



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 27, 2014

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2014 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet April 4-10, 2014, at the Hilton Vancouver, at 301 W. Sixth Street, Vancouver, Washington 98660. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will be meeting in the Spruce Room, starting at 8:00 am on Monday April 7. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will be meeting in the Pine Room, also starting at 8:00 a.m. on Monday April 7. Major topics for discussion at this meeting include:

#### **Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications and Management Measures**

The NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center completed a full assessment of the Pacific sardine biomass off the U.S., for use in setting harvest specifications and management measures for the fishing year running July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The CPSMT is expected to develop a supplemental report containing recommendations on harvest guideline, set-asides, and other management-related items. The CPSAS should also submit a supplemental report.

Of note is that the Quinault Indian Nation sent a letter proposing access to 4,000 mt of sardines. Also, the exempted fishing permit request for 3,000 mt submitted in November 2013 has been withdrawn, as per a letter from Jerry Thon. Both letters are in your briefing book materials.

#### **Unmanaged Forage Fish Initiative**

The Council is prepared to select a range of alternatives for addressing harvest of unmanaged forage fish. Agenda Item I.1.a, Attachment 1 is a report of the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) that describes potential alternatives for the Council to consider as a way *“to provide protection for unmanaged, unfished forage fish of the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by prohibiting new directed fishing on those species until the Council has had an adequate opportunity to assess the scientific information relating to any proposed fishery and to consider potential impacts to existing fisheries, fishing communities, and the greater marine ecosystem.”*

Both the CPSMT and the CPSAS should read the EWG report and should plan to develop a supplemental report to the Council.

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### **Future Agenda Planning**

The CPSAS should spend some time discussing items for the June and September Council meetings, including Pacific mackerel harvest and management measures, and plans for writing a report on the sardine harvest fraction alternatives as directed by the Council at the March meeting. Both the CPSAS and CPSMT are tentatively scheduled to meet on Monday June 23, in Garden Grove, California. Pacific mackerel management measures would be on the Council floor the following day (June 24, 2014).

Enclosed are April agenda materials for your review. Thank you for your continued participation in the Council process, and for your commitment to sustainable fisheries, fish populations, and our coastal communities.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item E.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item H.1 –Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures
4. Agenda Item I.1 – Protecting Unfished and Unmanaged Forage Fish Species Initiative
5. Agenda Item J.3 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
6. CPSAS Agenda
7. CPSMT Agenda
8. SSC Agenda
9. EAS Agenda
10. Hotel Information
11. Roster