

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPING THE 2019-2020 GROUND FISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Table 1. Proposed Council schedule for the activities associated with implementing the 2019-2020 harvest specifications and management measures. Bold font dates represent Council meeting dates.

Start Date	End Date	Task
June 7, 2017	June 7, 2017	Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee meets to review: 1) assessment updates for darkblotched rockfish, bocaccio rockfish, arrowtooth flounder, and blackgill rockfish 2) catch reports for cowcod rockfish.
June 8, 2017	June 9, 2017	SSC meets to discuss and/or reach recommendations on: 1. Update assessments and catch reports recommended by the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee. 2. Consider new sigma values. 3. Identify stocks needing catch-only updates or other analyses to inform overfishing limits (OFLs).
June 9, 2017	June 14, 2017	The Council meets and adopts: 1. A final process and schedule for developing groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for 2019-2020. 2. Update assessments and catch reports as recommended by the SSC. 3. Data requests recommended by the SSC (e.g., sigmas, stocks for catch-only updates, impact projection review model schedule, etc.).
June 26, 2017	June 30, 2017	Stock Assessment Review (STAR) #1 (Seattle, WA): Lingcod and Pacific ocean perch, one Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) representative attended.

Start Date	End Date	Task
July 10, 2017	July 14, 2017	STAR Panel #2 (Seattle, WA): Yelloweye and yellowtail rockfish. One GMT and GAP representative will attend.
July 24, 2017	July 28, 2017	STAR Panel #3 (Santa Cruz, CA): Blue/deacon rockfish and California scorpionfish. One GMT and GAP representative will attend.
September 12, 2017	September 13, 2017	SSC meets ¹ to reach recommendations or comment on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six full assessments, as recommended by the STAR panels. 2. OFLs, where possible. 3. Stock categories (i.e., categories 1, 2, and 3). 4. Sigma values.
September 13, 2017	September 18, 2017	The Council meets and adopts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stock assessments for the six species subject to summer STAR panels.² 2. Final preferred alternatives (FPAs) for OFLs recommended by the SSC, where possible. 3. FPA sigma values recommended by the SSC. 4. A range of P* values, including preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA) P* values, if applicable. 5. A range of acceptable biological catches (ABCs), including PPA ABCs levels, if applicable. 6. Preliminary range of new management measures.³
September 25, 2017	September 29, 2017	The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meets to review rebuilding analyses prepared for overfished species, any stock assessments approved for further review, and new impact projection models ⁴ at a

¹SSC meeting dates are estimated based on past meeting schedules.

²Council action could be postponed from September to November for any stock assessments recommended for further review by a 2017 STAR panel and/or the SSC (i.e., those assessments the Council authorizes to be sent to the September 25 to September 29 “mop-up” panel).

³New management measures are those management measures that have not been analyzed or implemented in a previous cycle.

⁴ In November 2016, the Council prioritized review of the nearshore, non-nearshore, and yelloweye projection models. The nearshore model review was completed in March 2017 and the remaining two are scheduled to be completed at the “mop-up” panel.

Start Date	End Date	Task
		“mop-up” panel (Seattle, WA). One GMT and GAP representative to attend.
October 2, 2017	October 6, 2017	The GMT meets to review revised stock assessments, rebuilding analyses, new impact models as necessary. The GMT, West Coast Region, General Counsel, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coordinator draft a recommended range of 2019-2020 harvest specifications and preliminary management measures for analysis (Seattle, WA or Portland, OR).
November 14, 2017	November 15, 2017	SSC meets ⁵ to reach recommendations on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rebuilding analyses. 2. Any rebuilding analyses prepared for overfished species, stock assessments approved for further review, and new impact projection models from the September 25 to September 29 SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting.
November 15, 2017	November 20, 2017	The Council meets and adopts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any rebuilding analyses prepared for overfished species, stock assessments approved for further review, and new impact projection models recommended by the SSC. 2. FPA for P* values. 3. FPA for ABCs. 4. PPA for non-overfished species ACLs. 5. A range of overfished species ACLs, if necessary, and PPA ACLs. 6. A tentative range of two-year allocation alternatives.⁶ 7. Final range of new management measures for detailed analysis. 8. Preliminary selection of exempted fishing permits for 2019-2020.
November 20, 2017	February 12, 2018 ⁷	The Council staff, National Marine Fisheries

⁵SSC meeting dates are estimated based on past meeting schedules.

⁶ Allocations to be reviewed for tentative adoption include both the trawl and non-trawl allocations as well as the within non-trawl sector apportionments and accountability measures (e.g., recreational harvest guidelines). Specifically, this includes two-year allocation alternatives for species not allocated under Amendment 21 (e.g., bocaccio, canary, cowcod, yelloweye and some non-overfished species [e.g., black rockfish in Oregon and California]).

Start Date	End Date	Task
		<p>Services (NMFS), GMT, and subject matter experts prepare the requisite analytical documents.</p> <p>NMFS conducts NEPA scoping and determines the type of NEPA necessary for the proposed action.</p> <p>NMFS and Council staff prepare a schedule for regulation deeming and FMP transmittal, if necessary.</p>
November 20, 2017	April 9, 2018	Opportunity for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings to obtain input on final harvest specifications and preliminary management measures in preparation for the April meeting.
February 12, 2018	March 8, 2018	If necessary, convene the Ad-Hoc Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) for a one to two day meeting prior to the March Council meeting (i.e., the meeting will occur at some point between the start and end date). The GAC will consider the results of the analysis and generate recommendations for Council consideration.
March 9, 2018	March 14, 2018	At the March Council meeting, the Council and advisory bodies will receive an informational briefing on selected results and provide guidance or take action on emerging issues, as necessary. NMFS will also update the Council on the results of the NEPA scoping and provide a schedule for regulation deeming and FMP transmittal, as necessary.
	March 15, 2018 ⁸	Analytical documents submitted for the April meeting advance briefing book for Council, advisory body, and public review.
April 6, 2018	April 11, 2018	<p>The Council meets and adopts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FPA for ACLs. 2. PPA for management measures from the range adopted at the November Council meeting.⁹ 3. PPA for two-year allocations.

⁷ Estimated public comment deadline for the March 2018 Council meeting.

⁸ Estimated public comment deadline for the April 2018 Council meeting.

⁹ Additional management measures that require limited analysis could be added, if necessary; however, the January 1, 2019 fishery start date may be compromised.

Start Date	End Date	Task
April 11, 2018	May 11, 2018 ¹⁰	<p>Council staff, NMFS, GMT, and subject matter experts validate and refine analysis, consequent to the April Council meeting actions, as necessary.</p> <p>Council staff will provide NMFS with a substantially complete Council decision document with supporting rationale that facilitates the NEPA review process by NMFS. The document would cover, at a minimum, FPAs for ACLs, PPAs for management measures, and PPAs for 2 year allocations.</p>
June 8, 2018	June 13, 2018	<p>The Council meets and adopts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corrections to the FPA for harvest specifications, if needed. 2. Final exempted fishing permits for 2019-2020. 3. FPA for allocations. 4. FPA for management measures. 5. A prioritized list of management measures to be analyzed outside of the harvest specifications and management measures process (i.e., omnibus prioritization exercise).
June 18, 2018	July 15, 2018	Council staff, NMFS staff, and the GMT meet to finalize analysis of the Council's FPA, if necessary.

¹⁰ Estimated public comment deadline for the June 2018 Council meeting.

Table 2. NMFS proposed schedule for NEPA document preparation.

EA		EIS	
		February 2018	Publish Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare EIS ^{1/}
March 8-14, 2018	The Council meets in Rohnert Park, CA		
April 4-11, 2018	The Council meets in Portland, OR		
June 6-14, 2018	The Council meets in Spokane, WA		
	Publish Draft EA ^{2/}	July 20, 2018	File DEIS with EPA (by Friday before publication date)
		July 27, 2018	DEIS Published (Fridays) 45-day comment period starts
September 5-12, 2018	The Council meets in Seattle, WA		
		September 12, 2018	DEIS comment period Closes ^{3/}
		September 28, 2018	File FEIS with EPA (deadline to make October 5)
	Finalize EA	October 5, 2018	FEIS published by EPA (Fridays) 30-day cooling off period starts
November 9, 2018	Sign FONSI, submit final rule for publication	November 7, 2018	Sign ROD, submit final rule for publication
November 30, 2018	Final rule published with final EA and FONSI. 30-day cooling off	November 28, 2018	Final rule published. 30-day cooling off
December 28, 2018	Final rule Effective	December 28, 2018	Final rule Effective

1/ Includes comment period; April and June Council meetings are NEPA scoping public meetings.

2/ Publication of a Draft EA is not required. However, NMFS may publish a Draft EA with a public comment period of approximately 30 days.

3/ Substantive public comments are often received on DEIS documents.