



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2015

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: John DeVore

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 Hotel, 11999 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, California. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14 starting at 8 a.m. each day in the Terrace A-C Room in the South Tower. Your meeting materials are enclosed, and include additional items that are not on the SSC agenda.

Council Administrative Matters

The Council will be reviewing nominations for the 2016-2018 Advisory Body terms, including the seven at-large positions and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) seat on the SSC. Current at-large SSC members who have been re-nominated and John Budrick, the nominee for the CDFW SSC seat, will be asked to leave the room during the SSC closed session deliberations for these seats. The SSC will also be reviewing the nomination of Mr. Andrew Klein for one of the CDFW seats on the Groundfish Management Team (GMT).

The SSC will review their potential workload in the next year and may recommend to the Council which tasks are prioritized. The SSC will also review a report of the SSC's Ecosystem Subcommittee from their September meeting to review the human dimension indicators proposed for the annual California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment report.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has asked for comment on proposed scientific standards for doing the five-year review of the U.S. West Coast Trawl Rationalization program. This request has a January 29, 2016 deadline and was made after the November 2015 briefing book deadline (see Informational Report 1). The SSC is being asked to comment on the proposed scientific standards under Agenda Item F.6 - Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.

Salmon Management

The Council is scheduled to adopt final salmon methodology changes under Agenda Item D.2. The SSC should review the recommendations of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and make their recommendations to the Council.

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

The Council is scheduled to consider the report of the August 2015 Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop under Agenda Item H.1 and decide whether the information and recommendations from the workshop warrant further exploration of changing the Distribution parameter in the Pacific sardine harvest control rule. Also, the SSC should evaluate the technical issues raised in the public comments from Dr. Juan Zwolinski and Oceana.

The Council will be updated on the general status and management of northern anchovy under Agenda Item H.3. A draft journal article, "Recent Collapse of Northern Anchovy Biomass off California" by MacCall et al. (In Review) was submitted under public comment. The SSC should inform the Council on the technical elements and analyses in this paper and how they may be useful in determining status of northern anchovy. The NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) will also be presenting survey data and other information relevant to northern anchovy. The SSC should report whether any of this information is useful in determining the current status of northern anchovy.

The Council will be considering two proposed methodologies for surveying coastal pelagic species (CPS) under Agenda Item H.4. A Southern California Coastal Pelagic Species Survey proposed by CDFW and an Acoustic Trawl Method for assessing CPS proposed by the SWFSC are being considered for a methodology review in 2016. The SSC should consider whether these methods should be recommended for a methodology review next year. Additionally, the SWFSC has provided a white paper on data-poor assessment methods for assessing CPS. The SSC should consider which CPS stocks, if any, these methods are suitable for assessing and whether any of these proposed methods should be subject to a formal methodology review next year.

Groundfish Management

The SSC will review new full assessments for black rockfish off California, Oregon, and Washington and will consider endorsing these assessments to inform groundfish management decision-making as best available science under Agenda Item I.3. The July Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel endorsed the California and Washington assessments, and their report is provided. The SSC recommended the Oregon assessment be reviewed at the September 28-October 2 mop-up STAR Panel and the mop-up STAR Panel report is also provided.

The SSC will review proposed overfishing limits (OFLs), stock categories, and designated sigmas (i.e., estimated or proxy biomass variances) for each stock not addressed in September to inform 2017 and 2018 management decisions under Agenda Item I.4. The SSC will recommend OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values to the Council. A report from the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee from this year's mop-up STAR Panel meeting will be made available in the SSC's meeting materials with their recommendations on catch-only projections for arrowtooth flounder,

yelloweye rockfish yield projections, and a proposed new methodology for deriving OFLs and annual catch limits for big skate and other data-moderate stocks. A report from the SSC's Groundfish and Economic Subcommittees from their June review of the GMT's trawl individual fishing quota (IFQ) model and the GMT's model which estimates the probability of exceeding a harvest limit will be made available in the SSC's meeting materials. The final stage of the SSC's review of the IFQ model is the subject of a scheduled November 9 webinar and the SSC's recommendations for using this model will be provided to the Council under Agenda Item I.4. A report on the SSC's recommendations for the GMT's probability model for exceeding a harvest limit is not expected until the SSC's March or April 2016 meeting, pending further model development and documentation by the GMT. The SSC will also review a GMT bootstrap analysis intended to inform rockfish bycatch in at-sea whiting fisheries and report their recommendations at this meeting under Agenda Item I.4.

The SSC received a presentation in September from Dr. Richard Methot on a NMFS initiative to develop criteria and a process to decide future stock assessment priorities. Since then, NMFS has developed a slightly different process for deciding assessment priorities. The SSC will forward their recommendations on methods and criteria for deciding future stock assessment priorities under Agenda Item I.7.

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.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item F.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
3. Agenda Item F.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Salmon Management

4. Agenda Item D.2 – Salmon Methodology Review

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

5. Agenda Item H.1 – Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop
6. Agenda Item H.3 – Anchovy General Status Overview
7. Agenda Item H.4 – 2016 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection Including Data-Limited Assessment Methods

Groundfish Management

8. Agenda Item I.3 – Final Approval of Stock Assessments
9. Agenda Item I.4 – Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2017-2018 Groundfish Management Including Final Overfishing Limits and Acceptable Biological Catches
10. Agenda Item I.7 – Stock Assessment Prioritization for the 2019-20 Management Cycle

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

11. November 2015 SSC Agenda
12. Draft September 2015 SSC Minutes
13. Report of the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee Meeting to Review CCIEA Human Dimensions

14. Scientific and Statistical Committee Groundfish and Economic Subcommittees' Report for Review Meeting on June 13, 2015
15. Catch Distribution Data as the Basis for the Apportionment of Bocaccio ACL and OFL Estimates North and South of 40°10' N Latitude
16. Scientific and Statistical Committee's Groundfish Subcommittee Mop-up Stock Assessment Review Panel Meeting: Report on Arrowtooth Flounder Catch-Only Projections, Yelloweye Rockfish Yield Projections, and a Proposed New Methodology for deriving OFLs and ACLs for Big Skate and Other Data-Moderate Stocks
17. Informational Report 1: Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs (Informs the SSC F.6 Discussion)
18. Hotel-Related Information
19. Roster

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