

**COUNCIL MEETING RECORD**  
**231<sup>st</sup> Session of the**  
**Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**September 11-16, 2015**  
Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento  
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815

[Excerpt]

6. [Salmon Endangered Species Act \(ESA\) Reinitiation of Consultation Workshop Report - Kit Dahl \[mp3:9-14-15pm3: 0:52:29\]](#)

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [mp3:9-14-15pm3: 0:58:55] and [mp3:9-15-15am1: 0:02:15]**

[Agenda Item H.6.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Report of the Public Work Session on the Effects of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery on ESA listed Pacific Salmon

[Agenda Item H.6.a, NMFS Report 2](#): A Draft Proposal for Managing Salmon Bycatch in the Groundfish Fishery

[Agenda Item H.6.a, NMFS Report 3](#): Chinook Catch per Unit Effort for the Bottom Trawl and Non-Whiting Midwater Trawl Fisheries

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 4](#): Chinook salmon bycatch in the at-sea sectors of the Pacific hake fishery: Summary of stock composition estimates for 1983, 2008–2013

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): Salmon Consultation on the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery: Update (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

b. **Public Comment [mp3:9-15-15am1: 0:31:22]**

Peter Leipzig, Fishing Marketing Association

Seth Atkinson, Natural Resources Defense Council

Tom Libby, California Shellfish

Brad Pettinger, Oregon Trawl Association

Steve Bodnar, Coos Bay Trawlers Association

Ralph Brown

Paul Kujala and Kevin Dunn

**c. Council Action: 1) Consider Workshop Report and New Information on Salmon Bycatch in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and 2) Provide Guidance on the Biological Opinion Proposed Action for Ongoing Management of the Groundfish Fishery Taking into Account Salmon Bycatch [[mp3:9-15-15am1](#): 1:05:11]**

**Motion:** Council request NMFS to expand the analysis of Proposal One, contained in the NMFS PPT on salmon bycatch in the groundfish fishery, by adding the following parameters:

For the Whiting Fishery:

- 1) Base the analysis on an 11,000 fish threshold for the whiting fishery
- 2) Assume the whiting fishery's geographic footprint is unchanged and alternatively,
- 3) Analyze an alternative assuming that the whiting fishery's at-sea processing geographic footprint is expanded south of 42 degrees and that 10 percent of the at-sea catch, using the most recent 5-year average, is harvested south of 42 degrees.

For the bottom trawl, LE/OA fixed gear, and recreational fishery:

- 1) Analyze three threshold values including 1,000, 4,500, and 9,000 chinook salmon.
- 2) For the 1,000 threshold value, assume the same fishing structure and pattern that reflects the most recent 3 years.
- 3) For the 4,500 threshold value, assume the RCA is open to trawl fishing, and that the geographic distribution of the fleet/harvest is similar to 2000-2005.
- 4) For the 9,000 threshold value, assume the RCA is open to trawl fishing, the geographic distribution of the fleet/harvest is similar to the 2000-2005 timeframe, and that there is a midwater yellowtail/widow fishery conducted in a manner similar to historical patterns when such a fishery took place.

Other options and considerations:

- Add a suboption that includes a whiting threshold value of 11,000, a bottom trawl threshold of 4,500 and a 5,500 fish reserve.
- If feasible, the analysis should include an enumeration of the impacts on listed stocks overall and a geographic breakdown of where the impacts occur using the available geographic cells that are currently available using existing modeling tools.
- Include the reports from the GAP and GMT in the documents that are conveyed to NMFS on this matter.
- include the key points made in public testimony.

Phil Anderson/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried Ms. Yaremko abstained).

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted a motion and provided guidance to NMFS for analysis of a range of alternatives to determine the salmon bycatch threshold for the ongoing ESA Section 7 consultation on the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Council also discussed a schedule for completing the Council recommendation for this consultation that allows for appropriate analysis and refinement of the best threshold numbers, but also optimizes the other workload commitments of key NMFS staff and the Council's GMT. During the workload planning agenda item, the Council scheduled a description of the alternatives to be analyzed and an update on any other possible progress at the Council's March 2016 meeting, with a final Council recommendation scheduled for the September 2016 Council meeting.