NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region will briefly report on recent regulatory developments relevant to groundfish fisheries and issues of interest to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

Attachment 1 contains recent Federal Register notices and Attachment 2 is the Notice of Availability for Amendment 21-1. Supplemental Attachment 3 contains the proposed rule for improving and enhancing the trawl rationalization program, including Amendment 21-1. NMFS is requesting public comment on several items within the proposed rule (Supplemental Attachment 4). Under this agenda item, the public and advisory bodies should provide comments to the Council regarding these issues. The Council should discuss the issues and task Council staff with any necessary follow-ups, including summarizing the public comment and Council discussion for submission to NMFS.

Attachment 5 is a letter from Mr. Will Stelle acknowledging the comprehensive work and detailed record provided by the Council family which was instrumental to the successful defense of the trawl rationalization program.

NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) will also briefly report on groundfish-related science and research activities. The NWFSC and NWR completed a draft risk assessment of west coast groundfish fisheries to threatened and endangered seabirds (Attachment 6). Under this agenda item the agencies will speak to the analysis and next steps. Additionally, public comment was provided by Washington Sea Grant, detailing seabird avoidance device outreach efforts (i.e., streamer lines) on the west coast for the groundfish longline fleet.

Council Task:

1. Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1: Federal Register Notices Published Since the Last Council Meeting.
5. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 5: Letter from Will Stelle Regarding the Trawl Rationalization Program.
7. Agenda Item G.1.d, Public Comment: Washington Sea Grant: Bringing Albatross Conservation to West Coast Groundfish Fisheries: Progress on Outreach Efforts in the Longline Fleet.

Agenda Order:

a. Regulatory Activities
b. Fisheries Science Center Activities
c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
d. Public Comment
e. Council Discussion

PFMC
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