

The following is an excerpt related to the biennial management cycle and activities for groundfish management (Schedule 1) from Council Operating Procedure 9. The original text can be found here <http://tinyurl.com/lbu2q7v>.

**COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE**  
**Management and Activity Cycles**



Approved by Council: 07/10/85  
Revised: 09/16/87, 04/06/95, 11/03/99, **03/11/05**

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PURPOSE

To establish management and activity cycles conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), its advisory entities, staff for the groundfish, salmon, coastal pelagic species, halibut, and highly migratory species fisheries, and administrative matters.

MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITY CYCLES

Schedule 1 Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.

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**SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.**

Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
Year 1	September	To begin development of specifications for the next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4), the <i>Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)</i> review and incorporate new impact assessment methodologies, including new observer data from January through December of the previous year, approve stock assessments completed in Year 1, and recommend appropriate harvest specifications.  <i>GMT and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP)</i> meet to review current fishery status and develop inseason management recommendations, as necessary. GMT and GAP provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.

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**Council** adopts final modeling methodologies, stock assessments for the next biennial period (Years 3 and 4), final preferred overfishing limits (OFLs) and sigmas, as recommended by the SSC.<sup>1</sup> The Council will also adopt a range of P\*/acceptable biological catches (ABCs), if applicable, including preliminary preferred values.

**Council** will provide initial fishery management guidance, including a preliminary range of new management measures necessary to keep catch within the annual catch limits (ACL) or to address a habitat or protected resources concern.

September *SSC Groundfish Subcommittee* meets to review overfished species rebuilding analyses as well as any stock assessments approved for further review by the Council at the “mop-up” stock assessment review panel.

October *GMT* meets to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses. *GMT* drafts a recommended range of ACLs and preliminary management measures for consideration at the November Council meeting.

November *GMT and GAP* meet to review current fishery status and develop inseason management recommendations, as necessary.

*GMT and GAP* provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.

**Council** adopts rebuilding analyses and any assessments sent to the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee for review. **Council** adopts final preferred P\*/ABCs; preliminary preferred non-overfished species ACLs, and, if necessary; a range of overfished species ACLs and preliminary preferred ACLs for overfished species.

**Council** selects a range of 2-year allocations, final range of new management measures to keep catch within the ACL or to address a habitat or protected resources concern, and preliminary exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for Years 3 and 4.

Year 2      January *GMT* meets to review and analyze Council actions relative to harvest specifications and management measures provided in Year 1, if necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> Council action could be postponed from September to November for any stock assessments recommended for further review by the SSC.

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March **GMT and GAP** meet to review current fishery status and inseason management recommendations, as necessary.

**GMT and GAP** provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.

**Council** receives an informational briefing on selected results of the harvest specifications and management measures analysis. The **Council** may be asked to provide guidance or take action on emerging issues, as necessary.

April **GMT and GAP** meet to review Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures as well as current fishery status and inseason management recommendations.

**GMT and GAP** provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.

**Council** recommends inseason management adjustments as necessary.

Consistent with the U.S./Canada agreement, the **Council** considers the harvest specifications recommended by the Joint Management Committee and confirms or recommends a lower U.S. TAC. The **Council** recommends set-asides and any adjustments to management measures for the Pacific Whiting fishery in Year 2.

**Council** adopts preliminary management measures for public review and final harvest specifications for Years 3 and 4.

June **GMT and GAP** meet to review current fishery status and inseason management recommendations, as necessary.

**GMT and GAP** provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.

**Council** recommends inseason management adjustments as necessary.

**Council** adopts final EFP applications and management measures as well as any corrections to harvest specifications for implementation by NMFS for Years 3 and 4.

**Council** recommends a prioritized list of new management measures to be analyzed outside of the harvest specifications and management

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		measures process.
	July	Council staff and <b>GMT</b> complete analyses and NEPA documents, as necessary, for biennial management specifications and submit them to NOAA.
	September	<b>GMT, GAP, and Council</b> participate in inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate.
	November	<b>GMT, GAP, and Council</b> participate in inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate.
Year 3 <sup>1</sup>	January	<b>U.S. Department of Commerce</b> implements harvest level specifications and management measures for next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4).
	March	<b>GMT, GAP, and Council</b> participate in inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate.
	April	<b>GMT and GAP</b> meet to review Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures as well as current fishery status and inseason management recommendations, as necessary.
		Consistent with the U.S./Canada agreement, the <b>Council</b> considers the harvest specifications recommended by the Joint Management Committee and confirms or recommends a lower U.S. TAC. The <b>Council</b> recommends set-asides and any adjustments to management measures for the Pacific Whiting fishery in Year 3.
	June and September	<b>GMT, GAP, and Council</b> participate in inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate.
	November	Repeat management activities of November in Year 1 to begin development of next biennial cycle.

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<sup>1</sup> GMT generally meets in January, July, and October to review and discuss groundfish management issues, including stock assessments and STAR Panel reviews.