



Pacific Council News

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2011 Ocean Salmon Seasons Set

At its April meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted a set of ocean salmon seasons that provides both recreational and commercial opportunities coastwide. The adopted salmon fisheries off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington achieve conservation goals for a multitude of individual salmon stocks and provide for freshwater fisheries. The recommendation was forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval by May 1, 2011.

“We are pleased to see that Sacramento River fall Chinook salmon have rebounded nicely for California and Oregon fisheries and we will continue to enjoy good salmon opportunities off the

Washington coast this summer,” said Council Chairman Mark Cedergreen.

South of Cape Falcon

Greatly improved abundance of Sacramento River fall Chinook will fuel the first substantial ocean salmon fisheries off California and Oregon since 2007. Fisheries south of

largest ocean salmon fishery closure on record. The abundance forecast of Sacramento River fall Chinook in 2011 is 730,000, far above the number needed for optimum spawning this fall (122,000-180,000 fish). The Klamath River fall Chinook forecast for 2011 is near normal, and the Oregon Coast natural coho forecast in 2011 is about 250,000, well above the 15 year average.

California recreational seasons south of Horse Mt. opened April 2 and will continue seven days per week through September 18 south of Pigeon Pt., and through October 30 between Pigeon Pt. and Horse Mt. The area from Horse Mt. to the OR/CA border (CA Klamath Management Zone [KMZ]) is open May 14 through September 5. The minimum Chinook size limit is 24 inches coastwide.

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Hatchery Manager Mike Piaya holds a Chinook salmon at Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. (Photo: USFWS)

Cape Falcon are supported by Sacramento River fall Chinook. In 2008 and 2009, poor Sacramento returns led to the

Klamath and Sacramento Chinook Stocks Officially Rebuilt

In March, the Council reviewed 2011 stock abundance forecasts, and after reviewing the natural spawning escapement level for Klamath fall Chinook, the Council formally acknowledged that this stock has achieved the rebuilding criteria, thus ending its status in the overfishing concern category. The stock triggered an overfishing

concern in 2006 when it failed to achieve its minimum spawning escapement objective for three consecutive years, and the Council subsequently adopted a rebuilding plan. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) classified the stock as “overfished” in 2007, and as “not overfished-rebuilding” in 2008 in its Report to Congress on the

status of U.S. Fisheries. The Council will transmit its findings to NMFS and request that the stock be declared rebuilt in the next Report to Congress.

The Council reviewed an overfishing assessment for Sacramento River fall Chinook that was developed by the Salmon

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Salmon News

NMFS to Review Klamath River Chinook Status

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced in April that it will decide whether or not to list Chinook salmon in the Upper Klamath and Trinity rivers basin as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) after the agency found that a petition to list the fish contained substantial scientific information that warrants Federal review.

The petition was filed January 28 by the Center for Biological Diversity, Oregon Wild, Environmental Protection Information Center and Larch Company. It requested that Klamath Chinook be protected due to a sharp decrease in their population in the last 100 years. Biologists now count just 300 to 3,000 wild-spawning spring Chinook each year.

Under the ESA, if a petition

presents substantial scientific information, a status review of the species must be conducted by a biological review team of Federal, state and academic experts.

As part of the review, NMFS is asking the public for information pertaining to this species and its habitat to assist in completing the status review. The review team, composed of scientists with diverse backgrounds, will use the best available scientific and commercial information to evaluate the status of the species.

By January 28, 2012, NMFS will make a finding, which will be published in the Federal Register, as to whether or not Chinook salmon in the Upper Klamath and Trinity rivers basin

For more, see the April salmon briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/5tfph87>

should be listed as threatened or endangered. If so, a proposed rule will be published requesting public comment on the proposed listing and any proposed critical habitat.

Submissions supporting or opposing the action without supporting information will be noted but not considered in making a determination based on the best available scientific and commercial data.

Written comments, data and information must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. local time on June 13, 2011. For more information, see <http://tinyurl.com/65luzu4>.

Salmon Methodology Review Topics Identified

The Council adopted the following potential topics for the 2011 Salmon Methodology Review process.

- Examination of the potential bias in Coho and Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) of fishery-related mortality introduced by mark-selective fisheries (Model Evaluation Workgroup)
 - A multi-year review and evaluation of preseason and postseason mark-selective fisheries both north and south of Cape Falcon (Salmon Technical Team)
 - Abundance-based management framework for

Lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook (Tule Chinook Workgroup)

- Forecast methodology for Lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook (Tule Chinook Workgroup)
 - Risk analysis of fall fisheries relative to future fisheries and returns of Klamath River and Sacramento River fall Chinook stocks (Salmon Technical Team)
 - Incorporation of age-structured run reconstruction information into the Sacramento Harvest Model (Salmon Technical Team)
 - Revisions to Amend-

ment 13 matrix control rules for Oregon coastal natural coho stocks (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)

In addition, the Council directed the Tule Chinook Workgroup to consider a broader range of potential exploitation rates for an abundance-based management approach.

The final list of items will be determined at the September 2011 Council meeting, and the review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Salmon Technical Team will occur prior to the November 2011 Council meeting.

Halibut and Salmon News

International Pacific Halibut Commission Sets 2011 Catch Limits, Dates

2011 Catch Limits

At its annual meeting in January, 2011, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) adopted catch limits for Alaska, Canada, and mainland U.S. areas, including Area 2A, off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The total allowable catch for Area 2A in 2011 is 910,000 pounds, up about 12 percent from 2010. Most Area 2A fisheries will see a similar increase in catch limits, although the commercial sablefish longline fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington will again not have an incidental halibut allowance in 2011, due to the overall Area 2A catch limit being lower than 942,000 lbs.

Directed Commercial Fishery

For more, see the April halibut briefing book materials: <http://tinyurl.com/62h56kz>

The coast-wide opening date for the U.S. and Canadian individual quota (IQ) fisheries and Area 2A treaty Indian fisheries was set for March 12, 2011, six days later than in 2010. The treaty Indian fishery is the only Area 2A fishery opening on the coast-wide date.

The 2011 Area 2A non-treaty directed halibut fishery will open the same week as in 2010, which aligns with the traditional late June opener. The IPHC recommended seven potential ten-hour fishing periods for the non-treaty directed commercial fishery in Area 2A south of Point Chehalis, Washington: June 29, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 24, September 7, and September 21, 2011. After each fishing date, IPHC will compile

the landings data and determine whether sufficient halibut quota remains to re-open

the fishery on the next ten-hour fishing period. All fishing periods are to begin at 8 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. local time, and will be further restricted by fishing period trip limits announced at a later date. There are a number of areas closed to halibut fishing in order to protect overfished groundfish stocks; check the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) web page for additional information at: <http://tinyurl.com/23woesp>.

Incidental Retention Restrictions in the Salmon Troll Fishery

In April, the Council adopted the same landing restrictions as in 2010 for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the 2011 salmon troll fishery: Beginning May 1, license holders may possess or land no more than one halibut per each three Chinook, except one halibut may be possessed or landed without meeting the ratio requirement and no more than 35 halibut


may be possessed or landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

By-Catch Retention in Fixed Gear Groundfish Fisheries

In March the Council received a report from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on potential alternatives to allow retention of Pacific halibut in fixed gear groundfish fisheries south of Point Chehalis, Washington. The Council recommended advancing the issue for further consideration, but to restrict application of alternatives to the limited entry fixed gear longline sablefish sector, and to limit viable alternatives to those that do not increase impacts on yelloweye rockfish. NMFS will consider further development of alternatives and possible incorporation of the issue into a National Environmental Policy Act review of the Area 2A catch sharing plan, planned for 2012.

Council Moves Toward Updating Salmon Essential Fish Habitat Designation

In April, National Marine Fisheries Service and Council staff concluded their five-year review of essential fish habitat (EFH) for Pacific salmon, and presented a final report to the Council. The Pacific Salmon EFH Review Oversight Panel report recommended updating EFH for Pacific salmon based on new and newly-available information, including EFH descriptions, impassible barriers, stock distribution, habitat areas of particular concern, and threats to salmon EFH. The Council

chose to move forward with updating salmon EFH through a fishery management plan amendment process. However, the Council expressed concern about the report's sections on fishing and non-fishing effects. Those will be revisited at the September Council meeting, pending a revised final report. A plan amendment team will begin work on an alternatives analysis document, to be considered by the Council and its advisory bodies in September of this year. 



Large wood in streams creates good habitat for young coho. (CDFG)

Groundfish News

Council Adopts Revisions to the Groundfish Biennial Management Process

In April, the Council adopted a process and schedule for 2013-14 groundfish management measures. The Council aims to expedite the decision-making, review and regulation implementation process to allow the fishery to begin January 1, 2013.


The detailed schedule is available online (<http://tinyurl.com/3wtjmer>), with one

modification: the draft environmental impact statement will be released May 18, 2012. In addition, the Council will amend Council Operating Procedure 19 for exempted fishing permits (EFPs). Instead of considering EFPs yearly, the Council will consider EFPs every two years, aligned with the biennial decision-making process, starting with the 2013-14 process.

action on harvest specifications and preliminary preferred decisions on management measures. Final consideration on harvest specifications and management measures is scheduled for June 2012.

At the Council's request, the Groundfish Management Team and a subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will evaluate the stock complexes relative to the National Standard 1 guidelines for consideration in the 2013-14 biennial cycle. The Council also tasked the SSC with preparing a contingent

Terms of Reference document for rudimentary stock assessments for consideration in the 2013-14 cycle, in the case of the Data Poor Workshop results suggesting alternate methods than currently in place for data poor species.

The Council plans to finalize the process and schedule for the 2013-14 cycle in June, and will continue to look into long-term solutions for the biennial groundfish management process, including a possible amendment to the groundfish fishery management plan, in time for the 2015-16 cycle. 

For more, see the April groundfish briefing book materials: <http://tinyurl.com/699j59h>

Preliminary annual catch limits will be set in November 2011. In April 2012, the Council will take final

Specifications and Management Measures for 2011-2012 Groundfish Fisheries Adopted


In June 2010, the Council adopted final preferred alternatives for harvest specifications and management measures for the 2011-12 groundfish fisheries. As part of this action, the Council adopted Amendment 16-5 to the groundfish fishery management plan, which would have modified all overfished species rebuilding plans, instituted a new rebuilding plan for petrale sole, modified the status determination criteria for assessed flatfish species, and established a new precautionary harvest control rule for flatfish. However, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) disap-

proved the amendment stating the need to further refine the environmental impact statement (EIS). Instead, NMFS is expected to use its emergency authority to implement specifications related to Amendment 16-5 for 2011, and asked the Council to reconsider Amendment 16-5 for implementation of the 2012 specifications and management measures. The final rule for 2011 and 2012 measures not related to Amendment 16-5 are expected to be implemented in April 2011.

NMFS' final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the 2011-2012 harvest specifications

and management measures was published on March 11 (<http://tinyurl.com/3jywooc>). The EIS includes a NMFS-preferred alternative for 2011 and 2012 with a 17 metric ton (mt) annual catch limit (ACL) for yelloweye rockfish and a 3 mt cowcod ACL. The remaining harvest specifications and management measures contained in the NMFS-preferred alternative are the same as the Council's final preferred alternative, except the NMFS-preferred alternative does not include modifications to the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA) recommended by the Council which would have

changed the CCA boundary from 20 to 30 fathoms and provided for the retention of shelf rockfish.

At the March meeting, the Council re-affirmed their support for the original adoption of harvest specifications for yelloweye rockfish (i.e., a 20 mt ACL) and a 17 mt annual catch target. Further, the Council re-affirmed their adoption of a 4 mt cowcod ACL and the changes to management measures in the CCA. Reconsideration of Amendment 16-5 will occur at the Council's June 2011 meeting in Spokane, Washington. 

Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Limit Reduced as Inseason Adjustment in March

In March, the Council recommended as an inseason adjustment that the limited entry fixed gear sablefish daily

trip limit fishery north of 36° N. latitude be limited to 2,000 lbs per week not to exceed 6,500 lbs/2 months starting in Period

4 through the end of the year.

The change was made because adjusted projections for this fishery suggested that land-

ings could have exceeded the allocations by 63 - 107 metric tons in 2011 (see <http://tinyurl.com/3hr7pet>, Table 3).

Groundfish News

Council Adopts Pacific Whiting Stock Assessment

In April, the Council adopted the Pacific whiting stock assessment (Stewart et al. 2011) recommended by a stock assessment review panel and the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for setting harvest specifications for 2011 Pacific whiting fisheries. The assessment, conducted in a collaborative effort by Canadian and U.S. scientists, was based on two models (SS and TINSS). The SSC recommended both model results are equally plausible and recommended key management quantities such as the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) harvest level (i.e., overfishing limit or OFL) and stock depletion in


2011 (126 percent of virgin biomass) be derived using model-averaging with equal weight.

The Council adopted a coastwide (U.S. plus Canada) OFL of 973,700 mt for 2011 fisheries using the model-averaged results as recommended by the SSC. A coastwide optimum yield (OY)/annual catch limit (ACL) of 393,751 mt was adopted for 2011 fisheries.

The greatest uncertainty in the new assessment is the strength of the 2008 year class. A sensitivity analysis in the assessment was done where the 2010 fishery age composition data that informed the strength of the 2008 year class were

removed. This analysis indicated that an annual coastwide harvest of 400,000 mt or less would maintain the stock at a healthy biomass for the next three years even if the 2008 recruitment was an average one. This is due to the above-average strength of the 2005 and 2006 year classes, which are better informed by fishery and survey data in the 2011 assessment over previous analyses.

Under the terms of the U.S.-Canada Pacific whiting treaty, the U.S. allocation of the coastwide ACL/OY is 73.88 percent, which equates to 290,903 mt. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is consulting

with the treaty tribes for their 2011 allocation, which will be set aside from the U.S. ACL/OY. The Council also decided to set aside 3,000 mt of Pacific whiting yield to accommodate incidental bycatch in non-whiting fisheries and research catch this year. The whiting sector allocations (i.e., 24 percent to motherships, 34 percent to catcher-processors, and 42 percent to shoreside whiting) will be decided once the treaty allocation is decided. The proposed rule, based on communications to date between NMFS and the tribes, proposes a tribal allocation of 66,908 mt, for 2011 only, given the Council's recommended OY. 

Council Continues Work on Followup Actions for Trawl Rationalization

The Council continues to work on trailing actions to refine and enhance the groundfish trawl rationalization program which began operating on January 11, 2011.

Adaptive Management Program

The Council set aside 10% of nonwhiting quota shares to respond to unanticipated consequences of trawl rationalization, or for incentive programs to pursue social, conservation, and economic objectives. For the first two years of the program, the quota pounds associated with this 10% of the quota shares are being passed through to share holders in proportion to their holdings. This pass-through phase is expected to end after 2012, but an alternative distribution method for those quota pounds may not

be in place in time for the 2013 fishery. Therefore, the Council is considering continuing the adaptive management program (AMP) quota pound pass-through after 2012, in case other criteria for distributing those quota pounds are not implemented. This decision will come earlier than originally planned because its environmental consequences are negligible, and therefore less documentation will be required.

Amendment 21 (trawl/nontrawl allocations)

In March and April, the Council discussed its intent under Amendment 21 to replace the limited entry/open access allocations under groundfish fishery management plan Amendment 6 with trawl/nontrawl allocations. The Council also discussed providing more flexibility to change set-asides for

research catch, incidental open access, experimental fishing permits, and tribal whiting set-asides through routine inseason adjustments. Final action on both issues is scheduled for June, though a possible need for further study could result in delayed action on the set-aside flexibility issue.

Safe Harbors from Quota Share Control Limits

In June, the Council is scheduled to identify a preliminary preferred alternative for safe harbors from control limits for community fishing associations (CFAs) and risk pools. Control limits limit the amount of quota shares an entity can control. The safe harbors would allow entities qualifying as CFAs or risk pools to control more shares than other share holders. At its April meeting, the Council

provided guidance on option development and the types of analysis it would like to see in June. With respect to CFAs, the Council wants information on how CFA exemptions might vary by geographic area. With respect to risk pools, the Council will address when the use of quota pounds becomes control of quota shares. For example, if one person agrees to purchase quota pounds from another for two years running, is the purchaser then considered to control the seller's quota shares?

The Council is also considering safe harbors for lenders, but decided in April to delay further action on this issue until September. The issue will be expanded to cover topics such as unique identifiers for quota shares, a lien registry, and third

Highly Migratory Species News

Council Considers Actions on North Pacific Albacore Tuna Conservation and Management

In April, the Council considered what to do if an upcoming assessment of North Pacific albacore tuna finds that overfishing is occurring. The Council asked the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) to work with the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) to develop recommendations for U.S. delegations to regional fishery management


organizations, in case the stock assessment raises concern about stock status. These recommendations will be presented at the June Council meeting.

The Council also asked the two advisory bodies to consider potential management measures in case the stock assessment prompts National Marine Fisheries Service to determine that overfishing is occurring. The

HMSMT will compile information from past reports to the Council on potential management measures, and the HMSAS will prioritize these management measures.

The Council asked NMFS to request data from the Canadian government on albacore caught in the U.S. West Coast Exclusive

For more, see the April HMS briefing book materials:
<http://tinyurl.com/5u25kdv>

Economic Zone by Canadian vessels and landed in Canadian ports. The Council also asked NMFS to keep the Council apprised of negotiations over the U.S.-Canada albacore treaty. 

Request for Nominations: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is seeking qualified candidates to fill three vacancies on its Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP). These positions represent the following fishing industry sectors of the West Coast groundfish fishery: Processor (this is an at-large position); Open Access Fishery North of Cape Mendocino; and Washington Charter Boat Operator.

Please visit the Council's "Current Advisory Body Vacancies" webpage for all the details: <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-and-committees/current-vacancies/>

Nominations must be received at the Council office no later than May 18, 2011.

Recipe: Grilled Salmon with Lime Butter Sauce

Ingredients

- Six 6-oz pieces center-cut salmon fillet (about 1 inch thick) with skin
- 1 1/2 teaspoons finely grated fresh lime zest
- 6 tablespoons lime butter sauce (recipe below)

Lime Butter Sauce:

- 1 large garlic clove, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, melted

Prepare sauce by puréeing garlic with lime juice, salt, and pepper in a blender until smooth. With motor running, add melted butter and blend until emulsified, about 30 seconds.

Prepare grill for cooking over medium-hot charcoal (moderate heat for gas). Season salmon all over with salt and pepper, then grill, flesh sides down, on lightly oiled grill rack (covered only if using gas grill) 4 minutes. Turn fillets over and grill (covered only if using gas grill) until just cooked through, 4 to 6 minutes more. Sprinkle fillets with zest and top each with 1 tablespoon lime butter sauce.

Note: If you aren't able to grill outdoors, salmon can be cooked in a hot lightly oiled well-seasoned large (2-burner) ridged grill pan over moderately high heat.

Serves six. Source: *Epicurious* (www.epicurious.com)

Habitat and Ecosystem News

Council Continues to Pursue Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan

In June, the Council is scheduled to adopt a statement of purpose and need for the Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (EFMP) and to provide guidance on whether the plan should have regulatory authority and management unit species. The Council asked its advisory bodies to review the existing reports and comments and provide input on these topics in advance of the June meeting. Review materials and a summary of the Council's March 2011 session can be found at (<http://tinyurl.com/44df22z>).


In September 2010, the Council heard a report from the Ecosystem Plan Development

Team (EPDT) on the goals, purpose and need, and the regulatory and geographic scope of a proposed EFMP, and reduced the range of potential plan formats by opting not to pursue an omnibus fishery management plan (FMP) that would combine all of the existing FMPs into a single plan. The Council also affirmed their guidance for regular informational updates on science in support of ecosystem-based management and the status of the California Current ecosystem. At that meeting, the Council asked the EPDT to review the Council's four FMPs to identify existing ecosystem-based principles and common

management needs that could benefit from a coordinated, overarching EFMP framework and to provide background for a future discussion of the EFMP's regulatory authority.

The EPDT responded in March 2011 with a report and recommendations (available at the web address listed above).

In March, Dr. John Stein, Acting Director of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and Dr. Cisco Werner, Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, provided an overview of the West Coast integrated ecosystem assessment (IEA) initiative. An IEA is a synthesis of information on natural

and socioeconomic factors in relation to ecosystem management goals, and is important for the implementation of ecosystem approaches to management. NOAA has been working on an IEA focused on the West Coast and the California Current ecosystem. An informational IEA status report to the Council on a list of pilot species is anticipated for the September 2011 Council meeting. For more background on IEAs, visit the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology web site (<http://tinyurl.com/3mtm2nl>) and review the briefing book materials for this item (<http://tinyurl.com/65ec4wy>). 

Habitat Committee, Council Discuss Army Corps of Engineers Policy of Removing Levee Vegetation

At its March and April meetings, the Habitat Committee discussed the Army Corps of Engineers' nationwide policy requiring removal of most vegetation from levees. The Habitat Committee and others are concerned that removal of trees and bushes from levees would reduce the quality of salmon habitat in many streams and rivers.

The Corps has issued a technical letter that provides guidelines for landscape planting and vegetation management at levees, and a policy guidance letter that provides a process for exemptions from the vegetation

standards. Though the rules have been in place for years, the Corps allowed California and other states to operate under their own maintenance standards. California's standards have encouraged tree planting. Even the Corps included trees on many of its own levee projects in the state.


In 2007, the Corps began imposing its national policy uniformly. The policy changes are a response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, which led the Corps to determine that tree roots could weaken levees and vegetation could hide leaks. The

The Habitat Committee and others believe that the technical letter is in conflict with Endangered Species Act protections, and could adversely affect essential fish habitat (EFH). California's Central Valley is believed to have only about five percent of its historic riparian habitat, most of which is trees and shrubs growing on more than 1,600 miles of levees. Friends of the River, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Center for Biological Diversity have said they intend to sue over this issue.

Numerous other government agencies are on record opposing the rules, including the California Department of Water Resources, which oversees flood safety at the state level. The department reported last year, based on aerial surveys, that

clearing vegetation from 1,600 miles of noncompliant California levees could cost \$7.5 billion.

"Vegetation is really important for fish health," said Steve Landino, who directs Washington's habitat office for the National Marine Fisheries Service habitat conservation division, in an interview with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Trees, shrubs and other riparian vegetation provide shade to cool rivers, as well as nutrients for fish in the form of leaves and bugs.

The Corps plans to publish a final policy guidance letter on September 30, 2011. The Habitat Committee is drafting a letter for the Council requesting that the Corps initiate an EFH consultation on the policies. The letter will be included in the briefing book for the June Council meeting. 

For more, see the April habitat & March ecosystem briefing book materials:

<http://tinyurl.com/6c3m6aw>

<http://tinyurl.com/65ec4wy>

new policies would require levee owners to remove vegetation or lose their Federal Flood Insurance Program protections.

Coastal Pelagic Species News

Experimental Fishing Permit to Conduct Aerial Sardine Research Approved


The Council has approved a proposal by Northwest Sardine Survey, LLC for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to conduct aerial survey work in Pacific Northwest waters. The intent of the research is to continue aerial surveys that were conducted in 2008, 2009, and 2010 by industry representatives. Because all or part of this activity would happen during a period closed to other fishing, an EFP will be required.

The Council received the proposal in March and adopted it, with some revisions, in April. The Northwest Sardine Survey amended its draft EFP proposal based on comments from the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Management Team and the Scientific and Statistical Committee. If approved by National Marine Fisheries Service, the aerial survey will use up to 2,700 metric tons (mt) of sardines, out of a 4,200 mt EFP research set-

aside. Any of the 4,200 mt set-aside not included as part of an EFP or not used during EFP research will be re-allocated to the third period directed fishery.

In addition, the Council considered a report of the CPS Methodology Review Panel, which looked at the potential use of acoustic-trawl surveys in CPS stock assessments. Al-

For more, see the April CPS briefing book materials: <http://tinyurl.com/4yelff4>

though there remains some uncertainty about whether the methodology will be used to develop absolute (vs relative) abundance estimates for Pacific sardine, the Council approved its use in contributing to future stock assessments. 

Council Sends Letter on Olympic Coast Sanctuary Management Plan Review

In March, the Council approved a draft letter to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) recommended by the Habitat Committee in response to the Sanctuary's management plan review.

The Sanctuary was designated in 1994 and encompasses 3,310 square miles off of Washington State's Olympic Peninsula. In 2008, the Sanctuary began reviewing its Management Plan. In January of this year, the Sanctuary released the Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Assessment for public review. The Council's Habitat Committee reviewed the Draft Management Plan, and

drafted a letter for the Council's consideration.

The letter notes that the plan has little impact on fishing. It emphasizes the importance of collaboration between the Council and the Sanctuary; asks for clarification about what implementation of regional and national OCNMS initiatives will mean to the Sanctuary, and to Council-managed species; and recommends some minor changes to the wording of the plan, some process changes, and inclusion of some definitions in the plan document.

The letter is available on the Council website at <http://tinyurl.com/3cobnkt>. 

Council Encourages Marine Spatial Planning Bodies to Include Council Seat

In April, the Council heard presentations on coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP), including plans for implementing CMSP in this region. President Obama's Executive Order 13547 created a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes. A National Ocean Council (NOC) was established to further the goals of the Executive Order, including creating regional planning bodies in nine regions, including the West Coast.

The West Coast Governors' Agreement has been leading West Coast CMSP efforts, and




A rendering of Principle Power's WindFloat floating wind turbine - one potential future use of the ocean.

will likely form the core of the Regional Planning Body, which is scheduled to be designated

sometime this summer. The Council would like to have a seat on the regional planning body, and has sent letters to the NOC and the West Coast Governors Agreement making that request. In April, the Council directed staff to draft another letter reiterating its position, to

the Government Coordinating Committee, which is a state/local/Tribal committee formed to advise the NOC. At the April Council meeting, Dr. John Stein of NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center described the National Ocean Council's efforts to implement marine spatial planning, and Amy Vierra of the California Natural Resources Agency commented on the process from the perspective of a state and regional ocean governance entity.

A national workshop on marine spatial planning is scheduled for June 21-23, 2011 in Washington D.C. 

Tsunami from Japan Earthquake Causes Damage to Several West Coast Ports

The March 11 tsunami resulting from the devastating 9.0 Japan earthquake affected many West Coast fishing communities. California officials estimated more than \$48 million in damage, mostly to harbors in Crescent City and Santa Cruz.

Crescent City was particularly hard-hit, with about 35 boats sunk and extensive damage to docks. Because of its geography, Crescent City has frequently been hit by tsunamis, including a 1964 tsunami that killed 11 people and destroyed 289 homes and businesses. In 2006, tsunami-driven currents caused \$10 million in damage to the city's harbor. After the most recent tsunami, several Crescent City crabbers were stranded in Bodega Bay after the tsunami damaged their home port. Crescent City Harbor is expected to

lose \$300,000 in lease payments alone.

One person standing near the mouth of the Klamath River was swept out to sea and

drowned. Near the mouth of the Pistol River near Gold Beach, two couples were swept into the sea by surges at about the same time. Neither couple

was aware of the tsunami warning, but both couples were found safe.

In Santa Cruz, 18 boats were sunk and docks were damaged.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in four counties, citing "conditions of extreme peril to the infrastructure and the safety of the persons and properties within the counties of Del

Norte, Humboldt, San Mateo

and Santa Cruz."

In Oregon, Port Orford was the first West Coast town to report the arrival of the tsunami waves, but the waves caused little damage. In Brookings, however, about 70 percent of the commercial basin was destroyed and up to 10 boats sank; the port suffered about \$6.7 million in damages. The tsunami came at the tail end of the lucrative Dungeness crab season and threatened the start of shrimp season. In requesting Federal assistance, Gov. Kitzhaber wrote that Brookings could lose up to \$10 million in revenue from lost commercial and recreational fishing if repairs were not completed speedily.

Ports in Lincoln and Coos County were also damaged. In Depoe Bay, one boat landed on

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A sunken boat in Crescent City Harbor. Photo: Ray Gilden.

Council Makes Membership Appointments; Changes Council Operating Procedures

In March, the Council confirmed the appointment of LT David Anderson to the Oregon State Police position on the Enforcement Committee and appointed Ms. Deb Wilson-Vandenberg to the California Department of Fish and Game position on the Ecosystem Plan Development Team.

The Council has issued a call for nominations to three vacancies on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel: processor at-large, northern open access, and Washington charter boat operator. Nominations are due to the Council office by May 18, 2011. More details are available at <http://tinyurl.com/3lmx4u> or by calling the Council office. The nominations will be considered by the Council at its June meeting.

The Council Chairman appointed Ms. Susan Chambers to serve as an interim processor at-large on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel. While no interim appointment was made for the northern open access vacancy, the southern open access member, Mr. Daniel Platt, will serve as the primary representative for all open access until the northern vacancy is filled. Mr. Gerry Richter, who holds a fixed-gear at-large position on the GAP, is also familiar with the open access fishery and can serve as an additional interim point of contact.

In April, the Council confirmed the appointment of LT Bob Farrell to the California Department of Fish and Game position on the Enforcement Committee with AC Tony

Warrington acting as his first designee. The Council also confirmed Ms. Vicki Frey to the California Department of Fish and Game position on the Habitat Committee, and confirmed Mr. Phil Anderson as the Council representative to the U.S. Section of the Joint Management Committee under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Hake/Whiting Agreement.

Regarding the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee, the Council added a tribal position to the committee and confirmed the appointment of Mr. Joe Schumacker to serve in that position, with an alternate of Ms. Jennifer Hagen.

Under the agenda item concerning the trawl rationalization issues to be addressed by the National Marine Fisheries Ser-

vice program improvement and enhancement rule, the Council created a new ad hoc committee, the Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee. The committee positions are listed below and the members will be appointed by the Council Chairman in the near future.


The primary group (shore-side) positions are:

Three Shoreside Non-whiting Catcher Vessels (1 from each state: Washington, Oregon, California)

One Shoreside Whiting Catcher Vessel

One Shoreside Non-whiting Processor

One Shoreside Whiting Processor

Appropriate agency personnel would attend the meetings based on the meeting topics. 

Enforcement Corner

Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 Includes New Requirements for Vessels

In October 2010, the President signed into law the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. This bill contains significant new authorities, including new Marine Safety, Port Security and Oil Pollution Prevention Authorities that enhance the safety of U.S. ports and waterways. Of particular relevance to commercial fishers are new fishing vessel safety regulations that apply to most commercial fishing vessels operating in Federal waters. In addition, the Act provides funding to advance the Coast Guard fleet of cutters and aircraft, and tools for Coast Guard personnel.

Parity for All Vessels

Uniform safety standards are established for all vessels, particularly those vessels operating in Federal waters. There will no longer be different standards for federally documented and state-registered vessels operating on the same waters.

Survival Craft

All fishing industry vessels operating beyond three nautical miles are required to carry

survival craft that will meet a new performance standard for primary lifesaving equipment. "Lifeboats or liferafts" is replaced with "a survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water," meaning that life floats and buoyant apparatus will no longer be accepted as survival craft on any commercial fishing vessel operating beyond three nautical miles.

Records

A new provision requires that the individual in charge of a vessel operating beyond three nautical miles maintain a safety logbook—a record of equipment maintenance and required instruction and drills.

Examinations and Certificates of Compliance

Dockside safety examinations at least once every two years are now mandatory for vessels operating beyond three nautical miles. A certificate of compliance will be issued to a vessel successfully completing the exam. Voluntary exams will continue to be promoted for vessels operat-

ing inside three nautical miles. Related to this, enforcement may remove a certificate from a vessel operating in a condition that does not comply with the provisions of the certificate. And, if the vessel does not have the required certificate on board, or if the vessel is being operated in an unsafe condition, it may be ordered to return to a mooring and remain there until the certificate is issued/reissued or the condition is corrected.

Training for Operators

A new provision applicable to vessels operating beyond three nautical miles requires individuals in charge of the vessel to pass a training program covering certain competencies. The training must include, among other things, seamanship, navigation, stability, fire fighting, damage control, safety and survival, and emergency drills. Credit can be considered for recent experience on fishing vessels. Refresher training is required every five years. A publicly accessible database listing individuals who completed the training will be

established.

Construction Standards for Smaller Vessels

Vessels built after January 1, 2010 and less than 50 feet overall in length must be constructed in a manner that provides a level of safety equivalent to the standards for recreational vessels established under 46 U.S.C. §4302.

Loadlines

The Act implements a loadline requirement on fishing vessels 79 feet or greater in length that are built after July 1, 2012. Further, fishing vessels built on or before July 1, 2012 that undergo a substantial change to the dimension of or type of vessel completed after July 1, 2012, or a later date set by the Coast Guard, must comply with an alternate loadline compliance program developed in cooperation with the industry.

Classing of Vessels

The Act amends 46 U.S.C. §4503 to make it applicable to fishing and fish tender vessels in

Continued on page 12

International meeting on Climate Effects on Polar and Sub-Polar Marine Ecosystems to be held in Seattle in May

The international, regional program *Ecosystem Studies of Sub-Arctic Seas* will hold its second Open Science Meeting in Seattle, Washington, May 22-26, 2011 at the Seattle Marriott Waterfront Hotel. Nearly 200 registrants from many countries are expected to attend. The theme of the meeting, *Comparative Studies of Climate Effects on Polar and*


Sub-Polar Ecosystems: Progress in Observation and Prediction, will be discussed in a series of workshops, plenary sessions with invited speakers, parallel sessions and a poster reception.

Twenty-nine invited speakers from the USA, Canada, Russia, Japan, Korea, China, Norway and Argentina will provide talks on fisheries and oceanographic implications of

climate change. Sessions on nutrients and biogeochemistry, new understanding of the Bering Sea, interactions of gadids and crustaceans, comparative studies of sub-polar and polar ecosystems, insights from International Polar Year studies, modeling ecosystem dynamics, and socio-economic consequences of change in sub-polar marine ecosystems among

others.

Social events will include a reception at the Seattle Aquarium on the evening of May 23, and a poster reception on the evening of May 25.

Members of the Council family and members of the fishing industry are welcome to attend. Registration is now \$450 and covers all five days and the two social events. 

June Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held June 8-13, 2011, at the DoubleTree Hotel Spokane City Center in Spokane, Washington. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on May 19, 2011** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the June meeting. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on May 30** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the June meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Coming Up at the June 2011 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Spokane, Washington on June 8-13, 2011. The advance Briefing Book will be posted on the Council website in late May (www.pcouncil.org).

Groundfish

- NMFS report
- Consider results of workshop on data-limited stocks & approve five update stock assessments
- Consider followup action on Amendment 16-5 & 2012 specifications & mgmt measures
- Adopt final process & schedule for 2013-2014 groundfish biennial mgmt
- Inseason adjustments

- Trawl rationalization trailing actions and intersector allocation
- NMFS Program Improvements & Enhancement Rule for groundfish trawl fishery

Salmon

- Final Adoption of Amendment 16 – Annual Catch Limits & Accountability Measures

Ecosystem-Based Management

- Adopt purpose & need statement and determine regulatory & species criteria for the Ecosystem-based fishery management plan

Coastal Pelagic Species

- NMFS report
- Pacific mackerel management

Highly Migratory Species

- Albacore Fisheries Economic Analysis
- Recommendations to International Fishery Management Organizations

Other

- Habitat report
- Appointments

Acronyms and Definitions

ACL	annual catch limit	IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
CCA	Cowcod Conservation Area	IFQ	individual fishing quota
CFA	community fishing association	IQ	individual quota
CPS	coastal pelagic species	KMZ	Klamath Management Zone
CMSP	coastal and marine spatial planning	MSY	maximum sustainable yield (CHECK)
EFH	essential fish habitat	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
EFMP	Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
EFP	exempted fishing permit	OCN	Oregon coastal natural (salmon)
EIS	environmental impact statement	OFL	overfishing limit
EPDT	Ecosystem Plan Development Team	OY	optimum yield
ESA	Endangered Species Act	PIE	Program Improvements and Enhancement (rule)
FMP	fishery management plan	QP	quota pounds
FRAM	Fishery Regulation and Assessment Model	QS	quota share
GAP	Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	SS	[model]
HAPC	habitat area of particular concern	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
HMSAS	Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	TINSS	[model]
HMSMT	Highly Migratory Species Management Team	USC	United States Code
IEA	integrated ecosystem assessment		

Enforcement Corner, continued from page 10

addition to fish processing vessels. A new paragraph requires survey and classification of a fishing vessel that is at least 50 feet in overall length, built after July 1, 2012, and operates beyond three nautical miles. It also requires the vessel to remain "in class" and have the appropriate certificates on board. A new paragraph requires: (1) development of an alternate safety compliance program by January 1, 2020 for vessels over 50 feet in length, built before July 1, 2012, and 25 years of age or older; (2) an alternate safety compliance program for vessels built before July 1, 2012 that undergo a substantial change after the later of July 1, 2012, or a date to be determined by the Coast Guard; and (3) owner(s)

of 30 or more vessels subject to Section 1 who enter into a compliance agreement with the Coast Guard can delay meeting the requirement until January 1, 2030. The alternative safety compliance programs are to be developed in cooperation with the industry, and may be developed for specific regions and fisheries. Further, in this new paragraph, vessels classed before July 1, 2012 are required to remain in classification and have a current certificate on board.

The Coast Guard must prescribe the alternate safety compliance program for older vessels by January 1, 2017.

Replacing Boundary Line with Three Nautical Miles

Trawl rationalization trailing actions, continued from page 5

party verification of quota share ownership.

Halibut allocation

For allocation of Pacific halibut bycatch mortality to the trawl fishery, the Council specified a preliminary preferred alternative that sets a trawl bycatch mortality allocation of 15 percent of the total catch exploitation yield, not to exceed 130,000 dressed pounds of legal sized halibut through 2014 and not to exceed 100,000 pounds starting in 2015. To determine the amount of halibut individual bycatch quota pounds to be issued to the trawl fleet, the amount of legal sized dressed pounds would be expanded to round pounds of all sized halibut. Additional detail on the alternative can be found under Alternative 1 (page 6) at <http://tinyurl.com/3djgg39>.

Severability of Mother-

ship Catcher Vessel Catch History/Sector Endorsements from Limited Entry Trawl Permits

For its preliminary preferred alternative, the Council specified an alternative that would allow the mothership catcher vessel sector and catch history endorsements to be separated from limited entry trawl permits, and that would allow multiple endorsements to be stacked together on a single permit (but the sector endorsements and the catch history could not be separated from one another). Additional detail on the alternative can be found at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/4xelsjs> (page 5, Alternative 1).

Other Program Improvements and Enhancement Rule

The Council received a report from National Marine

The Act replaces the term "Boundary Line" with "three nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured or three nautical miles from the coastline of the Great Lakes," which is essentially the same as Federal waters. The boundary line location was confusing, whereas the three-mile line is a well-known demarcation shown on most charts.

Other Provisions

The Act adds requirements for the Coast Guard to establish a Fishing Safety Training Grants Program and a Fishing Safety Research Grant Program. The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. The Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory

Committee is reauthorized until September 30, 2020. The committee has been expanded to 18 members and will continue to represent groups with expertise, knowledge and experience regarding the commercial fishing industry.

Council-area points of contact are:

District Thirteen (Washington & Oregon): LCDR Brian Chambers 206-220-7305; robert.b.chambers@uscg.mil; Brian Corrigan 206-220-7309; brian.p.corrigan@uscg.mil; Dan Hardin; 206-220-7226; danile.e.hardin@uscg.mil. District Eleven (California): LT Steve Arnwine; 510-437-5392; steve.b.arnwine@uscg.mil; Peg Murphy; 510-437-5931; peggy.a.murphy@uscg.mil.

Fisheries Service on issues that would be covered in a Program Improvements and Enhancement (PIE) rule that would be implemented for the 2012 fishery. In April, the Council reviewed the issues and provided comments to NMFS. The PIE rule may change the requirement that observers remain with a vessel until all fish are offloaded. It could also clarify how vessels move between the limited entry and open access fisheries, and how catch from any trip is attributed to a particular sector. Other issues include, but are not limited to, the timing for filling out electronic fish tickets; price reporting; provisions for crossing over management lines during a trip; and the types of ownership changes that must be reported to NMFS. The Council recommended that NMFS include provisions allowing a vessel making

deliveries under the shoreside individual fishing quota program to process nonwhiting at sea beginning January 1, 2012, if the vessel has been operating under a limited entry trawl permit and has legally processed groundfish (other than Pacific whiting) at sea prior to July 20, 2010.

Ad Hoc Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee

Under this agenda item, the Council authorized the appointment of a new ad hoc committee, the Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee, with members to be appointed by the Council Chair. This committee will assist the Council by developing recommendations for regulatory changes to address specific regulatory issues identified by the Council. No meeting is expected prior to the June Council meeting.

Figure 1. Council-adopted recreational salmon seasons for 2011. White denotes open fishing periods; gray denotes closed periods. Date are the first or the last days of the month unless otherwise noted.

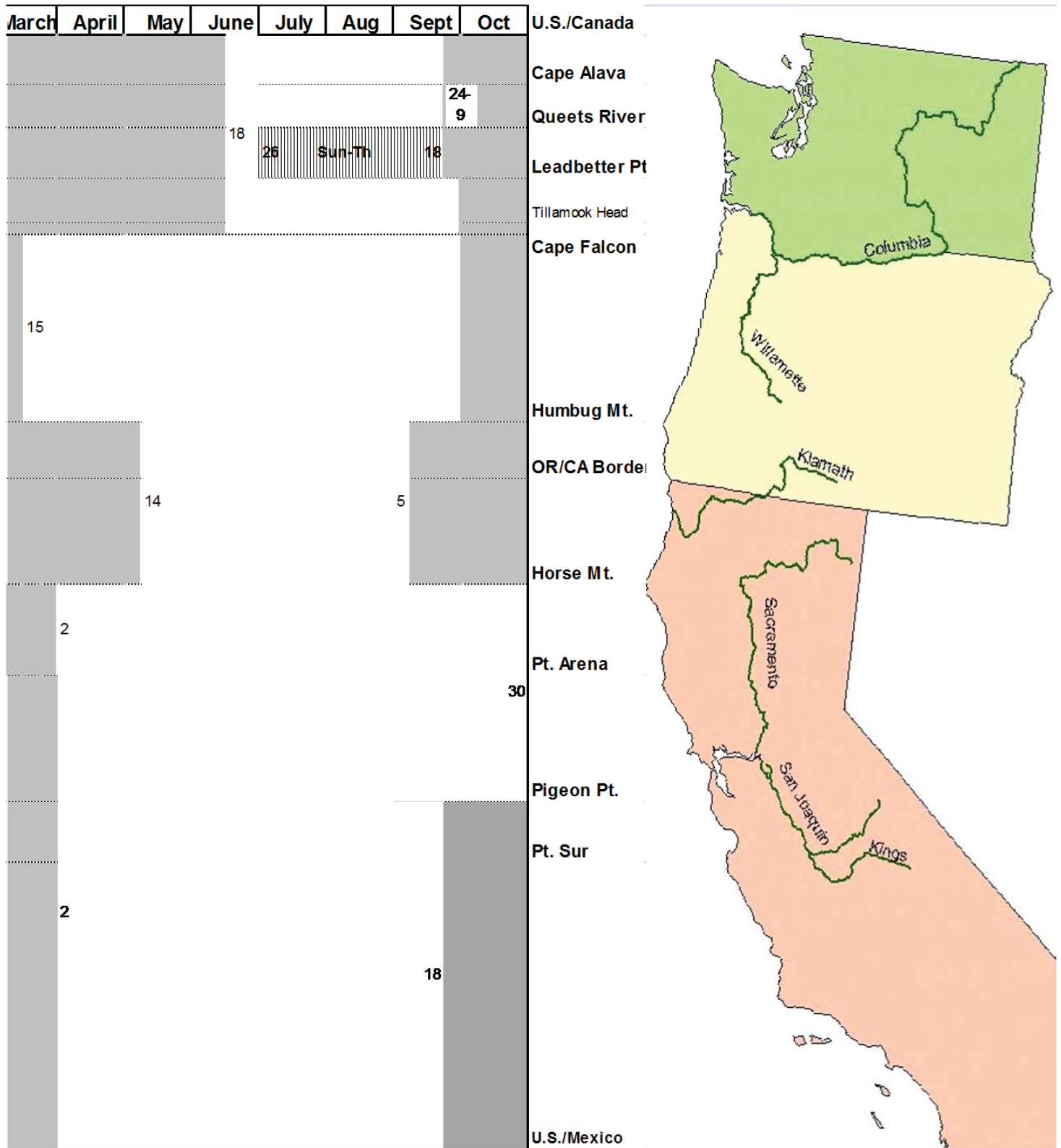
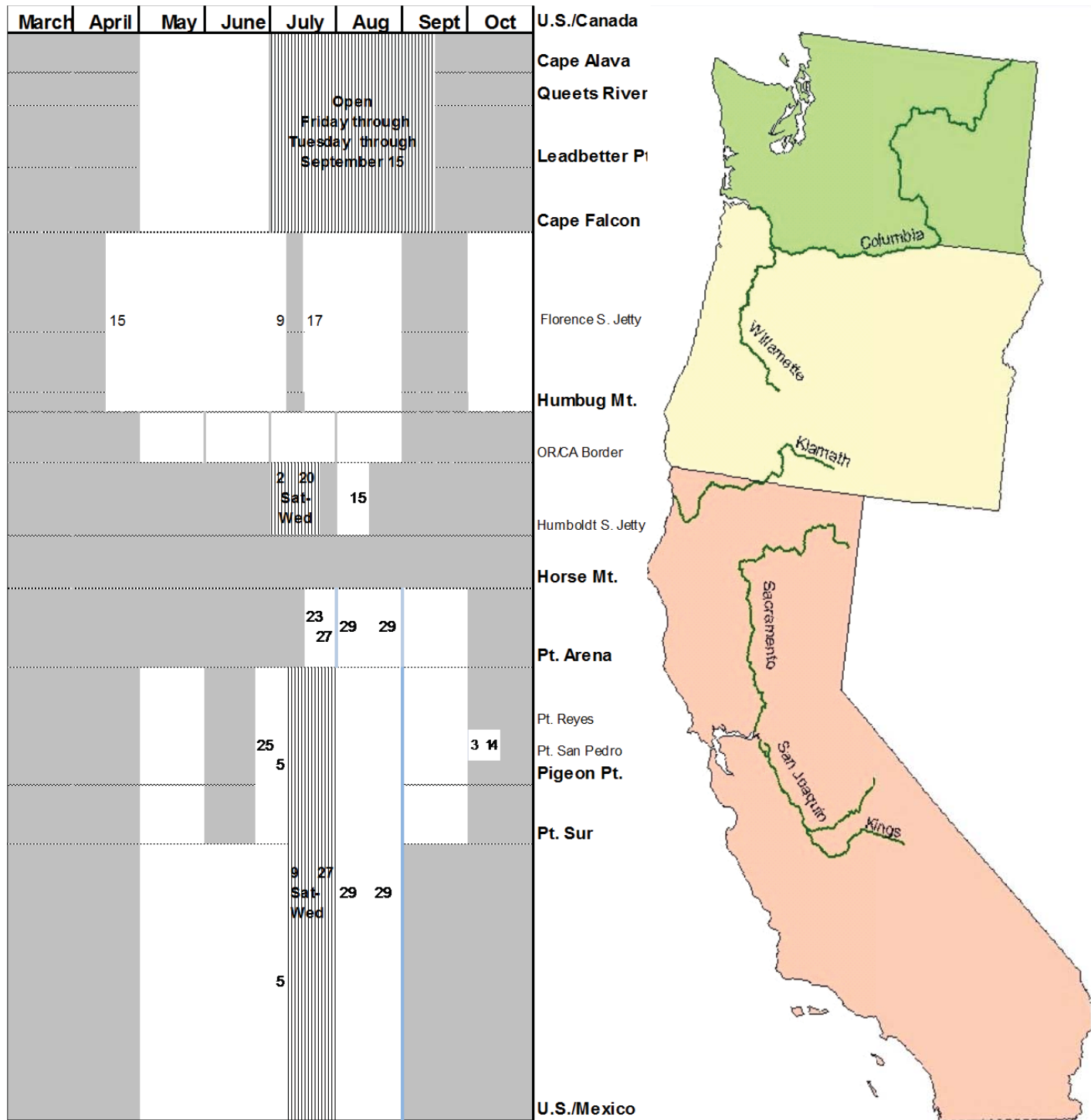


Figure 2. Council-adopted non-Indian commercial salmon seasons for 2011. White denotes open fishing periods; gray denotes closed periods. Date are the first or the last days of the month unless otherwise noted.



Salmon seasons, continued from page 1

The retention of coho salmon is prohibited in all California ocean salmon fisheries.

Recreational fisheries from the Oregon/California border to Humbug Mountain (Oregon Klamath Management Zone [KMZ]) have the same regulations as the California KMZ. Fisheries from Humbug Mountain to Cape Falcon, OR are open to Chinook retention March 15 through September 30. Concurrent with the Chinook fishery are two coho quota fisheries, the first runs July 2 through August 13, subject to a quota of 15,000 marked coho; the second runs September 1 to 10, subject to a 3,000 preseason non-mark-selective coho quota.

The commercial seasons in California have a variety of opening dates depending on the area, but all areas have some opportunity. The earliest opening is May 1 in the San Francisco and Monterey areas. Fort Bragg opens in late July and remains open until late September while the area south of the OR/CA border to the Humboldt south jetty (CA KMZ) will have small quota fisheries in July and early

August.

Oregon commercial fisheries between the OR/CA border and Humbug Mt. (OR KMZ) are open May 1-31, with three quota fisheries in June, July and August. Fisheries between Cape Falcon and Humbug Mt. open April 15 and run through October 31 with some closures in July and for the month of September.

North of Cape Falcon

Fisheries north of Cape Falcon (near Nehalem in northern Oregon) depend largely on Columbia River stocks. Columbia River fall Chinook returns in 2010 were above average, and 2011 forecasts are similar; however, due to tighter constraints on Endangered Species Act-listed lower Columbia River natural tule Chinook and increased harvest levels in Canadian and Alaskan fisheries, overall Chinook quotas for both treaty Indian and non-Indian fisheries north of Cape Falcon are lower than last year. Columbia River hatchery coho returns are below average and less than 2010 returns, but Washington coastal and Puget Sound stocks


are above average. North of Cape Falcon, there is an overall non-Indian total allowable catch of 64,600 Chinook and 80,000 marked hatchery coho, and treaty Indian total allowable catch of 41,000 Chinook and 42,000 coho.

Recreational ocean fisheries north of Cape Falcon will be open for all salmon except coho from June 18 through the earlier of June 25 or a 4,800 mark-selective Chinook quota. All-salmon seasons north of the Queets River (La Push and Neah Bay areas) and south of Leadbetter Point (Columbia River area) will be open seven days per week beginning June 26. The all-salmon season between the Queets River and Leadbetter Point (Westport area) will be open Sunday through Thursdays beginning June 26. All areas will be subject to area-specific mark-selective coho quotas totaling 67,200 and an overall (all areas combined) non-mark selective Chinook preseason quota of 28,900.

The non-Indian commercial troll fishery will consist of a Chinook-directed fishery

running seven days per week beginning May 1 through the earlier of June 30 or a 20,600 Chinook quota, and an all-salmon fishery beginning July 1 through the earlier of September 15 or a 10,300 preseason Chinook quota or an 12,800 mark-selective coho quota. The all-salmon fishery will be open Friday through Tuesday with a landing and possession limit of 50 Chinook and 50 coho per vessel per open period north of Leadbetter Point, or the same landing and possession limit south of Leadbetter Point.

The Treaty Indian ocean fisheries will consist of a Chinook-directed fishery beginning May 1 through the earlier of June 30 or a 19,750 Chinook quota, and an all-salmon fishery beginning July 1 through the earlier of September 15 or a 21,250 Chinook quota or a 42,000 coho quota.


The adopted seasons will be submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service for approval by May 1, 2011. The detailed management measures can be viewed on the Council website www.pcouncil.org. 

Klamath and Sacramento Salmon, continued from page 1

Technical Team (STT) and Habitat Committee. The assessment was required when, in 2009, the stock triggered an overfishing concern. At that time, NMFS classified the stock as overfished in its Report to Congress based on existing policy. The STT's assessment recommended the

stock not be considered overfished, and concluded that overfishing did not occur in 2007-2009. The STT based their recommendation on preliminary preferred alternative for status determination criteria in the Council's Amendment 16 to the salmon Fishery Management

Plan, which is scheduled for final adoption in June 2011. The Council accepted the STT's recommendations. Further, based on preliminary information showing that the Sacramento River fall Chinook spawning escapement in 2010 was within the goal range of 122,000-180,000

adult spawners, the Council declared the overfishing concern status for this stock to be ended. The Council will transmit its findings to NMFS and request that the stock be removed from the list of overfished stocks and declared rebuilt in the next Report to Congress. 


Tsunami, continued from page 9

a dock, damaging the dock and effectively rendering it useless.

In March, President Obama declared Curry County, Oregon a major disaster, allowing it to receive funds from the Federal

Emergency Management Agency. On April, affected California counties were also declared disasters. In Crescent City, U.S. Coast Guard crews spent the month after the tsunami

removing boats and debris from the harbor while addressing the effects of spilled oil and fuel in the area. Funding for this initial cleanup totaled about \$3.1 million. The next step will

be dredging out the mounds of sand and sediment deposited in the harbor. Federal emergency funds are expected to cover about 75 percent of the cleanup costs. 

Schedule of Events

For more information on these meetings, please see our website (www.pcouncil.org/events/csevents.html) or call toll-free (866) 806-7204.

Salmon Amendment Committee Work Session

Purpose: To finalize alternatives and analyses for an amendment to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan to address the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements for annual catch limits and accountability measures.

Dates: May 16-17, 2011

Location: Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland

Contact: Chuck Tracy (chuck.tracy@noaa.gov)

Sardine Research Planning Workshop

Purpose: To develop a sardine survey plan to compare the results of abundance estimates developed with different survey methods; to improve collaborative research opportunities and coordination; and to plan details of budget, schedule and staff. The meeting is open to the public, although workshop participation is by invitation only.

Dates: May 23-24, 2011

Location: Best Western Inn by the Sea, La Jolla, CA

Contact: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Conference Call

Purpose: To plan for acquiring data and information for a review of groundfish essential fish habitat, to review Council action from the April 2011 meeting, and to discuss next steps.

Dates: May 31, 2011, 12:00-2:00 pm

Location: Listening station at Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland

Contact: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: June 7-12, 2011

Location: DoubleTree Hotel Spokane City Center

Contact: Don McIsaac (donald.mcisaac@noaa.gov)

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