

PROPOSED AGENDA
Groundfish Management Team

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Yakima Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
June 26, 2000

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2000 - 7 A.M.

A. Call to Order

Jim Hastie, Co-Chair

This is a working meeting to finish business that was not completed at the previous Groundfish Management Team (GMT) meeting. The GMT will meet with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, June 26 and will meet separately and with the GAP throughout the week to address agenda items and other issues that may come up during the Council meeting.

B. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Management, including Sablefish Three-Tier Fishery Issues

C. Stock Assessment Priorities for 2001

D. Strategic Plan

E. Rebuilding Plans for Cowcod and Canary Rockfish

F. Other Issues on Council Agenda, as Time Permits

ADJOURN

PFMC
06/14/00

PROPOSED AGENDA
Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Umatilla Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
June 26 - 28, 2000

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2000 - 8 A.M.

A. Call to Order and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Administrative Matters

1. Report of the Executive Director Don McIsaac
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve April 2000 Minutes
4. Open Discussion
(.5 hours)

A suggestion for the amount of time each agenda item should take is provided in the agenda. At the time the agenda is approved, priorities can be set and these times revised. Discussion leaders should determine whether more or less time is required and request an amendment to the agenda as needed.

Committee member work assignments are noted in parentheses at the end of each agenda item. The first name listed is the discussion leader and the second the rapporteur.

B. Salmon Management

3. Salmon Methodology Reviews
 - b. SSC Clarification of Methodological Bias (*statement drafted previous to meeting*)
 - d. SSC Update on Proposed Review Schedule
(8:30 A.M., .5 hours, Zhou, Conrad)

C. Marine Reserves

1. Staff Report on Phase I Considerations of Marine Reserves as a Management Measure Jim Seger
(9 A.M., 2 hours, Sylvia, Hanna)

D. Groundfish Management

4. Stock Assessment Priorities for 2001 Cyreis Schmitt
(11 A.M., .5 hours, Young, Byrne)

A. SSC Administrative and Other Matters

5. Review of Halibut Bycatch Estimates Cyreis Schmitt
(11:30 P.M., 1 hour, Conser, Stauffer)

LUNCH

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

10. Process for Technical Review and Monitoring of Rebuilding Plans (1:30 P.M., 2 hours, Jagielo, Hill) Cyreis Schmitt

A. SSC Administrative and Other Matters (continued)

6. Closed Session (*MEETING WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS*) (3:30 P.M.)

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000 - 8 A.M.

A. SSC Administrative and Other Matters (continued)

7. Review and Finalize Statements B.3.d. (*due to Council at approximately 9 A.M.*) and C.1.; Review Statements D.4. and D.10. (8 A.M., 1 hour)

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

13. Default Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) Fishing Rate within the Harvest Rate Policy (9 A.M., 2 hours, Francis, Conser) Jim Glock

A. SSC Administrative and Other Matters (continued)

8. Review and Finalize Statements D.4. and D.10. (11 A.M., 1 hour)

LUNCH

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

11. Canary Rockfish Rebuilding Plan Development (1 P.M., 1 hour, Byrne, Sylvia) Jim Glock
12. Cowcod Rebuilding Plan Development (2 P.M., 1 hour, Hanna, Jagielo) Jim Glock
3. Strategic Plan (3 P.M., 2 hours, Conrad, Thomson)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
4 P.M.
Public comments on fishery issues not on the agenda are accepted at this time.

GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN BRIEFING FOR ALL STANDING COMMITTEES
There will be a briefing of the draft groundfish strategic plan by the Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Development Committee to Council members, standing committees, and interested public.
7 P.M.
Willamette Room

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2000 - 8 A.M.

A. SSC Administrative and Other Matters

7. Review Statements D.3. (*due to Council at approximately 9 A.M.*), D.11., D.12., and D.13. (8 A.M., 1.5 hours)

H. Council Administrative Matters

5. Research and Data Needs Document Jim Seger
(9:30 A.M., 2 hours, SSC Subcommittee Chairs)

F. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

3. Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline and Other Specifications for 2001 Doyle Hanan
(11:30 A.M., 1 hour, Stauffer, Young)
6. Status of CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendments for Bycatch and Market Squid MSY, Acceptable Biological Catch, and Tribal Fishing Rights Doyle Hanan
(12:30 P.M., 1 hour, Hill, Francis)

A. SSC Administrative Matters (continued)

9. Review and Finalize Statements D.11., D.12., D.13., F.3., F.6., and H.5. (1:30 P.M.)

ADJOURN

PFMC
06/15/00

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES
Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Deschutes Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
April 3 -4, 2000

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8 A.M. by Chair, Cynthia Thomson. Dr. Don McIsaac, Executive Director, provided some opening comments and noted for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) the key issues where the Council would look to the SSC for guidance: Salmon Methodology Reviews, Harvest Rate Policy, Rebuilding Plans, and the Plan Amendment to Address Bycatch.

The agenda was approved.

Members in Attendance

Mr. Alan Byrne, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nampa, ID
Mr. Robert Conrad, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, WA
Dr. Ramon Conser, National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, CA
Dr. Susan Hanna, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
Dr. Kevin Hill, California Department of Fish and Game, La Jolla, CA
Mr. Tom Jagielo, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA
Dr. Peter Lawson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Newport, OR
Dr. Stephen Ralston, National Marine Fisheries Service, Tiburon, CA
Ms. Cynthia Thomson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Cruz, CA
Dr. Shijie Zhou, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Portland, OR

Members Absent

Dr. Robert Francis, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Dr. Gary Stauffer, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA
Dr. Gilbert Sylvia, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR
Dr. Richard Young, Crescent City, CA

SSC Administrative Matters

The SSC reviewed subcommittee assignments from the past year and determined the composition of the subcommittees for 2000. Committee assignments are generally unchanged from 1999, except for the addition of Dr. Ray Conser to the Coastal Pelagic Species Subcommittee. Assignments are as follows:

Salmon	Groundfish	Coastal Pelagic Species	Economic
Alan Byrne	Ray Conser, <i>Chair</i>	Ray Conser	Susan Hanna, <i>Chair</i>
Robert Conrad	Tom Jagielo	Robert Francis, <i>Chair</i>	Gil Sylvia
Kevin Hill	Steve Ralston	Tom Jagielo	Cynthia Thomson
Pete Lawson, <i>Chair</i>	Gary Stauffer	Steve Ralston	Richard Young
Shijie Zhou	Gil Sylvia	Gary Stauffer	

Open Discussion

The SSC discussed the scope and content of the upcoming meeting with members of the Salmon Technical Team. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the September 2000 Council meeting. The purpose is to provide the SSC a better understanding of the Salmon management process. Content that was discussed included: overview, with as much detail as possible; technical stock size projections and stock size estimates; forecasting estimates; natural versus hatchery stocks; stocks of major concern; management models; stock distribution; description of fisheries on Council-managed stocks and fisheries on non-Council-managed stocks; explanation of how the various management models "fit together;" descriptions of the various regions involved (e.g., Columbia River, Puget Sound, Klamath Management Zone). The SSC also discussed and agreed that it would be beneficial for Council members (if interested) to attend this informational session.

The SSC then briefly discussed their relationship within the Council family, focusing on the perceived lack of understanding (by Council members and Council advisory committees) about the role of the SSC in the Council process. Several suggestions for improving levels of awareness and understanding were provided, including: initiating more informal interaction between the Council and advisory committees, and relying on Council staff to orient and educate technical committees about the role and purpose of the SSC.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Comments to the Council

The following text contains SSC comments to the Council. (Related SSC discussion not included in written comment to the Council is provided in italicized text).

Salmon Management

Methodology Reviews for 2000

Mr. Bill Tweit of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reviewed the current status of the coho cohort analysis project. This is a cooperative project between WDFW, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northwest Indian Fish Commission, and Treaty Tribes of Western Washington. The objective of this project is to reconstruct coho salmon cohorts for the 1986 through 1991 time period. One important product of this project will be estimates of exploitation rates which should be less biased than those currently used by the coho fishery regulatory assessment model (FRAM). This project is ongoing and has no projected completion date. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) identifies this as a very important project that requires completion. The database produced by the project should be the basis for any new models developed to address fishery management, including coho FRAM. The SSC recommends this project be given the highest priority by the agencies involved and completed as soon as possible. The SSC looks forward to reviewing the results of this project in the near future.

There has been no recent progress on the new Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM). This new model is badly needed and should receive the highest priority for completion. The SSC expects to see documentation of the new KOHM in September, prior to the October Council meeting.

In November, the SSC was informed that changes to the chinook FRAM to accommodate selective fisheries were not complete. The SSC needs a demonstration of the performance of the new chinook FRAM as part of its review process. Review of the new chinook FRAM needs to occur in October if the model is to be used for management in the 2001 season.

Three specific areas of possible bias related to the data used in the current chinook FRAM were brought to the attention of the SSC. These were:

- I. Coded wire tags used to represent Lower Columbia River wild chinook stocks.
- II. Spring chinook stock composition in the non-treaty troll fishery.
- III. Encounter and shaker mortality rates in the treaty troll summer chinook fishery.

The demonstration of the performance of the new chinook FRAM should address these issues, but should not be limited to these three items. It should be much broader and include a demonstration of the robustness of the model to changes in the data and other model parameters.

Documentation of changes to methodologies proposed for the 2001 salmon management season should be submitted to the Council office no later than September 29, 2000. This will ensure the SSC has adequate time for proper review.

It has been at least eight years since the SSC last reviewed the methodologies used for preseason salmon abundance forecasts. Methodologies and data used for many of these forecasts have changed substantially since that time. The SSC recognizes that formal documentation of the forecast methodologies is a significant project for the agencies involved. The SSC anticipates conducting reviews of coast-wide forecast methodologies for coho and chinook salmon in October 2001 and requests that affected agencies plan accordingly.

Identification of Stocks not Meeting Escapement Goals for Three Consecutive Years

Mr. Doug Milward of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) identified stocks that failed to meet their escapement goals for the past three years. All stocks that failed to meet escapement goals, with the exception of Queets River fall coho, were exempted from the overfishing criteria. Exempted stocks are either harvested at rates less than 5% in Council-managed fisheries or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The Queets River fall coho escapement has been less than the 5,800 floor the past three years. During this time period Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Quinault Indian Nation agreed on yearly escapement targets that were less than 5,800 fish. In one of the three years the coho escapement met the target. It is our understanding this stock would not be considered overfished under the current plan; however, under Amendment 14 it would qualify as overfished.

In general, setting the escapement goal equal to the escapement floor is a strategy with a high risk of falling beneath the floor. The mandatory overfishing reviews and rebuilding plans are an expensive consequence of such management. The Scientific and Statistical Committee recommends the Council manage fisheries with buffers above the floors. This principle also applies to groundfish and other fisheries.

Groundfish Management

Harvest Rate Policy

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) commends the Groundfish Harvest Rate Policy Workshop Panel (Panel) for the high caliber of technical review it has brought to bear on the question of West Coast groundfish productivity. Through written papers, presentations, and a robust interactive dialog, the workshop comprehensively reviewed the best available scientific information on appropriate "risk-neutral" proxies of F_{MSY} . The twelve written contributions to the workshop will be submitted for publication in the primary scientific literature.

The draft Panel report 1) summarized the scientific and management background of the harvest proxy issue, 2) concisely explained some areas of common confusion, and 3) recommended default groundfish F_{spr} harvest rates for Pacific whiting ($F_{40\%}$), *Sebastes* and *Sebastolobus* ($F_{50\%}$), flatfish ($F_{40\%}$), and other groundfish ($F_{45\%}$). The report notes these recommendations were not developed as precautionary changes, but instead they attempt to correct previous estimates of productivity.

The SSC notes that qualitatively different levels of uncertainty are associated with the Panel's proxy estimates. Further, the SSC recommends the Council develop precautionary adjustments that reflect these varying levels of uncertainty when developing target F values for the fishery. Precaution is warranted, because 1) while the proxy values were recommended as "risk-neutral" values for the groups,

some individual species in the aggregations are less productive than the average and may be overfished if the group proxy is applied, and 2) estimation and process error result in the chance of exceeding the true F_{MSY} value for any individual species, even if the “best estimate” proxy is applied.

The SSC's preliminary review supports the Panel's consensus findings. The SSC will complete its review of the F_{MSY} proxy issue in June.

Rebuilding Plans for Canary Rockfish and Cowcod

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the proposed schedule for development of rebuilding plans for canary rockfish and cowcod. Supplemental Attachment B.10.a. was not available for review, but Mr. Jim Glock was present to brief the SSC on this schedule.

The canary rockfish and cowcod rebuilding plan authors will be performing the analyses and drafting technical reports for review at the June Council meeting. Since the Council will need to take final action on these rebuilding plans in September, the SSC emphasizes these draft plans should be completed in time for adequate review prior to the June meeting. The SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee would like an opportunity to review the draft rebuilding plans prior to the June meeting, with inclusion in the June Council meeting Briefing Book as an absolute deadline. In addition, the SSC would like the authors to present their analyses to the committee at the June meeting.

The SSC also discussed the status and schedules for lingcod, Pacific ocean perch, and any other species that may fall into the overfished category and require a rebuilding plan. Results from new assessments should be incorporated into rebuilding projections, and any modifications to rebuilding plans for these species should be reviewed by the SSC either at the June or September Council meetings.

Status of Groundfish Strategic Plan

Ms. Debra Nudelman from Resolve, Inc. gave the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) an update on the status of the groundfish strategic plan. The SSC is encouraged by the progress the Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Committee has made on the plan. The SSC recognizes the importance of this report and looks forward to the draft report in June.

Plan Amendment to Address Bycatch and Management Measure Issues

Ms. Yvonne deReynier National Marine Fisheries Service presented a review of highlights of the draft amendment 13 to the groundfish fishery management plan (FMP).

There is little scientific confirmation of the effectiveness of current measures which have been implemented to reduce bycatch. In the future, bycatch reduction provisions should be accompanied by appropriate monitoring activities to determine their effectiveness. The alternatives chosen under issue 3 (Bycatch Reduction Provisions) should reference which reporting methodologies under issue 2 (Standardized Reporting Methodologies) would be appropriate.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee questioned the potential efficacy of certain alternatives listed in the draft FMP amendment. Specifically, Alternative 2 under issue 2, a stand-alone mandatory logbook program, is unlikely to be an acceptable reporting methodology, because it would not provide verifiable estimates of bycatch. Alternatives 3 and 4 include provisions for verifying bycatch through onboard observation. Under issue 3, it is unclear how alternative 2 would provide adequate bycatch reduction, because it relies on a groundfish strategic plan which has not yet been completed.

Research and Data Needs

Mr. Jim Seger (Council staff) reviewed for the SSC the Council Operating Procedures for updating the Council's Research and Data Needs document. This process relies heavily on SSC guidance, especially from the various SSC subcommittees. The general process is:

1. The Council's management teams and advisory subpanels provide recommendations for needed research and data to Mr. Seger.
2. Mr. Seger works with the subcommittee chairs to facilitate full subcommittee review of the recommendations well in advance of the June meeting.
3. Mr. Seger compiles the recommendations for the Council's June Briefing Book.
4. Management teams and advisory subpanels review the material to ensure it reflects their initial recommendations.
5. At the June meeting, the full SSC reviews the recommendations and provides comments and advice to the Council;
6. The Council takes action on the SSC's recommendations.
7. Mr. Seger revises the Council's Research and Data Needs document.

Marine Reserves

Mr. Jim Seger reported on progress to date in developing the objectives and conceptual framework for the use of marine reserves. He reviewed the technical analysis used in Phase 1 of the process and the Council decision-making process for adopting reserves as a management tool. He noted that his intent in presenting the preliminary draft report was to move the process forward by stimulating committee and Council discussion prior to a final decision on Phase 1 in June 2000.

Public Comment

Dr. Joshua Sladek-Nowlis, Center for Marine Conservation, spoke to the need for incorporating precaution into the Council's estimations of maximum sustainable yield (MSY). He noted that MSY should be treated as a maximum allowable catch, not a target total allowable catch. He suggested that the SSC provide for the Council illustrative comments and scientific evaluation of uncertainty and risk. It was his opinion that the SSC should provide management options to the Council, including examples and illustrations of level of risk-aversion in each option.

Adjournment

The SSC adjourned at approximately 4:30 P.M., Tuesday, April 4, 2000.

PFMC
06/15/00

PROPOSED AGENDA
Habitat Steering Group

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Tualatin Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
June 26, 2000

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2000 - 9 A.M.

A. Call to Order (9 a.m.)

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions Michele Robinson, Chair
2. Approval of Habitat Steering Group (HSG) Agenda

B. Review of Council Agenda (9:15 a.m.-9:30 a.m.)

1. Identification of Habitat-Related Issues on Council Agenda HSG

C. Action Items (9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.)

1. CalFed Rod Fujita, EDF
2. Review/Comment on Marine Reserve Report
3. Review/Comment on Groundfish Strategic Plan
(Habitat Section, Marine Reserve Section)
4. Interior Columbia Basin Management Comments Gregg Mauser, IDFG

D. Informational Presentations or Updates (11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.)

1. Western Oregon Habitat Conservation Plan Mike Bordelon, Oregon Dept. of Forestry

Lunch (12 p.m.-1 p.m.)

D. Informational Presentations or Updates (continued) (1 p.m.)

2. Puget Sound Groundfish Endangered Species Act Listing (1 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) WDFW
3. Marine Habitat Issues (1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.)
 - a. Fishing Gear Impacts - Review Draft Agenda
(for 6 p.m. Monday meeting) Michele Robinson, WDFW
 - b. Update on Fishing Gear Impact Efforts Cyreis Schmitt, NMFS
 - c. Update on Marine Habitat Classification Scheme, Habitat
Areas of Particular Concern Work Cyreis Schmitt, NMFS
4. Updates on Rules Implementation
 - a. Update on Habitat Approach and 4(d) Rule (2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.) Rosemary Furfey, NMFS
 - b. Update on Technical Guidance for Salmon Essential
Fish Habitat (2:45 p.m.-2:55 p.m.) Nora Berwick, NMFS
5. Update on San Francisco Airport Expansion (2:55 p.m.-3 p.m.) Nora Berwick, NMFS
6. Oregon Forest Practices (3 p.m.-3:30 p.m.) Paul Heikkila, OSU
7. Olympic Coast Sanctuary, Marine Conservation
Group (3 p.m.-3:45 p.m.) Michele Robinson, WDFW

Break (3:45 p.m.)

E. Public Comment Period (4 p.m.)

Comments of members of the public on issues not on the agenda.

F. HSG Member Briefings (4:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.)

HSG

G. September Meeting Agenda (Sacramento) (4:45 p.m.-5 p.m.)

HSG

H. Report to Council/Comment on Council Agenda (5 p.m.-5:45 p.m.)

HSG

ADJOURN (5:45 p.m.)

PFMC
06/14/00

PROPOSED AGENDA
Budget Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Doubletree Hotel - Columbia River
Umpqua Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
June 26, 2000

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2000 - 10 A.M.

A. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Jim Harp, Chair

B. Executive Director Report

Donald McIsaac

C. Legislative Update

Dave Hanson

D. Status of Groundfish Strategic Plan Facilitation Contract

E. Other

ADJOURN

PFMC
06/21/00

PROPOSED AGENDA
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Willamette Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
June 26-29, 2000

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2000 -11 A.M.

A. Call to Order

Don Hansen, Chair

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda

B. Stock Assessment Priorities for 2000 (Council Agenda Item D.4.)

Stock assessments that will be completed in 2001 must be identified so analysts can begin compiling data and making other preparations.

C. Staff Report on Phase I Considerations of Marine Reserves as a Management Measure (Council Agenda Item C.1.)

The Council's scheduled action is to release the Phase 1 report for public review.

D. Draft Groundfish Strategic Plan (Council Agenda Item D.3.)

The draft strategic plan document is provided in the briefing material. There will be a briefing Tuesday evening that Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) members should attend, but in order to prepare comments in time for the Council session, the GAP will have to begin its deliberations earlier.

E. Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments (Council Agenda Item D.5.) and Implementation of Rockfish Bycatch Rates (Council Agenda Item D.7.)

The GMT will present a detailed summary of landings data through the end of May. The GAP should advise the Council on trip limit adjustments for July through September. It is unlikely any adjustments can be put into effect on July 1. Also, at the April meeting, the Council adopted 16% as the discard rate adjustment to be applied to minor rockfish (and bocaccio) harvest guidelines this year. The Council will discuss ways to reduce rockfish bycatch in 2000 and begin planning for 2001.

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2000 - 6 P.M.

Legal Gear/Habitat Impacts Workgroup Meeting

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000 - 8 A.M.

F. Sablefish Three-Tier Fishery - Season Dates and Tier Limits (Council Agenda Item D.6.) and Limited Entry Permit Transfer Restrictions

The GAP made recommendations in April, but the GMT revised its calculations after the meeting. The Council asked the GAP to reconsider the permit transfer restrictions, in particular how they affect the fixed gear sablefish fishery. Should the restriction be modified? GAP comments should be presented to the Council under the open comment period for issues not on their agenda.

G. Plan Amendment to Address Bycatch and Management Measure Issues (Council Agenda Item D.8.)

An Environmental Assessment, including preliminary economic analysis, is included in the briefing material. Final Council action is scheduled for this meeting.

H. American Fisheries Act Management Measures (Council Agenda D.9.)

I. Process for Technical Review and Monitoring of Rebuilding Plans (Council Agenda Item D.10.)

J. Canary Rockfish and Cowcod Rebuilding Plans (Council Agenda Items D.11. and D.12.)

Preliminary rebuilding analyses should be available at the meeting. The Council needs to begin developing rebuilding plans as quickly as possible, including any allocation proposals and non-routine management measures (seasons, gear restrictions, etc.). Suggestions about process would also be appropriate.

I. Default Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) Fishing Rate within the Harvest Rate Policy (Council Agenda Item D.13.)

At the April meeting, the GAP presented recommendations to the Council on this issue, in particular how the proposed rates should be implemented. Any additional comments should be prepared at this time.

J. Process for Designating Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (Council Agenda G.2.)

At the April meeting, NMFS addressed the Habitat Steering Group about a process for designating habitat areas of particular concern. The GAP should consider this topic, also. NMFS expects to make a presentation to the GAP at 11 a.m.

K. Other Council Agenda Items as Time Permits

Any additions or revisions to the GAP's previous comments?

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000 -7 P.M.

There will be a briefing on the draft groundfish strategic plan by the Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Development Committee to Council members, standing committees, and interested public in this room. GAP members should attend this meeting in order to prepare comments in time for the Council plenary.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2000 - 8 A.M.

Review Statements and Complete Any Unfinished Business

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2000 - 8 A.M.

Continue as Necessary

ADJOURN

PFMC
06/14/00

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Deschutes Room
1401 North Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
April 3-5, 2000

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mr. Don Hansen, Chair.

Members in Attendance

Mr. Wayne Butler
Mr. Barry Cohen
Mr. John Crowley
Mr. Ken Culver
Mr. Jeff Folkema
Mr. Tom Ghio
Mr. Don Hansen, Chair
Mr. Marion Larkin

Mr. Peter Leipzig
Mr. Rod Moore, Vice Chair
Mr. Dale Myer
Dr. Mark Powell (for Dr. Joshua Sladek Nowlis)
Mr. Jim Potts
Mr. Gary Smith
Mr. Kelly Smotherman
Mr. Frank Warrens

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Comments to the Council on April 2000 Agenda Items

GROUND FISH HARVEST RATE POLICY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) met jointly with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to receive a presentation on the results of the Harvest Rate Policy Workshop conducted by the SSC. The GAP has the following comments on the workshop report:

1. Precautionary Approach

As recommended in the report, the GAP believes any precautionary reductions in harvest should be made as part of the annual specifications establishing optimum yields. The harvest rates recommended in the report are risk-neutral; variations from those rates should follow the normal management process.

2. Phase-In of Harvest Rates

The report suggests new harvest rates be phased in to prevent sudden adverse social and economic effects. The GAP agrees and suggests stock assessment authors be asked to calculate F_{MSY} rates when completing new stock assessments or updates. These rates would then be applied to the species/ complexes in question. Since stock assessments are conducted on a rotating basis, this allows the new harvest rates to come into effect with the adoption of the new assessments.

3. Further Research

Papers were presented at the workshop which discussed regime shifts and predator/prey relationships. The workshop report also raised questions about the calculation of B_0 . The GAP believes all of these topics deserve additional research scrutiny.

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS: RESEARCH EFFORTS

The GAP was asked to comment on issuing exempted permits for continuation of the slope trawl survey. The GAP fully supports the survey and recommends the permits be issued.

CANARY ROCKFISH ALLOCATION AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENT IN THE PINK SHRIMP AND OTHER FISHERIES

The GAP met jointly with the GMT to discuss canary rockfish catches in the pink shrimp fishery.

The GMT pointed out that, since full mortality of canary rockfish needs to be accounted for, allocation among open access gears will not solve potential problems; because it will simply convert landings to discards.

The GAP agrees and notes further, no data yet exists on the extent of canary rockfish incidental catch, because the shrimp fishery has just opened.

Because the shrimp fishery is regulated by the states, rather than the Council, the GAP recommends the states take necessary and appropriate steps to address any incidental catch problems that may occur. In this regard, the GAP suggests the states develop a tri-state approach, similar to the successful effort that has been made in Dungeness crab management. No particular management measures were recommended by the GAP.

ADOPTION OF ROCKFISH BYCATCH ESTIMATE AND INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS IN RELEVANT FISHERIES

The GAP solicited anecdotal information on rockfish bycatch from its members and others in the audience. Discussions provided the following:

- Regulations adopted for 2000 are causing major changes in fishing strategies.
- The new regulations have compounded problems in estimating bycatch.
- Limited entry vessels are not bumping up against trip limits, indicating bycatch is minimal.
- Some limited entry vessels are encountering occasional overages, but these vary by area and depth fished and cannot be rationally spread across the entire fishery in a “one-size-fits-all” pattern.
- Processors report low landings of rockfish, indicating lack of targeting.
- Open access vessels have largely converted to the live fish market; since dead fish tend to be discarded, it is impossible to estimate the level of bycatch.
- Recreational vessels encounter occasional undersize fish, which are discarded, but the recreational fleet has also developed new strategies (including changes in fishing depth) to comply with more restrictive regulations.

In summary, the GAP believes the combination of new regulations (including closures and emphasis on deep water fishing during the first two months of the year) and the lack of hard data on landings makes it impossible to estimate bycatch levels at this time. The Council should reconsider this issue in June when more data are available.

INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS INCLUDING ENGLISH SOLE AND REDBANDED ROCKFISH RETENTION REGULATIONS

The GAP discussed with the GMT proposed changes in classification of rockfish in management categories and means to avoid discarding incidentally caught flatfish. The GAP makes the following recommendations:

- Classify redbanded rockfish as a slope rockfish species.
- Classify flag rockfish as a slope rockfish species.
- Modify regulations to allow English sole to be taken with large footrope gear during the time that petrale sole can be taken with that gear (November and December 2000).
- Modify regulations to provide an incidental limit for flatfish included in the “all other flatfish” category of 400 pounds per trip when large footrope gear is used, effective May 1 through October 31, 2000.

The GAP believes these minor modifications will reduce discarding.

INSEASON ADJUSTMENT OF BLACK ROCKFISH TRIP LIMITS

The GAP met with the GMT to discuss inseason adjustments. The GAP agrees with the following cumulative and trip limit recommendations made by the GMT:

Limited Entry Fixed Gear

Nearshore Rockfish in the North: 3,000 pounds/2 months, with a maximum of 1,400 pounds of species other than black/blue rockfish.

Nearshore Rockfish in the South: 1,300 pounds/2 months.

Open Access Gear

Nearshore Rockfish in the North: 1,500 pounds/2 months, with a maximum of 700 pounds of species other than black/blue rockfish.

Near Shore Rockfish in the South: 800 pounds/2 months.

Limited Entry and Open Access Daily-Trip-Limit Sablefish

2,400 pounds/2 months. All new limits to be in effect May 1 through June 30, 2000.

In addition to the increase in open access limits noted above, the GAP supports the recommendation of the GMT for an increase for vessels landing black and blue rockfish in Pacific City, Oregon, with the limits on time and area proposed by the GMT. The GAP is aware of the unique nature of this fishery and the extra hardship imposed by this year's regulations. The GAP agrees a limited exception is appropriate.

SUMMARY OF THE 1999 LIMITED-ENTRY, FIXED-GEAR PRIMARY FISHERY FOR SABLEFISH, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2000 SEASON

The GAP received information from the GMT regarding proposals for cumulative limits for the 2000 sablefish derby fishery.

The GAP recommends the Council release for public comment the GMT options with the "92/80/60" option identified as preferred. The GAP believes this option provides a higher overhead for a mop-up fishery.

The GAP favors August 6, 2000 as the opening date for the derby fishery. This date provides the best advantages due to tide, weather, and the timing of a September mop-up fishery.

PLAN AMENDMENT FOR STOCK REBUILDING

The GAP discussed with Council staff *Draft Amendment 12 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan*. The GAP agrees a framework process for rebuilding plans is the most practical option and supports Alternative 2.

However, the GAP is concerned that adequate monitoring of the rebuilding process not be ignored. The GAP notes that NMFS recently convened a meeting to develop such a monitoring process, at which all of the Council advisory bodies were represented, and a draft monitoring process was established. The GAP understands that objections from the SSC have now delayed further work on putting a monitoring process in place. Failure to adequately monitor rebuilding progress violates the law, jeopardizes stocks that are not rebuilding as expected, and penalizes harvesters and processors who accept drastically reduced harvests over the term of a rebuilding program. Monitoring of rebuilding is essential.

REBUILDING PLANS FOR CANARY ROCKFISH AND COWCOD

The GAP discussed with Council staff the proposed schedule for developing and implementing rebuilding plans for canary rockfish and cowcod. The GAP recognizes the need to comply with statutory provisions on rebuilding and agrees the time schedule provided will be necessary. However, the GAP recommends that any management actions taken under the rebuilding plan not go into effect until the beginning of the 2001 season. The GAP understands this is the intent of the schedule.

GROUND FISH OBSERVER PROGRAM

The GAP spent a considerable amount of time in debate on observer programs, their design, their coverage, their cost, how they are paid for, and what objectives they seek to achieve. A wide variety of opinions were expressed. Ultimately, the GAP agreed the draft observer program package should be adopted for public review.

The key to establishing a West Coast observer program is adequate funding to pay for it. Given the current state of affairs, the industry simply cannot afford to pay the entire cost of an observer program. The GAP was influenced in their decision on the observer program package by their understanding that this package constitutes the report to Congress on observers which was required by the Fiscal Year 2000 Commerce Appropriations Bill. Absence of that report has had a serious adverse impact on efforts to obtain funding for an observer program. Better communication between NMFS and the industry on this issue would have greatly facilitated work on getting the necessary funding to begin implementing an observer program.

Considering the costs of an observer program, the GAP strongly suggests that additional - or if necessary, alternative - means be used to provide better information on total fisheries mortality. In particular, the GAP recommends that displaced fishermen be trained and hired to serve as observers. The practical knowledge available to such men and women will be of great use in an observer program.

The GAP also again urges the Council and NMFS to move forward with a program involving landing of trip limit overages. The GAP has recommended this several times and the Council has already approved - but never implemented - a voluntary pilot project. Given the difficulty in obtaining funding for an observer program, a requirement to land overages may be the best interim means to get better information.

PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS BYCATCH AND MANAGEMENT MEASURE ISSUES - REVIEW FIRST DRAFT

The GAP reviewed the draft environmental assessment for *Amendment 13 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan* and offers the following comments:

- Issue 1 - Definition of Bycatch
The GAP supports Alternative 1 (status quo).
- Issue 2 - Standardized Reporting Methodologies
The GAP supports Alternative 3, but believes it should be expanded to allow the Council to make use of future new technologies and techniques that might be appropriate.
- Issue 3 - Bycatch Reduction
The GAP supports Alternative 4, but believes it should be expanded to include appropriately monitored landing of trip limit overages, a proposal strongly supported by the GAP on several previous occasions.
- Issue 4 - Management Measures Frameworking
The GAP supports Alternative 3, because it provides the greatest flexibility to the Council while allowing for greater public participation.
- Issue 5 - Housekeeping Measures
The GAP supports Alternative 2.

AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT

Objective Statement: To avoid adverse impact caused by the American Fisheries Act (AFA) by maintaining status quo capacity and maintaining permit value for AFA and non-AFA permit holders.

To ease in the analysis, the GAP suggests the Council limit the analysis to the following options:

The proposed options are based on the following criteria:

Catch history based on:

a. Minimum tonnage requirements (i.e., 50, 100, 500 metric tons in any one of the qualifying years).

or

b. number of deliveries (i.e., 10 deliveries in any one of the qualifying year).

Qualifying years (window periods):

a. 1995, 1996, 1997.

or

b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through September 16, 1999.

Definition: An AFA catcher vessel is a vessel that holds an AFA permit and was fishing pollock during the AFA's qualifying years.

Process: The GAP suggest the following:

1. Set participation criteria for AFA catcher vessels in the:
 - a. Mothership whiting fishery.
 - b. Shore-side whiting fishery.
 - c. Groundfish other than whiting.
2. Analyze the following participation option:
 - A. Mothership Whiting Fishery
 - A.i. Harvested (50, 100 or 500) mt whiting during any one of the following:
 - a. 1995, 1996, 1997.

or

 - b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through September 16, 1999.
 - A.ii. Made 10 deliveries during any one of the following:
 - a. 1995, 1996, 1997.

or

 - b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through September 16, 1999.
 - B. Shore-based Whiting Fishery
 - B.i. Harvested (50, 100, 500) mt whiting during any one of the following:
 - a. 1995, 1996, 1997.

or

 - b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through September 16, 1999.
 - B.ii. Made 10 deliveries during any one of the following:
 - a. 1995, 1996, 1997.

or

 - b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through September 16, 1999.

C. Groundfish other than whiting

C.i. Harvested (50, 100, 500) mt groundfish other than whiting and cannot be based on bycatch landed in the whiting fishery, during any one of the following:

a. 1995, 1996, 1997.

or

b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through September 16, 1999.

C.ii. Made 10 deliveries of groundfish other than whiting and cannot be based on bycatch landed in the whiting fishery, during any one of the following.

a. 1995, 1996, 1997.

or

b. 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 through September 16, 1999.

3. Issue AFA catcher vessels a Pacific Coast groundfish eligibility endorsement based upon meeting the eligibility criteria.
4. Non-AFA catcher vessels may participate in all Pacific Coast groundfish fisheries as per their limited entry (LE) permit and do not need an eligibility endorsement to do so. AFA catcher vessels which do not meet the selected minimum landing criteria are precluded from participation in such fisheries unless substituting for another AFA catcher vessel of similar or greater size (i.e., downsizing).
5. If an AFA catcher vessel meets the Council's selected participation criteria, then the vessel is eligible to use or obtain (lease or purchase) a limited entry trawl A permit and use it only in a fishery that the vessel qualified for under the above criteria.
6. AFA catcher vessels not meeting requirements:

Any limited entry (LE) trawl permit assigned to an AFA catcher vessel not meeting the minimum landing requirements will be revoked. The GAP suggests setting a control date to provide notice to potential purchasers of any LE permits held by AFA vessel owners which do not meet the selected minimum landing criteria will be revoked. The GAP suggest setting the control date as of April 7, 2000.

The topic of AFA as it relates to catcher-processors, motherships, and shoreside processors was not addressed by the GAP, and there is no new comments on these sectors. The GAP suggest you refer to staff's briefing Supplemental Attachment B.15.a.

**EFFORTS TO REDUCE YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH CATCH IN THE WHITING FISHERY:
REVIEW OF EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS**

The GAP received a presentation from representatives of onshore and off-shore whiting fishermen and processors regarding actions proposed for 2000 to reduce rockfish bycatch in the whiting fishery. The proposals would require a number of industry initiatives, in conjunction with state permit requirements, to avoid and minimize rockfish bycatch, as required by law. The GAP believes this program should be allowed to proceed and then analyzed at the end of the year to determine its success.

The GAP notes the program will not apply to the early California whiting fishery, as that fishery has already begun. Further, as noted by the GMT at the March 2000, Council meeting, rockfish bycatch does not appear to be a significant problem in California. Finally, the GAP notes comments made in March regarding operational difficulties with establishing this particular program in California.

However, the GAP wishes to express its strong concern over the reported high levels of salmon and rockfish bycatch in the tribal whiting fishery. These numbers are masked by NMFS' insistence on combining them with non-tribal mothership catches, which are much lower. The GAP urges the Council to take whatever steps it can to reduce salmon and rockfish bycatch in the tribal whiting fishery.

PFMC
06/14/00

PROPOSED AGENDA
Enforcement Consultants

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Tualatin Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
June 27, 2000

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000 - 5:30 P.M.

- A. Introductions
- B. Salmon Management
- C. Marine Reserves
- D. Groundfish Management
- E. Highly Migratory Species Management
- F. Coastal Pelagic Species Management
- G. Habitat Issues
- H. Industry and Interested Party Comments*
- I. Miscellaneous Items - Group Discussion
- J. Schedule for Additional Meetings

ADJOURN

PFMC
06/14/00

**GROUND FISH STRATEGIC PLAN
BRIEFING**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2000
7 P.M.**

**RIVERVIEW BALLROOM
(*Changed from the Willamette Room*)**

**There will be a briefing of the
draft groundfish strategic plan
by the
Ad-Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Development Committee**

All interested persons are invited to attend.

**Attendance is considered mandatory for
Council members, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel,
Groundfish Management Team, and
the Scientific and Statistical Committee.**

PROPOSED AGENDA
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel

Pacific Fishery Management Council
DoubleTree Hotel - Columbia River
Umatilla Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 92717
(503) 283-2111
June 29, 2000

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2000 - 10 A.M.

A. Call to Order

Peter Flournoy

B. Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) Meeting Procedures

C. Introductions of Subpanel Members and Other Attendees

D. Review and Approval of Agenda

E. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

F. Brief Summary of Developments:

1. Highly Migratory Species Plan Development Team (HMSPDT)
Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Meeting June 5-6, 2000,
Astoria, Oregon Dale Squires, Steve Croke
2. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Meeting
(June 2000) and IATTC Working Group On Drafting (May 2000)
3. Multi-Lateral High Level Conference (MHLC) VI Meeting, April 12-19, 2000,
Honolulu, Hawaii Wayne Heikkila
Norm Bartoo
4. Annual Tuna Conference, Lake Arrowhead, California
5. Developments Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC),
North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), and Pacific States
Marine Fisheries Commission
6. U.S. - Canada Albacore Treaty Peter Flournoy
7. Cetacean Take Reduction Team Meeting, Long Beach, California Chuck Janisse

G. Draft Report to Council on March and June HMSPDT Reports to the Council

1. Comments on HMSPDT Species Categorization
 - a. Species Within Management Unit
 - b. Species in Data Collection Category
2. Comments on HMSPDT State Regulation Inconsistencies and Proposals
3. Additional Comments on FMP Process and HMSPDT Report
 - a. Comments on Regulatory Systems

H. Fishery Management Plan Drafting Team Work Schedule

I. HMSAS and HMSPDT Future Meeting Schedule

**J. Liaison with NPFMC, WPFMC, MHLC, IATTC, Canada
Department of Fisheries and Oceans**

K. Financial Support for HMSAS Meetings

L. Public Comment

ADJOURN

PFMC
06/13/00