

CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS, INCLUDING CARRYOVER

Management measures for groundfish are set by the Council with the general understanding that these measures will likely need to be adjusted within the biennium to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits (ACLs). This agenda item will consider routine inseason adjustments to ongoing 2016 fisheries. Potential inseason adjustments include adjustments to rockfish conservation area boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on catch estimate updates and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP).

Under this agenda item, the Council is also expected to provide a recommendation regarding the issuance of 2015 surplus carryover quota pounds (QP) into the 2016 shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) program. The surplus carryover provision in the shorebased IFQ program allows up to 10 percent of the cumulative QPs (used and unused) in a vessel account to be carried over from one year to the next (see regulations at 660.140(e)(5)). The current National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) policy, based on a court ruling in 2014, is that NMFS will not issue surplus carryover QP for IFQ species that have ACLs established equal to their acceptable biological catches (ABCs) ([Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 4, June 2014](#)).

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) is expected to provide a supplemental report on fishery performance in 2015 and projections for 2016 to inform decision-making. If a concern is identified, the Council can recommend reducing the carryover percentage or eliminating the provision for the species in question for the year.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider projections for the 2016 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary.**
- 2. Consider data on 2015 surplus carryover QPs and projections for fishery performance in 2016. Recommend the amount of surplus carryover that should be issued.**

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

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| G.4 | Consideration of Inseason Adjustments, Including Carryover | Kelly Ames |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Adopt Recommendations for Adjustments Including Carryover to 2016 Groundfish Fisheries, as Necessary | |