



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 25, 2015
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee
FROM: John DeVore
SUBJECT: September 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 9-16, 2015 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, California. The Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) Ecosystem Subcommittee will meet Wednesday, September 9 starting at 9 a.m. in the Capital B Room. The entire SSC will meet Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11 starting at 8 a.m. each day in the California Salon II Room. Your meeting materials are enclosed, and include additional items that are not on the SSC agenda.

Council Administrative Matters

There are two nominations the SSC will review. The Quinault Indian Nation has nominated Mr. Alan Sarich to replace Mr. Kris Northcut on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team. The Makah Tribe has nominated Mr. Joe Peterson to replace Mr. Rob Jones on the Groundfish Management Team (GMT). The SSC will be in closed session for this discussion.

The SSC will review their potential workload in the next year and may recommend to the Council which tasks are prioritized.

Ecosystem Management

The SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee will meet on September 9 and consider recommendations regarding ecosystem indicators in the annual Integrated Ecosystem Assessment and State of the Ecosystem Report. The subcommittee's recommendations will be communicated to the SSC to inform their discussion and recommendations to the Council.

Salmon Management

The Council is scheduled to set priorities for salmon methodology review topics. The SSC will review and prioritize those topics that are recommended to be reviewed at the SSC's Salmon Subcommittee and Salmon Technical Team meeting tentatively scheduled for October 20-22.

Highly Migratory Species Management

The Council is scheduled to consider a draft Swordfish Management Plan and refine alternatives for hard caps for protected species and finfish. Specifically, the SSC will further review a model (initially reviewed in March and June) that simulates the performance of the fishery and predicts socioeconomic impacts under alternative species' hard caps and consider endorsing the model to inform Council decision-making.

Groundfish Management

The SSC will review new full assessments for bocaccio, China rockfish, black rockfish, kelp greenling in Oregon, and widow rockfish, and will consider endorsing these assessments to inform groundfish management decision-making as best available science.

The SSC will review proposed overfishing limits (OFLs), stock categories, and designated sigmas (i.e., estimated or proxy current biomass variances) for each stock or stock category to inform 2017 and 2018 management decisions. The SSC will recommend OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values to the Council.

The SSC will review analyses informing a range of alternatives for a Fishery Management Plan amendment to modify Groundfish essential fish habitat and to adjust current Rockfish Conservation Areas and consider endorsing these analyses as best available science. Specifically, the SSC deliberation will evaluate the methodologies of: 1) using the trawl survey catch per unit of effort (CPUE) analysis to identify areas of relatively high densities of focal species; and 2) using the fishery-dependent CPUE analysis to identify areas of relatively high bycatch rates of focal species. Finally, the question for the SSC is, are the maps of species' distributions that are derived from these CPUE analyses sufficient for informing a range of RCA alternatives?

The SSC will review and prioritize candidate groundfish management science improvements and methodology review topics to inform future stock assessments. The SSC will recommend their prioritized list of these science activities to be conducted next year to the Council.

The SSC will receive a presentation from Dr. Rick Methot on a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) initiative to develop criteria and a process to decide future stock assessment priorities. The SSC will forward their recommendations on stock assessment prioritization at a future Council meeting (NMFS is proposing this item for the November 2015 Council agenda).

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process. See you soon.

JDD:kma

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Agenda Item A.5 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
3. Agenda Item C.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Ecosystem Management

4. Agenda Item D.1 – Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative Scoping

Salmon Management

5. Agenda Item E.1 – Salmon Methodology Review
6. Agenda Item E.2 – Sacramento River Winter Chinook (SRWC) Update (informational only – not on the SSC's agenda)

Highly Migratory Species Management

7. Agenda Item G.2 – Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan Hardcaps

Groundfish Management

8. Agenda Item H.3 – Final Stock Assessments
9. Agenda Item H.5 – Specifications Process for 2017-2018 Management
10. Agenda Item H.8 – Amendment to Modify Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat and to Adjust Rockfish Conservation Areas
11. Agenda Item H.10 – Groundfish Management Science Improvements and Methodology Review Topics

SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, etc.

12. September 2015 SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee Agenda
13. September 2015 SSC Agenda
14. Draft June 2015 SSC Minutes
15. Informational Reports
16. Hotel-Related Information
17. Roster