

CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Management measures for groundfish are set by the Council with the general understanding that these measures will likely need to be adjusted within the biennium to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits (ACL). This agenda item will consider inseason adjustments to ongoing 2014 fisheries. Potential inseason adjustments include adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on recent landings and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program. Public comment received by the public comment deadline is included in the reference materials.

At its April 2013 meeting, the Council considered the performance of the shorebased individual fishing quota fishery in 2011 and 2012 and the progress to date in 2013, and recommended a 100 fm shoreward boundary and 150 fm seaward boundary for Period 6 in 2013 throughout 2014 in the area 40°10' to 48°10' N. latitude. The RCA boundary adjustments were intended to provide greater access to target species while allowing the individual accountability afforded by the rationalized fishery to minimize bycatch of overfished species. At its September 2013 meeting, the Council reaffirmed action taken in April after reviewing the draft Environmental Assessment prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) ([Agenda Item G.6.b, Draft EA, September 2013](#)), Advisory Body reports ([Agenda Item G.6.b, Supplemental GMT Report, September 2013](#), [Agenda Item G.6.b, Supplemental GAP Report, September 2013](#), and [Agenda Item G.6.b, Supplemental EC Report, September 2013](#)), and public comment.

On April 17, 2014, NMFS partially approved the Council-recommended RCA boundary adjustments (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1; Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 2; and Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 3). NMFS disapproved the Council recommendations in the area 40°10' N. latitude to 45°46' N. latitude, and, as such, the seaward boundary of the RCA is scheduled to remain 200 fm in Periods 2 through 5 and 200 fm modified in Periods 1 and 6. Under Agenda Item F.4, the Council should consider and discuss the NMFS letter and implementing regulations.

At the March 2014 meeting, the Council recommended that NMFS issue the maximum eligible 2013 surplus carryover (up to 10 percent) for all non-whiting species into 2014 shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) program. In light of a recent D.C. District court decision, NMFS decided not to issue surplus carryover for those species where the ACL is equal to the acceptable biological catch (ABC) (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 4). Surplus carryover was issued for the 19 IFQ species/area categories for which the ABC is greater than the corresponding ACL. Under Agenda Item F.4, the Council should consider and discuss the NMFS letter regarding surplus carryover issuance.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider information on the status of 2014 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary.**
- 2. Consider and discuss the NMFS letter and implementing regulations for the trawl RCA boundaries.**
- 3. Consider and discuss the NMFS letter regarding issuance of surplus carryover in 2014.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1: NMFS Letter re: Council Recommendations for the Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area Configuration for 2013-2014 Groundfish Fisheries.
2. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 2: Final RCA Rule: Federal Register Notice 79FR21639; NOAA Fisheries announces change to the Pacific coast groundfish trawl Rockfish Conservation Area boundaries; effective April 17, 2014.
3. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 3: RCA Rule Correction: Federal Register Notice 79FR28455 Correction to the 2013-2014 Pacific coast groundfish fishery harvest specifications and management measures, effective May 16, 2014.
4. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 4: NMFS Letter re: Shorebased IFQ Surplus Carryover Decision for 2014.
5. Agenda Item F.4.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt Inseason Adjustments to 2014 Groundfish Fisheries
- Kelly Ames

PFMC
05/27/14