

FINAL ACTION TO ADOPT MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2017-2018 FISHERIES

The process to adopt the 2017-2018 harvest specifications and management measures, including Amendment 27 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP), began in June 2015 and culminates at this meeting with final action scheduled under Agenda Item G.4. There are four overarching decisions that must be made under Agenda Item G.4 and the substance of each of these decisions is briefly described below. Detailed descriptions of anticipated Council actions are described in Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1.

- Decision 1: Confirm final 2017-2018 harvest specifications and default harvest control rules for all groundfish stocks and stock complexes. Materials informing this decision include the draft analytical document (Chapter 2, Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2), excerpted harvest specification tables from Attachment 2 (Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 3), and the draft Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document (provided electronically in Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 4).
- Decision 2: Adopt final management measures, including two-year allocations and adjustments to routine management measures (Chapter 4, Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2). Alternative 3 in Section 4.1.4 combines the preferred harvest specifications with preliminary preferred adjustments to routine management measures as well as selected new management measures.
- Decision 3: Adopt final new management measures to be implemented in regulation starting in 2017 (Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 5). In April 2016, the following new management measures were identified as preliminary preferred: retention of flatfish at any depth during the seasonal depth closure in Oregon, overfished species hotspot closures in California, and retention of petrale sole and starry flounder during the seasonal depth closure in California. Additionally, regulations would provide a new inseason process outside of a Council meeting for California fisheries to take action based upon attainment or projected attainment of Federal harvest limits of black rockfish (commercial and recreational), canary rockfish (recreational), and yelloweye rockfish (recreational).
- Decision 4: Provide guidance on the proposed Amendment 27 FMP language, which reclassifies big skate as “in the fishery,” lists deacon rockfish in Table 3-1, and revises Chapter 5.5 to describe a new inseason process in California (Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 6). Additionally, updates were made to clarify matters from Amendment 23 and acknowledge the successful rebuilding of canary rockfish and petrale sole.

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the public have provided comments on selected preliminary preferred management measures for Council consideration.

This agenda item is scheduled to begin on Saturday, June 25 with the objective of completing the reports and comments of advisory bodies and management entities as well as public comment. The agenda item would then continue on Monday, June 27 with Council discussion and action. Regulations implementing Council action are expected on January 1, 2017.

Council Action:

1. **Confirm final 2017-2018 harvest specifications and default harvest control rules for all groundfish stocks and stock complexes.**
2. **Adopt final 2017-2018 season structures and management measures.**
3. **Adopt final new management measures to be implemented starting in 2017.**
4. **Provide guidance on the proposed Amendment 27 FMP language.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1: Action Item Checklist.
2. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2: 2017-2018 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Including Changes to Groundfish Stock Designations (Amendment 27 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan): Description and Analysis for Council Decision-making.
3. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 3: Preferred 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications (overfishing limits (OFLs in mt), acceptable biological catches (ABCs in mt), and annual catch limits (ACLs in mt)), for west coast groundfish stocks and stock complexes under preferred harvest control rules.
4. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 4: Draft of the 2016 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document (*Available Electronically Only*).
5. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 5: Draft Appendix B - Additional Management Measure Analysis and New Management Measures Analysis.
6. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 6: Proposed Groundfish FMP Amendment Language for Amendment 27, including Appendix F (*Available Electronically Only*).
7. Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report: Groundfish Management Team Report on 2017-2018 Management Measures.
8. Agenda Item G.4.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- G.4 Final Action to Adopt Management Measures for
2017-2018 Fisheries John DeVore and Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Management Measures for 2017-2018 Fisheries

PFMC
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