

RESOLVE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Alverson, Phil Anderson, Ralph Brown, Neal Coenen, Eileen Cooney, Bob Fletcher, Dave Hanson, Bill Robinson, Patty Wolf, and Don McIsaac

CC: Jim Lone, Yvonne deReynier, Dan Waldeck, and Jim Glock

FROM: Debra Nudelman

SUBJECT: PFMC Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan Development Committee Meeting—
Summary and Action Items

Thank you for your efforts at the August 24th and 25th Pacific Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan Development Committee meeting. This memo includes a brief meeting summary, the action items list, and outline for the September Council meeting presentation of the final draft Groundfish Strategic Plan and executive summary documents.

Progress and Updates Since the June Committee and Council Meetings

On Thursday morning, the Committee began the meeting by reviewing the proposed agenda and providing updates of activities since the June meeting including wide distribution and circulation of the draft Groundfish strategic plan and executive summary documents with a cover letter from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) describing the public comment phase. The state representatives summarized the public comment received at the nine public meetings held in Washington, Oregon and California during late July and early August. Overall, there was significant attendance and participation at the meetings; it was noted that many attendees were individuals who would otherwise have not been able to attend Council meetings.

At the Committee's request during the June meeting, Yvonne deReynier of NMFS was asked to address a number of technical writing tasks that had been identified and agreed-upon by the Committee members. The goal of this request was not to alter the substance of the document, rather to make the document easier to read and understand, to improve the formatting and structure, and do minor edits, refinements to grammar, etc.

The facilitator reviewed the improvements and refinements made to the draft Groundfish Strategic Plan document and executive summary as noted above as well as describing the addition of introductory text that explained how the document was developed as well as an addition to the vision section that better described the urgency and need for strategic planning in

the Groundfish fishery as requested during public comment at the June Council meeting. The Committee briefly commented on the refined document and agreed to further discuss any additional changes during the Friday portion of the meeting. Finally, Council staff reviewed the advisory entity and public comment received thus far and stated that a summary would be provided at the September Council meeting.

Considering Advisory Entity and Public Comment, Necessary Edits and Revisions and Finalizing the Strategic Plan Document

The Committee discussed the range of topics raised in the public meetings and in the written advisory entity and public comment letters received by the Council thus far. After further review and discussion, the facilitator worked with the Committee members to develop an overall list of the categories of issues raised. The following list highlights the topics that Committee members discussed and considered over the two-day meeting both for potential revisions and improvements to the documents, as well as for potential additions, deletions and/or refinement to the strategic plan recommendations.

Public Meeting, Public Comment, and Advisory Entity Topics for Consideration

- Permit stacking – needs to be simplified, address voluntary vs. mandatory
- Capacity reduction issues- some say more than 50% needed, others say less than 50% needed, especially as linked to economic viability
- Big vs. small fisher issue- how will capacity reduction be made and how best to provide for balance and diversity for those remaining in the fishery?
- Buyback issues- request for emphasis on phasing in with early allocation
- Observers/Full retention/Bycatch- need to be more assertive on all of these issues
- Allocation- early allocation linked with permit stacking to increase certainty and so that fishers can know what they are purchasing, concern regarding shift to other fisheries, sport/commercial split
- IFQ's- good or bad, confusion over options vs. recommendations
- Open access issues- MLR's of 1,000 lbs, confusion about effects
- Area management/state management for nearshore- interest in area endorsements and interest in delegation to states for the nearshore fishery
- Marine reserves- as linked to habitat issues, careful of getting in front of the Council process
- Whiting fishery- some believe it is overcapitalized at shoreline
- Processors and supporting sectors- issues need to be addressed
- Funding for implementing strategies- recognize need for significant change, no easy answers
- Structure and Formatting issues: need to better differentiate between options and recommendations, express the urgency, discuss how to inform/persuade Congress and others, show which strategies are outside Council authority and what to do about it, and more explanation of what happens during implementation.

Committee members spent the rest of the day and the majority of Friday discussing and considering each of the above categories of input, comment, and suggestions from the public and advisory entities. Committee members agreed to work to improve the overall text of the document but felt strongly that the recommendations would carry the strategic plan from a guidance document into the implementation phase and should receive the greatest attention.

Thus, the bulk of the Committee meeting time was spent reviewing each one of the proposed recommendations under every section of the plan to: (1) add, delete, refine, or revise the recommendation based on consideration of the public comment and advisory entity input received thus far, and (2) to address any identified inconsistencies or duplication between recommendations. By the end of the two-day meeting, the Committee had reviewed and reached consensus agreement on every recommendation and the final revised recommendations were incorporated into the final draft Groundfish Strategic Plan document for presentation at the September Council meeting.

Strategic Plan Development Phase vs. the Implementation Phase

The Committee also spent time deciding what to do with the significant amount of public comment that was directed towards “how” the plan should be implemented rather than “what” the strategic plan should include as a guidance document. The Committee agreed that it was necessary to differentiate between those types of comments that were made to improve the Strategic Plan document (the “what”) and ensure that they were considered now during this strategic plan development phase versus those comments that were raising issues for implementation (the “how”), as those should be addressed during the implementation phase that will begin after the final strategic plan is adopted by the Council. The Committee developed some process steps and tasks to complete during implementation as described below.

Process steps for after adoption of recommendations and moving into the implementation phase

- Consider all advisory entity and public comments related to implementation of the plan
- Develop an overall implementation plan with priorities and phasing in of the recommendations
- Develop a schedule with milestones to ensure the recommendations are implemented in a timely fashion
- Provide detailed summary of the public comments as utilized during the implementation phase

Finalizing the Strategic Plan Document and Executive Summary Documents

Thursday evening, the Committee members agreed to read through the comments and documents one more time and reconvene on Friday to consider final edits and revisions. On Friday morning, the Committee worked through each section of the document and offered their final set of revisions, edits and refinements to the strategic plan documents. As the Committee members developed and agreed upon edits and revisions, Yvonne deReynier and the facilitator incorporated them into the final draft document. The Committee members discussed a wide variety of proposed edits and changes to the document. Just before lunch, the Committee used the SSC advisory entity submission as a checklist to see if those identified topics and suggestions had been considered; certain revisions were made based on the ideas and suggestions offered. After lunch, the Committee revisited the overall list of topics developed from reviewing all of the advisory and public comment submissions, and developed additional refinements and revisions to the document based on public comment and suggestions.

By early afternoon, the Committee agreed that the document was significantly improved and the refinements were sufficient for finalizing and circulating the final draft Groundfish Strategic Plan document and the executive summary document in the Council briefing books and at the Council meeting. Committee members reached a consensus agreement on the changes that should be incorporated to the documents at the conclusion of the meeting to meet the Council briefing book deadline for circulation prior to and at the September Council meeting. Committee members also agreed that any comments that were received after the Committee meeting would be included in the supplemental materials, available for review at the Council meeting and considered along with the advisory entity and public comment received at the September Council meeting. The revised final draft strategic plan and executive summary would be presented to the Council with a request for adoption and implementation.

Finally, the Committee decided it would be helpful to have a transmittal letter to include as supplemental material for distribution to the Council family and for the public at the September meeting. This letter could help to explain how the advisory entity and public comment was considered by the Committee, the interest in continued involvement by the industry and public during the implementation phase, and as a way of highlighting the overall refinements to the strategic plan document. Neal Coenen agreed to draft the letter with the Committee's agreed-upon content and the Council staff agreed to circulate it (see action item list).

Preparing for the September Council Meeting Presentation

After lunch on Friday, the Committee prepared for the Wednesday, September 6th Council meeting presentation. The group identified the topics to cover in the presentation and requested that the facilitator provide the summary report to the Council. The following list highlights the Council presentation topics.

Council Presentation Outline

- Topics covered at the Committee meeting and amount of time to review each area (Public meetings, submitted comments from public and advisory entities, June Council meeting comments)
- Plan vs. Implementation phase comments -- explain why comments were considered for the plan development or will be considered during implementation and how/why they are so important to effective implementation
- Describe highlights of the changes to the final draft document, executive summary and the recommendations and explain why the refinements and revisions were made
- Answer questions from Council members, as requested

Next Step Tasks, Timeframes, Public Comment and Meeting Summary

The Committee finalized its discussions by summarizing the next step tasks, timeframes and preparation tasks for the September Council meeting. The assignments and deadlines are identified in the attached action item list. Public comment was provided for at various times throughout the meeting. The Committee utilized its content during the meeting. The Committee concluded its business and the meeting was adjourned.

PFMC Groundfish Fishery Strategic Plan Development Committee
August Meeting Action Item List

Action Item	Who	When
1. Incorporate all Committee edits and revisions to the Strategic Plan document, the recommendations and the executive summary; submit the final draft Groundfish Strategic Plan document and executive summary for Council distribution	Yvonne deReynier and Debra Nudelman to Council Staff	By cob 8/25
2. Prepare Meeting Summary and flip charts notes and distribute to Committee and Council staff for further distribution	Debra Nudelman to Committee members and Council staff for distribution	By cob 9/5
3. Draft Strategic Plan Committee transmittal letter including all agreed-upon information and submit to Council staff for distribution with the strategic plan documents.	Neal Coenen to Committee members and Council Staff	By cob 9/8

