

PROPOSED AGENDA
Scientific and Statistical Committee
Groundfish Subcommittee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Bay View Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 9-10, 2007

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Groundfish Subcommittee meetings are open to the public. Questions and comments from the public will be accepted at the discretion of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee chair.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007 – 1 P.M.

A. Call to Order and Administrative Matters

1. Approve Agenda and Open Discussion

Subcommittee 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. Rapporteurs (with assistance of the discussions leads) are responsible for: 1) writing a draft statement for full SSC review on June 11-12 (see SSC Agenda, Ancillary D), 2) recording notes on Subcommittee comments and recommendations, and 3) summarizing the conclusions of the Subcommittee during Monday evening's Special Session.

A suggested time for each agenda item is provided. 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 the agenda be amended.

E. Groundfish Management

6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries

Pacific Ocean Perch Updated Assessment Review
(1:15 p.m., **Jagielo, Berkely**)

Cowcod Updated Assessment Review
(3 p.m., **Punt, Helser**)

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2007 – 8 A.M.

E. Groundfish Management, continued

6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries (continued)

Yelloweye Rockfish Updated Assessment Review
(8 a.m., **Dorn, Ralston**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

Shortbelly Rockfish Assessment Review
(10 a.m., **Sampson, Punt**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

LUNCH

E. Groundfish Management, continued

6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries (continued)

English Sole Updated Assessment Review
(1 p.m., **Ralston, Jagielo**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

Widow Rockfish Updated Assessment Review
(3 p.m., **Hamel, Sampson**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

ADJOURN

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 – 7 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENING SESSION
Balboa-Columbus Ballroom
Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries
Question and Answer Session
Monday June 11, 2007
7 p.m.

PFMC
05/25/07

PROPOSED AGENDA
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Alexandria II and III Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 10-15, 2007

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2007 – 1 P.M.

A. Administrative Matters

(1 p.m.)

1. Roll Call, Introductions, Announcements, etc.
2. Opening Remarks and Agenda Overview
3. Approve Agenda

Tom Ghio, Chair
John DeVore

E. Groundfish Management

7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(1:30 p.m.; Report to the Council on Wednesday)
5. Preliminary Review of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for 2008
(2:30 p.m.; Report to the Council on Wednesday)
7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(3 p.m.; Joint Session with the Groundfish Management Team)
7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(4 p.m.)

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 – 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters

(8 a.m.)

4. Review Statements

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

4. Amendment 22: Limiting Entry in the Open Access Groundfish Fishery LB Boydston
(8:30 a.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Management Team; Report to the Council on Tuesday*)
4. Amendment 22: Limiting Entry in the Open Access Groundfish Fishery
(9:30 a.m.)

B. Council Administrative Matters

4. COP for Reviewing Proposed Changes to Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Establishing a Groundfish EFH Oversight Committee (OC)
(11 a.m.; *Report to the Council on Wednesday*)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

2. Proposed Process and Schedule for Developing Biennial (2009-2010) Harvest Specifications and Management Measures John DeVore
(11:30 a.m.; *Report to the Council on Tuesday*)
3. Shore-based Pacific Whiting Monitoring Program Yvonne de Reynier/Becky Renko
(1 p.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Management Team; Report to the Council on Tuesday*)

B. Council Administrative Matters (continued)

3. Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN) Data and Sampling Refinements Russell Porter
(2 p.m.; *Report to the Council on Wednesday*)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

8. Amendment 20: Intersector Allocation John DeVore
(3 p.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Management Team; Report to the Council on Thursday*)
7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(4 p.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Management Team*)
6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries
(7 p.m.; *Special Session in the Balboa-Columbus Ballroom*)

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters (continued)

5. Review Statements
(8 a.m.)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

9. Amendment 21: Trawl Rationalization Alternatives
(Trawl Individual Quotas and Cooperatives)
(9 a.m.; Report to the Council on Thursday) Jim Seger

B. Council Administrative Matters (continued)

5. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Implementation Mike Burner
(1 p.m.; Joint Session with the Groundfish Management Team; Report to the Council on Thursday)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

11. Amendment 15: American Fisheries Act Issues Gway Kirchner
(2 p.m.; Report to the Council on Friday)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters (continued)

6. Review Statements
(8 a.m.)

B. Council Administrative Matters (continued)

10. Council Three-Meeting Outlook, September 2007 Council Meeting Agenda, and
Workload Priorities
(9 a.m.; Report to the Council on Friday)

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters (continued)

7. Review Statements
(8 a.m.)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

10. Final Consideration of Inseason Adjustments (if Needed)
(8:30 a.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Management Team; Report to the Council on Friday*)
10. Final Consideration of Inseason Adjustments (if Needed)
(9:30 a.m.)

Note: The Enforcement Consultants will convene an informational meeting to discuss Vessel Monitoring Systems at 7 p.m. in the Alexandria II and III Room.

ADJOURN

PFMC
05/25/07

PROPOSED AGENDA
Groundfish Management Team

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Stanford Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 10-15, 2007

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2007 – 1 P.M.

A. Administrative Matters

(1 p.m.)

1. Roll Call, Introductions, Announcements, etc.
2. Elect Vice-Chair
3. Opening Remarks and Agenda Overview
4. Approve Agenda

Kelly Ames, Chair

Merrick Burden

E. Groundfish Management

7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(2 p.m.; Report to the Council on Wednesday)

7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(3 p.m.; Joint Session with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel in the Alexandria II and III Room)

B. Council Administrative Matters

3. Recreational Fishery Information Network (RecFIN) Data
and Sampling Refinements
(4 p.m.; Report to the Council on Wednesday)

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 – 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters (continued)

5. Review Statements
(8 a.m.)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

4. Amendment 22: Limiting Entry in the Open Access Groundfish Fishery LB Boydston
(8:30 a.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel in the Alexandria II and III Room; Report to the Council on Tuesday*)
4. Amendment 22: Limiting Entry in the Open Access Groundfish Fishery
(9:30 a.m.)
5. Preliminary Review of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for 2008
(10:30 a.m.; *Report to the Council on Wednesday*)

B. Council Administrative Matters (continued)

4. COP for Reviewing Proposed Changes to Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Establishing a Groundfish EFH Oversight Committee (OC)
(11:30 a.m.; *Report to the Council on Wednesday*)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

3. Shore-based Pacific Whiting Monitoring Program Yvonne de Reynier/Becky Renko
(1 p.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel; Report to the Council on Tuesday*)
8. Amendment 20: Intersector Allocation John DeVore
(3 p.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel; Report to the Council on Thursday*)
7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
(4 p.m.; *Joint Session with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel in the Alexandria II and III Room*)
6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries
(7 p.m.; *Special Session in the Balboa-Columbus Ballroom*)

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters (continued)

6. Review Statements
(8 a.m.)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

9. Amendment 21: Trawl Rationalization Alternatives Jim Seger
(Trawl Individual Quotas and Cooperatives)
(11 a.m.; *Report to the Council on Thursday*)

B. Council Administrative Matters (continued)

5. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Implementation Mike Burner
(1 p.m.; Joint Session with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel; Report to the Council on Thursday)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters (continued)

7. Review Statements
(8 a.m.)

B. Council Administrative Matters (continued)

10. Council Three-Meeting Outlook, September 2007 Council Meeting Agenda, and Workload Priorities
(10:30 a.m.; Report to the Council on Friday)

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. Administrative Matters (continued)

8. Review Statements
(8 a.m.)

E. Groundfish Management (continued)

10. Final Consideration of Inseason Adjustments (if Needed)
(8:30 a.m.; Joint Session with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel; Report to the Council on Friday)
10. Final Consideration of Inseason Adjustments (if Needed)
(9:30 a.m.)

ADJOURN

PFMC
05/25/07

PROPOSED AGENDA

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Drake I Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 11-13, 2007

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) meetings are open to the public and public comments will be accepted during the scheduled public comment period. Public comment at times other than the established public comment period will be taken at the discretion of the SSC chair.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. Call to Order and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Report of the Executive Director Don McIsaac
2. Approve Agenda and Open Discussion

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.

A suggestion for the amount of time each agenda item should take is provided. 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 the agenda be amended.

B. Council Administrative Matters

8. Appointment to Advisory Bodies, Standing Committees, and Other Forums,
and COPs as Needed (Closed Session)
(9 a.m., 0.5 hours) Report to Council B *Closed Session - Monday 2 p.m.*

F. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

2. Pacific Mackerel Harvest Guideline for 2007-2008 Emmanis Dorval
(9:30 a.m., 2 hours; **Barnes, Lawson**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

LUNCH

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 - (continued)

E. Groundfish Management

6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries

Sablefish Full Assessment Review

Michael Schirripa

(1 p.m., 2.0 hours; **Conser, Hamel**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

Longnose Skate Full Assessment Review

Vlada Gertseva

(3 p.m., 1 hour; **Berkeley, Barnes**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

Cowcod Updated Assessment Review

(4 p.m., 1 hour; **Punt, Helser**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

A. SSC Administrative Matters, continued

3. Review Statements

(Following public comment period)

SPECIAL EVENING SESSION

Balboa-Columbus Ballroom

Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries

Question and Answer Session

Monday, June 11, 2007

7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. SSC Administrative Matters, continued

4. Review Statements
(8 a.m., 1.5 hours)

B. Council Administrative Matters

3. Recreational Fishery Information Network Data and Sampling Refinements
(9:30 a.m., 1.5 hours **Thomson, Lee**) *Report to Council B Wednesday*

E. Groundfish Management, continued

6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries (continued)

Yelloweye Rockfish Updated Assessment Review
(11 a.m., 1 hour; **Dorn, Ralston**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

LUNCH

E. Groundfish Management, continued

6. Stock Assessments for 2009-2010 Groundfish Fisheries (continued)

Status of the Blue Rockfish Assessment
(1 p.m., 0.5 hours; **Hamel, Conser**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

Shortbelly Rockfish Assessment Review
(1:30 p.m., 1 hour; **Sampson, Punt**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

Pacific Ocean Perch Updated Assessment Review
(2:30 p.m., 0.5 hours; **Jagiello, Berkely**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

English Sole Updated Assessment Review
(3 p.m., 0.5 hours; **Ralston, Jagiello**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

Widow Rockfish Updated Assessment Review
(3:30 p.m., 1 hour; **Hamel, Sampson**) *Report to Council - Wednesday*

A. SSC Administrative Matters, continued

5. Review Statements
(4:30 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007 - 8 A.M.

A. SSC Administrative Matters, continued

6. Review Statements
(8 a.m., 1.5 hours)

E. Groundfish Management, continued

9. Amendment 20: Trawl Rationalization Alternatives
(Trawl Individual Quotas and Cooperatives)
(9:30 a.m., 1 hour; **Lee, Thomson**) *Report to Council - Thursday*

Merrick Burden

B. Council Administrative Matters, continued

5. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Implementation
(10:30 a.m., 1 hour **Dorn, Conser**) *Report to Council B Thursday*

A. SSC Administrative Matters, continued

7. Planning of Remaining 2007 SSC Meetings
Research and Data Needs Document Schedule
(11:30 p.m., 0.5 hours)
8. Review Statements
(12 p.m., 1 hour)

Mike Burner

ADJOURN

PFMC
05/25/07

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES
Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Seattle Marriott Hotel Sea-Tac
Seattle Ballroom 2 and 3
3201 South 176th Street
Seattle, Washington 98188
April 2-3, 2007

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

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. Dr. Donald McIsaac briefed the SSC on priority agenda items.

Subcommittee assignments for 2007 are detailed in the table at the end of this document.

Members in Attendance

Mr. Tom Barnes, California Department on Fish and Game, La Jolla, CA
Mr. Steve Berkeley, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA (April 3 only)
Mr. Robert Conrad, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, WA
Dr. Ramon Conser, National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, CA
Dr. Martin Dorn, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA
Dr. Owen Hamel, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA
Dr. Tom Helser, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA
Mr. Tom Jagielo, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA
Dr. Peter Lawson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Newport, OR
Dr. Todd Lee, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA
Mr. Lyman McDonald, West Incorporated, Laramie, WY
Dr. André Punt, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Dr. Stephen Ralston, National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Cruz, CA
Dr. David Sampson, Oregon State University, Newport, OR
Ms. Cindy Thomson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Cruz, CA

Scientific and Statistical Committee Comments to the Council

The following is a compilation of March 2007 SSC reports to the Council. (Related SSC discussion not included in written comment to the Council is provided in *italicized text*).

Council Administrative Matters

C.2. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Implementation

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed issues pertaining to Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) reauthorization implementation as they relate to the role of the SSC in the Council process. The SSC also discussed particular issues regarding the implementation of annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs).

The SSC's March 2007 report to the Council on this topic is still relevant. As such, it is attached to this report.

From the SSC's point of view, the stocks currently managed under Council fishery management plans (FMPs) that have biologically-based control rules governing harvest (e.g., the principal groundfish stocks and sardine) may already have sufficient precautionary characteristics to meet the reauthorized MSA requirements, such as ACLs, AMs, and buffers. However, many Council stocks are managed through control rules that are not biologically based (e.g., minor rockfish species). While it may be desirable to manage all species with control rules, the large number of stocks involved and the data-poor nature of the assessments make this impractical for all stocks. Furthermore, salmon are generally managed for escapement, rather than using explicit catch accounting control rules. Managing for spawning biomass is generally appropriate, and is arguably closer to the management goal.

Even with substantial additional funding, it is unlikely explicit catch accounting control rules can be developed for all stocks managed under Council FMPs. The SSC suggests it may be prudent for NMFS to fully consider these factors when creating the National Standards needed to implement the reauthorized MSA.

March 2007 SSC statement

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed new provisions of the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA) as they relate to the role of the SSC in the Council process. The SSC has a number of questions regarding these provisions:

Provision: "The Council shall establish annual catch limits for each managed fishery that may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its SSC" (MSA 302(h)(6), p. 51)

The Pacific Council has maintained a clear distinction between scientific analysis and advice and policy decisions, with the SSC taking the lead on the science. With regard to coastal pelagic and groundfish catch limits, the SSC's role has been to review the harvest control rule and the stock assessments that are fed into the control rule. The Council's role has been

to establish annual catch limits, which (for groundfish) involves taking into consideration the decision table showing harvest levels associated with high, medium, and low levels of risk to the stock. While not mandated by the SSC, it has generally been Council practice not to exceed the risk-neutral level of harvest indicated by the control rule.

If the “fishing level recommendations” that the SSC is expected to provide under the MSRA are intended to be numeric catch limits, this will be a major deviation from Council practice, as it will require the SSC to make policy decisions. This raises several issues: (1) Is the SSC supposed to establish catch limits strictly on the basis of biological considerations? If so, this will be tantamount to an implicit policy decision to disregard ecosystem and socioeconomic issues in setting catch limits. (2) What types of information would the SSC be required to consider in establishing catch limits? For instance, would the SSC consider results of a regulatory analysis and take input from advisory bodies and the public? If so, then what is the role of the Council with regard to setting catch limits? If not, does this leave the Council and NOAA Fisheries Service vulnerable to claims of procedural violations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the MSA?

Provision: “The SSC shall provide recommendations for acceptable biological catch, preventing overfishing, maximum sustainable yield and achieving rebuilding targets, and reports on stock status and health, bycatch, habitat status, socioeconomic impacts of management measures, sustainability of fishing practices (MSA 302(g), pp 49-50).

Clarification is needed with regard to SSC responsibilities entailed by this provision. For instance, does this responsibility pertain to all species (including salmon and highly migratory species)? In terms of “preventing overfishing” and “achieving rebuilding targets”, is the SSC supposed to set numeric bycatch levels associated with rebuilding? If so, then the same issues raised above with regard to the SSC setting of catch limits would apply here as well.

Does the requirement that the SSC “provide” reports on stock and habitat status, bycatch, socioeconomic impacts of management measures and the like mean the SSC will “produce” these reports. If so, given the Council’s practice of separating analysis from review, who will review the SSC’s production of these reports?

The SSC also discussed pending efforts by NOAA Fisheries Service to integrate NEPA requirements with fishery regulatory requirements in such a way as to streamline the management process. Given that rationale for the biennial groundfish management and assessment cycle was the cumbersome nature of the regulatory process, would such streamlining reduce the time lag between groundfish management actions and the stock assessments on which they are based?

SSC Notes

The SSC makes the following comments on the Agenda Item C.2.a. Attachment 2, “Managing Yields in a Groundfish Management Regime of Individual Fishing Quotas, Intersector Allocations, and Stringent Rebuilding Requirements.”

- 1. The necessity of explicitly representing sectors in stock assessments should be considered in more detail. For stocks that exhibit significant heterogeneous selectivity across sectors, the “fisheries” in the assessment would need to closely correspond to the sectors so that overages can be properly accounted for. This should be recognized in the document.*
- 2. Page 3, paragraph 2 contains a sentence that states “It is also possible that the demand for quota pounds of the most constraining stocks may drive the price of this quota up to a point where it is not economically feasible to continue fishing.” The SSC notes that under a limited access program (LAP) system with traded quota shares, the prices would be set by supply and demand. While the number of fishermen willing to purchase quota share declines at higher prices, a high price would only exist if someone found it economically feasible to continue fishing at that price. High quota share prices for a particular species send a signal to fisherman that that species is scarce and should be avoided if one does not wish to pay a relatively high cost to acquire its quota.*
- 3. Additional clarification is needed on how ACLs could be implemented with multiyear OY’s to simplify the management process. Also, the biological risks associated with multiyear OY’s would require analysis.*

Salmon Management

G.3. Methodology Review Process and Preliminary Topic Selection for 2007

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met with members of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to identify and discuss methodology reviews for 2007. Four items were identified for potential SSC review this fall.

1. Chinook and Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) has completed work on draft documentation of the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). Coded wire tag (CWT) surrogates are needed for certain lower Columbia River wild coho and wild Chinook stocks. Criteria for selection and evaluation of surrogates for use in the FRAM are issues for review.
2. Coho FRAM. Two preliminary reports have been prepared: a report on base period development for input into the Coho FRAM, and a report on selection of years for base period averaging. The SSC plans to provide review comments to the authors at the June Council meeting.
3. Chinook and Coho FRAM. With completion of draft documentation for the FRAMs, the MEW should conduct sensitivity analyses of the models to major assumptions, including sensitivity to

parameters related to mark-selective fisheries such as drop-off rates, drop-off mortality rates, release mortality rates, and mark misidentification. The SSC will review results of these analyses, when complete.

4. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI). Study designs for the ongoing and proposed statistical sampling of ocean salmon harvest for GSI should be reviewed.

Two issues identified by the Council relative to Klamath River fall Chinook will not be reviewed, because apparently new data or analyses are not available. These issues deal with the contact rate and catch projection portions of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model and the assumed September 1 maturity date for Klamath River fall Chinook. If new information becomes available, the SSC can review the issues at a later time.

Further, the SSC recommends that all current FRAM documentation be made available on the Council's FTP or World Wide Web site. In addition, a central location of documentation is needed for the methods and data used in the annual pre-season abundance forecasts and post-season estimates for Chinook and Coho salmon. Currently, it is difficult to review these forecasts and estimates as documentation of methods needed for critical review is not readily available.

Notes for the SSC.

Multiyear Chinook selective fisheries model. *There is apparently a multiyear Chinook selective fisheries model being used in Puget Sound that might be reviewed by the SSC for our education. If mark selective Chinook fisheries are proposed for Council waters this model should be reviewed by the SSC.*

FRAM. *We envision an intensive evaluation of the FRAM against simulated data that would evaluate the model's methods for approximating competing sources of mortality. Also, the current FRAM does not consider the gauntlet nature of salmon fisheries.*

Stock assessment methodology for salmon stocks. *There is a need to know who does what, and if anything, where is the documentation for ~165 meta-population/ESU stocks of salmon. There is a 1995 review of stock assessment methodology for salmon stocks in Puget Sound. The SSC should consider review of the document for our education. Pete provided a copy of the 1995 SSC review to Lyman. Copies could be made available to the entire salmon subcommittee.*

Council requests relative to the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model. *Contact rate and catch projection portions of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model have been questioned. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) made a presentation to the SSC and provided documentation concerning the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model. In the view of the SSC, the modeled effects of the parameters on harvest rate forecasts are appropriate and have been adequately addressed by the STT. The SSC is willing to review new data and information concerning the effect of the assumed September 1 maturity date for Klamath River fall Chinook on evaluation of the natural portion of the run.*

Groundfish Management

E.1. NMFS Report

The Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed the reports of three of the four off-year workshops held during 2006. The report of the harvest policy workshop was reviewed by the SSC during the March Council meeting. The SSC notes that the off-year workshops provide a means for developing a common approach to dealing with specific assessment-related problems and that the benefits of these workshops will be maximized if their recommendations are provided to all assessment authors and STAR Panel participants

The SSC notes that a committee of independent expert's reviewer attended the bottom trawl survey workshop. However, the report from this reviewer was not available to the SSC.

The NWFSC Bottom Trawl Survey workshop considered how best to use the results from the "expanded" shelf-slope survey during the 2007 round of stock assessments. The SSC endorses the recommendation from the workshop that the "expanded" shelf-slope survey should either be treated as a new index or used to extend the current slope survey index. The SSC notes that the data from the triennial and "expanded" surveys can be combined, but this would require adequate support from the analyses. The SSC also agreed with the workshop recommendation that assessment updates should not use the data from the "expanded" survey if they are to be reviewed as assessment updates. However, this means that there will be no new information on trends in abundance for widow rockfish and English sole.

The SSC supports the recommendation from the Data/Modeling workshop that the approach used to represent stock status in assessment reports should be modified, and members of the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee will work with the developer of SS2 to implement this. The SSC notes that although it was anticipated that deadlines would be set for when data are to be received for the 2007 stock assessments, no actual dates have been set; such dates should be set for the 2009 round of groundfish assessments. Finally, the SSC supports the recommendation from the Data/Modeling workshop that a single "best" catch series by species and state should be constructed. This is particularly important for rockfish species.

The SSC endorses the conclusion of the Pre-Recruit Survey workshop that it is possible to combine the data from 2001-06 from the RV David Starr Jordan and the FV Excalibur, and that the earlier SWFSC data should not be used in stock assessments, except in those for species found predominantly in the "core" area surveyed by the SWFSC. The SSC supports assessment authors critically evaluating alternative assumptions for how pre-recruit data should be included in stock assessments, but notes that only a few assessments will be able to make use of pre-recruit data for the 2007 round of stock assessments.

Notes

- 1. Although, the participants at the bottom trawl survey workshop preferred a GLMM approach for constructing survey biomass indices, the SSC is not convinced that sufficient analyses have been conducted to draw definitive conclusions in this regard. The SSC recommends that analysts*

should not be precluded from using design-based estimates of abundance if appropriate justification is provided. In addition, the SSC supports the recommendations of the Data/Modeling workshop that simulations of GLMM vs. swept area biomass estimates be conducted as this should help resolve the choice among methods for determining biomass indices for use in assessments.

2. *The time-series of the ratio of the annual exploitation rates to the target exploitation rates should be computed as follows:*
 - a. *Calculate the total catch / summary biomass for each year.*
 - b. *Find the yield-per-recruit under the fishing mortality corresponding to an SPR of 0.4 for each year based on each year's exploitation pattern.*
 - c. *Find the summary biomass-per-recruit under the fishing mortality corresponding to an SPR of 0.4 for each year based on each year's exploitation pattern.*
 - d. *Divide the time-series from (a) by the time-series obtained by dividing the outcomes from (b) by those from (c).*
3. *Given concerns regarding the spatial coverage of the pre-recruit surveys, the widow assessment update should include a sensitivity testing which the pre-recruit data are ignored.*

SSC Administrative Matters

A.5. Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Commercial Fisheries Cost-Earnings Data Collection Program: Update and Future Plans

Dr. Carl Lian gave a briefing to the SSC on the NWFSC cost-earnings survey of West Coast commercial fisheries. The survey is designed as a census of entire fishery sectors, and consists of a short (~1 hr) in-person interview to collect annual cost and earning data. Surveys of limited entry trawl and limited entry fixed gear fleets have recently been completed. Coastwide response rates were 77% for the limited entry trawl fleet and 55% for the limit entry fixed gear fleet, which are excellent response rates for a voluntary survey. Comparisons between responders and non-responders indicated broadly similar vessel characteristics and landings composition, but a tendency for higher overall landings by those that responded to survey. A charter boat operator survey is currently being fielded in Washington and Oregon, and there are firm plans to survey the open access groundfish and salmon fleets, followed by a repeat survey of limited entry trawl and fixed gear fleets. A survey of processors is being planned but a timetable for fielding the survey has not yet been established.

The SSC encourages a robust follow-up to the survey to acknowledge the strong good-faith response. Some of the ideas discussed included providing each responder with a comparison between their economic data and the fleet as a whole, demonstration of the utility of the survey data in analysis of TIQ alternatives, and posting survey results on a suitable web site. Preparation of a report suitable for a non-technical audience may also be useful.

Purchase of long-lived assets, such as a new engine, could magnify costs for certain responders. While these major purchases should average out across a fishery sector, the distribution of net earnings, which may be important for some analyses, would be inaccurate. Since information on major purchases is recorded by the survey, consideration should be given to how to amortize these costs.

While annual cost and earnings surveys provide critical information, economic data needs do not stop there. For example, economic information on the trip level, such as days at sea, crew size and fuel costs, would be useful for assessing economic responses to current and proposed management measures. Although some of this trip-level information is being collected by the observers, the potential utility of logbooks is not being fully realized. Fields already exist in logbooks for much of this information, but typically are not filled out by fishermen, who recognize that the information is not used. Perhaps a different kind of survey, with fewer participants, but with a full seasonal reconstruction of cost and earnings using logbooks, should also be considered.

Council Administrative Matters, continued

C.5. Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the concept of ecosystem-based fishery management, and how it may move forward for Council-managed fisheries. A clear link between current fishery management practices and developing explicit ecosystem considerations is provided by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act definition of optimum yield that states: “optimum yield ... takes into account the protection of marine ecosystems.”

The SSC found the “Staff White Paper – Development of an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan” to provide a useful framework for beginning the process of developing an Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (EFMP). In particular, the SSC concurs that a Plan Development Team (Team) should be established for this purpose, as is proposed in the white paper. However, the white paper focuses primarily on the process and does not specify the rationale or specific elements that should be included in an EFMP. Since many of the fundamental issues have not been resolved concerning how ecosystem considerations could work in fishery management, the SSC suggests that the initial charge for the Team be to define the objectives of an EFMP, and how those objectives could be translated into policy.

The SSC notes that existing control rules for Council-managed species provide only limited ecosystem considerations. Consequently, it would be useful to have a summary of the degree to which these considerations are currently being addressed, and an explanation of how existing Council management practices may be inadequate in this regard.

Key issues that should be addressed at the outset of the EFMP process are to define the ecosystem(s) being managed, and to establish the scope of ecosystem impacts that would ideally be addressed under the proposed EFMP. Also, it is important early in the process to consider the data and scientific requirements for providing practical ecosystem advice to the Council.

Highly Migratory Species Management

J.6. Council Recommendations on Conservation Measures to be Considered by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

No scientific information or background material was presented relative to regulations that the PFMC should consider to address Yellowfin tuna overfishing. If the SSC is to evaluate management regulations such as closed areas/seasons then appropriate technical documentation is needed.

It may be desirable for a member of the SSC to participate in RFMO (IATTC, WCPFC) activities and assessment/review processes to clarify TOR, management goals and conservation criteria. The IATTC 8th Working Group of Stock Assessments is scheduled for May 7-11, 2007. This may afford an opportunity for SSC participation.

J.2. Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for Longline Fishing in the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the Draft EA regarding issuance of an EFP to fish with longline gear in the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The SSC notes that the proposed EFP pertains to operation of a single vessel which would be fishing with longline gear in an area without corresponding drift gillnet fishing for comparison of finfish and prohibited species bycatch between the two gear types. Few constraints are imposed to limit where the vessel will operate, and no experimental design is proposed to test the hypothesis that longline gear would offer an improvement in bycatch rates over drift gillnet fishing gear. Average bycatch values are inadequate to evaluate bycatch impacts. Bycatch events are typically rare and spatially correlated. As such, the problem is one of estimating the statistical probability of a rare event (i.e., a longline set with large bycatch). Data collected from a single vessel operating under an EFP would not be adequate for this purpose.

The SSC did not find adequate information in the Environmental Assessment to evaluate the biological risks of the proposed EFP. For example, the values presented in Table 4 (page 80) are projected bycatch rates based on average bycatch information from Hawaii. Bycatch rates for Hawaii cannot be assumed to be representative of the area to be evaluated under the EFP. The most feasible way to constrain the biological risks of fishing with longline gear in the West Coast EEZ would be to operate a fishery with full observer coverage and to impose hard bycatch caps.

J.3. Albacore Fishing Effort Characterization

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) document “Estimating recent effort for the U.S. fisheries landing albacore,” agenda item J.3.b, and the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) report, agenda item J.3.c. The requirement was to demonstrate that U.S. fishing effort for albacore tuna is not increasing. Neither method was satisfactory to the SSC. The SSC considers that, for this application, effort is being used as a surrogate for fishing mortality.

The HMSAS proposal provides a raw measure of effort that could not be used to demonstrate trends in fishing mortality.

Problems with the HMSMT document are more complex. The HMSMT attempted to account for all U.S. effort from nine separate fisheries. The single fishery with the most landings (79.1%) was the Troll/Baitboat fishery. This was used as the standard of comparison for other fisheries. For fisheries with effort data, effort was scaled based on the ratio of catch per unit of effort (CPUE). Fisheries without effort data were assumed to have CPUE equivalent to the Troll/Baitboat fishery. Effort was then summed across all fisheries. The major problem with this approach is the difficulty of comparing CPUE across widely differing fisheries especially in light of the high year-to-year variability in the CPUE data.

The SSC suggests an alternative procedure. First, fishing mortality for the U.S. fisheries (U.S. partial F) should be partitioned out of the overall international fishery mortality. If the U.S. partial F is stable or decreasing then the criterion of no increasing fishing mortality is satisfied. If the U.S. partial F is increasing, the segment of the fishery that is responsible can be identified by analyzing trends in fishing mortality by gear type.

SSC Notes

Effort of various fisheries standardized to troll/baitboat (79.1% of landings) based on CPUE. Troll/baitboat have logbooks. Validity? Common currency?

Other contributors:

Sport charter = 9.6%

sport private = 3.7%

longline = 5.5%

Tuna commission has not historically considered recreational fisheries.

2 ways of expressing uncertainty –95% CI, range

Want to cap effective F (rather than effort). Rather than aggregate index look at individual segments.

There may be more rigorous ways of summarizing the information. For example:

- 1. Standardize the effort data.*
- 2. Calculate partial Fs. Can you then estimate q from noisy data?*
- 3. First test to see if U.S. Fs are stable (linear regression)*
- 4. If \leq stable then done, else look for relationships between fleet-specific partial Fs and effort.*

Public Comment

Ms. Jennifer Bloesser, Science Director for the Pacific Marine Conservation Council, provided a brief overview of a groundfish spatial management project PMCC has initiated. The project

includes a pilot program to develop a marine stewardship area in Port Orford, Oregon. Several PMCC members, including Dr. Robert Francis, are working on the project and may be consulting with SSC members in the near future. Ms. Bloesser encouraged interested SSC member interested in the project to consider attending a meeting regarding the Port Orford stewardship area in early May. Additionally, PMCC is interested in area or spatially based approaches under the Council's efforts to establish a trawl rationalization program and may have some funding available to facilitate meetings or workshops.

Adjournment B The SSC adjourned at approximately 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, 2007.

PFMC
05/29/07

SSC Subcommittee Assignments for 2007

Salmon	Groundfish	CPS	HMS	Economic	Ecosystem-Based Management
Pete Lawson	Martin Dorn	Steve Ralston	Ray Conser	Cindy Thomson	Steve Berkeley
Robert Conrad	Steve Berkeley	Tom Barnes	Tom Barnes	Todd Lee	Tom Barnes
Owen Hamel	Ray Conser	Ray Conser	Steve Berkeley	David Sampson	Martin Dorn
Lyman McDonald	Owen Hamel	Tom Jagielo	Robert Conrad		Tom Jagielo
David Sampson	Tom Helser	Tom Helser	André Punt		Pete Lawson
	Tom Jagielo	André Punt			Todd Lee
	André Punt				André Punt
	Steve Ralston				Steve Ralston
	David Sampson				Cindy Thomson

Bold denotes Subcommittee Chairperson

PROPOSED AGENDA
Budget Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Alexandria I Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 11, 2007

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 – 8:30 A.M.

A. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Jerry Mallet, Chair

B. Executive Director's Budget Report

Donald McIsaac

1. Current Status of Funding and Expenditures (2005-2009 Award)
 - a. Funding Received in 2007
 - b. 2007 Base Budget and Expenditures through April
 - c. Trawl Rationalization (Individual Quota) Spending Plan Development
2. Preliminary Expectations for Future Funding
 - a. President's Budget Request for 2008
 - b. Other
3. Recommendations

C. Other

ADJOURN

PFMC
5/25/07

PROPOSED AGENDA
Habitat Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Drake II Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 11, 2007

Note: Agenda item numbers in bold reflect the Council agenda.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 – 9 A.M.

A. Call to Order and Habitat Committee (HC) Administrative Matters

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda Chair
2. Review of Council Actions/Directions Jennifer Gilden

B. Administrative Matters (9:15 A.M.)

- 10. Council Three-Meeting Outlook, September 2007 Council Meeting
Agenda, and Workload Priorities** HC
 - *Review future agendas and finalize comments on this agenda item; discuss
inclusion of climate change issues*

D. Habitat Issues (10 A.M.)

1. HC Member Updates (including Klamath fishery review status) HC
2. Process and Politics of Establishing Marine Protected Areas on the
Central California Coast (10:30 A.M.) John Ugoretz

LUNCH BREAK (12 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.)

B. Administrative Matters

- 4. Council Process for Reviewing and Incorporating Proposed Changes to
Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat** John Coon/Kit Dahl

D. Habitat Issues (2:15 P.M.)

3. Open discussion of HC focus HC
4. Role of fish spill in Columbia River salmon returns Liz Hamilton

A. HC Administrative Matters (4 P.M.)

3. Prepare Comments on Agenda items B.4 and B.10; prepare Habitat Committee Report

HC

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (4:30 P.M.)

ADJOURN

PFMC

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PROPOSED AGENDA
Enforcement Consultants

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Alexandria I Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 11-15, 2007

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007 – 4:30 P.M.

A. Call to Order

1. Introductions
2. Review and Adopt Agenda

Tony Warrington

B. Council Agenda Items for Possible Comment

(There may or may not be enforcement issues associated with all of the following items. Items on the Council Agenda but not listed here may also be considered during the Enforcement Consultants meeting.)

B. Administrative Matters

1. Future Council Meeting Agenda Planning
2. Council Operating Procedure (COP) for Providing Highly Migratory Species Management Recommendations to Regional Fishery Management Organizations
4. COP for Reviewing Proposed Changes to Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Establishing a Groundfish EFH Oversight Committee
5. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Implementation
10. Council Three-Meeting Outlook, September 2007 Council Meeting Agenda, and Workload Priorities

E. Groundfish Management

3. Shore-Based Pacific Whiting Monitoring Program
4. Amendment 22: Limiting Entry in the Open Access Groundfish Fishery
5. Preliminary Review of Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for 2008
7. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
9. Amendment 20: Trawl Rationalization Alternatives (Trawl Individual Quotas and Cooperatives)

C. Other Topics

1. Enforcement Presentations at Future Council Meetings
2. Items for Enforcement Corner of the Council Newsletter
3. Material for an Enforcement Corner on the Council Website

D. Public Comment

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007 THROUGH FRIDAY JUNE 15, 2007 MEETING CONTINUES
AS NECESSARY.

Informal Vessel Monitoring System Program Review with Industry Representatives	7:00 pm	Alexandria II & III Room
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ADJOURN

PFMC
05/25/07

**Largest Shark Smuggling Prosecution;
Creation of \$1.5 Million Partnership to Restore and Rehabilitate San Francisco Bay**

After the far reaching and thorough investigation was completed in January 2006, six individuals were convicted and sentenced for their role in taking, purchasing and selling undersized California leopard sharks in violation of California state law, which prohibits the sale of juvenile sharks under 36 inches in length. This conspiracy involved the shipment for sale of thousands of sharks taken from the San Francisco Bay. These convictions are the result of an investigation conducted by NOAA Fisheries Service's Office of Law Enforcement in conjunction with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish & Game, the United Kingdom's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Fish Health Inspectorate and The Netherlands General Inspection Service (AID). The investigation began when California wildlife agents with NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began monitoring internet websites dealing in baby leopard sharks. The surveillance of these websites eventually led to a Miami pet trade distributor who was caught with 18 undersized leopard sharks from California. The distributor was convicted in 2003 of one count in violation of the Lacey Act and received an 18 month sentence

The defendants' admitted to the following in their plea agreements:

1. Kevin Thompson is the pastor of the Bay Area Family Church, Holy Spirit Association for Unification of World Christianity in San Leandro, California. From 1992-2003, he led a scheme whereby members of his church illegally harvested undersized California leopard sharks from the San Francisco Bay and sold them throughout the United States and abroad. In addition to paying restitution of \$100,000, Mr. Thompson was sentenced on January 22, 2007, to one year and one day in prison and is scheduled to begin serving his sentence on March 19, 2007.
2. John Newberry admitted that from 1992-2004, he and other church members fished for undersized leopard sharks using church vessels and stored the sharks at a facility located in San Leandro, California, owned by a business associated with the church. They then shipped the sharks out of Oakland and San Francisco Airports for sale to dealers throughout the country and abroad. The sharks were sold wholesale to distributors for approximately \$9 to \$25 per shark. In addition to paying restitution of \$50,000, Mr. Newberry was sentenced to 6 months in prison and 6 months of community confinement on February 2, 2007. He is scheduled to begin serving his sentence on April 9, 2007.
3. Hiroshi Ishikawa admitted that from 1996-2003; he caught and sold undersized California leopard sharks taken from the San Francisco Bay with other church members, under the direction of John Newberry and Kevin Thompson. In addition to paying restitution of \$40,000, Mr. Ishikawa was sentenced on October 11, 2006, to three years probation.
4. Vincent Ng acknowledged that from 2001-2004; he bought and sold undersized California leopard sharks through his business, Amazon Aquarium, Inc., an aquaria business located in Alameda, California. The sharks were sold throughout the United States for \$25-\$50 per shark. In addition to paying restitution of \$100,000, Mr. Ng was

sentenced to eight months home confinement, two years probation, and is scheduled to begin serving his sentence on April 1, 2007.

5. Ira Gass admitted that from 1996 to 2003, he purchased the undersized California leopard sharks taken from the San Francisco Bay and sold them to other marine aquaria dealers throughout the United States and abroad. When shipping the sharks, Mr. Gass would intentionally mislabel them as “common sharks” in order to avoid detection by wildlife inspectors. The sharks were sold throughout the United States and abroad for \$50-\$75 per shark. In addition to paying restitution of \$100,000, Mr. Gass was sentenced on February 5, 2007, to 8 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and is scheduled to begin serving his sentence on April 17, 2007.
6. Sion Lim, a citizen of Singapore, regularly purchased and sold undersized California leopard sharks through his fish and corals wholesale distribution business in Oakland, California, Bayside Marine Aquatics. The sharks were sold throughout the United States for approximately \$25 per shark. In addition to paying restitution of \$20,000, Mr. Lim was sentenced on June 6, 2006, to one year probation, and a \$5,000 fine.

After extensive negotiations with the defendants and the attorney for the Church, the United States reached one additional resolution when the Church entered a non-diversion agreement and agreed to pay \$500,000 in restitution.

California leopard sharks are a species of shark within the Triakidae family and are commonly found in ocean waters along the Oregon, California, and Baja Mexico coasts. Leopard sharks are commonly found in bays and estuaries from the California/Oregon border south to Baja, Mexico. Major pupping areas where young California leopard sharks are born are found within San Francisco and Monterey Bays as well as the southern California coast. The pupping season extends from March through July with a peak between April and May. Pups are born live and are approximately 10 inches in length. In January 1994, California leopard sharks were afforded extra protection under California State law when the California Department of Fish & Game Code placed a minimum size limit of 36 inches for any commercial take of the species within California jurisdiction. This size limit was implemented because the California leopard shark is a slow growing species that does not reach sexual maturity until between 7 to 13 years of age. The species may live as long as 30 years. Because of these factors and others, including increased commercial and sport fishing, California State wildlife authorities have established these management measures to ensure the species' ability to maintain healthy stocks in the wild.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, California, the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois, and the Cabrillo Aquarium in San Pedro, Calif., collaborated with and assisted federal wildlife agents and Illinois Conservation officers in the transport and care of 19 baby leopard sharks confiscated during the course of the investigation. The baby sharks, which ranged in size from eight-and-a-half to 17 ½ inches, were shipped to California in July 2004 by Shedd Aquarium staff and received further care at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Nine were ultimately returned to the wild in Monterey Bay in the summer of 2004. Four remain on exhibit at The Monterey Bay Aquarium as items of great interest; seven died either at the Shedd Aquarium or Monterey Bay Aquarium because of their poor condition at the time they were confiscated.

The Chicago U.S. Attorney's Office entered into pretrial diversion with two additional individuals associated with the case who agreed to pay \$5,000 each and perform community

service. The U.S. Attorney's office in Los Angeles has also prosecuted individuals in connection with this case. The investigation led back to the Bay Area where the principal suppliers were located.

The extensive international criminal investigation spanned several years and involved the following: executing 6 search warrants; issuing more than 50 grand jury subpoenas; interviewing more than 50 witnesses; analyzing more than 50,000 pages of documents, including invoices, memoranda from the web of shark smugglers and legitimate dealers, and tax and bank records; coordinating multiple federal, state, and international agencies, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish & Game, the United Kingdom's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs - Fish Health Inspectorate; the Netherlands General Inspection Service, Ministry of Agriculture - Nature and Food Quality and Ministry of Justice, the Japanese Custom Service, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Canadian Ministry of the Environment - Environment Canada, the French Custom's Intelligence and Investigative Directory, Belgium's Sante Publique, Securite de la Chaine Alimentaire et Environnement; and Spain's Ministerio de Agricultura Secreatria General de Pesca Maritima.

Investigators estimate that for the time period from 1992 to 2004, 20-25,000 leopard shark pups were poached from San Francisco Bay by the two groups investigated, and between 30-33,000 pups were poached by various groups along the Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara county coasts between 1992 and 2003. In addition information obtained through the investigation indicated there is a significant take of leopard shark pups caught as bycatch by bay (or grass) shrimp (*Crangon franciscorum*) trawl vessels in San Francisco Bay.

Assistant United States Attorney's Maureen Bessette and Stacey Geis and NOAA Special Agent Torres worked with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to create the *California Marine Protected Areas Implementation Fund* which is designed to work with the state of California at protecting marine areas in the San Francisco Bay. This fund will serve to acquire, create, and enhance leopard shark habitat in the San Francisco Bay, in order to protect the ecosystems that the sharks and other marine wildlife need to survive. The team prevailed on its request to the Court to have the defendants' \$410,000 in restitution paid into this Fund. The Church also agreed to place its \$500,000 restitution payment into this Fund. The Fund came at a time that the state of California has stated its need for creating areas of marine habitat protection in the Northern District of California, but did not have sufficient funds to proceed with these efforts.

AUSAs Bessette and Geis and Agent Torres then forged a partnership with the state of California and with three private foundations who designated an additional \$600,000 to restore and rehabilitate marine wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay, which will further the purposes of the fund. The state of California Coastal Conservancy designated \$300,000 for the fund, and the other \$300,000 came from the combined contributions of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

This creative resolution comes at a time when scientists throughout the world agree that our oceans and their marine life are on the brink of disaster and that the only way to reverse this downward trend is to create new marine reserves to protect ecosystems and habitat for all marine wildlife.

PROPOSED AGENDA
Ad Hoc Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee
(TIQC)

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Marco Polo Room
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
650-570-5700
June 13, 2007

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007 – 8:30 A.M.

A. Call to Order

1. Introductions
2. Review and Adopt Agenda

Dave Hanson

B. Review Quantitative Analysis

C. Review GAC Report

D. Other Topics

E. Public Comment

F. Schedule Next Meeting

G. Review Recommendations for Report to Council

ADJOURN

PFMC
05/25/07