



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384  
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)  
Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 23, 2014

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: November 2014 Council Meeting

The Council meeting takes place November 14-19 at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa Hotel in Costa Mesa, California. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will meet Saturday and Sunday, November 15-16 in the Balboa Bay 1 Room, beginning at 8:00 a.m. each day. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Saturday and Sunday in the Balboa Bay 2 Room, likewise beginning at 8:00 a.m. each day. Four HMS topics are on the Council agenda. There are also several other topics not directly related to HMS that the HMSAS and HMSMT may wish to comment on. Summaries of all these topics follow.

#### I.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Regional (WCR) Office will provide an update on domestic regulatory activities under this item. Bear in mind that this is only an informational briefing and no Council action is scheduled.

#### I.2 Update on International Activities

NMFS WCR will report on the outcomes of the 87th Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Meeting (Resumed), October 27-29, 2014. The IATTC will try to adopt a resolution with conservation measures for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) for 2015, which they were unable to do at their regular meeting in July 2014. The Council may also provide recommendations to the U.S. delegation to the upcoming Eleventh Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC11), scheduled for December 1-5, 2014. The WCPFC Northern Committee, which met at the beginning of September, adopted a proposed conservation and management measure for PBF, which would be up for adoption at WCPFC11. The Northern Committee also provided guidance on a management strategy evaluation to be developed by the Albacore Working Group of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. The Council may wish to provide recommendations on this effort as well.

### I.3 Bluefin Tuna Management Measures for 2015-2016 Fisheries

At its September meeting, the Council adopted ranges of alternatives and selected preliminary preferred alternatives for recreational daily bag limit/possession limit reductions for PBF and requirements for processing tunas at sea aboard recreational vessels. The Council will take final action at the November meeting. The Council could confirm its preliminary preferred alternatives or change their selection. The Council's final preferred alternatives will be implemented in Federal regulations for the 2015 fishing season.

### I.4 Drift Gillnet Hard Caps and Other Adopted Priorities for 2015-2016 Fisheries

In September, the Council adopted ranges of alternatives for management of the California large mesh drift gillnet (DGN) fishery, including hard caps for protected species. The Council also identified preliminary preferred alternatives for these measures. Agenda Item I.4.a, Attachment 1 describes the alternatives based on the written motion passed by the Council in September. At the November meeting, the Council will review this description to confirm if it accurately reflects the intent of the motion. The Council may also provide additional clarification of elements of the alternatives, as outlined in the Situation Summary. Final action on DGN management measures is scheduled for the March 2015 Council meeting. The Council also stated its intent to move forward with three other management initiatives outside of the current biennial management process. These issues are discussed in the Situation Summary.

### C.2 Recreational Fisheries Policy Update

NMFS is developing a national policy that distinguishes recreational fishing from commercial fishing. At this meeting the Council has the opportunity to comment on further development of a draft recreational fisheries policy.

### C.4 Electronic Technology Plan

NMFS WCR had prepared an electronic technology plan to guide implementation and use of a variety of technologies for fisheries monitoring on the west coast. At the September Council meeting Steve Freese met with many of the advisory bodies to seek input on development of the plan. At this meeting the Council will take this up formally and provide further guidance on plan development. Steve Freese is scheduled to meet with the HMSAS and HMSMT to discuss plan development.

### C.5 National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region Strategic Plan

The NMFS WCR is developing a draft strategic plan, and will brief the HMSAS and HMSMT on its status.

### Retention of Salmon and Albacore on a Single Trip

It has come to the attention of enforcement personnel that Federal regulations appear to prohibit the retention of salmon caught on trips targeting albacore, because salmon is designated a prohibited species under the HMS FMP. The HMS FMP states that salmon may be retained "when caught with authorized gears during authorized seasons," but this qualification was not included in the regulations. Enforcement is recommending a regulatory amendment to clarify

the regulations in this regard. Dayna Matthews, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, will meet with the HMSAS and HMSMT to discuss this issue.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website, as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.2: Recreational Fisheries Policy Update
3. Agenda Item C.4: Electronic Technology Plan
4. Agenda Item C.5: National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region Strategic Plan
5. Agenda Item I.1: National Marine Fisheries Service Report
6. Agenda Item I.2: International Activities
7. Agenda Item I.3: Bluefin Tuna Management Measures for 2015-2016 Fisheries
8. Agenda Item I.4: Drift Gillnet Hard Caps and Other Adopted Priorities for 2015-2016 Fisheries
9. Agenda Item C.9 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
10. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
11. Informational Reports
12. Hotel-related Information
13. Council Roster