



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 16, 2016

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

FROM: Kelly Ames, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2016 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet April 8-14, 2016 at the Hilton Vancouver Hotel, 301 West Sixth Street, Vancouver, Washington, 98660. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 8 in the Pine Room. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meetings will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, 2016 in the Oak 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;
- Marine spatial planning update;
- Annual U.S. Coast Guard fishery enforcement report;
- Reports from the West Coast Region and Northwest Fisheries Science Center;
- Final action to implement the 2016 Pacific whiting fishery under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Agreement;
- Current habitat matters;
- Final action on the biennial harvest specifications for 2017-2018 groundfish fisheries;
- Final action to adopt a fixed gear electronic monitoring alternative and deem whiting and fixed gear electronic monitoring regulations;
- Comments on the Bycatch Strategy and Bycatch Reduction Plans;
- Comments on the Catch Share Program Review Guidance and preliminary planning for the shorebased trawl individual fishing quota program five-year review;
- Consider and revise the range of alternatives, as appropriate; identify preliminary preferred alternatives if possible; and provide additional guidance for the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation Area Amendment;
- Preliminary preferred management measure alternatives for 2017-2018 fisheries;
- Initial stock assessment plans and Terms of Reference for groundfish and coastal pelagic species;

- Inseason adjustments to reduce catch in the groundfish fisheries. Such actions include decreases to cumulative landing limits for the commercial fishery, decreases to recreational bag limits, and expansions to the rockfish conservation areas to keep catch within the annual catch limits. Adjustments to management measures to increase catch will be considered at the June 2016 Council meeting;
- Final action on regulations for vessel movement monitoring;
- Electronic Technology Plan update;
- 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 – Administrative Matters
4. Agenda Item D – Enforcement Issues
5. Agenda Item F – Groundfish Management
6. EC Agenda
7. GAP Agenda
8. GMT Agenda
9. SSC Agenda and Draft Minutes
10. Informational Reports
11. Hotel-related Information
12. Council Roster

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