

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft proposed schedules and material in the advanced briefing book and offer the following comments.

November Council Meeting

The GMT will be holding a joint workshop with the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) to explore revisions to the nearshore and non-nearshore models as was outlined under [Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#). The GMT will summarize the outcomes from this meeting in a report for the advanced November briefing book to inform discussions with the Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council action on the final topics for the 2017 methodology reviews. Further, the GMT will provide a summary of the projection models, as well as the corresponding updates and revisions which have been done to date.

GMT Meeting Dates

Given that there are a couple of very complex items scheduled for the November Council meeting (EFH/RCA and Catch Share 5-Year Review), the GMT sees merit in starting our meeting on Monday, November 14 at 3 p.m., and working for several hours that afternoon or early evening. The 3 p.m. start time would allow GMT members to travel that day, and get a jump start on some of our discussion, particularly for some of the heavy lifting items. If any groundfish agenda items are added to the November Council meeting, specifically on Sunday, November 20, the end date/time of the GMT meeting may need to be adjusted. Therefore, the GMT requests that Council staff have flexibility to adjust the GMT's start date and time based on the Council's final approval of the November agenda and the considerations below.

EFH/RCA

The GMT thinks there might be merit in getting the overview and initial discussion on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) agenda item with the Habitat Committee. As GMT members are not the habitat experts, we would likely benefit from some interactions with the Habitat Committee, especially on the EFH portion (the RCA portion has more direct management implications with which we are familiar). The time and effort likely required of the GMT for this agenda item is part of why we are requesting the Monday start time.

The GMT has concerns about the EFH/RCA agenda item being scheduled for six hours straight on Friday, November 18. The Council, advisory bodies, and the public may benefit from a briefing earlier in the week with Council discussion and actions scheduled for a different day. This would allow time to digest and process the materials. The Council could also consider splitting the EFH/RCA agenda item into two parts with a break. This may aid the Council in discussing the large amount of complex information the project team has to cover. Additionally, this would allow Council members the opportunity to speak with staff, if necessary, to clarify any issues prior to the Council taking action.

Candidate Agenda Items

The GMT reviewed [Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 2](#) and provides the following comments on potential agenda items for November. Regarding H.8 Green Light/Ramp Up Policies Range of

Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative, the GMT questions whether there is sufficient time between now and the October 18 advanced Briefing Book deadline for analysis to be completed, at least sufficiently to inform Council discussions and decisions.

The salmon bycatch consultation analysis is another candidate item for November. The GMT sees this agenda item as being fairly complex, which may warrant caution when scheduling along with the other complex items already on the schedule (EFH/RCA, trawl catch share review). However, this issue is related to other issues that the Council is considering such as EFH and the analysis for the year-round mid-water non-whiting trawl fishery, so it may be beneficial to get that done sooner than later. Having the material in the advanced briefing book would allow for the GMT to front load our discussion prior to the November Council meeting.

With regards to the electronic monitoring Exempted Fishing Permit update for non-whiting midwater and bottom trawl, the GMT recommends removing this from consideration for November as little additional data may be available to verify a final preferred alternative.

The GMT supports the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel proposal to remove the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Process from the November agenda and combine with the two remaining Omnibus sablefish items for potential consideration for 2018.

Year at a Glance

Upon reviewing the preliminary Year at a Glance ([Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1](#)), the GMT notes that inseason does not appear on the March agenda. While the Council normally does not make inseason changes in March or April, having a placeholder for March might be beneficial as a check-in and in case anything arises. However, the GMT can comment on this during November when we have additional information on the status of the 2016 fisheries and whether adjustments may be needed for 2017.

Annual PacFIN Meeting

In addition to the meeting with the WCGOP in October, one GMT representative will be participating in the Pacific Coast Fisheries Data Committee Meeting October 26-27 in Portland.

Productivity Workshop

A productivity workshop will be hosted in December in Seattle to discuss various methodologies for stock assessments, particularly for the upcoming assessment cycle. It is the GMT's understanding that there is currently no spot identified for a GMT representative, unlike at stock assessment review (STAR) Panels, or other workshops. **Therefore, the GMT asks that the Council consider supporting the formal participation of one or two GMT members at the productivity workshop in order to better understand changes to parameters or other parts of the process, as they will be important for the STAR panels, and the outcomes of the resulting stock assessments.** If approved, we would nominate Jessi Doerpinghaus to be the representative. If a second member is approved, we then nominate Lynn Mattes.

PFMC
09/19/16