



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 17, 2013

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Interested Persons

FROM: Ms. Kelly Ames, Groundfish Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet October 30-November 6, 2013 at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel, 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California. On Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 8 a.m., the Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet to discuss the analytical framework for the ecosystem section in the groundfish Environmental Impact Statement. Materials for this meeting will be provided electronically only on the Council's website. On Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 1 p.m., the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee will meet to review revised data-moderate assessments for brown, China, and copper rockfish, as well as a new rebuilding analysis for cowcod. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2013 in the Laguna Beach 3 room. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meeting will begin at 11 a.m. on Friday, November 1, 2013 in the Laguna Beach 1-2 room.

The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest, including:

- Matters raised during the open comment period;
 - Current habitat issues;
 - Federal enforcement priorities and other enforcement issues;
 - Final changes for the 2014 Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishing regulations;
 - Final seabird avoidance regulations for groundfish fisheries;
 - Preliminary approval of 2015-2016 groundfish exempted fishing permits for public review;
 - Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization priorities and other legislative matters;
 - Identifying issues and alternatives for consideration of changes in the limited entry fixed gear sablefish permit stacking program;
 - Final stock complex aggregations for 2015 and beyond, including guidance on restructuring for future cycles;
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- Stock assessments for copper, brown, and China rockfishes and a new rebuilding analysis for cowcod;
- Initial actions for setting 2015-2016 harvest specifications, including annual catch limits and management measures;
- Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review, including proposals to modify EFH;
- Electronic monitoring alternatives for the rationalized groundfish trawl fishery;
- Consideration of inseason adjustments to 2013 and 2014 groundfish fisheries;
- Membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures (COP), including changes to COP 9, which describes the biennial groundfish process; and
- Future Council meeting agenda and workload planning.

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

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Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item D – Habitat
3. Agenda Item F – Enforcement Issues
4. Agenda Item G – Pacific Halibut Management
5. Agenda Item H – Groundfish Management
6. Agenda Item I.2 – Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) Reauthorization Priorities and Other Legislative Matters
7. Agenda Item I.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
8. Agenda Item I.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
9. GAP Agenda
10. GMT Agenda
11. SSC Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee Agenda
12. SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Agenda
13. SSC Agenda
14. Draft September SSC Minutes
15. Hotel-related Information