

**U.S. Stocks "Subject to Overfishing": Historic and Current Determinations
 1997 through September 30, 2006 (Quarter 3)**

Council		Stocks with Past Overfishing Status	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Q3 2006
NEFMC	1	Atlantic sea scallop ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
	2	haddock - Gulf of Maine	UNK	UNK	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	3	American plaice	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	4	witch flounder	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	5	windupane flounder - Gulf of Maine / Georges Bank	Und	Und	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	6	cod - Gulf of Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	7	cod - Georges Bank	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	8	yellowtail flounder - SNE/ Mid- Atlantic ²	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	9	yellowtail flounder - Cape Cod/Gul of Maine	UNK	UNK	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	10	white hake	Und	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	11	winter flounder - SNE/ Mid-Atlantic	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	12	yellowtail flounder – Georges Ban	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	13	winter flounder – Georges Bank	UNK	UNK	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	14	winter skate	Und	Und	Und	Und	Und	Und	UNK	UNK	No	Yes
NEFMC/ MAFMC	15	spiny dogfish	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
	16	monkfish – North	Und	Und	Yes ³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MAFMC	17	monkfish – South	Und	Und	Yes ³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	18	black sea bass	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
MAFMC	19	bluefish	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
	20	squid – /lex	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
	21	golden tilefish	Und	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
22	scup	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
23	summer flounder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	

Listings are as-reported from published Reports to Congress on the Status of U.S. Fisheries, and as such are uncorrected.

Council		Stocks with Past Overfishing Status									
		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Q3 2006
24	SAFMC	scamp	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
25		red porgy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
26		wreckfish	UNK	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
27		Nassau grouper**	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
28		white grunt	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
29		vermillion snapper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30		red snapper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
31		snowy grouper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
32		tilefish	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
33		red grouper	UNK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34		black sea bass	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
35		gag	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
36		speckled hind	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
37		Warsaw grouper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
38		black grouper	UNK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
39		red drum**	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
40	SAFMC/	king mackerel - Gulf group	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
41	GMFMC	yellowtail snapper	UNK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
42		Nassau grouper	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
43		vermillion snapper	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
44		red drum	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
45		red snapper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
46		red grouper	UNK	UNK	UNK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
47		greater amberjack	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
48		gag	UNK	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
49		gray triggerfish	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK
50	CFMC	Grouper Unit 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
51		Queen conch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
52		Grouper Unit 1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
53		Grouper Unit 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
54		parrotfishes**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55		Snapper Unit 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes

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Council		Stocks with Past Overfishing Status									
		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Q3 2006
PFMC	lingcod	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	shortspine thornyhead	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
	black rockfish	UNK	UNK	UNK	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
	Pacific whiting	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
	darkblotched rockfish ⁴	UNK	UNK	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
	bank rockfish	UNK	UNK	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	silverygrey rockfish**	UNK	UNK	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
	yelloweye rockfish	UNK	UNK	UNK	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
	yellowfin tuna – Eastern Pacific ⁵	Und	Und	Und	Und	Und	Und	No	No	No	Yes
	bigeye tuna – Pacific	Und	Und	Und	Und	Und	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WPFC	Bottomfish multi-species complex – Hawaiian archipelago ⁶	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	
WPFC	yellowfin tuna – Central Western Pacific	Und	Und	Und	Und	Und	No	No	No	Yes	
NPFMC	None										
HMS	swordfish	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
	blue marlin – Atlantic	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	white marlin - Atlantic	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	sailfish - West Atlantic	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	bigeye tuna - Atlantic	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	albacore - North Atlantic	Und	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	bluefin tuna - West Atlantic	Und	Und	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	sandbar shark	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	finetooth shark	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	dusky shark	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Large Coastal Shark Complex ⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	UNK	

UNK = Unknown

For stocks with an "unknown" overfishing determination, an overfishing definition exists in the FMP but no determination of overfishing has been made relative to that definition.

Und = Undefined

For stocks identified as "undefined", no overfishing definition exists in the FMP.

A dash (-) denotes that the stock or complex/unit was not assessed as the currently defined stock or complex/unit.

****non-FSSI stock**

¹ Before 2003, this stock was listed as two stocks: Georges Bank and Mid-Atlantic. Only Mid-Atlantic had been listed as subject to overfishing.

² Before 2003, this stock was listed separately as two stocks: Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic. From 2000-2002, only the Mid-Atlantic portion of the stock was listed as subject to

³ In 1999, the monkfish stocks were assessed as one stock.

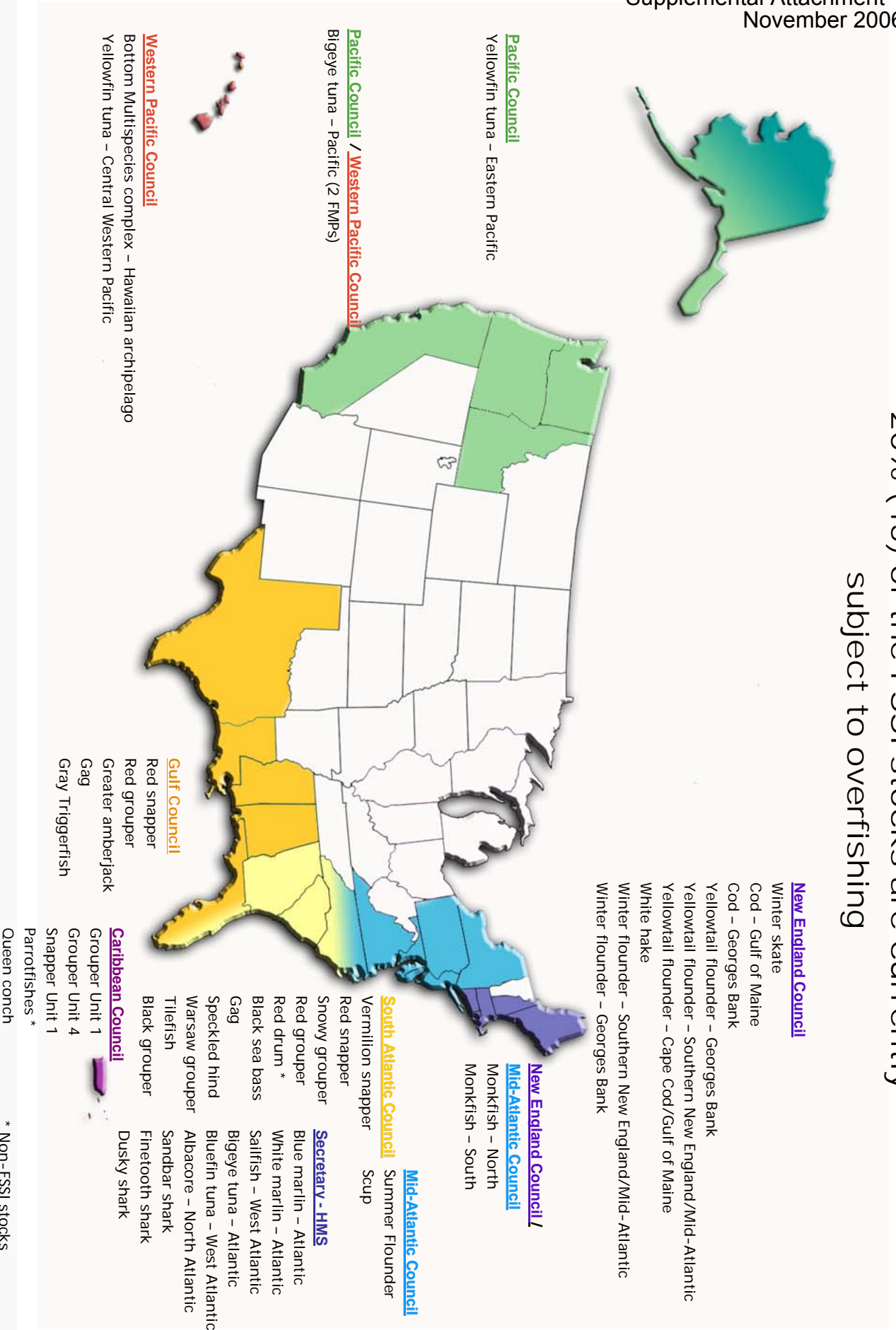
⁴ Although this stock was listed as overfishing occurring during the Q2 2006 update, it was a mistake and has been corrected by the NW Region.

⁵ Even though this stock is shown to be under the jurisdiction of a single Council and under the management of a single FMP, it is acknowledged that both the Pacific Council and the Western Pacific Council have jurisdiction over this stock, and it is managed under both the West Coast Highly Migratory Species FMP and the Western Pacific Pelagics FMP. The Council indicated here is the lead Council for the purpose of reporting. Prior to 2004, this stock was listed as YFT – Eastern Tropical Pacific and Central Western Pacific stocks (WPFC jurisdiction).

⁶ Before 2003, this stock was not listed as the current complex but as a single stock (pelagic armorhead).

⁷ Although stocks were listed individually before 2005, was assessed as a complex.

20% (45) of the FSSI stocks are currently
 subject to overfishing



* Non-FSSI stocks

The WASHINGTON Post

NATIONAL NEWS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2006 A3

U.S. Attempting to Reshape Fishing Rules But How Much to Tighten Reins?

By JOURNAL EDITORIAN
 Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Working fishing boats crane this city's docks brightly painted vessels with names like "Let It Ride" and "Freakin'." But tied up alongside them are plenty of rusting vessels that have not shipped out in years, stark reminders of the sea's folkloric bounty.

Once the nation's foremost whaling town, New Bedford has re-emerged as a fishing capital. Raising a boom in the fishery for scallops and other shellfish, its catch sold for \$207 million last year at dockside, more than that of any other U.S. port. But cod and other once-pivotal species remain scarce despite a decade of efforts to restore depleted stocks.

Congress, meanwhile, is preparing to rewrite the nation's fishing rules in a bid to improve the much-criticized system for managing fisheries, and that worries Debra Sturdevant. The director of a fishermen's advocacy group here called Shore Support, she fears the fishing community will pay the price for rebuilding fish populations.

"If they studied us nearly as much as they studied the other fisheries, they would realize what they're doing to us," said Sturdevant, whose group co-wrote a report last year showing that full-time employment for area fishermen dropped 20 percent between 1983 and 2002. "None of these species are on the verge of extinction, but our communities are."

As lawmakers consider the most comprehensive revision of fisheries regulation in a decade, the argument is focused on how drastically to limit fishing when fish populations decline or crash. The constraints do not divide along the usual partisan lines; the fight over rewriting the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act job environmentists against fishermen, the Senate against the House and coastal regions against one another.

The outcome may determine how many fish will be left in the ocean decades from now and who will be around to catch them.

"The perception among fisher-

men is that things are getting worse and worse, which is true," said John S. Ketchen, who heads the Pew Charitable Trusts' environmental program. "We've been steadily driving forward the edge of a cliff and talking nontechonious notes along the way."

The nation is also in the midst of a debate over how to regulate fishing in international waters. The administration pledged last week to push for a moratorium on destructive bottom-trawling on the high seas, but environmentalists such as Robert question whether U.S. negotiators are really pressing the point at the United Nations.

No one questions that increasing by sophisticated fishing technology has devastated many prized fish stocks. In the decade since the current management program began, 74 fish stocks have been formally declared "overfished," and plans have been drawn up to rebuild 67 of them. But so far, fewer than 5 percent have been replenished, a recent study found.

Biologist Andrew A. Roseberry, lead author of the study in the journal Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment and a professor at the University of New Hampshire, said it will take steeper limits, such as those in the pending Senate bill, to bring these species back.

"You need a clean catch limit, and you have to have consequences," said Roseberry, who was deputy director of the National Marine Fisheries Service from 1986 to 2000.

There are sharp variations across the country, but in New England, more than a third of native fish stocks are overfished by federal standards, and cod stocks are at 10 percent of the recommended level. By contrast, just 3 percent of Alaska's stocks are overfished.

These disparities have intensified criticism of the eight-fishery management districts that enforce the current law. The councils set regional catch limits, subject to federal approval, based on scientific recommendations from federal, state and academic scientists.

Congress passed Magnuson-Stevens 30 years ago in an effort to fix frenzied fishing fleets out of U.S. waters, not to conserve species. The act was later amended to include con-



Fishermen haul in their catch of scallops, haddock and cod.

servation, but the Bush administration and many lawmakers agree it has failed to do the job, and they're looking for lighter rules.

"The president wants a Magnuson-Stevens bill that ends overfishing, that ensures our fisheries get rebuilt," said James L. Cunningham, Bush's top environmental adviser, although he declined to take sides between the Senate and the House version, which would establish less stringent controls.

Part of the problem is a lack of good data. "Basically, the technology for estimating the abundance of a fish population is still a failure," said Brian J. Robisch, a professor of marine science and technology at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, next door to New Bedford.

At the moment, general regional councils allow catches above the scientifically recommended levels on the theory that deeper cuts will hurt fishing interests too much. Scientists told the Gulf of Mexico council this year that the red snapper catch would have to be held to 5 million pounds to allow the population to recover immediately, and a limit of 7 million pounds would restore it by 2008. Instead, the council endorsed a catch limit of 8.1 million pounds.

"The law does not give the government the authority to keep in and out overfishing," said the Fisheries Service's chief scientific adviser, Steven M. Murawski. "Even though we've made good progress, we haven't reached the goal post."

The Senate-passed bill, written by one of the act's original authors, Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), would require the councils to adhere to scientifically determined catch limits and to reduce future catches anything further exceeds the quotas.

Stevens, who said in an interview that Alaska's fisheries have thrived in part because the industry complies with scientists' recommendations, added that if other regions "seriously lack scientific guidance, we'll end overfishing."

The House bill, by Resources Committee Chairman Richard W. Pombo (R-Calif.), which is slated for a floor vote in November, also calls for limits based on the "allowed biological catch" calculated by scientists. But it would allow overfishing to continue for two years under rebuilding plans and it might extend the current 10-year deadline for replenishing depleted stocks in some instances to ensure a fishing community's infrastructure remains viable.

Sarah Chaus, who directs the advocacy group Natural Resources Defense Council's ocean initiative, called these provisions "conservative roadblocks" that will hurt fishermen in the long run. "If you rebuild these stocks in a timely way, the net economic value is really significant," she said.

But Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who represents New Bedford and worked with Pombo on the bill, considers even a 10-year rebuilding timetable arbitrary. In some instances, he said, more modest catch

reductions over a longer time period could preserve local jobs and allow stocks to rebound eventually.

"We're not talking about permanent damage to the air or water," Frank said. "We're talking about an extension of overfishing. That's possible."

New Bedford's fishermen acknowledge that they have depleted some of their most valuable stocks, including the once-teeming species that give nearby Cape Cod its name, and that fishery closures have helped some species rebound.

In the mid-1980s, federal officials closed one-third of Georges Bank, east of Cape Cod, to give scallops and groundfish such as haddock a chance to recover. Scallop did so dramatically — a scallop boat can now scoop up \$120,000 worth in two trips — and haddock is also back. But the cod, which is more noble and has a different life span, has yet to recover.

David Harrington switched from being a scalloper to being a whelp engine mechanic more than a decade ago when regulations began to impose scientific standards on the fishery. Now he thinks he may have acted too hastily. "I thought they were going to run it, and you know, they did a great job," he said.

But many local fishermen remain dissatisfied with federal managers, saying they're open and close fishing areas without sufficient notice. "You're nervous when you're going out that you're in the wrong place," said Tom Manley, who has been fishing for scallops since he graduated from high school 28 years ago. "They need to listen to the fishermen more."

Some Massachusetts fishermen say attitudes toward conservation are shifting. John W. Paparraruto, who was elected chairman of the New England regional council last week, fished for cod until "there really weren't any left." He noted that with fishermen's support, the council approved rules for herring that her "past trawling" in which two ships tow a net between them and scoop up massive catches.

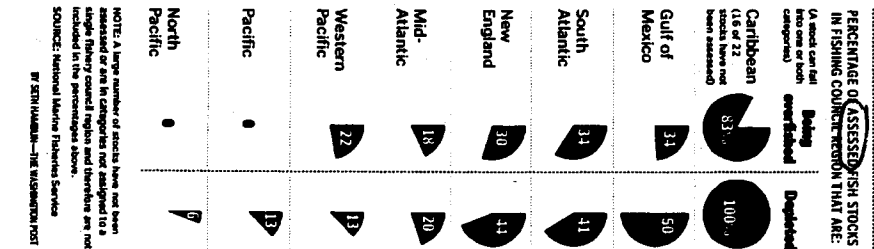
"It's not like a light switch, where we used to be in darkness and now we're illuminated," said Paparraruto, who is based in Charlem, Mass. "I look up many years to screw things up, and it's going to take a few years to unravel things."

On the Line
 Numerous U.S. fish stocks are imperiled by overfishing.

DEFINITIONS
 Overfishing: Number of fish being taken from a fish stock is too high.
 Example: Red drum



Depleted: Number of fish in a fish stock has become too low.
 Example: Atlantic salmon



Talking Points

Deputy Secretary Sampson

Meeting of Regional Fishery Management Council Chairs, Executive Directors and

New Members

November 1, 2006

It is a pleasure to be here today. During my time with the Commerce Department I have come to appreciate the role the members of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Executive Directors and staff, as well as Dr. Hogarth and his staff, play in the difficult task of managing our Nation's living marine resources. It is not an easy role, but being true stewards of the resource should be our goal no matter how difficult.

I would like to begin by discussing the legacy of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Department of Commerce officials, and current Council members. This October represented the 30th anniversary of Congress approving our landmark fisheries management legislation, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Fisheries Act. When Congress passed the Sustainable Fisheries Act in 1996, they found, in part "A national program for the conservation and management of the fishery resources of the United States is necessary to prevent overfishing, to rebuild overfished stocks ... and to realize the full potential of the Nation's fishery resources."

The Councils and their staff as well as agency officials have spent long years working towards this goal. In the early years of the Magnuson Act, the councils role was to increase U.S. participation in fisheries, and to increase productivity. The Councils and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) were very successful in this regard. Decisions were easier then than they are today. As we entered into the late 1980s, and early 1990s, those decisions became more difficult, and the documents Councils sent to NMFS for review far more complex. However, for all the complexity, when facing difficult decisions that affect people, it has seemed easier to err on the side of fishing for today, not tomorrow. So, in 2006, 10 years after passage of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, nearly 20 percent of the 230 most important managed stocks are still listed as subject to overfishing.

Overfishing is a legacy we cannot leave to future council members, agency officials, or to the Nation. Current council members must work closely with new members and the agency to meet Congress' mandate to prevent and end overfishing, and rebuild our Nation's valuable marine fish stocks to their full potential. The important questions are: How will the public view your legacy 10 or 30 years from now? What do you want your legacy to be? Your resolve to make tough decisions now will determine that legacy.

New and old Council members alike face a number of significant challenges to meet the goal of building and maintaining sustainable fisheries. We must change the "business as usual" attitude that many external to the fishery management process associate with the Councils.

Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act will likely bring major new challenges to fisheries management, such as ending overfishing in a short timeframe, setting quotas where none existed

in the past, developing and managing limited access privilege programs, and moving toward ecosystem management. We can expect more, not less, concern to be expressed by Congress and the public on fisheries sustainability. Yes, some progress has been made. However, of the 230 most important managed stocks, only 33 percent of these can be considered sustainable. These sustainable stocks are only 15 percent of the 530 stocks identified in our annual Status of Stocks Report to Congress. We must work together to increase this percentage.

To this end, President Bush and his Administration have set specific goals relative to the Nation's marine fisheries. As the President has stated on several occasions, this Administration strongly supports ending overfishing. In a proclamation earlier this year declaring June 4th through the 10th as "National Oceans Week," President Bush emphasized the importance of the oceans and reiterated the Administration's commitment to end overfishing. He again stressed this as a National priority in his establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Monument. Quoting President Bush, "Over-fishing is harmful. It's harmful to our country, and it's harmful to the world. To protect our marine ecosystem and the future fishing of all kinds, the Ocean Action Plan calls for Congress to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. They need to get that done." Never before has marine fisheries management received the attention placed on it by this Administration.

Furthermore, the Administration supports doubling the number of limited access privilege programs by the year 2010, a position consistent with its Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization proposal, its budget, and the President's Ocean Action Plan. I understand a number of new such

programs are currently being developed by the Councils. I commend you for your work to date and urge you to continue to develop these important programs where appropriate.

Your job on the Councils is especially difficult under “open access” fisheries, when anyone can go fishing. As you know, in an open access fishery, there is no strong incentive for individuals to fish in a conservative or sustainable manner, as they do not receive any individual benefits by doing so. However, limited access privilege programs, such as individual fishing quota programs, provide all participants a share of the fisheries. In this way, sustainable fishery practices are easily seen to translate into more steady and sustainable, if not greater catches.

Individual fishermen are often more concerned about maximizing their income, and they typically do not adequately consider the future. Councils must make the difficult choice between catching fish now and forgoing future benefits, or conserving fish now and gaining the benefits of a larger and more sustainable fishery later. These fisheries stewardship issues become even more difficult when stocks are overfished and the fishing industry has already faced reductions in catch.

As you know, the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act faces an uncertain future in this session of Congress. However, it is the Administration’s position and our sense from Congress that overfishing must be ended, and quickly. The Manager’s Amendment to HR 5018, includes a two year deadline to end overfishing. If this provision was enacted today, could the Councils meet that deadline? While it may be difficult, both in terms of resources and outside pressure, we have to end overfishing and we have to end it quickly.

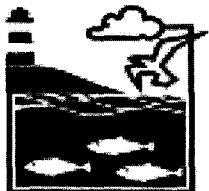
In closing, we look to the Councils to work in partnership with the Administration to design and take the hard steps necessary to ensure sustainable fish stocks in the future. Through the public/private partnership in which you operate, the Councils are uniquely poised to develop the fishery plans and amendments that will end overfishing and rebuild stocks in the most efficient, effective, and economically sensitive manner possible. Secretary Gutierrez and I have requested Dr. Hogarth to develop performance metrics that will enable us to measure your success in this endeavor. This information will provide us with the ability to assess where we are succeeding and where we still face challenges, and will be used to guide us in the appointment process.

We are prepared to work with you every step of the way to accomplish this mutual goal. While we believe the Councils are best positioned to do this work, the Secretary of Commerce can not wait if the Councils fail to act. If the Councils will not end overfishing, we will.

Thank you. I appreciate your attention, and answering the call of stewardship associated with being a Council member. The future of marine fisheries management is in your hands. You are the key to success.

What is considered sustainable?

- NOAA Fisheries Service considers a stock that has never been overfished sustainably managed if:
 - It is not subject to overfishing, and
 - Its biomass is at least 80% of the level that supports the maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY})
- About 31% (71) of the 230 stocks tracked in the NMFS [Fish Stock Sustainability Index](#) are sustainably managed according to this criteria.
- We are required to build and maintain stocks at the B_{MSY} level, but this is a long term average, and we expect annual fluctuation in our estimates of stock size.



November 8, 2006

Dr. David Sampson, Deputy Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
14th and Constitution Avenue NW
Mailstop 61
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Sampson,

Thank you for your remarks at the joint session of the Council Chairs and Executive Directors and New Council Member Orientation meetings on Wednesday, November 1, 2006, emphasizing ending overfishing in the Nation's marine fisheries. While noting that not all Regional Fishery Management Councils have had the same level of success in achieving this goal, we collectively concur that this is a matter of the highest priority. It is a primary expectation of the American public and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and we take this obligation very seriously.

While ending overfishing is a simple goal, it is not a simple task given the complexities of the biological uniqueness of each fish species, the highly variable population dynamics of each fish stock, and the mandate to minimize adverse social and economic impacts to affected fishing communities. Therefore, we particularly appreciate your commitment that the Administration will provide the foundational elements necessary to allow the Regional Fishery Management Councils to take the appropriate, informed action to accomplish this goal. An essential component of the necessary foundation is a funding level for each Council not less than the amount received last year. As you stated in your remarks, providing the necessary scientific information and staffing support from the National Marine Fisheries Service is also an essential component.

You also mentioned in your remarks that instituting performance standards on various necessities would be a helpful tool towards achieving this goal, and that you have requested Dr. Hogarth to begin the process of developing such performance standards. We agree and look forward to jointly developing such performance standards with the National Marine Fisheries Service. It is important that such performance standards include the full process of marine fishery management action, from the onset of considerations at each of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, through final action taken by the Councils, to final approval by the Secretary to implement fishery regulations into Federal law. Therefore, we request

that the topic of establishing comprehensive performance standards be placed on the upcoming meeting agenda of the Regional Fishery Management Councils and National Marine Fisheries Service in January 2007.

Again, we want to thank you for interest in, and support of, improving marine fishery management across the Nation's fisheries.

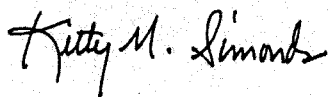
Respectfully submitted on behalf of each of our individual Fishery Management Councils,



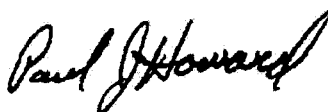
Donald McIsaac
Executive Director, Pacific Fishery
Management Council



Chris Oliver
Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery
Management Council



Kitty Simonds
Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery
Management Council



Paul Howard
Executive Director, New England Fishery
Management Council



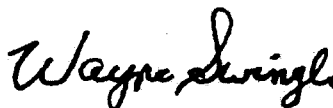
Daniel Furlong
Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council



Robert Mahood
Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery
Management Council



Miguel Rolon,
Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery
Management Council



Wayne Swingle
Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico Fishery
Management Council

c:

Council Chairs and Vice Chairs

Secretary Carlos Gutierrez

Dr. William Hogarth

Mr. Alan Risenhoover

Ms. Patricia Kurkul

Ms. Sue Salvesson

New Council Members Orientation and Training Attendees

Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher

Dr. Jim Balsiger

Mr. Robert Lohn

Mr. Rod McInnis

Mr. Sam Rauch

Mr. Roy Crabtree

Mr. Bill Robinson

PROPOSED AGENDA

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Hilton San Diego/Del Mar Hotel
15575 Jimmy Durante Blvd
Del Mar, California 92014
858-792-5200

November 12-17, 2006

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY				
<i>Monday Nov 13</i>	<i>Tuesday Nov 14</i>	<i>Wednesday Nov 15</i>	<i>Thursday Nov 16</i>	<i>Friday Nov 17</i>
Advisory body meetings – see last pages of this proposed agenda.	Administrative Matters	Groundfish Management	Groundfish Management	Salmon Management
	Highly Migratory Species Management		Pacific Halibut Management	
	Closed Executive Session		Groundfish Management	Habitat Issues
Open Public Comment	Coastal Pelagic Species Management	Administrative Matters		Administrative Matters
		Annual Awards Banquet 6:00 pm		

Notice to Public

Changes to the Agenda

Please note the actual order and timing of agenda items may vary somewhat from the proposed agenda. For example, items not completed on the scheduled day may be carried over to the next day. Items may be moved to an earlier or later time than shown on this Proposed Agenda or rescheduled for a different time during the week.

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, issues not contained in this agenda may come before this Council for discussion. However, such issues may not be the subject of formal Council action during this meeting, unless they are of an emergency nature.

How to Testify at the Meeting

To testify at this meeting, please complete a testimony card and specify the agenda item on which you wish to speak. Cards are available during the meeting at the entry table inside the Council meeting room. After public comment begins on each agenda item, additional cards will **not** be accepted on that item.

Testimony is limited to five minutes for individuals and ten minutes for groups or individuals representing organizations. Please identify yourself and whom you represent at the beginning of your testimony.

How to Submit Written Comments

Written comments may be submitted by the deadlines listed below:

In person or by mail to: Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220;

By email to: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov;

By fax to: 503-820-2299.

Written comments **received by close of business October 25, 2006** will be mailed to Council members prior to the meeting.

Comments or materials received at the Council office **after October 25 but by close of business November 7** will be included in the supplemental materials distributed to the Council on the first day of the meeting. Written comments received at the Council office on September 6 or later will not be distributed to Council Members nor will they be part of the administrative record of this Council meeting.

Individuals planning to testify at the meeting or wishing to submit written testimony without a verbal presentation may bring copies of their testimony to the meeting to be given to the Council. **It is the individual's responsibility:**

- To provide Council staff with an adequate number of copies to ensure coverage of the Council (**a minimum of 40 copies**).
- Each copy must include the **Agenda Item Topic Number (as listed in the detailed agenda)** in the upper right hand corner of the front page.
- Copies must be **three-hole punched** on the left edge.

Miscellaneous Information

Financial interest statements for the appointed Council members are available for inspection at the entry table in the Council meeting room.

The Council office has moved to the first floor of our office building—mailing and street address are both: 7700 NE Ambassador Place, **Suite 101**, Portland, Oregon 97220-1384. Our phone numbers remain unchanged—503-820-2280 and 866-806-7204 (toll free).

DETAILED COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 THROUGH FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

ANCILLARY SESSIONS

Various technical and administrative committees, advisory bodies, work groups, state delegations, and special sessions are scheduled throughout the week. See the SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS at the end of this agenda for a complete listing of these meetings.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

(This session is closed to all except Council members, their designees, and others designated by the Council Chair to discuss litigation and personnel matters.)

2:30 pm

Salons A-D

GENERAL SESSION

4:30 pm

Salons A-D

A. Call to Order

A.1 *Opening Remarks, Introductions*

- a. Swearing in of New Council Member

Don Hansen, Chair

Frank Lockhart

A.2 *Roll Call*

Don McIsaac

A.3 *Executive Director's Report*

Don McIsaac

A.4 *Council Action: Approve Agenda*

Don Hansen

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comments on fishery issues not on the agenda are accepted at this time.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2006

A. Call to Order (reconvene)

Don Hansen

A.5 *Commencing Remarks*

Don McIsaac

B. Administrative Matters

B.1 *Future Council Meeting Agenda Planning*

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Agency Reports
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion of Future Council Meeting Agenda Topics

Don McIsaac

C. Highly Migratory Species Management

C.1 *National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report*

- a. Southwest Region Activity Report Mark Helvey
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

C.2 *Final Changes to Routine Management Measures*

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Report of the Highly Migratory Species Management Team Michele Culver
- c. Agency Comments
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Changes to 2007-2008 Routine Management Measures

C.3 *Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP)*

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Drift Gillnet EFP (Status for 2006 and Guidance for 2007) and Preliminary Alternatives for 2007 Shallow Set Longline EFP

C.4 *Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 1: Overfishing Response for Bigeye Tuna*

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred FMP Amendment Alternative

C.5 *Yellowfin Tuna Status*

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Stock Assessment and Possible Overfishing Implications

D. Groundfish Management

D.1 *NMFS Report*

- a. Activity Reports:
 - 1. Northwest Region Frank Lockhart
 - 2. Northwest Science Center Elizabeth Clarke
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

D.2 *Groundfish Bycatch Work Plan*

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kit Dahl
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Groundfish Bycatch Work Plan

GENERAL SESSION

8:00 am

Salons A-D

- A. Call to Order (reconvene)** Don Hansen
- A.6 Commencing Remarks** Don McIsaac
- D. Groundfish Management (continued)**
- D.3 Groundfish Stock Assessments for 2007**
- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
 - b. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final List and Schedule of 2007 Groundfish Assessments
- D.4 Exempted Fishing Permits for 2007 Fisheries**
- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Approve Final Recommendations to NMFS
- D.5 Consideration of Inseason Adjustments**
- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
 - b. Report of the Groundfish Management Team Susan Ashcraft
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary or Final Recommendations for Adjustments to 2006 and 2007 Fisheries
- D.6 Shore-Based Whiting Monitoring Program**
- a. Agenda Item Overview Laura Bozzi
 - b. NMFS Report Yvonne deReynier
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Adopt Alternatives and Draft Regulations for Analysis and Public Review
- E. Habitat**
- E.1 Current Habitat Issues**
- a. Report of the HC Stuart Ellis
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Consider Habitat Committee Recommendations

F. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

F.1 Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment and Harvest Guideline

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. NMFS Report
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Adopt Pacific Sardine Harvest Guideline and Management Measures for 2007
- Mike Burner
Kevin Hill

F.2 Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Terms of Reference for 2007

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. SSC Report
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Adopt Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species STAR Panels for Public Review
- Mike Burner
Bob Conrad

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2006

GENERAL SESSION

8:00 am

Salons A-D

- A. Call to Order (reconvene)** Don Hansen

- A.7 Commencing Remarks** Don McIsaac

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

D.7 Intersector Allocation for Trawl Individual Quotas and Other Management Needs

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Recommendations of the Groundfish Allocation Committee
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Alternatives for Analysis and Further Development
- John DeVore
Don Hansen

G. Pacific Halibut Management

G.1 Changes to Catch Sharing Plan and 2007 Annual Regulations

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Agency and Tribal Recommendations and Comments
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Proposed Changes for 2007
- Chuck Tracy

H. Marine Protected Areas

H.1 Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Marine Protected Areas

- a. Agenda Item Overview Mike Burner
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider the Next Steps in Implementation of Fishing Regulations through the Magnuson-Stevens Act

B. Administrative Matters (continued)

B.2 Updated Research and Data Needs

- a. Agenda Item Overview Mike Burner
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations

B.3 Legislative Matters

- a. Agenda Item Overview Mike Burner
- b. Legislative Committee Report Dave Hanson
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Recommendations of the Legislative Committee

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

GENERAL SESSION

8:00 am

Salons A-D

- A. Call to Order (reconvene) Don Hansen

- A.8 Commencing Remarks Don McIsaac

I. Salmon Management

I.1 Preseason Salmon Management Schedule for 2007

- a. Agenda Item Overview Chuck Tracy
- b. Agency and Tribal Comments
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Approve 2007 Preseason Management Schedule and Hearing Sites

I.2 Salmon Methodology Review

- a. Agenda Item Overview Chuck Tracy
- b. Report of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Bob Conrad
- c. Agency and Tribal Comments
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Salmon Methodology Changes for 2007

I.3 FMP Amendment 15 (de minimis fisheries)

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Salmon Amendment Committee Report
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Alternative for Implementation in 2007
- Chuck Tracy
LB Boydston

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

D.8 Final Consideration of Inseason Adjustments, If Necessary

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt or Confirm Final Recommendations for Adjustments to 2006 and 2007 Fisheries
- John DeVore

B. Administrative Matters (continued)

B.4 Fiscal Matters

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Budget Committee Report
 - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Consider Recommendations of the Budget Committee
- John Coon
Jerry Mallet

B.5 Appointment of Council Officers and Members of Advisory Bodies, Standing Committees, and Other Forums, Including the 2007-2009 Advisory Body Term and any Necessary Changes to Council Operating Procedures (COP)

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Appoint Council Officers, Consider Changes to COPs, Appoint New Advisory Body Members as Necessary, Including 2007-2009 Advisory Body Term
- John Coon

B.6 Council Three-Meeting Outlook, Draft March 2007 Council Meeting Agenda, and Workload Priorities

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. Council Guidance on Three Meeting Outlook, March 2007 Council Agenda, and Council Staff Workload, including Priorities for Advisory Body Consideration
- Don McIsaac

ADJOURN

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2006

Budget Committee	4:00 pm	Equestrian Room
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006

Council Secretariat	8:00 am	Polo Room
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 am	Derby Room
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 am	Salon E
Habitat Committee	8:00 am	Salon F
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8:00 am	Triple Crown Room
Special Session: National Marine Sanctuary Roundtable Discussion	8:30 am	Steeple Chase I-II
Special Session: Groundfish Ecosystem Productivity Presentation	10:30 am	Steeple Cheese I-II
Enforcement Consultants	5:30 pm	Equestrian Room
Legislative Committee	7:00 pm	Steeple Chase I-II

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2006

Council Secretariat	7:00 am	Polo Room
California State Delegation	7:00 am	Derby Room
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 am	Steeple Chase I-II
Washington State Delegation	7:00 am	Salon F
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 am	Derby Room
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 am	Salon E
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8:00 am	Triple Crown Room
Salmon Amendment Committee	1:00 pm	Steeple Chase I-II
Habitat Committee/Scientific and Statistical Subcommittee on Ecosystem Management	1:00 pm	Salon F
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Equestrian Room

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006

Council Secretariat	7:00 am	Polo Room
California State Delegation	7:00 am	Derby Room
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 am	Steeple Chase I-II
Washington State Delegation	7:00 am	Salon F
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 am	Derby Room
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 am	Salon E
Salmon Amendment Committee	8:00 am	Steeple Chase I-II
Enforcement Consultants	As necessary	Equestrian Room
Annual Awards Banquet	6:00 pm	Derby Room

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2006

Council Secretariat	7:00 am	Polo Room
California State Delegation	7:00 am	Derby Room
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 am	Steeple Chase I and II
Washington State Delegation	7:00 am	Salon F
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 am	Derby Room
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 am	Salon E
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8:00 am	Steeple Chase I and II
Salmon Technical Team	8:00 am	Salon F
Special Session: California Current Ecosystem Research Presentation	2:00 pm	Steeple Chase I and II
Enforcement Consultants	As necessary	Equestrian Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

Council Secretariat	7:00 am	Polo Room
California State Delegation	7:00 am	Derby Room
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 am	Steeple Chase I and II
Washington State Delegation	7:00 am	Salon F
Salmon Technical Team	As necessary	Salon F
Enforcement Consultants	As necessary	Equestrian Room

PFMC
10/27/06

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