

**PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPING THE 2015-2016 AND BEYOND
GROUNDFISH HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

Non-italicized font in the table below represents the proposed Council schedule for the activities associated with implementing the 2015-2016 and beyond harvest specifications and management measures. Bold font dates represent Council meeting dates.

Italicized font represents a draft schedule for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) review and implementation process, including procedures and public comment periods required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). This schedule is premised on the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS), which has statutorily defined minimum time periods for public comment. Note that, like the last cycle, the draft EIS (DEIS) would be circulated before the June 2014 Council meeting, when final action is scheduled. If the Council’s final preferred alternative represents “substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns” (40 CFR 1502.9(c)) NMFS may have to recirculate the DEIS, delaying implementation.

Start Date	End Date	Task
April 22, 2013	April 26, 2013	Data Moderate Stock Assessment Review (STAR) (Santa Cruz, CA): brown rockfish, China rockfish, copper rockfish, English sole, rex sole, sharpchin rockfish, stripetail rockfish, vermilion rockfish, and yellowtail rockfish. One GMT and GAP representative attended.
May 13, 2013	May 17, 2013	STAR Panel (Seattle, WA): Petrale sole and darkblotched rockfish. One GMT and GAP representative attended.
June 18, 2013	June 18, 2013	SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meets to review: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data moderate stock assessments. 2. Petrale sole stock assessment. 3. Darkblotched rockfish stock assessment. 4. Bocaccio rockfish update. 5. Canary rockfish catch report. 6. Pacific ocean perch catch report. 7. Yelloweye rockfish catch report.

Start Date	End Date	Task
June 19, 2013	June 20, 2013	SSC meets to discuss and/or reach recommendations on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data moderate assessments recommended by the STAR Panel and the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee. 2. Bocaccio update and catch reports recommended by the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee. 3. Stock assessments for petrale sole and darkblotched rockfish recommended by the STAR Panel. 4. Impact projection models for use in the NEPA analysis.¹ 5. Proposed analytical framework for the NEPA document. 6. Recalculating sigmas for stock categories. 7. Alternatives for stock complex aggregations.
June 20, 2013	June 25, 2013	The Council meets and adopts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A final schedule, process, and work plan for developing groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for 2015-2016 and beyond. 2. Data moderate assessments, as recommended by the SSC. 3. Updates and catch reports as recommended by the SSC. 4. Stock assessments for petrale sole and darkblotched rockfish recommended by the SSC. 5. Adopt the preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA) for stock complex aggregations.² 7. Projection models for use in the NEPA analysis. 8. Changes to the Council Operating Procedure 9 based on Council action in March 2013.
	<i>July-August 2013</i>	<i>Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is published; 30-day public comment period. DEIS will address any comments received or, if no comments received, state so.</i>

¹The SSC Economic Subcommittee reviewed the following models: The Washington, Oregon, and California recreational impact projection models, the nearshore and non-nearshore impact projection models, the Landings Distribution model, and the Input-Output Model for Pacific Coast Fisheries (IOPAC).

²Stock complex alternatives are being analyzed in a separate NEPA document than the 2015-16 and beyond specifications EIS. The proposed stock complex decision-making schedule is necessary to align the 2015-2016 and beyond analysis and for timely implementation of new regulations on January 1, 2015.

Start Date	End Date	Task
July 8, 2013	July 12, 2013	STAR Panel (Seattle, WA): Roughey rockfish and aurora rockfish. One GMT and GAP representative to attend.
July 22, 2013	July 26, 2013	STAR Panel (Seattle, WA): Shortspine thornyheads and longspine thornyheads. One GMT and GAP representative to attend.
August 5, 2013	August 9, 2013	STAR Panel (Santa Cruz, CA): Cowcod and Pacific sanddabs. One GMT and GAP representative to attend.
September 11, 2013	September 13, 2013	SSC meets ³ to reach recommendations on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OFLs. 2. Stock categories (i.e., categories 1, 2, and 3). 3. Sigma values. 4. Six full assessments, as recommended by the STAR panels. 5. Alternatives for stock complex aggregations. 6. Preliminary considerations for rebuilding plan revisions. 7. Elasmobranch F_{MSY}.

³SSC meeting dates are estimated based on past meeting schedules.

Start Date	End Date	Task
September 12, 2013	September 17, 2013	The Council meets and adopts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stock assessments for the six species subject to summer STAR panels.⁴ 2. Adopt the final preferred alternatives (FPAs) for stock complex aggregations. 3. FPA for OFLs recommended by the SSC. 4. FPA sigma values recommended by the SSC. 5. A range of P* values, including PPA P* values, if applicable. 6. A range of acceptable biological catches (ABCs), including PPA ABCs levels, if applicable. 7. Preliminary policy for rebuilding plan revisions. 8. Preliminary range of new management measures to address conservation concerns for preliminary analysis.⁵
September 23, 2013	September 27, 2013	The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meets to review rebuilding analyses prepared for overfished species as well as any stock assessments approved for further review by the Council (Seattle, WA). One GMT and GAP representative to attend.
September 30, 2013	October 4, 2013	The GMT meets to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses. The GMT, NMFS NWR, NOAA GC, and NMFS NEPA coordinator draft a recommended range of 2015-2016 harvest specifications and preliminary management measures for analysis (Seattle, WA or Portland, OR).
October 31, 2013	November 1, 2013	SSC meets ⁶ to reach recommendations on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rebuilding analyses. 2. Any stock assessments relegated to “mop-up” reconsiderations completed at the September 23-27 SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meeting. 3. Final considerations for rebuilding plan revisions.
November 1, 2013	November 6, 2013	The Council meets and adopts:

⁴Council action could be postponed from September to November for any stock assessments recommended for further review by a 2013 STAR panel and/or the SSC (i.e., those assessments the Council authorizes to be sent to the September 23-27 mop-up panel).

⁵New management measures are those management measures that have not been analyzed or implemented in a previous cycle. In March 2013, the Council decided to focus on management measures necessary to achieve conservation purposes during normal biennial cycles.

⁶SSC meeting dates are estimated based on past meeting schedules.

Start Date	End Date	Task
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rebuilding analyses and any assessments sent to the mop-up panel and recommended by the SSC. 2. Final policy for rebuilding plan revisions. 3. PPA for default harvest control rules (Amendment 24). 4. FPA for P* values. 5. FPA for ABCs. 6. PPA for non-overfished species ACLs. 7. A range of overfished species ACLs, if necessary, and PPA ACLs. 8. A tentative range of two-year allocation alternatives.⁷ 9. Final range of new management measures to address conservation concerns for detailed analysis. 10. Preliminary selection of exempted fishing permits for 2015-16.
November 7, 2013	April 4, 2014	Opportunity for state and tribal agencies to hold constituent meetings to obtain input on final harvest specifications and preliminary management measures in preparation for the April meeting.
November 7, 2013	February 17, 2014 ⁸	The Council staff, GMT, and subject matter experts prepare the DEIS.
January 1, 2014	February 15, 2014	If necessary, convene the Ad-Hoc Groundfish Allocation Committee (GAC) for a one to two day meeting prior to the March Council meeting (i.e., the meeting will occur at some point between the start and end date). The GAC will consider the results of the analysis and generate recommendations for Council consideration.
<i>February 25, 2014</i>	<i>May 27, 2014</i>	<i>DEIS reviewed and cleared by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NMFS NWR</i> • <i>NOAA GC</i> • <i>PPI</i> <i>EIS project team addresses comments to allow clearance</i>
March 8, 2014	March 13, 2014	At the March Council meeting, the Council and

⁷ Allocations to be reviewed for tentative adoption include both the trawl and non-trawl allocations as well as the within non-trawl sector apportionments and accountability measures (e.g., recreational harvest guidelines). Specifically, this includes two-year allocation alternatives for species not allocated under Amendment 21 (e.g., bocaccio, canary, cowcod, yelloweye and some non-overfished species (e.g., black rockfish in Oregon and California)).

⁸ February 17, 2014 is the estimated briefing book deadline for the March 2014 Council meeting.

Start Date	End Date	Task
		advisory bodies will receive an informational briefing on selected results and provide guidance or take action on emerging issues, as necessary.
	March 19, 2014 ⁹	Preliminary DEIS submitted for the April meeting advance briefing book for Council, advisory body, and public review.
April 5, 2014	April 10, 2014	The Council meets and adopts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FPA for ACLs. 2. PPA for management measures from the range adopted at the November Council meeting.¹⁰ 3. PPA for two-year allocations. 4. FPA for default harvest control rules (Amendment 24).
April 11, 2014	May 26, 2014	Council staff, GMT, and analytical team validate and refine analysis, consequent to the April Council meeting actions, as necessary.
<i>May 27, 2014</i>	<i>June 1, 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prepare DEIS</i> • <i>File DEIS with Environmental Protection Agency</i>
	<i>June 6, 2014</i>	<i>EPA publishes Notice of Availability starting 45-day public comment period on DEIS.</i>
June 20, 2014	June 25, 2014	The Council meets and adopts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corrections to the FPA for harvest specifications, if needed. 2. Final exempted fishing permits for 2015-16. 3. FPA for allocations. 4. FPA for management measures. 5. A prioritized list of management measures to be analyzed outside of the harvest specifications and management measures process (i.e., those measures not directly related to conservation objectives).
July 7, 2014	July 11, 2014	The GMT meets to finalize analysis of the Council's FPA for the EIS, if necessary.
<i>July 9, 2014</i>	<i>August 5, 2014</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NWR initiates iterative process by sending draft regulations to Council staff and GMT for review.</i> • <i>Council and NMFS staffs reach consensus on</i>

⁹Estimated briefing book deadline for the April 2014 Council meeting.

¹⁰Additional management measures that require limited analysis could be added, if necessary; however, the January 1, 2015 fishery start date may be compromised.

Start Date	End Date	Task
		<p><i>draft regulation language. Council staff & GMT send draft regulations comments to NWR.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NWR provides Council staff with near complete regulations text for deeming.</i>
	July 23, 2014	45-day NEPA public comment period on DEIS ends.
July 24, 2014		<p><i>Prepare FEIS:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EIS project team organizes public comments and responses to comments, and revises DEIS based on public comments and final action by the Council, and prepares draft FEIS</i> • <i>NWR SFD staff, Regional NEPA Coordinator, and GC conduct concurrent and expedited reviews of draft FEIS</i> • <i>EIS project team addresses comments</i> • <i>PPI review of draft FEIS¹¹</i> • <i>EIS project team addresses comments and prepares draft FEIS for public release</i> • <i>NWR clearance of draft FEIS</i> • <i>PPI clearance of draft</i>
August 5, 2014	August 26, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NWR sends draft proposed rule package to GC, Issues Advisory to headquarters (HQ)</i> • <i>NWR sends draft proposed rule to Edits Unit for review</i> • <i>NWR makes Edits Unit changes and sends draft proposed rule and FMP amendment package (if necessary) to HQ</i>
	August 24, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Council staff provides draft FMP language to NWR, if necessary</i> • <i>GC & Sustainable Fisheries Division simultaneous review of FMP language</i> • <i>NWR & Council staff reach consensus on rule and FMP language</i>
	August 30, 2014	<i>Council Executive Director transmits final FMP recommendation and final regulations deemed necessary and appropriate for 2013-14 groundfish fisheries.</i>
	September 7, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prepare and send FEIS package to EPA (will need to overnight FEIS or request HQ to hand deliver FEIS)</i> • <i>File FEIS with EPA</i>
September 9, 2014	October 8, 2014	<i>Proposed rule publishes, 30-day proposed rule</i>

¹¹NMFS will have needed to secure expedited review and clearance processes agreement with PPI well in advance.

Start Date	End Date	Task
		<i>public comment period required by APA ends.</i>
<i>September 19, 2014</i>	<i>October 19, 2014</i>	<i>FEIS 30-day public comment period.</i>
<i>October 2, 2014</i>	<i>November 16, 2014</i>	<i>Preparation of Final Rule under APA:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SFD drafts final rule and sends package to GC for review</i> • <i>GC completes review and sends to SFD</i> • <i>SFD completes revisions and sends to Edits Unit</i> • <i>SFD completes Edits Unit changes and sends package to HQ</i>
<i>October 19, 2014</i>	<i>November 27, 2014</i>	<i>NMFS prepares Record of Decision:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review any comments received during 30-day cooling off period and prepare draft record of decision (ROD).</i> • <i>Finalize draft ROD</i> • <i>NWR SFD staff, Regional NEPA Coordinator, and GC conduct concurrent and expedited reviews of draft ROD</i> • <i>Project team addresses comments</i> • <i>NWR clearance of draft ROD</i> • <i>Draft ROD submitted to HQ for review</i> • <i>HQ signs ROD (must be submitted with final rule package)</i>
	<i>December 2, 2014</i>	<i>Final Rule Publishes under the APA.</i>
	<i>January 1, 2015</i>	<i>30-day cooling off period required by APA ends; FMP amendment and regulations effective and groundfish fishery begins under new regulations.</i>