

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) will provide a report on recent regulatory developments relevant to groundfish fisheries (Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS WCR Report 1 and NMFS WCR Report 2). The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFS) has provided a response to the Council that the West Coast Observer Program will incorporate new depth bins into their mortality reporting for the commercial nearshore fishery (Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS NWFS Report 1). NMFS has produced the 2016 estimated discard and catch of groundfish species in the U.S. West Coast fisheries (Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS NWFS Report 2, **Electronic only**) and the Pacific Halibut Bycatch Report and (Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS NWFS Report 3, **Electronic only**).

In addition, the NWFS will briefly report on groundfish-related science and research activities.

Council Task:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS WCR Report 1: Groundfish and Halibut *Federal Register* Notices.
2. Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS WCR Report 2: Rulemaking Plan for 2017, Groundfish.
3. Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS NWFS Report 1: Letter from NWFS Regarding Discard Mortality Rates in Commercial Nearshore Fishery.
4. Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS NWFS Report 2: Estimated Discard and Catch of Groundfish Species in the 2016 US West Coast Fisheries (**Electronic only**).
5. Agenda Item E.1.b, NMFS NWFS Report 3: Pacific Halibut Bycatch in US West Coast Fisheries (2002-2016) (**Electronic only**).

Agenda Order:

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| E.1 | National Marine Fisheries Service Report | Brett Wiedoff |
| a. | Regulatory Activities | Frank Lockhart |
| b. | Fisheries Science Center Activities | Kevin Werner, Michelle McClure |
| c. | Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities | |
| d. | Public Comment | |
| e. | Council Discussion | |