see [Decision Summary Document, April 2015](#)). The Council requested NMFS provide reports at the June 2015 meeting that identified appropriate authority for rulemaking and either confirm or suggest alternative rulemaking or packaging for expediency purposes. In response to this request, NMFS has provided two reports for Council consideration. Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Report 3 addresses those items that were removed from the EFH and RCA package. Guidance for those items that remain within the scope of issues to be considered within the EFH and RCA package is provided under Agenda Item D.6.a, NMFS Report 1.

In addition, the Council requested periodic updates regarding NMFS progress to implement exempted fishing permits for electronic monitoring. In May, NMFS issued 6 different EFPs to a total of 36 vessels under 4 umbrella projects. A letter to the Council is provided in Agenda Item D.1.a NMFS Report 4.

NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) will also briefly report on groundfish-related science and research activities.

Council Task:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Report 1: Groundfish and Halibut *Federal Register* Notices.
2. Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Report 2: Rulemaking Plan for 2015, Groundfish and Halibut.
3. Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Report 3: NMFS Report on Authority for Rulemaking and Recommended Packaging Related to Items Addressed by the Council under the EFH Agenda Item in April, 2015.
4. Agenda Item D.1.a, NMFS Report 4: Letter to Council, Electronic Monitoring EFP update.

Agenda Order:

D.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

- a. Regulatory Activities
- b. Fisheries Science Center Activities
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

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