

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the preliminary year-at-a-glance summary ([Agenda Item J.4.a. Attachment 1](#)) and the proposed agenda for the April 2014 Council meeting ([Agenda Item J.4.a. Attachment 2](#)) and provides the following thoughts.

The advanced briefing book deadline for the April Council meeting is March 19, one week after the conclusion of this meeting. Given the short turn-around time, the GMT may be limited in what we have available for the advanced briefing book, specifically in regards to the harvest specifications and management measures. The GMT will prepare as much as possible for the draft environmental impact statement and/or GMT reports for the advanced briefing book, but wanted to inform the Council that some items may not be completed until the supplemental briefing book deadline or while at the April Council meeting.

The April preliminary agenda in the briefing book contained ten groundfish agenda items, several of which are very complex and will likely be time-consuming and labor intensive (e.g., requiring multiple 14+ hour days). The GMT's understanding is that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) informed the Council that the mid-water sport fishery range of alternatives will not be ready in time for the April or June Council meetings; removing this agenda item from the April groundfish agenda items will assist with the GMT's workload. Nonetheless, the schedule will be taxing for the GMT.

Once again, we provide Table 1 with the agenda items that may require GMT discussion and/or statements. We ask the Council for guidance on priorities on how to best spend our time and efforts, if different from what we have anticipated.

Table 1. April 2014 Council meeting agenda items that may require GMT input.

	Groundfish Agenda Items	Council Floor	GMT Statement ?	GMT Priority #
1	NMFS Report	Sun	No	
2	Stock Complex Restructuring Final Action	Sun	Yes	*
3	Implement 2014 Pacific Whiting Fishery	Sun	Maybe	
4	Mid-water sport fishery Adopt ROA	Sun	Likely	
5	Sablefish catch share program review: phase 1 PPA	Mon	Maybe	
6	Methodology review process	Mon	Yes	*
7	Fisheries in 2015-16 & beyond: adopt biennial SPEX FPA	Mon	Yes	*
8	EM program development including prelim EFP approval	Tues	Likely	
9	Inseason	Wed	Yes	*
10	Fisheries in 2015-16 & beyond: adopt management measures PPA	Wed	Yes	*
Non-Groundfish Agenda Items				
	future workload planning	Tues	likely	
	Total Potential Statements by the GMT		7-9	
	# The Council has final say in priority of Agenda Items, this is what the GMT thinks are the higher priority agenda items, provided to help inform the Council decision.			

PFMC
03/11/14