

BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS PROCESS FOR 2013-2014 GROUND FISH FISHERIES – PART 2

This is the second agenda item at this meeting addressing harvest specifications and management measures for 2013-2014 groundfish fisheries. Under Agenda Item E.4, the Council is scheduled to adopt final overfishing limits, overfishing probabilities (P*s)/acceptable biological catches, and stock complex structures. The Council should also adopt preliminary preferred annual catch limits (ACLs) for each stock and stock complex. In the event the Council does not complete all tasks under Agenda Item E.4 or if additional analyses are requested, the remainder of the harvest specifications decisions should be made under Agenda Item E.9. Further, under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to take action on management measures including adopting set asides, two-year allocations, season structures for commercial and recreational fisheries, and new management measures.

Deductions from the ACLs or annual catch targets (ACTs) are necessary to account for fishing-related groundfish mortality resulting from Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribal harvest, scientific research, non-groundfish fisheries, and, as necessary, exempted fishing permits (EFPs). The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) prepared a report summarizing the recommended set-asides, excluding EFPs (Agenda Item E.9.b, GMT Report). The GMT will revise the amounts after the Council adopts the 2013-2014 EFPs for public review under Agenda Item E.3. The Council should adopt or modify the GMT recommendations under this agenda item.

The Council should also adopt preliminary two-year allocations for bocaccio, canary, cowcod, and yelloweye rockfish to facilitate the analysis. Attachment 1 contains recent catch estimates by sector relevant to deciding preliminary allocations. After the Council selects the range of overfished species ACLs under Agenda Item E.4, the GMT will calculate the sector allocations based on the 2011-2012 apportionments or other schemes, as requested. Last cycle, the Council temporarily suspended the trawl and non-trawl Amendment 21 allocation for petrale sole, since the stock was declared overfished. Guidance should be provided under this agenda item if the Council is interested in a similar structure for 2013-2014.

Helpful guidance from the Council under this agenda item would be a range of season and area restrictions for the primary fishing sectors; a range of trip limits, daily bag limits, and other harvest control measures for key target and constraining bycatch species; a range of geographic or sector-specific harvest guidelines; and a sense of how far fisheries should be restricted in 2013-2014 to rebuild depleted species as quickly as possible given the biological, ecological, social, and economic consequences of doing so.

At the September meeting, the Council adopted a prioritized range of new management measures as candidates for preliminary scoping and analysis. The National Marine Fisheries Service provided a report recommending alternate rulemakings for some of those management measures considered for implementation through the biennial process (Agenda Item E.9.b, NMFS Report). The GMT completed preliminary analysis and scoping of these management measures (Agenda Item E.9.b, GMT Report 2). The California Department of Fish and Game also provided

recommendations for a preliminary range of management measures for the commercial and recreational fisheries in California (Agenda Item E.9.b, CDFG Report). Public comment received by the Briefing Book deadline is also included.

Under this agenda item, the Council should carefully consider the list of potential management measures proposed by management entities, advisory bodies, and the public, as well as the intended narrow scope of action for 2013-2014 when deciding which issues are the highest priorities for more detailed analyses. Results of the detailed analyses will help the Council develop a preliminary preferred suite of 2013-2014 management measures at the April 2012 Council meeting. After a public review period, the Council will take final action at the June 2012 Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt any remaining groundfish harvest specifications for 2013-2014.**
- 2. Adopt deductions from the ACLs or ACTs (if applicable).**
- 3. Adopt preliminary two-year allocations for bocaccio, canary, cowcod, and yelloweye.**
- 4. Adopt preliminary petrale sole allocations.**
- 5. Adopt a range of management measures for more detailed analysis.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.9.a, Attachment 1: Recent Year Catch Estimates Relevant to Deciding a Range of 2013-2014 Allocations.
2. Agenda Item E.9.b, NMFS Report: NMFS Advice on the Preliminary List of Management Measures for 2013-14 Groundfish Fisheries.
3. Agenda Item E.9.b, GMT Report: GMT Report on Off the Top Deductions (Set-Asides) for 2013-14.
4. Agenda Item E.9.b, GMT Report 2: GMT Report on Preliminary Management Measures for 2013-14.
5. Agenda Item E.9.b, CDFG Report: Preliminary Range of Management Measures for California's 2013-2014 Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Fisheries.
6. Agenda Item E.9.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kelly Ames and John DeVore
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Any Remaining Harvest Specifications, Preliminary Two-Year Allocations, and Management Measures for More Detailed Analysis.

PFMC
10/14/11