

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

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft June Agenda ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 2](#)) and Year at a Glance ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book, and provides the following information on those items, as well as other tasks and meetings the GMT will be engaged in over the next several months.

September Council Meeting

The draft September Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting agenda has several groundfish items that will require the significant time and work to complete (e.g. biennial harvest specifications, catch shares 5-year review). Therefore, the GMT recommends having a publically announced pre-council webinar at the GMT's convenience during the week of September 4th through the 8th to get a start on our workload. Furthermore, the GMT recommends starting the GMT meeting on September 12, 2017, one day before the Council meeting starts, as shown in the draft agenda.

In addition to the scheduled items, there are seven groundfish items shaded, as potential for inclusion in September. The GMT has been informed that the Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation Area (EFH/RCA) workgroup will not have completed their analysis in time for the September Council meeting and they will request a delay to November. The GMT supports this change.

The GMT would like to highlight that the Flexibility in Management of Annual Catch Limits (ACLs; formerly the Multi-Year Average Catch Policy) is not currently listed on the draft September Agenda. The GMT recommends it be added so it can be determined whether changes to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) and/or regulations are needed to utilize the new National Standard Guidelines. Further the GMT believes there's merit in considering the Flexibility in Management of the ACLs in conjunction with the two other related items, carryover and the "green light" policy.

Summer Work

Trawl Gear Regulation Package Analysis: The GMT will be working in the next couple of weeks with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) contractor working on the trawl gear regulation package analysis to determine where the GMT can provide analytical help. The goal will be to have GMT analysis completed around the end of July, with a publicly noticed webinar where the analysts show the entire GMT what has been completed. While no recommendations on management measures will occur at that time, the GMT will be recommending how data should be interpreted, which is equally important to have in a public forum.

Endangered Species Act Salmon Consultation Analysis: The GMT requests that as soon as the analysis is complete, that the team be able to discuss the analysis, on a publicly noticed webinar.

Stock Assessment Review Panels: Members of the GMT will be participating in this summer's stock assessment review (STAR) panels.

Mop-Up Panel

During earlier Council discussion on agenda items at this meeting, several items have been identified as needing to be reviewed at the September Mop-Up STAR panel. The GMT will be participating in that panel, and likely in some in preparation for the Mop-Up panel. The GMT representative will be identified after it is determined which, if any of the stock assessments will be sent to the Mop-Up Panel.

October GMT meeting

The GMT discussed availability, and anticipated workload, for the October GMT meeting. At that meeting, the GMT will set a range of alternatives for the ACLs that will be analyzed through the biennial harvest specifications and management measures process. Additionally, at this meeting, the GMT will likely begin discussing proposed management measures, the associated workload, and potentially the most efficient process to proceed.

The GMT proposes the meeting begin on Monday October 2nd, 2017, start time will be determined later, until business has been completed on Thursday October 4th, 2017. The GMT prefers that the October GMT meeting take place in Portland, Oregon at the Council office. Having the meeting at the Council office increases the ability for technical support (i.e. webinar), and is a centralized location which reduces the amount of travel for some GMT members, as well as will save the Council funds as some members may be able to travel home the night the meeting has ended.

Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary

November

The GMT notes that similar to September, the draft November schedule has several large, work-intensive items tentatively scheduled: 2019-2020 biennial harvest specifications Preliminary Preferred Alternatives (PPA) and Management Measures range of alternatives; preliminary approval of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs); the “5-year catch share review follow on issues range of alternatives”; and the EFH/RCA review delayed from September.

Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Process

As stated previously, the timeline and benchmarks for the biennial harvest specifications and management measures process needs to be adhered to throughout the process, otherwise meeting the January 1, 2019 fisheries start will be in jeopardy.

Model Reviews

Non-Nearshore Model

After further discussions among the GMT, we do not believe that SSC review of the non-nearshore model is needed at this time. The final list of modifications to the model proposed by the GMT in November ([Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2016](#)) are only changes to the data inputs and output structure, and do not change the overall methodology of the model.

Yelloweye Rockfish Projection Model

Initially, review of the yelloweye rockfish projection model was to be scheduled to be reviewed at the September mop-up panel. However, given the other items that have been added to that panel, the GMT is unsure if there will be time available to review this model. The GMT will follow the progress of the STAR panels over the summer and work with the Council staff officer for the SSC to develop a plan as necessary.

California Recreational Model update

After the June Council meeting, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) intends to consider exploring potential modification to the California Recreational model. CDFW staff will inform the GMT if any modifications are anticipated to be made which would necessitate GMT and/or SSC review.

PFMC

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