



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 28, 2013  
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee  
FROM: John DeVore  
SUBJECT: September 2013 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 11-17, 2013 at The Riverside Hotel, 2900 Chinden Blvd., Boise, Idaho. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet Wednesday, September 11 through Friday, September 13 in the North Star Room. Your meeting materials are enclosed and include informational items that are not on the SSC agenda.

### Council Administrative Matters

There are nominations for some of the twelve seats for the Groundfish Endangered Species Work Group the SSC will review. Additionally, there are three nominations for the vacant at-large SSC seat vacated by Dr. Selina Heppell for the SSC to review. The SSC will be in closed session for this discussion.

The Council will identify priorities for amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). The Managing Our Nation's Fishery 3 conference held in May identified a number of findings, some of which represent potential amendments to the MSA. The SSC will review those findings that affect the science informing Council decisions and recommend their priorities for amending the MSA.

### Pacific Halibut Management

The Council will review and provide guidance on the Pacific halibut bycatch estimate for use by the International Pacific Halibut Commission in 2014 fisheries.

### Salmon Management

The Council will adopt final review priorities and consider recommendations for Sacramento winter Chinook harvest control rules.

The Council will consider final adoption of salmon essential fish habitat updates.

---

### Groundfish Management

The Council will consider adopting new full assessments for aurora rockfish, rougheye rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, longspine thornyhead, cowcod, and Pacific sanddab as recommended by the SSC. The SSC will review these assessments and stock assessment review (STAR) reports before recommending whether they represent the best available science for these stocks and are suitable for management decision-making.

The Council will recommend workshops and other activities to improve the science informing groundfish management. The SSC will discuss candidate science activities and recommend their priorities to the Council.

The Council will initiate decision-making for the 2015-2016 groundfish fishery by adopting final overfishing limits (OFLs) and a range of acceptable biological catches (ABCs) for groundfish stocks and stock complexes. The SSC will review the list of proposed OFLs and a range of ABCs and recommend OFLs, stock categories, biomass variances (i.e., sigmas) for stocks and stock categories, and a proxy  $F_{MSY}$  harvest rate for elasmobranch species. The SSC will also discuss rebuilding revision rule alternatives and management strategy evaluation scenarios with the GMT in preparation for analyses supporting the harvest specifications decision-making process.

The Council will adopt a range of alternatives, including preliminary preferred alternatives, for restructuring groundfish stock complexes. The SSC will review the methods and analyses proposed by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to inform the suitability of these alternatives.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process. See you soon.

JDD:kam

Enclosures include:

### **Council, and SSC Administrative Matters**

1. Closed Session Agenda Item A.1
2. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
3. Agenda Item B.1 – Comments on Non-Agenda Items
4. Agenda Item H.1 – Managing Our Nation’s Fisheries 3 (MONF3) Conference Follow-ups and Unrelated Legislative Matters
5. Agenda Item H.4 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
6. Agenda Item H.5 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

### **Pacific Halibut Management**

7. Agenda Item D.1 – Pacific Halibut Bycatch Estimate

### **Salmon Management**

8. Agenda Item E.1 – 2013 Salmon Methodology Review
9. Agenda Item E.2 – Fishery Management Plan Amendment 18 – Update of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Salmon

**Groundfish Management**

10. Agenda Item G.3 – Approve Stock Assessments
11. Agenda Item G.4 – Science Improvements for the Next Groundfish Management Cycle
12. Agenda Item G.7 – Initial Actions for Setting 2015-2016 Groundfish Fisheries
13. Agenda Item G.8 – Consider Stock Complex Aggregations
14. Agenda Item G.10 – Electronic Monitoring Scoping
15. Research paper authored by Dr. Tom Carruthers: Evaluating Methods for Setting Catch Limits in Data-limited Fisheries

**SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Informational Reports, etc.**

16. September 2013 SSC Agenda
17. Draft June 2013 SSC Minutes
18. Informational Reports
19. Hotel Related Information

PFMC  
08/21/13