



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 20, 2015

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Interested Persons

FROM: Kelly Ames, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet November 13-19, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, 11999 Harbor Boulevard, Garden Grove, CA 92840. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, November 13, 2015 in the Royal F room. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 14 in the Royal E room.

The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest, including:

- Matters raised during the open comment period;
- A tri-state enforcement report;
- Current habitat issues;
- Legislative matters, including considerations of the Legislative Committee;
- Reports from the West Coast Region and Northwest Fisheries Science Center;
- Preliminary adoption of exempted fishing permits (EFP) for 2017-2018, including deductions from the annual catch limits (ACLs) to accommodate the EFPs;
- Final stock assessments for 2017-2018 management;
- Adopt final overfishing limits and P\*/allowable biological catches, and preliminary preferred ACLs for each stock and stock complex;
- Confirm or adjust the Council-adopted final preferred alternative for whiting fishery electronic monitoring and deem regulations for implementing Council final action;
- Final action on intersector allocation for blackgill and slope rockfish south of 40 °10' N. latitude and accumulation limit adjustments;
- Consider the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed stock assessment prioritization process and adopt a groundfish stock assessment planning process;
- Consider inseason adjustments for 2015 and 2016 fisheries;
- Select a final range of new management measures for detailed analysis from the range adopted at the September 2015 Council meeting. Select a final preferred alternative for

managing big skate. Provide guidance on management measures for 2017-2018, including guidance on preliminary off-the-top deductions from the ACLs, set-asides, two-year allocations, and season structures for commercial and recreational fisheries;

- Consider revising the Purpose and Need statements and adopt preliminary preferred alternatives for vessel movement monitoring regulations in Council area commercial fisheries;
- Adopt final 2016 Pacific halibut catch sharing plan and annual fishing regulations. Select a preliminary preferred alternative to allow National Marine Fisheries Service to use automatic action to prohibit retention of halibut in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington upon projected attainment of the quota;
- Membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures; and
- Future Council meeting agenda and workload planning.

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week. As always, all briefing materials are also available on the web at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

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Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B – Open Comment Period
3. Agenda Item C – Enforcement
4. Agenda Item E – Habitat
5. Agenda Item F.2 – Legislative Matters
6. Agenda Item F.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
7. Agenda Item F.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
8. Agenda Item I – Groundfish Management
9. Agenda Item J – Pacific Halibut Management
10. EC Agenda
11. GAP Agenda
12. GMT Agenda
13. SSC Agenda and Draft Minutes
14. Informational Reports
15. Hotel-related Information
16. Council Roster