

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHERY POLICY

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the 2014 Recreational Saltwater Fishing Summit Summary Report ([Agenda Item C.2.a, Attachment 1](#)) and the Public Comment Draft of the National Saltwater Recreational Policy ([Agenda Item C.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report](#)) and received a joint briefing with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel by Mr. Craig Herberer. Given the timing of receiving the draft policy and the other items on the GMT's agenda, the GMT had limited time for discussion. If there is opportunity to comment on future drafts, the GMT may have further comments at that time.

Fisheries on the U.S. West Coast operate somewhat differently than fisheries in other parts of the U.S. For example, treaty tribal fishing rights, international agreements for species such as halibut and salmon, rationalization and quota share programs, etc. create unique governance relationships and allocation formulas. As an example, for groundfish species that are not trawl dominant, the Council reviews the allocation between sectors every two years as part of the biennial process. Therefore, the GMT recommends that this new recreational policy does not supersede processes that are working on the U.S. West Coast, and under the purview of the Pacific Council, or in other areas. The Pacific Council has a history of cooperative management between and within various industry sectors (commercial, recreational, and tribal) and management entities. The GMT suggests that the Council should comment to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that this policy should not put into place requirements that change what is already working through the Pacific Council or that might complicate existing legal or process requirements.

PFMC
11/18/14