

PROPOSED AGENDA Groundfish Management Team

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
Berryessa Room (524)
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 922-8041
April 1-4, 2001

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2001 - 2:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Jim Hastie, Co-Chair

Roll Call, Introductions, Announcements, Approve Agenda, etc.

Groundfish Management

- F.2. Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation
(**Council Action:** Consider Further Implementation Measures)

- F.5. Status of Fisheries and Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(**Council Action:** Consider Inseason Adjustments)

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001 - 8 A.M.^{1/}

- F.7. Rebuilding Plan Status Report
(**Council Action:** Adopt Terms of Reference for Rebuilding Analyses; Adopt Canary Rockfish and Cowcod Rebuilding Plans; Guidance on Widow Rockfish and Other Plans)

- F.6. Future Groundfish Management Process and Schedule - 11 a.m.

The GMT will meet with the Scientific and Statistical Committee in the Comstock 3 Room to hear a presentation on this issue. NMFS and/or NOAA General Counsel will be in attendance.
(**Council Action:** Consider Changes to the Existing Groundfish Management Process)

- F.9. Bycatch Full Retention Options
(**Council Action:** Consider Implementation of Full Retention Measures)

Other Issues on the Council Agenda, as Appropriate

Review Draft Groundfish Management Team Statements, Complete Unfinished Agenda Items

ADJOURN

PFMC
03/21/01

1/ Meeting continues as necessary through Thursday, April 5, 2001

PROPOSED AGENDA
Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
Comstock 3
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 922-8041
April 2-3, 2001

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001, 8 A.M.

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

1. Report of the Executive Director
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approve March 2001 Minutes

Don McIsaac

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.

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.

4. Open Discussion (.5 hours)

B. Salmon Management

2. Identification of Stocks Not Meeting Escapement Goals
(8:30 A.M., 1 hour, Zhou, Byrne)
3. Methodology Reviews for 2001
(9:30 A.M., 1.5 hours, Lawson, Allee)

Dell Simmons

Dell Simmons and State STT Representatives

F. Groundfish Management

6. Future Groundfish Management Process and Schedule
(11 A.M., 1.5 hours, Ralston, Conser)

LUNCH

A. SSC Administrative Matters

5. Review Statements B.2 and B.3 (*Due to the Council 8:30 A.M., 04/03/01*)
(1:30 P.M., 1 hour)

C. Marine Reserves

1. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Program (CINSMP)
(2:30 P.M., 1 hour, Thomson)

LT CDR Matt Pickett

E. Coastal Pelagic Species

Kevin Hill

2. Review Capacity Goal and Related Issues
(3:30 P.M., 1 hour, Thomson, Dalton)

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

A. SSC Administrative Matters, (continued)

6. Finalize Statements B.2 and B.3; Review Statements F.6
(4:30 P.M., 1 hour)

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001, 8 A.M.

A. SSC Administrative Matters, (continued)

7. Review Statements C.1 and E.2, Finalize Statements and F.6
(8 A.M., 1 hour)

E. Coastal Pelagic Species, (continued)

3. Update on Squid Methodologies Workshop
(9 A.M., .5 hours, Hill, Lawson)

Kevin Hill

F. Groundfish Management, (continued)

2. Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation
(9:30 A.M., 1 hour, Jagielo, Conrad)

7. Rebuilding Plan Status Report
(10:30 A.M., 2 hours, Ralston – Terms of Reference, Francis – Widow Rockfish Rebuilding Analysis)

GMT/Steve Ralston

LUNCH

A. SSC Administrative Matters

8. Finalize Statements C.1 and E.2; Review and Finalize Statements E.3, F.2, and F.7
(1:30 P.M., 1.5 hours)

ADJOURN

PFMC
03/21/01

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
March 5-6, 2001

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8 A.M. by Chair Cynthia Thomson. Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, provided opening comments, noting that many of the items on the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) agenda were informational items. Thus, SSC statements were not anticipated to be necessary for many of these items. The SSC will be expected to provide a report on the B.2 and D.5.e. Review of the draft terms of reference for rebuilding plans (D.5.e) is an important topic for the Council and should receive high priority.

After a round of introductions, the meeting got underway.

The agenda was approved.

Members in Attendance

Dr. Brian Allee, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, Portland, OR
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. Michael Dalton, California State University, Monterey Bay, CA
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

Open Discussion

The SSC discussed the strong need for expertise in economics and social science on the SSC. In the recent past, review of economic analyses has not been a major focus of SSC work, largely because of the lack of formal economic analyses in Council documents. As this information is becoming critical to the Council process, the SSC should be equipped to provide guidance on these matters.

SSC Administrative Matters

The SSC reviewed subcommittee assignments from the past year and determined the composition of the subcommittees for 2001. Committee assignments are generally unchanged from 2000, except for the addition of new SSC members Drs. Dalton and Allee. Assignments are as follows:

Salmon	Groundfish	Coastal Pelagic Species	Highly Migratory Species	Economic
Brian Allee	Ray Conser	Michael Dalton	Alan Byrne	Mike Dalton, Chair
Alan Byrne	Michael Dalton	Ray Conser	Ray Conser	Cynthia Thomson
Robert Conrad	Tom Jagielo	Robert Francis, Chair	Kevin Hill, Chair	
Kevin Hill	Steve Ralston, Chair	Tom Jagielo	Cindy Thomson	
Pete Lawson, Chair	Gary Stauffer	Steve Ralston		
Shijie Zhou	Robert Francis	Gary Stauffer		

Scientific and Statistical Committee Comments to the Council

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

Salmon

Review of 2000 Fisheries and Summary of 2001 Stock Abundance Estimates

The SSC heard a summary of 2000 fisheries and projections for 2001 stock sizes from the Salmon Technical Team (STT). In general, stock abundances of coastal and Columbia River coho are predicted to be higher in 2001 than in recent years. This is especially true for Oregon Production Index (OPI) area hatchery fish. Washington coastal natural coho stocks are expected to be above their floor values. Oregon coastal natural coho are predicted to return at slightly below last year, but substantially above the parental spawner level. It remains to be seen whether this is the beginning of a trend toward higher marine survivals, or a "blip" following the 1998 El Niño, analogous to the peak returns of 1986. In either case, it is important to start planning now for the large hatchery surplus expected this fall. The Council's challenge is to take advantage of the hatchery production without adversely affecting wild stocks potentially beginning to stage a recovery. The SSC supports a fishery exploitation rate in the range of 0 to 8% on OCN coho based on the critically low 1998 parental spawning escapement, as described in the 2000 review of Amendment 13 of the salmon fishery management plan.

Chinook in 2001 are predicted to be similar in abundance to 2000. Notable exceptions are larger abundances of Klamath River age 4, and Columbia River Upriver Spring and Spring Creek Hatchery Fall chinook. California Central Valley fall chinook show a slight decline in recent years, but remain strong. Sacramento Winter Run chinook are likely to be a limiting factor for California chinook fisheries.

Preseason Report I presents stock size predictions to the nearest 100 fish, without any indication of the precision of these predictions. The SSC recommends that, in the future, predictions include a statistical measure of variability such as confidence limits or coefficients of variation. Without variance estimates it is impossible to assess the likelihood of meeting management objectives and the risks to sensitive stocks of proposed fishing seasons.

With larger hatchery stock sizes and mass-marked coho it is likely that the intensity of mark-selective fisheries will increase in the near future. Possible consequences of selective fisheries include difficulties in modeling nonlanded mortalities and reduction in our ability to assess stock composition from coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries. Double index tagging experiments are designed to overcome some of these problems, but their usefulness has not been demonstrated. These fisheries are still in the experimental and developmental stages. The SSC recommends that a comprehensive review of selective fisheries be conducted no later than 2004. The review should focus on (1) the effectiveness of selective fisheries in reducing impacts on unmarked fish, (2) our ability to predict incidental impacts preseason, (3) our ability to assess these impacts postseason, and (4) effects on the quality of the CWT data base.

Groundfish

Groundfish Rebuilding Analysis Terms of Reference

The SSC reviewed the first draft of the "Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses" that was prepared by the groundfish subcommittee and, after minor revision, approved a second draft for circulation and review by the Groundfish Management Team, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and other Council entities (Exhibit D.5.e, Supplemental SSC Terms of Reference). Comment on the terms of reference will also be solicited from members of the west coast groundfish stock assessment community over the next month. Based on comments received, the SSC intends to provide a final set of guidelines at the April meeting.

With respect to the development of rebuilding analyses this year, the SSC notes that the stock assessments of darkblotched rockfish and Pacific Ocean perch that were completed in 2000 either did not include rebuilding projections or included rebuilding calculations that were not approved by the SSC (see November 2000 statement by the SSC). With the adoption of the "SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses," these rebuilding calculations will need to be completed by the June Council meeting for full review by the SSC.

Canary Rockfish Incidental Catch Review

Mr. Brian Culver (Groundfish Management Team) provided a brief summary of an analysis of canary rockfish incidental catch rates. Preliminary results of an analysis of logbook information indicates high variability in canary rockfish incidental rates in shelf flatfish fisheries (e.g., arrowtooth flounder, Petrale sole). The goal is to discern changes in fishing effort in response to footrope restrictions by analyzing canary rockfish bycatch hotspots from the 1995-1998 logbooks overlayed with arrowtooth flounder and Petrale sole catches from the 1999-2000 fisheries. The hypothesis is that, in response to management measures (i.e., footrope restrictions), spatial shifts in fishing effort have occurred, which should result in lower canary rockfish bycatch. The analysis should be further refined by the April 2001 meeting.

Future Groundfish Management Process and Schedule and Implementation of the Groundfish Strategic Plan

Mr. Waldeck briefed the SSC on Council's efforts to revise the process used for developing groundfish annual management measures and implementation of the Strategic Plan for the groundfish fishery. These topics will be formally reviewed by the SSC, GMT, and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel at the April 2001 meeting.

Coastal Pelagic Species

Squid Maximum Sustainable Yield Methodology Workshop

Dr. Hill highlighted the reasons for the workshop, noting National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) disapproval of the market squid maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and optimum yield (OY) determinations, and Coastal Pelagic Management Team (CPSMT) and Council actions in regard to squid MSY. Logistics and meeting planning are proceeding. Drs. Jagielo and Conser will co-chair the workshop, which will be held at the NMFS-Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California, May 14-16, 2001. Dr. Hill and the SSC discussed potential outside reviewers to serve on the review panel. The SSC discussed the goals and objectives of the meeting and a draft of the meeting terms of reference. The SSC will finalize their review of the workshop terms of reference and objectives at the April 2001 meeting. At the April 2001, the Council will be apprized of preparations for the workshop by the CPSMT. Following the workshop, a preliminary report will be prepared for SSC and Council review at the June 2001 Council meeting.

Public Comment

There was no formal public comment.

Adjournment

The SSC adjourned at approximately 12 P.M., Tuesday, March 6, 2001.

PFMC
03/21/01

PROPOSED AGENDA
Salmon Advisory Subpanel

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Sierra A Room
Red Lion Hotel
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 922-8041
April 2-6, 2001

Of Special Note

- The April Council meeting has a salmon management agenda which begins at about **9 a.m. on Tuesday** with identification of overfished stocks and methodology reviews. Tentative adoption of the salmon management recommendations is scheduled for Tuesday late morning or early afternoon and final season adoption on Thursday afternoon.
- The salmon agenda of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will occur on Monday with overfishing concerns discussed at 8:30 a.m. and methodology reviews at 9:30 a.m. (Comstock 3 Room).
- NMFS will have a presentation to the Council on the implementation and status of the Sacramento winter chinook recovery plan on Tuesday at 9 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001 - 8 A.M.^{1/}

A. Call to Order

Mark Cedergreen

1. Role Call, Chairman's Remarks, and Introductions (Pass Out Attendance Roster)
2. Approval of Agenda

B. Review of Preseason Report II Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2001 Ocean Salmon Fisheries

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will join the meeting and respond to technical questions regarding the 2001 fishery options

Agenda Items C through F Include Some Form of Action on Tuesday

C. Identification of Stocks not Meeting Escapement Goals for Three Consecutive Years
(Council Agendum B.2, Tuesday, approximately 9 a.m.)

The STT will update the spawning escapements in its report from 2000 to identify any stocks which have not met their conservation objectives for three consecutive years and which subsequently must be reviewed under the Council's process to prevent overfishing. The STT chair is scheduled to discuss this issue with the SSC on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. (Comstock 3 Room).

1/ The meeting will continue on Tuesday and as necessary during the week to complete the SAS agenda and advise the Council on the selection of final management measures on Thursday.

D. Methodology Reviews for 2001

(Council Agendum B.3, Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m.)

The SSC will report to the Council on the need and scheduling of methodology reviews. The SAS may wish to make recommendations to both the SSC and Council on reviews or revisions which should be initiated. The SSC will cover this issue at its meeting on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m.

E. SAS Recommendations for Tentative and Final 2001 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures

(Council Agenda B.4 on Tuesday at 11 a.m.; B.5 on Wednesday, mid morning and on an as-needed basis; and B.6 on Thursday afternoon)

To provide one coordinated SAS season option to the Council in standard format for the tentative adoption, the staff will need to have all SAS input by **no later than 5 p.m., Monday, April 2**. Scheduling will be tight, but STT members will be available to meet briefly with the SAS on Monday beginning at 8:00 a.m.

F. Habitat Issues

(Council Agendum D.1, Tuesday, late afternoon)

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) meets at 9 a.m. on Monday to discuss habitat issues (see ANCILLARY E -- HSG Agenda). Committee co-chairs, Michele Robinson and Jennifer Bloeser will present the HSG's report to the Council on Tuesday afternoon.

ADJOURN

PFMC
03/20/01

PROPOSED AGENDA Salmon Technical Team

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Sierra B Room
Red Lion Hotel
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 922-8041
April 2-6, 2001

Of Special Note

- The April Council meeting has a salmon management agenda which begins at about **9 a.m. on Tuesday** with identification of overfished stocks and methodology reviews. Tentative adoption of the salmon management recommendations is scheduled for Tuesday late morning or early afternoon and final season adoption on Thursday afternoon.
- The salmon agenda of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will occur on Monday with overfishing concerns discussed at 8:30 a.m. and methodology reviews at 9:30 a.m. (Comstock 3 Room). The Salmon Technical Team (STT) chair will lead the discussions, and state representatives will participate in the methodology review discussion.
- STT members, especially State representatives, should attend the SAS meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Monday to answer any questions about option impacts.
- The NMFS will have a presentation to the Council on the implementation and status of the Sacramento winter chinook recovery plan on Tuesday at 9 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2000 - 8 A.M.

A. Call to Order

Dell Simmons

1. Role Call and Chairman's Remarks (Sign Attendance Roster)
2. Approval of Agenda

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) has no formal meeting agenda, but meets as necessary throughout the week to complete analysis of the Council's tentative and final fishery management options and respond to other issues as needed. Anyone desiring to formally address the entire STT should make arrangements to do so through the STT Chair, Mr. Dell Simmons.

B. Identification of Stocks not Meeting Escapement Goals for Three Consecutive Years (Council Agendum B.2, Tuesday, approximately 9 a.m.)

The STT will update the spawning escapements in its report from 2000 to identify any stocks which have not met their conservation objectives for three consecutive years and which subsequently must be reviewed under the Council's process to prevent overfishing. The STT chair is scheduled to discuss this issue with the SSC on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. (Comstock 3 Room).

C. Methodology Reviews for 2000¹ (Council Agendum B.3., Tuesday, approximately 9:30 a.m.)

The SSC will report to the Council on the need and scheduling of methodology reviews. The STT will make recommendations to both the SSC and Council on reviews or revisions which should be initiated. The STT chair and state representatives are scheduled to discuss this issue with the SSC on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. (Comstock 3 Room).

D. Tentative and Final 2001 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures

(Council Agenda B.4 on Tuesday at 11 a.m.; B.5 on Wednesday, mid morning and on an as-needed basis; and B.6 on Thursday afternoon)

Scheduling will be tight, but STT members should make themselves available to meet briefly with the SAS on Monday morning at 8:15 a.m. to answer any questions about option impacts. The Council's tentative management measures should be ready for analysis by the STT as early as Wednesday morning.

ADJOURN

PFMC
03/20/01

PROPOSED AGENDA
Habitat Steering Group

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Klamath Room (513)
Red Lion Hotel
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 922-8041
April 2, 2001

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001 - 9 A.M.

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

1. Opening Remarks and Introductions (5 min.) Michele Robinson-Jennifer Bloeser, Co-chairs
2. Executive Director's Report (30 min.) Don McIsaac
 - a. Habitat Steering Group (HSG) Purpose
 - b. Quick Response Letters
 - c. Agenda Priorities
3. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Lawsuit Briefing (15 min.) Eileen Cooney, NOAA General Counsel
4. HSG Agenda (10 min.) HSG

B. Review of March Council Actions/Directions (10 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.) Chuck Tracy

C. HSG Administrative Matters (10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) HSG Co-chairs

D. Reports on Council Agenda Items (10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.)

1. B.2 Stocks Not Meeting Escapement Goals for 3 Years (Grays Harbor ChF) (30 min.) HSG
2. F.2 Habitat Elements of Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation (30 min.) HSG
3. F.7 Habitat Elements of Groundfish Rebuilding Plans (30 min.) HSG

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

D. Reports on Council Agenda Items, (Continued) (1 p.m.-2 p.m.)

4. C.1 Habitat Elements of Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary Program (30 min.) HSG
 - a. CINMS Informational Presentation (30 min.) CINMS Representative

E. Essential Fish Habitat External Letters (2 p.m.-2:30 p.m.)

1. Umpqua River FERC Relicensing Letter (15 min.) Paul Engelmeyer, Audubon Society
2. Lower Willamette Superfund Assessment (15 min.) Paul Engelmeyer, Audubon Society

Break (2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.)

F. Discussion Items (2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.)

1. EFH/Magnuson-Stevens Act Review (30 min.) Mark Helvey and Nora Berwick, NMFS
 - a. Review EFH Consultation Mark Helvey and Nora Berwick, NMFS
 - b. Discuss HSG Role HSG
 - c. Coordination with NMFS HSG

2. EFH on Northwest Region Website (30 min.) HSG

G. Informational Presentations or Updates (3:45 p.m.-4:25 p.m.)

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Columbia River Hydrology/Biological Opinion (10 min.) | Michele Robinson, WDFW |
| 2. Klamath Flow Issue/FERC Relicensing/ESA, etc. (10 min.) | Michael Rode, CDFG |
| 3. Update on Kelp Management Plan (10 min.) | Bob Lea, CDFG |
| 4. San Francisco Airport Expansion (10 min.) | Mark Helvey, NMFS |

H. Public Comment Period (4:25 p.m.-4:40 p.m.)

Comments on issues not on the agenda.

I. **HSG Member Briefings (4:40 p.m.-5 p.m.)** HSG

J. **June Meeting Agenda (San Francisco) (5 p.m.-5:30 p.m.)** HSG

1. Identification of Ongoing West Coast Marine Reserves Efforts HSG

Dinner (5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

K. **Report(s) to Council/Comment on Council Agenda (6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.)** HSG

ADJOURN (8:30 p.m.)

PFMC
03/20/01

PROPOSED AGENDA
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
Comstock 2 Room
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 922-8041
April 2-4, 2001

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001 - 1 P.M.

A. Call to Order

Rod Moore, Acting Chair

Roll Call, Introductions, Announcements, Approve Agenda, etc.
Discuss Chairmanship, Operating Procedures, etc.

B. Groundfish Management

Agenda Overview

Jim Glock

- F.6 Future Groundfish Management Process and Schedule
A presentation by Executive Director Don McIsaac is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. NMFS and / or NOAA General Counsel will also attend.
(**Council Action:** Consider Changes to Existing Groundfish Management Process) Jim Glock / NMFS
- F.2 Groundfish Strategic Plan Implementation
(**Council Action:** Consider Further Implementation Measures)
- F.5 Status of Fisheries and Inseason Adjustments
(**Council Action:** Consider Adjustments to Management Measures)
- F.4 Discard Adjustment for Bocaccio and Lingcod
(**Council Action:** Consider Adoption of Discard Adjustments)

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001 - 8 A.M.

C. Marine Reserves

- C.1 Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary Program (CINMSP)
(**Council Action:** Consider Recommendations of CINMSP)

B. Groundfish Management (continued)

- F.7 Rebuilding Plan Status Report
(**Council Action:** Final Action on Cowcod and Canary Plans; Council Guidance on Widow, Darkblotched, Pacific Ocean Perch, Bocaccio, and Lingcod Plans)
- F.8 Status of Implementation of Observer Program
(**Council Guidance**)
- F.9 Bycatch Full Retention Options
(**Council Action:** Consider Implementation of Full Retention Measures)

D. Pacific Halibut Management

G.1 Proposed Incidental Catch Regulations for Sablefish Longline Fishery North of Point Chehalis

E. Other

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2001 - 8 A.M.

Review Draft Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Statements, Complete Unfinished Agenda Items

ADJOURN

PFMC
03/20/01

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Red Lion Hotel at the Quay
East River II Room
100 Columbia Street
Vancouver, Washington 98660
(360) 694-8341
October 30 - November 1, 2000

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by Mr. Rod Moore, Chairman.

Members in Attendance

Mr. Wayne Butler
Mr. Barry Cohen
Mr. Tom Ghio
Mr. John Crowley
Mr. Marion Larkin
Mr. Peter Leipzig

Mr. Rod Moore
Mr. Dale Myer
Mr. Jim Potts
Mr. Gary Smith
Mr. Kelly Smotherman
Mr. Frank Warrens

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

REBUILDING PLANS FOR CANARY ROCKFISH AND COWCOD

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed proposed rebuilding programs for canary rockfish and cowcod.

In regard to both rebuilding plans, the GAP continues to express strong concerns over the intent and ability to monitor rebuilding. Although the law requires rebuilding plans be monitored every two years, it is unclear how this is going to be done. Management regulations to accomplish rebuilding will further disrupt the flow of data required to rigorously examine rebuilding progress, a problem we are already facing. This is especially true for those species that rely heavily on fisheries dependent data. There is no clear determination of who will pay the cost of monitoring or where the money will come from. There seems to be no way of determining when we have done enough. These are serious questions the Council will need to address.

In regard to cowcod, the GAP believes adjustments need to be made to the text on page 4 regarding area closures. It is the GAP's understanding the specific closures identified are not those proposed to accomplish rebuilding. The plan needs to be modified to reflect Council action.

In regard to canary rockfish, a majority of the GAP believes modifications can be made which will accomplish rebuilding while still allowing a carefully-managed fishery to be prosecuted. The GAP notes the uncertainty associated with the canary stock assessments, including a decision to discount the results of the 1998 triennial survey. Further, the assumptions used to judge recruitment ignore the higher level of recruitment identified in recent years. Given that the acceptable biological catch (ABC) suggests 228 tons of canary could be caught while maintaining stock status quo, a decision to reduce harvest to 60 metric tons seems extreme, especially given the economic impact. If the Council chose to accept a recruitment level between the low recruitment assumed and the higher recruitment noted, and added a reasonable level of catch to reflect what seem to be healthier southern stocks, the GAP believes a conservative harvest of between 120 and 150 metric tons coastwide could be allowed. The GAP recommends the Council adopt a more moderate assumption on recruitment strength, so a modest fishery can continue for both recreational and commercial sectors. The results of the 2001 triennial survey will provide better data in time for the 2002 stock assessment (which

coincides with the 2-year monitoring requirement). This more moderate approach makes sense in light of the questions surrounding the assessments, available data, and recent recruitment strength.

A minority of the GAP believes the rebuilding plan should be adopted as presented, using the 60 metric ton harvest amount.

The GAP spent a considerable amount of time discussing the allocation issues that arise from the presumed apportionment of canary rockfish impacts among the various fisheries. Similar issues were raised in regard to the apportionment of minor nearshore rockfish both north and south of the Mendocino line.

The GAP is extremely concerned the presumed apportionments constitute an allocation among fishery sectors. The GAP notes the Groundfish fishery management plan and implementing regulations are very clear on what constitutes an allocation and how allocations are to be accomplished by the Council. The Council has established an allocation process, which the GAP has supported. The GAP believes the Council should - and in fact is required by law to - adhere to this process. Simply deciding that one sector or another should be allowed a larger share of a diminished harvest undermines confidence in the management process. If allocation is to be accomplished, the GAP believes the established process must be followed.

Looking further at proposals for apportioning canary rockfish harvest, a majority of the GAP recommends reductions made in 2001 be proportional to the harvest levels that were allocated under emergency regulations for the 2000 fishery. This will provide the equitable treatment of fishing sectors required by law. A minority of the GAP agrees reductions must be made, but disagreed with establishing a particular proportional target, because only vigorous efforts by all sectors to avoid canary harvest will meet harvest goals. All GAP members agreed reductions can only be accomplished if efforts are made to avoid harvesting canary rockfish and noted both state and anecdotal data indicating many fishermen - both recreational and commercial - are already making efforts to avoid harvesting canary rockfish. Because many people are unaware of the serious problem with canary rockfish, better public education and changes in fishing techniques can significantly reduce canary catch, as demonstrated in the Washington recreational fishery this year.

APPORTIONMENT OF SABLEFISH DISCARD ESTIMATES FOR 2001

The GAP reviewed proposed formulas for allocating sablefish discards among gear sectors.

After considerable discussion and a presentation from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), a majority of the GAP recommended the Council adopt the apportionment identified as "2001c" in the Supplemental GMT Report under this agenda item. A minority of the GAP agreed apportionment by sector is appropriate, but recommended no particular apportionment scheme.

FINAL HARVEST LEVELS FOR 2001

The GAP reviewed proposed harvest levels and specifications for the 2001 groundfish fishery.

The GAP used GMT Report 1 under this agenda item as the basis for its recommendations on harvest levels. The GAP notes this report will be supplemented with changes when it is presented to the Council. A majority of the GAP provides the following recommendations regarding 2001 Optimum Yields (OYs):

For whiting, the GAP notes the projected OY for the U.S. portion of the fishery is now projected to be 190,400 mt, based on the 1998 stock assessment. While the GAP believes the projection is low, the GAP recommends accepting this figure with the knowledge a more complete assessment will be made following the 2001 acoustic survey.

For sablefish in the Conception area, the GAP strongly disagrees with the 55% reduction in harvest proposed for 2001. There are no new data available to justify such an arbitrary reduction. The GAP recommends harvest levels be set closer to the ABC.

For Pacific Ocean perch, the GAP recommends the Council adopt the conservative OY of 626 mt identified in the GMT report. The most recent stock assessment demonstrates this level of harvest can be maintained while still providing rebuilding.

For widow rockfish, the GAP recommends a harvest level in the middle of the range noted in the GMT report, due to uncertainty in stock status.

For canary rockfish, as noted in the GAP comments on agenda item C.1, the GAP recommends a harvest level in the range of 120 to 150 mt, based on more reasonable assumptions of recruitment and recognizing the strength of the southern stock and uncertainties in the data and the most recent stock assessments.

For darkblotched rockfish, the GAP recommends an OY of 130 mt, based on an estimate of the amount of darkblotched assumed present in historic foreign catch figures. As it has previously, the GAP strongly recommends the Council resolve the issue of double counting of red rockfish in the historic foreign catch figures.

A minority of the GAP disagreed with these recommendations and suggested the Council should adopt the updated GMT proposals, especially in regard to canary rockfish.

The GAP also continues to recommend no tribal harvest of whiting be provided until such time as issues involving quantification and extent of tribal usual and accustomed areas are resolved by the courts.

UPDATE ON AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT MEASURES

The GAP discussed Council actions to date on implementation of American Fisheries Act (AFA) measures. The GAP noted it has devoted significant time and energy to this issue, which is important to the West Coast groundfish fishery. The GAP believes the Council should move final action on AFA measures to a higher priority.

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The GAP received presentations from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on exempted fishing permit applications involving research permits (including the NMFS "Vessel of Opportunity" program) and permits to land unsorted whiting. The GAP supports the permit applications as they were presented.

2001/2002 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

The GAP discussed a Council staff proposal to establish a subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Groundfish Strategic Plan Oversight Committee which would examine the groundfish management process and provide recommendations for potential future changes. The GAP also participated in a joint meeting with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the GMT to review the Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process.

The GAP has actively participated on STAR panels and will continue to do so. The GAP has stated on several occasions previously that it supports continuation of the STAR process and reiterates that support at this time.

The GAP, with some reservations, agrees it may be appropriate to examine the groundfish management process, but expresses the following concerns:

1. Any special subcommittee formed should include membership from the GAP.
2. The subcommittee should not report until at least April; the GAP does not meet in March and wants an opportunity to comment on the subcommittee's report.
3. No changes in the groundfish management process should be made without thorough review and discussion.
4. As frustrated as we are with the current management process, the Council should not devote extensive time and resources to "reinventing" itself at the expense of other crucial conservation and management issues.

SABLEFISH PERMIT STACKING

The GAP discussed options for sablefish permit stacking as presented in Exhibit C.8.a, Attachment 1. The focus of the discussion was a proposal presented by the fixed gear fleet. Due to conflicts with other meetings, only nine GAP members were present. Seven of those present supported the fixed gear fleet proposal; one abstained; and one supported most of the proposal, but disagreed with some elements. The proposal and areas of disagreement are as follows:

Provision 1: Basic Stacking

The Council should proceed with stacking, regardless of whether there is an extended season. Those that choose to stack should bear the burden of any decrease in limits or time which might result from lack of an exception to an individual transferable quota moratorium.

Provision 2: Base Permit & Gear Usage

Option 2c: A vessel may fish with any fixed gear endorsed on at least one of its stacked permits; waive trawl permit downsizing provisions for stacked fixed gear permits (applies only if stacked permits can be unstacked).

Provision 3: Limits on Stacking and Ownership

Stack no more than three permits per vessel; allow ownership of no more than three permits. Any percentage of permit ownership will be considered full ownership. Provide a grandfather clause with a control date of November 1, 2000, exempting current levels of ownership.

Provision 4: Combination of Stacked Permits

The majority supported option 4a, allowing permits to be unstacked. A minority supported option 4c, making stacking permanent but allowing trading of tier endorsements among the endorsed fleet.

Provision 5: Fishery Duration

For 2001, start the season as soon as possible after April 1st and extend it to October 31st. For subsequent years, set the season as April 1st to October 31st.

In regard to mid-season permit transfers, require the seller to provide fish ticket information to the buyer and require the buyer to keep the seller's fish ticket information on board during that season.

Provision 6: At-sea Processing

Adopt option 6a prohibiting at-sea processing except for vessels that can demonstrate through acceptable documentation the landing of at least 2000 pounds of frozen sablefish in 1998, 1999, or 2000.

Provision 7: Permit Ownership/Owner On Board

The majority supported option 7a, which provides that only individual human beings (with a heart) can acquire permits; that the permit owner must be on board while fishing; that an exception be made for - as of November 1, 2000 - businesses already owning permits and permitting current owners to be absent while fishing as long as they also own the vessel. These exceptions will expire with a change in permit or business ownership. Permit owners can be required to submit ownership information to management authorities.

A minority supported option 7b, allowing business entities to own a permit and imposing no requirements for the owner to be on board the vessel while fishing.

Provision 8: Non-sablefish Cumulative Limits

Adopt option 8a providing no stacking of non-sablefish cumulative limits. Vessels with stacked permits can land only one daily trip limit fishery limit.

Provision 9: Vessels Without Sablefish Endorsements

Adopt option 9b, allowing unendorsed vessels to fish during the primary fishery.

Provision 10: U.S. Citizenship Requirement

Adopt option 10a allowing only U.S. citizens to acquire fixed gear sablefish permits.

Provision 11: Advance Notice of Landing

Adopt option 11c requiring six hours advanced notice for all fixed gear sablefish tier permits and providing that additional information may be required.

Provision 12: Stacking Deadline

Declare an intent to stack by a date as late as possible which meets the needs of Council and/or National Marine Fisheries Service staff.

2001 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT MEASURES

After receiving direction from the Council, the GAP held several joint meetings with the GMT to develop management measures for the 2001 groundfish season.

The GAP agrees with most of the proposals advanced by the GMT. Areas of disagreement or additions to the GMT statement are:

Cowcod area closure south of Conception While the GAP fully supports the protection of cowcod stocks, the extensive area closure to all groundfish fishing is unnecessary and will have severe economic impacts on both commercial and recreational fisheries. We recommend that the Council adopt the option identified as Option 2 on Supplemental GMT Report 2 under this agenda item, with the proviso that boats taking advantage of this opportunity carry observers or provide other effective means of verification. While the GAP understands the enforcement concerns identified, we believe that some means can be found to resolve them if all parties are willing to work cooperatively and think creatively.

California recreational management, central area The majority of the GAP supports a recreational option calling for a March through June closure on the shelf and a March and April closure near shore (with a parallel closure of commercial fixed gear), resulting in a sport impact on near shore minor rockfish of 550 metric tons, a limited entry fixed gear impact of 30 metric tons (landed catch), and an open access impact of 74 metric tons.

A minority of the GAP supports a recreational option calling for a March through June closure of both shelf and near shore (with a parallel closure of commercial fixed gear) resulting in a recreational impact of 500 metric tons, a limited entry fixed gear impact of 30 metric tons (landed catch) and an open access impact of 120 metric tons.

Sablefish minimum size The GAP supports removing the 22" sablefish minimum size requirement for all limited entry gear in order to reduce discards of small sablefish.

Platooning The GAP supports continuation of the platooning option for limited entry trawl vessels. For vessels in the "B" platoon, the final period will be November 16, 2001 to December 31, 2001, with the same trip limits as the "A" platoon has for the November 1 to December 31 period.

PERMIT TRANSFER REGULATORY AMENDMENT

The GAP received a presentation from NMFS staff on options for transferring limited entry permits and streamlining existing regulatory language. The GAP supports the options identified by NMFS as preferred options and wishes to congratulate NMFS staff for their efforts to clean up existing regulations.

PFMC
3/20/01

PROPOSED AGENDA
Enforcement Consultants

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Tahoe Room (514)
Red Lion Hotel
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 922-8041
April 3, 2001

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2001 - 5:30 P.M.

A. Introductions

B. New Business/Issues

C. Enforcement Comments - Agenda Items

1. Salmon Management
 - a. Tentative Adoption of 2001 Ocean Salmon Management Measures
 - b. Final Adoption of 2001 Ocean Salmon Management Measures
2. Marine Reserves - Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary Program
3. Groundfish
 - a. Status of Regulations for Groundfish
 - b. Groundfish Strategic Plan
 - c. Inseason Adjustments
4. Pacific Halibut
 - a. Incidental Catch Regulations in the Sablefish Longline Fishery North of Point Chehalis

D. Industry and Interested Party Comments

E. Public Comment

F. Miscellaneous Items - Group Discussion

ADJOURN

PFMC
03/22/01