

UPDATE OF COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES DOCUMENT

Since the inception of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), formal written operating procedures have been developed and adopted by the Council to guide various processes associated with the requirements and obligations described in the original Magnuson Act and its 1996 reauthorization and amendment, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. These Council Operating Procedures (COP) specify how the Council and its advisory entities conduct meetings, consider public comment, develop fishery management plans and amendments, adopt regulatory measures, and deal with special processes of importance to the Council. As some COP have not been reviewed for several years and some changes in procedures had not formally been described in writing, the Council assigned a comprehensive review and update of the full COP document.

Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1, entails a review of the 19 existing COP and drafts for two new COP dealing with (1) the Groundfish Allocation Committee and (2) Ad-Hoc Committees. In these COP, text in ~~strikeout~~ is a suggested deletion, text in underline is a policy change previously adopted or indicated by the Council or suggested policy-neutral clarification, **reverse shaded** text is a suggested addition or change with potential policy implications, and [straight brackets] designate explanatory rationale phrases for suggested revisions.

At the September 2004 Council meeting, the Council deferred any action on the COP document to the November 2004 Council meeting. At the November 2004 Council meeting, this agenda item was not brought up for Council decision making due to time constraints. Advisory Body statements were distributed during the week in anticipation that the agenda item would be addressed, however, the statements were not presented for the opportunity for questioning by the Council. No public testimony was taken at that time.

At this meeting, the Council task is to consider adopting some or all of the revisions, providing guidance on further revisions, or postponing consideration of some or all of the revisions until the next Council meeting. The COP review document (Agenda item B.3.a, Attachment 1) is unchanged from the November 2004 Council meeting. Attachment 2 is a general summary of the changes in the full COP document that includes a bold highlight for COP that involve changes that are relatively minor. The six Advisory Body statements prepared for the November Council meeting and the two prepared for the September Council meeting, are included as reference materials.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1, and provide guidance on adoption, further revision, or further process on the COP language contained in the agenda item.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 1: draft *Council Operating Procedures As Amended Through September, 2004*.
2. Agenda Item B.3.a, Attachment 2: Summary of COP, Attachment 1.
3. Agenda Item B.3.b, November 2004 CPSAS Report.
4. Agenda Item B.3.b, November 2004 CPSMT Report.
5. Agenda Item B.3.b, November 2004 EC Report.
6. Agenda Item B.3.b, November 2004 GAP Report.
7. Agenda Item B.3.b, November 2004 GMT Report.
8. Agenda Item B.3.b, November 2004 MEW Report.
9. Agenda Item B.3.b, September 2004 SAS Report.
10. Agenda Item B.3.b, September 2004 SSC Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Review and Approve Proposed Updates to COP Document

PFMC
02/18/05