



Pacific Council News

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2012 Salmon Management Measures Announced; Season Looks Good

At its April meeting, the Council adopted ocean salmon seasons that provide both recreational and commercial opportunities coastwide. California and Oregon fishermen, in particular, will benefit from an expected higher-than-usual salmon abundance for Sacramento and Klamath River fall Chinook. The salmon management measures adopted by the Council were forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service and approved May 1, 2012.

"Everyone is pleased to see such a strong abundance of the major Sacramento River and Klamath River workhorse stocks," said Council Chairman Dan Wolford. "After achieving all the conservation goals for weak stocks in 2012, both recreational and commercial ocean salmon fishermen should enjoy a good season this summer."

California and Oregon South of Cape Falcon, Oregon

Large predicted abundances of Sacramento and Klamath fall Chinook will fuel ocean salmon fisheries off California and Oregon as fisheries south of Cape Falcon, in northern Oregon, are supported primarily by these stocks. In 2008 and 2009, poor Sacramento returns led to the largest ocean



Black bears like to fish for salmon too. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

salmon fishery closure on record. The 2012 abundance forecast for Sacramento River fall Chinook is 819,400, far above the number needed for optimum spawning this fall (122,000-180,000 fish). The Klamath River fall Chinook forecast for 2012 is about four times greater than average, and the highest forecast on record since 1985.

The ocean abundance forecast for Oregon Coast natural coho in 2012 is about 290,000, the largest forecast since at least 1996 and similar to the observed abundance of 315,000 in 2011.

Recreational Fisheries

Recreational fisheries off the central Oregon coast will allow Chinook retention and run from March 15 through October 31. Coho fisheries consist of a mark-selective coho quota fishery in July

(open from Cape Falcon to the Oregon/California border), and a non-mark selective coho quota fishery in September, open from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain.

Recreational Chinook fisheries in southern Oregon and northern California (Brookings/Crescent City/Eureka areas) will run from May 1 through September 9. For the Brookings area, a mark-selective coho fishery will be open in July.

California areas further south will be open for Chinook from April 7 to at least October 7. The minimum size limit will be 24 inches in the San Francisco and Monterey areas from April 7 to July 5, but otherwise 20 inches in California.

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Groundfish News


Pacific Whiting Management Harvest Specifications Set Through US/Canada Treaty

This year, for the first time, Pacific whiting harvest specifications were set in a separate international process according to the newly-implemented U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty. In April, the Council received a briefing from Frank Lockhart (National Marine Fisheries Service) on the 2012 whiting treaty process. The harvest specifications-setting pro-

cess, which occurred March 14-15, went smoothly and the U.S. total allowable catch (TAC) was recommended to be 186,037 mt.

At its March meeting, the Council decided to set aside 2,000 mt of Pacific whiting yield from directed 2012 whiting fisheries to accommodate projected whiting catch in research activities and incidental bycatch in pink

shrimp trawl and other fisheries in 2012.

In April, the Council was also briefed on the Makah and Quileute tribes' request for a 2012 allocation of 17.5 percent of the U.S. TAC for the Makah Tribe, and 16,000 mt for the Quileute Tribe. National Marine Fisheries Service published a final rule on this request on May 11. 


2013-2014 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Set

In April, the Council adopted preferred harvest specifications for 2013-2014 as outlined in Table 1 (page 15), including revisions to the canary and Pacific ocean perch rebuilding plans. The preferred canary rebuilding plan maintains the spawning potential ratio (88.7 percent) in the current plan, and would establish annual catch limits of 116 and 119 metric tons (mt) for 2013-2014, respectively. The stock is projected to rebuild by 2030, which is two years longer than under a zero fishing option. The preferred Pacific ocean perch rebuilding plan maintains

the harvest rate (86.4 percent) in the current rebuilding plan and would establish annual catch limits of 150 and 153 mt for 2013-2014, respectively. The stock is projected to rebuild by 2051, which is eight years longer than if no fishing occurred on the stock. The remaining overfished stocks are showing steady progress to rebuilding; therefore the Council did not recommend changing the existing rebuilding plans.

The Council adopted a few new management measures for consideration in the 2013-14 cycle, including removing the


minimum lingcod length limit in the shorebased quota share fisheries, providing for shelf rockfish retention in recreational fisheries that occur in the California Cowcod Conservation Area, and removing the bocaccio size limit in the California recreational fisheries.

A draft environmental impact statement on the biennial specifications will be published on the Council's website. The Council will hear public comment on this in June, when final decisions on the 2013-2014 specifications are scheduled to occur. 

Amendment 24 Will Make Changes to Biennial Groundfish Management Cycle

The Council is amending the groundfish fishery management plan to address problems with the current process for developing harvest specifications and management measures which have led to late implementation of final regulations for groundfish. The Council formed a committee last year

to look into developing a better process, and decided that the only way to complete the 2013-2014 specifications in time was to vastly narrow the scope of actions the Council could consider. This year, to prepare for the 2015-2016 cycle, the Council is creating an ad hoc Groundfish Amend-

ment 24 Workgroup to begin developing alternatives for an amendment to the groundfish fishery management plan (see appointments, page 9). In November, the Council will decide on a schedule for making changes to the biennial process in preparation for the 2015-2016 cycle. 

mt = metric ton (1000 kilograms or 2,204.62 pounds), TAC = total allowable catch. **March and April groundfish briefing book materials are at <http://tinyurl.com/Gurltvm>**

Groundfish News

2011 Quota Share Program: Revenues Up, Bycatch Down

The trawl quota share program is meeting many of its objectives, according to a study presented at the March council meeting. The study, by Dr. Sean Matsen (Groundfish Management Team), showed that in 2011 (the first year under the quota share (IFQ) program), revenues were up 14 percent in the nonwhiting shoreside fishery while landings of quota share species (apart from whiting) were down compared with the historical average. For the shoreside whiting fleet, both

landings and revenues were up. Retention rates were generally much higher than in the past. Although the fishery got off to a slow start in 2011, it finished with the month of December having the highest monthly landings of 2011, and higher landings than any other December in 2006-2010.

The 2011 IFQ fishery may have begun slowly, as many harvesters participated in the Dungeness crab fishery (in contrast to this winter's Dungeness crab fishery, which was delayed

and offered less distraction from IFQ sector fishing during December). Harvesters apparently made a final push for landings in December, perhaps feeling more secure that their quota pounds for bycatch species would last the year. Except for landings in December, which were 71 percent higher than the historical average, and June's, which equaled the historical average, landings in the remaining months of 2011 were below the average observed during 2006-10.

Nonwhiting fishery participation decreased slightly, with 10 fewer vessels fishing in 2011 than in 2010. Astoria, Newport, and Westport were the dominant ports for IFQ landings in 2011, and Astoria was the only port to increase its share of trawl fishery landings compared to 2010. Fixed gear accounted for six percent of nonwhiting IFQ landings by weight, but 22.6 percent of revenues, mainly driven by the high price

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Work Continues on Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions and Allocation Amendments

In March and April, the Council discussed trailing actions, allocations, and other steps to follow up on the new trawl rationalization program.

Second Program Improvements and Enhancements Rule (PIE 2)

In April, the Council adopted a set of final preferred alternatives for PIE 2, as follows: allow trawl and limited entry fixed gear permits to be stacked on the same vessel at the same time (but do not allow the expansion of freezer longliner activity into the individual fishing quota

fishery); allow vessels which opted out of the fishery in order to avoid a violation for carrying a deficit for more than 30 days to opt back into the fishery once that deficit is covered; eliminate the requirement that co-ops file preliminary annual reports in the fall of each year; and change the chafing gear requirement for midwater trawl gear to increase consistency between regulations on the West Coast and those for Alaskan fisheries. The Council put on hold its deliberations to consider a change to the whiting season opening date. The Council also approved the

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) list of actions items proposed for PIE 2 (<http://tinyurl.com/73tx793>).

Delays in Further Trailing Actions

Workload requirements related to whiting reallocation (see page 12) and other groundfish-related tasks are likely to delay implementation and further consideration of trailing actions. The cost recovery rule should still be put in place in 2013, but provisions related to providing risk pools with safe harbor exceptions to quota share

accumulation limits (control rules) and elements of the actions approved for PIE 2 may be delayed. The change to the chafing gear rule mentioned above is expected to be put in place in time for the 2013 whiting fishery. A one-day public Enforcement Consultants workshop to address changes to trawl gear regulations that was originally slated for June has been delayed to September 2012.

Reallocation of Widow Quota Shares

Continued on page 12


Council Discusses Stock Assessment Planning for Use in 2015 and 2016 Harvest Specifications

In March, the Council adopted a preliminary list of stocks to be assessed in 2013 for use in managing 2015-16 groundfish fisheries. Darkblotched rockfish, bocaccio, petrale sole, shortspine thornyhead, longspine thorny-

head, cowcod, aurora rockfish, and Pacific sanddabs are recommended for full assessments. Pacific ocean perch and sablefish are recommended for updated assessments. Canary and yelloweye rockfish will be the subject

of data reports.


The preliminary list of stock assessments will be refined in June. In September, the Council will adopt terms of reference for the stock assessment and review process, conducting rebuilding

analyses, and conducting methodology reviews. A final list of stocks to be assessed, the three terms of reference, and a schedule of stock assessment review panel meetings will be finalized in September. 

Groundfish News

Inseason Adjustments: Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area Boundary Moved For Periods 3 and 5

At its meetings this spring, the Council considered the performance of the shorebased individual fishing quota fishery in 2011 (see story, page 3), as well as progress to date in 2012, and recommended that the shoreward boundary of the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area be moved from 75 to 100 fathoms from the area 40°10 to 48°10 N. latitude in Periods 3 and 5. This

should provide greater access to target species while allowing the individual accountability afforded by the rationalized fishery to minimize bycatch of overfished species. At its June 2012 meeting, the Council will receive an update on the progress of the groundfish fishery and, if necessary, can recommend modifications at that time. 

Coastal Pelagic Species News

2012 Aerial Sardine Survey Exempted Fishing Permit Approved; Will Collect Biomass Information

The Council has recommended that the National Marine Fisheries Service approve and issue an exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposed by the Northwest Aerial Sardine Survey to use up to 3,000 mt of the 2012 Pacific sardine harvest guideline.


The aerial survey will pro-

vide information, independent of the fishery, about the abundance of Pacific sardine. The survey method was successfully tested in 2008 by industry members in the Pacific Northwest. In 2009 and 2010, the survey was expanded to include waters off California, in partnership with the California

Wetfish Producers Association. The 2011 research and the 2012 proposal include survey work only in Pacific Northwest waters.

Survey results have been included in recent sardine stock assessments, including the most recent full assessment, in 2011. Any of the 3000 mt set-aside that

is not used will be re-allocated to the third period directed fishery.

In addition, the Council asked the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Advisory Subpanel to look into ways to streamline the EFP process, and to report back at the June Council meeting. 

Coming Up at the June 2012 Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in San Mateo, California on June 21-26, 2012. The Briefing Book will be available on the Council website around June 6 (www.pcouncil.org).

Groundfish

- Staff Briefing on 2013-14 Groundfish Harvest Spec. & Mgmt Measures
- Barotrauma workshop report
- Refine list of stocks for assessment
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report
- Final adoption of exempted fishing permits for 2013-2014
- Inseason adjustments

- Trailing trawl rationalization actions: Electronic Monitoring Pilot Study Design, Suspension of Widow Quota Share and Reallocation, and Carry-over
- Adopt 2013-2014 harvest specifications
- Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Reconsideration of Initial Catch Shares in the Mothership and Shoreside Whiting Fisheries

Coastal Pelagic Species

- Pacific Mackerel Mgmt for 2012-2013
- NMFS Report

Highly Migratory Species

- Scope Routine Mgmt Measure Changes, Status Determination Criteria, & Reference Points
- International Mgmt Activities, Including Albacore Tuna

Other

- Habitat report
- Appointments
- Consideration of Forage Fish Management Issues
- Development of a Fishery Ecosystem Plan
- Legislative matters
- Annual NMFS Enforcement Report



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Highly Migratory Species News

United States and Canada Fail to Reach Agreement on Access for Albacore Fishing

Delegations from the U.S. and Canada met in Vancouver B.C. in November to discuss the Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty between the two countries (see story in winter edition of this newsletter). An agreement pursuant to the treaty, the “fishing regime,” sets conditions allowing vessels from each country to fish for albacore in the other country’s Exclusive Economic Zone. The last three-year fishing regime expired at the end of 2011 and the purpose of the meeting was to negotiate a successor agreement for 2012 and beyond.

Shortly before the meeting, the U.S. Department of State received a joint letter from the Western Fishboat Owners Association and the American Albacore Fishing Association stating that they believed reciprocal fishing rights under the Treaty should be terminated. The two organizations emphasized that they were not calling

for termination of the treaty, but thought the U.S. should consider a new fishing regime “only after thorough study.” The U.S. carried this message to the bilateral meeting and the countries left the meeting without an agreement.

The Council was briefed on the developing situation in March 2012 and heard stakeholders voice their concerns about Canadian vessels fishing for albacore in U.S. waters. These centered on the perception that the composition of the Canadian fleet has changed, resulting in more fishing effort by those vessels, and more aggressive behavior on the fishing grounds. Harvesters questioned whether current conditions benefited the U.S. economically. Hearing those concerns, the Council recommended to NMFS that the U.S. not implement an agreement for the 2012 fishing season. The Council averred that “suspension

of reciprocal access in 2012, or longer if necessary, will allow stakeholders and managers to better assess the information and data needed to address the long-term reciprocal privileges under the treaty.”

Based on discussions between the two countries in December 2011, NMFS evaluated the economic impacts of Canadian albacore landings in U.S. ports. This study is expected to provide concrete information to support further discussions.

The U.S. and Canada have scheduled another negotiating session for May 22-23. But with the albacore fishing season starting in mid-June, substantial progress would have to be made in the near future for the Canadians to gain access to U.S. waters in 2012. As might be expected, Canadian albacore fishermen and the Canadian government are becoming increasingly agitated about the prospect of not being able to

access U.S. waters this year. According to a press report, Gregg Holm, vice-president of the B.C. Tuna Fishermen’s Association, said the suspension this year will be a major blow to the Canadian albacore fishing industry (The Canadian Press, March 28, 2012).

While the State Department determines the position of the U.S. Government when dealing with other countries, the Council is a public forum which can channel the views of varied domestic stakeholders, including harvesters, processors, and state governments. That means that, failing an agreement in the interim, the next Council meeting in late June could receive a lot of attention. The albacore fishery in the Pacific Northwest will be just getting underway, and many will look to see whether the Council will recommend anything different with respect to forging an agreement for access in 2012. 

Council Looks At Possible Changes to Longline Swordfish Fishery Regulations

The Council’s highly migratory species advisory bodies met in January to look into whether changes can be made to the closure dates for or the southern boundary of the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area (PLCA) to enhance fishing opportunity in the California drift gillnet fishery. Pacific leatherback sea turtles are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The

PLCA was put in place in 2000 to reduce leatherback sea turtle takes in the California drift gillnet fishery.

Specifically, the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) and Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) looked at new information on bycatch and bycatch mitigation in swordfish fisheries, including changes in bycatch in the Hawaii longline

fishery since 2000; and information about new gears that can be used to avoid sea turtles, such as buoy-based gear used in Florida fisheries. The advisory bodies also looked at current research on the distribution of sea turtles and their critical habitat off the West Coast, and compared bycatch estimates between current (status quo) swordfish fisheries, the bycatch using different gear

types, fisheries that were in place when the HMS Fishery Management Plan was adopted, and possible future fishery designs. The reports resulting from this meeting are online at <http://tinyurl.com/7w58c4z> (HMSMT) and <http://tinyurl.com/7kqv98o> (HMSAS).

In addition, the Council heard a report from National

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Salmon News

Strait of Juan de Fuca Coho Rebuilt; Rebuilding Plan Adopted for Sacramento River Fall Chinook


The Council adopted a rebuilding plan for Sacramento River fall Chinook, which is now classified as overfished on the basis of the new status determination criteria in Amendment 16 to the salmon fishery management plan. The rebuilding plan does not involve chang-

ing any management measures for 2012 because the forecasted abundance of Sacramento River fall Chinook in 2012 is high enough that the rebuilding objectives are expected to be achieved this year.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Coho


Rebuilt

After reviewing the natural spawning escapement level for Strait of Juan de Fuca coho, the Council formally acknowledged that this stock has rebuilt to maximum sustainable yield levels, thus ending its status in the overfished category. There-

fore, a rebuilding plan was not necessary. Strait of Juan de Fuca coho were declared overfished in 2009, when they failed to meet their spawning escapement objective for three consecutive years, which was the overfished status determination criteria prior to Amendment 16. 

Scope of Salmon Essential Fish Habitat Amendment Discussed

At the March meeting, the Council considered the scope of issues to be included in the new amendment to the salmon fishery management plan (FMP), which among other things, updates essential fish habitat (EFH) for Pacific salmon. A plan amendment team consisting of Council and National Marine Fisheries Service staff will develop alternatives for consideration in September. Several non-EFH issues are being considered for inclusion in the amendment. These include substantive items (defining a maximum fishing

mortality threshold for Queets fall coho, looking at how rebuilding plans are implemented); housekeeping items (minor changes and updates to FMP language), changing the season start date, other issues that do not require an FMP amendment to change, but that could be considered during this process. One option is to break issues into separate, focused amendments. Council staff will review these additional issues and report on the workload and schedule impacts. 

Incidental Halibut Catch Regulations for the Salmon Troll & Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries Set

The Council discussed halibut fisheries at its meetings in March and April.

Salmon Troll Fishery

The Council's Pacific halibut catch sharing plan (CSP) allocates 15 percent of the non-Indian commercial Pacific

halibut allocation in Area 2A to the salmon troll fishery as an incidental catch during May and June (with provision for additional harvest from July through the end of the commercial salmon troll fishery if sufficient quota remains). For 2012 the

allocation for the salmon troll fishery is 30,568 pounds.

The Council adopted the following landing restrictions for incidentally caught Pacific halibut in the salmon troll fishery:

Beginning May 1, license holders may possess or land no

more than one Pacific halibut per each four Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be possessed or landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 20 Pacific halibut


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Topics Adopted for Salmon Methodology Review

At the April Council meeting, the Council adopted the following topics for possible review in the annual salmon methodology review process. The parties responsible for each analysis are noted in brackets.

- Implementation and assessment of proposed bias-corrections methods for mark-selective fisheries into the Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). [Methodology Evaluation Workgroup (MEW)]
- Review of modifications to Chinook FRAM size limit algorithms implemented to allow evaluation of changes to size limits. [MEW]
- Review of alternative forecast methodologies for the Sacramento Fall Chinook index. [Salmon Technical Team (STT)]
- A multi-year review and evaluation of preseason forecasts

and postseason estimates for mark-selective coho fisheries both north and south of Cape Falcon. [STT]

- Preliminary assessment of the feasibility of abundance-based management for California Coastal Chinook. [National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region]
- A user's manual for the Visual Studio version of FRAM. [MEW]
- Investigate Chinook FRAM's sensitivity to age composition forecasts. [MEW]
- Evaluate the feasibility of incorporating bias-correction methods for mark-selective fisheries into Chinook FRAM. [MEW]
- Develop recommendations on management methodologies for Sacramento River Winter Chinook that better achieve Council's objective, particularly at low abundance. [STT] 

Ecosystem and Habitat News

Council Sends Second Letter to Corps of Engineers on Levee Policies That Would Harm Salmon

This spring, the Habitat Committee reviewed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee vegetation management standards and variance (exception) process. In a June 2011 letter to the Corps, the Council expressed concern that the national vegetation standards would harm essential fish habitat for endangered salmon, and that the Corps had not consulted with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association as required. This spring the Habitat Committee reviewed the Corp's revised draft policies and found that serious shortcomings remain. Despite some improvements, the Corps is still calling for minimal or no vegetation on levees, and variance allowances would still severely limit salmon habitat. Although the Corps acknowledges that science and engineering support for the

levee standards is largely lacking, they continue to require that levees be largely denuded of vegetation for public safety or inspection purposes. In addition, in a quixotic twist, the Corps has called for more than 30,000 trees to be *planted* along Sacramento River levees (*Sacramento Bee*, <http://tinyurl.com/crfjj64>).

California Department of Fish and Game has filed an intent to sue on this issue. Friends of the River has filed suit, and a bipartisan group of 35 House members from California has written the Corps to demand revisions to the policy.

The Habitat Committee drafted, and the Council approved, a second letter to the Army Corps of Engineers on this issue. The letter is available online at <http://preview.tinyurl.com/7wm6a8h>.

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Schedule Discussed

In April, the Council received an update on the progress of the groundfish essential fish habitat review currently being carried out by the Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee (EFHRC). Brad Pettinger, Chair of the EFHRC, provided an update on progress, and John Stadler presented maps of habitat, seafloor, and fishing effort, to give an indication of the types of products being developed as part of the review.

The Phase I essential fish habitat report, which summarizes new information, will be provided to the Council in September. Public comments will be due at the September 2013 meeting. A request for proposals will be included in the September briefing book, and issued once the Phase I report is adopted.

The EFHRC also asked the Council for guidance on handling potential conflicts of interest. Given that there is some precedence among Council entities, the Council suggested that the EFHRC should develop its own protocols, consistent with existing process.

The revised groundfish EFH schedule (right) reflects Council direction from April 2012.

If the Council determines that changes to EFH are warranted, Phase 3 will begin. Additional work could be in the form of a fishery management plan (FMP) amendment or other non-FMP product such as a chapter in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document. At that point, the EFHRC would be adjourned, and any further work would require delegation to or establishment of an appropriate workgroup (e.g., Groundfish Management Team, amendment committee, etc.).

Timing/Due Date	Action
April 2011	Council approves the process, and solicits for information and data (deadline: July 1, 2011)
Summer 2011	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Science Center (or contractor) compiles and synthesizes data and information, initiates review. EFHRC starts reviewing interim products
Dec 31, 2011	NMFS Science Center (or contractor) product due
April 2012	EFHRC provides progress update to Council
Jan - August 2012	EFHRC drafts Phase I report summarizing new data and information; including how it compares with existing information, maps, etc.
September 2012	Council adopts Phase I report and issues request for proposals for any changes to existing groundfish EFH, habitat areas of particular concern, etc. (End Phase I)
December 20, 2012	Proposals due (90 days after issuance of request for proposals)
January - March 2013	EFHRC reviews proposals; drafts Phase II report, including any recommendations for potential changes to EFH
April 2013	EFHRC presents Phase II Report; Council adopts Phase II Report for public review
June 2013	Advisory bodies comment on Phase II Report; Council takes final action regarding whether to move forward with changes to groundfish EFH. (End Phase II)

Enforcement Corner

A Roundup of Enforcement Stories from Around the West Coast

Oregon Saltwater Sportsmen's Show

Several Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division troopers recently participated in the Oregon Saltwater Sportsman's Show, staffing a booth and answering questions concerning fisheries enforcement in the marine environment. The booth included tips on identifying groundfish species, using actual salmon heads and tails to differentiate between a Chinook and Coho, and using a GPS to mark waypoints identifying the Stonewall Bank Yellow Rockfish Conservation Area boundary. Over 800 people attended the two-day show, which also offered informative booths from NOAA, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon State University.

The Case of the *Adele*

A Southern California-based recreational fisherman who imported fish that he and a partner caught illegally in Mexican waters has paid a \$1,000 fine assessed by NOAA's Office of General Counsel's Enforcement Section.

A \$1,000 Notice of Violation and Assessment was issued to Shui Yan Cheng of La Puente, Calif., the owner and operator of the fishing vessel *Adele*, for violating the Lacey Act by importing 179 rockfish and sand dabs into the United States. Fishing regulations in Mexico limited Cheng and his

fishing partner to just 10 fish each for their one-day fishing trip to fishing grounds near Coronado Island on July 3, 2010.

The *Adele* was boarded by law enforcement officials from the U.S. Coast Guard and the California Department of Fish and Game after it arrived in San Diego at night with its running lights off. The matter was then passed to NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement for further investigation.

"This penalty should send a strong message that the U.S. government puts a high priority on preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in all its forms and that we will continue to work with federal, state and foreign entities to deter it," said Don Masters, special agent in charge of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement's southwest division. "This fisherman exceeded the Mexican fishing trip limit by 795 percent, and the penalty should be a reminder that all fishing regulations must be taken seriously."

The Lacey Act is the nation's premier statute for deterring the trafficking of illegally taken plants and wildlife. It makes it illegal to import fish that were taken or possessed in violation of a foreign law into the United States. Globally, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing deprives legal fishermen and coastal communities of up to \$23 billion of seafood and seafood products annu-

ally, and undermines efforts to sustainably manage fisheries.

For more information on regulations, forms and fees for sportfishing licenses for Mexican waters, visit <http://www.conapescasandiego.org>. Sportfishing licenses also may be obtained in person at Mexico's National Aquaculture and Fishing Commission's San Diego office, located at 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 15.

Buyers Fined for Retaining Fees due to NOAA

NOAA has fined three California-based commercial fish buyers who allegedly failed to turn over fees collected from fishermen to the agency. The fees fund an important permit buyback program.

The buyback program, which authorizes NOAA to buy back individual and vessel fishing permits from fishermen or vessel owners, began in 2003 to help end overfishing and rebuild stocks in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery and the coastal Dungeness crab and pink shrimp fisheries. Since its inception in 2003, the program has permanently retired 239 individual permits and 91 vessel permits, at a total cost of \$45,662,471. The fees go towards covering a portion of this cost. For further information on the program, see <http://tinyurl.com/779lxth>.

Three Notices of Violation and Assessment were issued in the case.


The Seafood Guys of Bodega Bay, Calif., received a civil penalty of \$42,500 for allegedly failing to submit \$10,726 in fees collected from California Coastal Dungeness crab fishermen between 2007 and 2010 and for failing to collect fees prior to December 2007.

Guisepppe Pennisi of Monterey, Calif., received a civil penalty of \$30,000 for allegedly failing to submit \$9,587 in fees collected from Pacific Coast groundfish and California coastal Dungeness crab fishermen between 2006 and 2010.

P Seafood of Ft. Bragg, Calif., received a civil penalty of \$30,000 for allegedly failing to submit \$11,158 in fees collected from California crab fishermen between 2006 and 2009.

The penalties take into account the number of counts, repeat offenses, and details of each case. NOAA will also continue collection efforts for the unpaid fees.

The businesses have 30 days from the receipt of their Notices of Violation and Assessment to pay the penalty, seek to have the assessment modified, or request a hearing before an administrative law judge to deny or contest all or any part of the charges and the penalties assessed.

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement began looking into fish buyers who were collecting buyback fees after receiving inquiries from fishermen who are participants in the program. 

Appointments Made to Council Advisory Bodies and Committees

In considering advisory body and committee appointments in March and April, the Council appointed **Daniel Huppert** to an at-large position on the Scientific and Statistical Committee, **Cyreis Schmitt** to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife position on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, **Larry Gilbertson** to the Tribal position on the Ecosystem Plan Development Team, **Sarah McTee** to the conservation position on the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and **Nick Jurlin** to the California commercial seat on the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel.

The Council terminated several inactive ad hoc committees in March, including the Groundfish Regulatory Deeming Workgroup, the Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota Committee, the Salmon Amendment Committee, the Trawl Rationalization Tracking and Monitoring

Committee, the Tule Chinook Workgroup (work completed in 2011), and the Vessel Monitoring Committee.


The Council's advisory bodies elected officers in March. **Tom Ancona** and **John Hol-loway** will serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP), respectively. **Corey Niles** and **Daniel Erickson** will Chair and Vice-Chair the Groundfish Management Team (GMT). **Joel Kawahara** and **Fran Recht** will head the Habitat Committee. **Doug Fricke** and **Wayne Heik-kila** will head the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel. **Kirt Hughes** and **Steve Stohs** will head the Highly Migratory Species Management Team. **Butch Smith** and **Duncan MacLean** will head the Salmon Advisory Subpanel. **Robert Kope** and **Michael O'Farrell** will head the Salmon Technical Team. **Owen Hamel** and **Mei-sha Key** will serve as Chair and

Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). Other officers will be elected when the advisory bodies meet.

The Council created the ad hoc Groundfish Amendment 24 Workgroup in March. The following members were appointed: **Martin Dorn** (SSC); **Corey Niles** (Washington GMT); **Lynn Mattes** (Oregon GMT); **Johanna Grebel** (California GMT); **Rod Moore** (acting for the GAP); **Mariam McCall** (NOAA General Counsel); **Kevin Duffy** (National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region); **Jim Hastie** (Northwest Fisheries Science Center); and **Sarah Biegel** (National Environmental Policy Act coordinator). The committee will be staffed by **Kit Dahl**.

In April, the Council established the objectives and composition for an ad hoc South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Workgroup. This workgroup

was formed in response to recent unusually high harvests of Pacific halibut off Southern Oregon and Northern California, in order to help develop an understanding of the biological, abundance assessment, and allocation issues involved in the management of this area. The members are **Heather Reed** (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), **Lynn Mattes** (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), **Deb Wilson-Vandenberg** (California Department of Fish and Game), **Sarah Williams** (NOAA Northwest Region), **Gregg Williams** (International Pacific Halibut Commission), and will be staffed by **Chuck Tracy**.

In June, the Council will consider formation of an ad hoc Area 2A policy committee to discuss policy-related items for the Area 2A Pacific halibut management that could be implemented in 2014. 

Recipe: Grilled Salmon with Rosemary

Ingredients:

- 2 salmon fillets or steaks, preferably fresh and local (3/4 lb each)
- 1/2 c. orange juice
- 1/2 c. oil
- Rosemary paste (see below)
- 2-3 additional tbsp. fresh rosemary

Rosemary paste:

- 1/2 tsp. rosemary
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt

Prepare rosemary paste, mixing rosemary, garlic and salt. Rub paste on salmon (if you use steaks, rub on both sides). Place salmon in a plastic container. Pour orange juice and oil mixture over salmon. Turn salmon over and be sure both sides are marinated. Refrigerate for 2 hours, basting and turning frequently.


When ready to cook, heat gas or charcoal grill to a very hot temperature. Just prior to putting salmon on, toss 2-3 tablespoons fresh rosemary on the coals or grill irons. (Fresh is best, but you can use dried rosemary.)

Grill salmon 5-10 minutes on first side (important: until meat starts to flake). Grill 5 minutes on second side (until meat flakes). Don't overcook, will dry out or burn.

Source: Cooks.com (<http://tinyurl.com/7yed8kn>)

Surviving At Sea: It's the Exhaustion, Not Just the Hypothermia

While many assume that hypothermia is the main challenge to surviving in the ocean, in ice water hypothermia can take 30 minutes or longer to set in, while in 40-45 degree water exhaustion can lead to swim failure and drowning within 5-10 minutes (see Cold Water Boot Camp, a video on surviving in cold water, at <http://tinyurl.com/5hl493>). With a personal floatation device (PFD), survival is extended to an hour. New, lower profile PFDs are

more comfortable and less restrictive, making them easier to work in. Some are now integrated into work gear such as bibs, suspenders, or jackets. These new PFDs are more comfortable to wear while working on the deck, and provide protection should fishermen find themselves overboard. Falls overboard accounted for 24 percent of all fatalities in the West Coast commercial fishing industry during 2000-2009. 

New Safety Requirements Put in Place for Commercial Fishing Vessels

On October 15, 2010, the President signed a law (the Coast Guard Authorization Act) that established new safety and equipment requirements for the nation's commercial fishing fleet (Section 604). Some of the provisions of the law go into effect this year. The new requirements build on the requirements set forth in the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act of 1988. When implemented, these changes should enhance worker and vessel safety in the commercial fishing industry.

The main provisions of the new law are as follows:

- Establishes parity for all commercial fishing vessels, state-registered or federally-documented, operating beyond three nautical miles of the baseline. (Uniform equipment and safety standards for all vessels operating on the same waters.)
- Replaces the Boundary Line with the Three-Nautical Mile Line as the demarcation line for operating area and certain equipment requirements. (The "Boundary Line" was often confusing and its distance from shore was not uniform around the U.S. coastline, and it is not shown on most charts. The Three Nautical Mile line, also known as the Territorial

or High Seas line, is measured consistently around the country, is shown on most charts, and is familiar to commercial fishermen).

- Requires installation of a survival craft that ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water on all commercial fishing vessels operating beyond three nautical miles of the baseline. (This is because life floats and buoyant apparatus do not keep an individual out of the water when used in an emergency, which can be critical to survival, particularly in cold water areas.)

- Requires individuals in charge of commercial fishing vessels operating beyond three nautical miles of the baseline to keep a record of equipment maintenance, and required instruction and drills. This ensures that safety equipment is being maintained and tested as required by regulation or manufacturers' recommendations, and that the required emergency instruction and drills are being conducted.

- Requires periodic dockside safety examinations on all commercial fishing vessels operating beyond three nautical miles of the baseline.

- Requires training for all individuals in charge of com-

mercial fishing vessels operating beyond three nautical miles of the baseline. Individuals in charge of a fishing vessel will have to pass a training program or demonstrate knowledge and competency in seamanship, navigation and publications, collision prevention, stability, fire fighting and prevention, damage control, personal survival, emergency medical care, emergency drills, weather, and emergency communication.


- Requires vessels built after January 1, 2010 that are less than 50 feet overall in length to be constructed in a manner that provides a level of safety equivalent to the minimum standards established for recreational vessels. With respect to smaller fishing vessels in particular, there is little guidance on vessel construction to ensure the safety of the vessel and crew. Casualty data shows that 67 percent of vessels lost to flooding result from hull or equipment failure.

- Requires vessels built after July 1, 2012 that are at least 50 feet overall in length and that will operate beyond three nautical miles of the baseline to meet survey and classification requirements. Vessels built to class requirements before July 1, 2012 must remain in class.

- Requires certain vessels

that undergo a substantial change to the dimension or type of vessel to comply with an "alternate safety compliance program" to be developed for both load line and construction standard requirements. Currently, fishing vessels have been exempt from load line requirements, except for certain fish processing and fish tender vessels. A load line indicates the minimum safe freeboard to which a vessel may be loaded. Fishing vessels that are overloaded are more vulnerable to loss of stability that can lead to flooding and capsizing, particularly in severe weather or sea conditions. When a fishing vessel is modified, the loading conditions and seaworthiness of the vessel can be affected. An alternate load line compliance program is to be developed by the Coast Guard in cooperation with the commercial fishing industry to ensure that substantially changed vessels meet safety standards.

- Clarifies certain existing equipment standards in order to more accurately reflect equipment needed by today's commercial fishing industry.

For more information, see the Coast Guard flyer on this act at <http://tinyurl.com/7tc5by5>. 

Council Concerned that H.R. 1837 Would Harm Sacramento and San Joaquin Salmon

In July 2011, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-California) requested that the Council comment on the impact of a proposed bill on salmon populations, habitat, fisheries management, and fishermen. The bill, H.R. 1837, or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act, was introduced in May 2011 by Congressman Nunes, McCarthy and Denhyam (R-California).


The bill addresses water use in California's Central Valley Project, makes changes to the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and repeals the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act. Specific to fishery matters, the bill changes the operating definition of "anadromous fish" to include only native salmon

and sturgeon stocks present in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers as of October 30, 1992, prohibits the Secretary of Commerce from distinguishing between natural-spawned and hatchery-spawned or otherwise artificially propagated strains of a species in making ESA determinations, and rolls back ESA protections by considering all requirements for the protection and conservation of ESA-listed species listed to be fully met if water projects are operated in a manner consistent with the Bay-Delta Accord of December 15, 1994. Additionally, H.R. 1837 would change the way funds dedicated to river and wildlife restoration would be collected and administered.

In response to the Congressional request, the Council

developed a staff report titled *A General Review of Potential Effects of H.R. 1837, Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act, on Central Valley Salmon Productivity and Salmon Fisheries In Ocean and Inland Waters*. In her July 2011 letter to the Council, Congresswoman Napolitano acknowledged the economic impacts of the 2008 and 2009 fishery closures enacted by the Council in response to the collapse of Sacramento River fall Chinook stocks and specifically requested the Council comment on H.R. 1837's impacts. The Council is concerned about the negative effects of H.R. 1837 on salmon stocks and their habitat, and the consequent economic effects on communities that depend on a healthy, vibrant salmon fishery.


The Council also reviewed the Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act of 2012 (S.2184), as well as a companion bill in the U.S. House, (H.R.4208). These bills would amend the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act to create a fund dedicated to fishery management, scientific research, monitoring, and data collection programs. The bill was first introduced March 12, 2012, by U.S. Senator Kerry as a mean of redirecting funds collected as fishery import duties under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act to their intended purpose, the support of sustainable fishery management.

Council staff will continue to track H.R.1837, S.2184, and other fishery-related legislation for consideration at the June Council meeting. 

Council Supports Draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Migratory Birds

The Council is sending a letter of support for draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Conservation of Migratory Bird Populations between National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The draft MOU is in response to a Presidential Executive Order that requires Federal agencies that take actions that could affect migratory bird populations to develop an MOU with U.S. Fish and Wildlife to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. The draft MOU addresses relevant seabird-related National Marine Fisheries Service activities and specifies areas of collaboration and cooperation with

the Fish and Wildlife Service, including seabird bycatch reduction, information sharing and coordination, international policy and diplomacy, and habitat conservation.

The letter will include comments from the Habitat Committee and Salmon Advisory Subpanel, which both supported the agreement. The Salmon Advisory Subpanel also believed the agreement needed to recognize situations when unnatural aggregations of bird populations could pose a conservation threat for listed fish species, such as the case for salmon at the mouth of the Columbia River. 



Greenlings

Welcome to *Greenlings*, where we share our latest efforts to make the Council sustainable, and, we hope, inspire you in your own efforts.

While the Council has long been a proponent of printing double-sided and on recycled paper whenever possible, we are exploring ways to use less paper during Council meetings by making more documents available electronically. In the Council staff office, we have been donating single-sided, non-confidential paper to local schools. We have also been composting coffee filters and

grounds, recycling toner cartridges, cans, and bottles, and making an effort to use cloth towels (laundered by staff on a volunteer basis) more than paper towels. We also use ceramic plates and mugs instead of paper cups and plates.

For our Earth Day effort this month, we are collecting old athletic shoes for the Nike Reuse-a-Shoe Program. This program takes worn shoes and makes them into new athletic surfaces like tracks and basketball courts.

The next *Greenlings* will look at ocean-friendly gardening methods.

Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions, continued from page 3

In June, the Council will discuss whether trading of widow quota shares should be suspended while the Council considers a reallocation of those quota shares, now that the widow rockfish stock has been rebuilt. The Council plans to consider alternatives in November 2012, to select a preliminary preferred alternative in spring 2013, and to take final action on this matter in June 2013.

Initial Allocation Group	Years Used for Allocation Formula Alternatives				
	No Action (Status Quo)	1: 2003	2: 2007	3: 2010	4: More Recent
Catcher-vessel permits (shoreside history)	1994-2003	1994-2003	1994-2007	1994-2010	2000-2010
Whiting processors (shoreside history)	1998-2004	1998-2003	1998-2007	1998-2010	2000-2010
Catcher vessel permits (mothership history)	1994-2003	1994-2003	1994-2007	1994-2010	2000-2010

Electronic Monitoring

The Council heard a report on a 2012 pilot program funded by NMFS and conducted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to evaluate the potential for electronic monitoring as an alternative to human observers on catcher vessels where 100 percent observer coverage is required. The Council will review the study design at the June 2012 Council meeting and continue consideration of this issue into 2013.

Surplus Quota Pound Carry-over (2011 to 2012)

NMFS has decided that at this time it will issue carryover

if 2011 quota pounds into 2012 for all species except sablefish in the north and south and whiting.

Possible Whiting Fishery Quota Share and Catch History Reallocation


The Council will be reconsidering the initial allocations made to catcher vessels and shore-based processors participating in the Pacific whiting shorebased and mothership sectors of the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery, to ensure that allocations of quota and catch history for those sectors are in accordance with legal mandates and guidelines.

The need for this proposed action is the remedy order issued in *Pacific Dawn, LLC v. Bryson* on February 21, 2012. The judge’s order on this case remanded the regulations ad-

ressing the initial allocation of whiting for the shorebased individual fishing quota fishery and the at-sea mothership fishery “for further consideration.” The court found that the Council’s previous action on this issue failed to adequately consider history beyond 2003 for harvesters and 2004 for processors in determining the initial allocation. The order requires that revised regulations be implemented before the 2013 Pacific whiting fishing season begins on April 1, 2013.

At its March 2012 meeting, in response to the order, the Council set a schedule for this reconsideration which included adopting a range of alternatives in April, a preliminary preferred alternative in June, and a final preferred alternative in September of this year. In April the Council selected for analysis a


suite of five alternatives for the allocation base period, as indicated in the accompanying table.

As part of these deliberations, NMFS has announced that it will be considering a continuation of the quota share trading moratorium, originally set to expire January 1, 2013, and may delay implementing provisions which would allow the severance and transfer of whiting endorsements (together with catch history) separate from the catcher vessel permits. NMFS will also consider how these changes would affect the schedule for the declaration of processor obligations as part of co-op formation. Finally, NMFS is encouraging potentially affected parties to ensure that their fishing data is correct for any year that might be used in a revised allocation formula (all years through 2010). 

Quota Share Program 2011 Summary, continued from page 3

for fixed gear-caught sablefish (39 percent of sablefish IFQ landings were made using fixed gear). Shoreside whiting landings and revenue both increased dramatically, with landings up by 40 percent and revenues up by 121 percent compared to the historical average.

Retention rates for the nonwhiting IFQ fleet were higher for most species in 2011 than in previous years, and substantially higher for most rebuilding species. Discards accounted for 4.8 percent of nonwhiting IFQ fleet catch. When combined with whiting catch,

the overall discard rate was 1.3 percent. Catch of rebuilding species was generally lower than in 2010, except for canary rockfish, which increased by 0.4 mt (to 2.8 mt); however, this was still well below the fishery’s allocation of 225.9 mt. Catch of most other rebuilding species declined by two-thirds or more with the exception of petrale sole, which is managed as a target species under its rebuilding plan. Similar declines in rebuilding species bycatch were recorded in the directed whiting IFQ fishery. 

2012 salmon fisheries, continued from page 1

Commercial Fisheries

Commercial fisheries from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon will be open from April 1 through August 29 and September 5 through October 31. Fisheries in the Humbug Mountain to California border area will be open in April and May, with Chinook quota fisheries in June (2,000), July (1,500), August (1,000), and September (1,000). Fisheries from the California border to Humboldt South Jetty will be open September 15-30 with a 6,000 Chinook quota.

Between Horse Mountain and Point Arena (in the Fort Bragg area), commercial Chinook salmon fisheries will be open July 11 through August 29 and September 1 to 30.

In the area from Point Arena to Point Sur (San Francisco and Monterey), the season will be open May 1 to June 4, June 27 to August 29, and September 1 to 30. From Point Sur to the Mexico border, the Chinook season will be open May 1 to August 29 and September 1 to 30. There will also be a season from Point Reyes to Point San Pedro, open October 1 to 5 and 8 to 12.

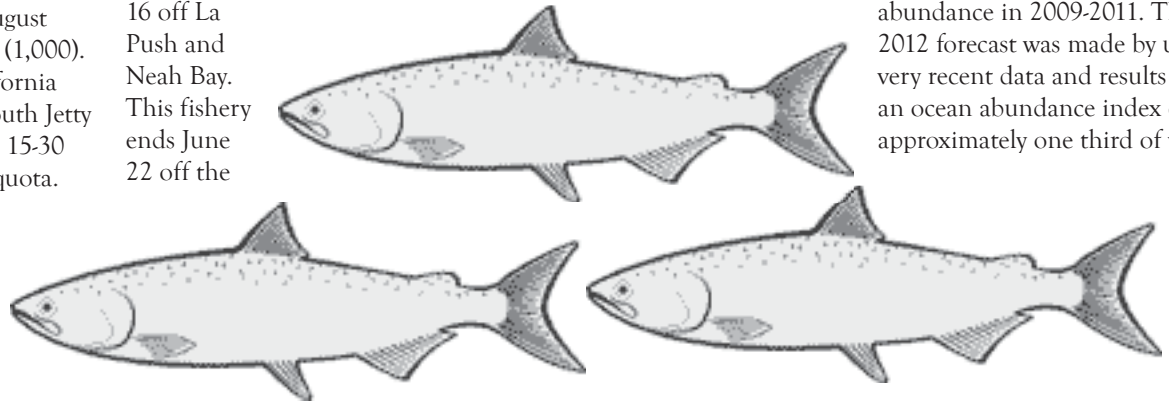
Washington and Northern Oregon (North of Cape Falcon)

Fisheries north of Cape Falcon (near Nehalem in northern Oregon) depend largely on Columbia River stocks. Columbia River fall Chinook returns in 2011 were above average, and 2012 forecasts are similar. Columbia River hatchery coho returns are below average and less than 2011 returns, but Washington coastal and Puget Sound stocks are mostly above

average. North of Cape Falcon, there is an overall non-Indian total allowable catch of 99,000 Chinook and 83,000 marked hatchery coho.

Recreational Fisheries

A mark-selective Chinook season north of Cape Falcon begins June 9 off the Columbia River and Westport, and June 16 off La Push and Neah Bay. This fishery ends June 22 off the



Columbia River, June 23 off Westport, and June 30 off La Push and Neah Bay, or when 8,000 marked Chinook are caught in all port areas combined. The Chinook season will be open seven days per week, two fish per day, with a 24-inch total length minimum size limit.

All salmon seasons are divided into four port areas. Seasons begin June 23 off the Columbia River, June 24 off Westport and July 1 off La Push and Neah Bay. These fisheries end September 30 off the Columbia River and September 23 off Westport, La Push, and Neah Bay, or when Chinook or coho quotas are reached. The preseason coho quota for all port areas combined is 69,720. For details, please see the season descriptions on the Council website at www.pccouncil.org.

Commercial Fisheries

Non-Indian ocean commercial fisheries north of Cape

Falcon include traditional Chinook seasons in the May-June timeframe and all-salmon seasons in the July-to-September timeframe. The Chinook quotas of 31,700 in May-June and 15,800 in the all-species fisheries are about 50 percent higher than the 2011 quotas. The coho quota of 13,280 is similar to 2011's quota of 12,800.

Tribal ocean fisheries north of Cape Falcon are similar to recent years, with Chinook and coho quotas slightly higher than in 2011. The tribal fisheries are structured similar to the non-tribal fisheries with a May-June Chinook season and an all salmon season in July-September. Quotas are 27,500 Chinook during the May-June fishery, and 27,500 Chinook and 47,500 coho during the July-September season.

Process

In March, the Council reviewed 2011 catch and return information and approved 2012 stock abundance forecasts for Council-managed salmon stocks, setting the stage for modeling 2012 ocean salmon fisheries. The Sacramento River fall Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook stocks both experienced record high returns of two-year old fish (jacks) in 2011, resulting in very high ocean abundance forecasts in 2012. Several other stocks have strong

abundance forecasts, including Oregon Coastal coho, Queets River coho, and Lower Columbia River Hatchery Chinook. Other stocks, such as Columbia River coho, are forecasted to have below-average abundance.

For Sacramento River fall Chinook, the Council adopted a conservative forecast as a result of over-predicting abundance in 2009-2011. The 2012 forecast was made by using very recent data and results in an ocean abundance index of approximately one third of what

would have been predicted using more years of data. However, at approximately 800,000 adult fish, the 2012 forecast still results in a predicted spawner escapement of over twice the high end of the conservation objective for this stock, even after accounting for all ocean and river fisheries.

Printed Regulations Booklets Discontinued

The National Marine Fisheries Service informed the Council that publication of annual salmon management regulation booklets would be discontinued this year as a cost saving measure, because of reduced demand, and inaccuracy due to numerous inseason actions. In their place, the booklets will be published online, where inseason actions can also be found. NMFS also has an email list to announce inseason actions and other salmon management news; see <http://tinyurl.com/6q6m7jw>.

Incidental halibut, continued from page 6

may be possessed or landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

The restrictions for 2012 are more conservative than in 2011 and earlier years because the quota was reached by May 28 in 2011, and Chinook quotas north of Cape Falcon are higher in 2012 than in 2011. With the more conservative landing restrictions, it is hoped incidental retention will provide some opportunity to retain Pacific halibut later in the salmon season.

Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery

The catch sharing plan specifies that when the total allowable catch for Area 2A exceeds 900,000 pounds, any portion of the Washington recreational fishery share that exceeds 214,110 pounds will be

allocated to incidental Pacific halibut catch in the non-Indian commercial fishery north of Point Chehalis during the primary sablefish fixed gear fishery, up to a maximum of 70,000 pounds, provided a minimum of 10,000 pounds of Pacific halibut is available. For 2012, the allocation is 21,173 pounds. The intent of the framework regulations and annual landing restrictions is to ensure the Pacific halibut landings are truly incidental, provide a season-long opportunity to land incidentally caught Pacific halibut, and distribute the catch of Pacific halibut equitably among the participating fishers. Unlike the license requirements for incidental Pacific halibut harvest by salmon trollers, possession of a directed Pacific halibut fishery license from the International Pacific Halibut Commission al-


lows participation in the incidental harvest during the primary sablefish fishery.

The Council adopted the following landing restrictions for incidentally caught Pacific halibut in the fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington:

Beginning May 1, restrict incidental Pacific halibut possession or landings to 50 pounds (dressed weight) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish possessed or landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 50 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

South of Humbug Mountain Workgroup

The Council established the objectives and composition for an ad hoc South of Humbug Mountain Pacific Halibut Workgroup. The workgroup was

formed in response to recent unusually high harvests of Pacific halibut off Southern Oregon and Northern California. The workgroup will help develop an understanding of the biological, abundance assessment, apportionment methodology, and fishery monitoring issues involved in the management of this area. The workgroup is to be comprised of representatives from each state, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Region, and Council staff. The specific members will be appointed by the Council chairman at a later date. In June, the Council will consider formation of an ad hoc Area 2A policy committee to discuss allocation and other policy related items for the Area 2A Pacific halibut management that could be implemented in 2014. 


Swordfish fishery, continued from page 5

Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region (NMFS) about meetings with West Coast swordfish fishermen to listen to their views on possible changes to the fishery (a report on these meetings is online at <http://tinyurl.com/7lfmzs7>). Some of the ideas resulting from these meetings included minor changes to the time/area leatherback closure and to gear; financial incentives to try other gears; avoiding the

predicted location of leatherbacks during fishing (as done in Hawaii through the "Turtle-Watch" program); and getting involved in international turtle conservation issues.

The HMSMT is expected to report back to the Council in the next year about potential changes to the PLCA boundary and closure period (currently August 15 to November 15) that would not increase the risk of

leatherback sea turtle takes. The Council specifically asked for more information on whether take caps for sea turtles could be used as a mitigation measure. Take caps are used in the Hawaii longline swordfish fishery. If an annual take cap is reached, the fishery must close until the beginning of the next year. In Hawaii this has happened twice since take caps were implemented in 2004, in 2006 and 2011.

With respect to research into alternative gear types for West Coast swordfish fisheries, NMFS said they will report back to the Council in March 2013. In response, the Council could then decide whether to revise the list of authorized gear in the HMS fishery management plan to accommodate new gear types for swordfish that are less likely to interact with protected species. 

June Public Comment and Briefing Book Deadlines

The next Council meeting will be held June 21-26, 2012, at the San Mateo Marriott in San Mateo, California. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on May 31** will be included in the briefing books mailed to Council members prior to the June meeting. Comments received by **11:59 p.m. on June 10** will be distributed to Council members at the onset of the June meeting. For more information on the briefing book, see <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Preferred 2013 and 2014 overfishing limits (OFLs in mt), acceptable biological catches (ABCs in mt), and annual catch limits (ACLs in mt) for west coast groundfish stocks and stock complexes (stocks with new assessments in bold).

Stock	2013 OFL	2014 OFL	2013 ABC	2014 ABC	2012 ACL	PPA ACLs	
						2013	2014
OVERFISHED STOCKS							
BOCACCIO S. of 40°10'	884	881	845	842	274	320	337
CANARY	752	741	719	709	107	116	119
COWCOD S. of 40°10'	11	12	9	9	3	3	3
DARKBLOTCHED	541	553	517	529	296	317	330
PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH	844	838	807	801	183	150	153
PETRALE SOLE	2,711	2,774	2,592	2,652	1,160	2,592	2,652
YELLOWEYE	51	51	43	43	17	18	18
NON-OVERFISHED STOCKS							
Arrowtooth Flounder	7,391	6,912	6,157	5,758	12,049	6,157	5,758
Black Rockfish (OR-CA)	1,159	1,166	1,108	1,115	1,000	1,000	1,000
Black Rockfish (WA)	430	428	411	409	415	411	409
Cabazon (CA)	170	165	163	158	168	163	158
Cabazon (OR)	49	49	47	47	48	47	47
California scorpionfish	126	122	120	117	126	120	117
Chilipepper S. of 40°10'	1,768	1,722	1,690	1,647	1,789	1,690	1,647
Dover Sole	92,955	77,774	88,865	74,352	25,000	25,000	25,000
English Sole	7,129	5,906	6,815	5,646	10,151	6,815	5,646
Lingcod N. of 40°10' a/	3,334	3,162	3,036	2,878	NA	3,036	2,878
Lingcod S. of 40°10' a/	1,334	1,276	1,111	1,063	NA	1,111	1,063
Longnose skate	2,902	2,816	2,774	2,692	1,349	2,000	2,000
Longspine Thornyhead (coastwide)	3,391	3,304	2,825	2,752	NA	NA	NA
Longspine Thornyhead N. of 34°27'	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,064	2,009	1,958
Longspine Thornyhead S. of 34°27'	NA	NA	NA	NA	366	356	347
Pacific Cod	3,200	3,200	2,221	2,221	1,600	1,600	1,600
Sablefish (coastwide)	6,621	7,158	6,045	6,535	NA	NA	NA
Sablefish N. of 36°	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,347	4,012	4,349
Sablefish S. of 36°	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,298	1,439	1,560
Shortbelly	6,950	6,950	5,789	5,789	50	50	50
Shortspine Thornyhead (coastwide)	2,333	2,310	2,230	2,208	NA	NA	NA
Shortspine Thornyhead N. of 34°27'	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,556	1,540	1,525
Shortspine Thornyhead S. of 34°27'	NA	NA	NA	NA	401	397	393
Splitnose S. of 40°10'	1,684	1,747	1,610	1,670	1,538	1,610	1,670
Starry Flounder	1,825	1,834	1,520	1,528	1,360	1,520	1,528
Widow	4,841	4,435	4,598	4,212	600	1,500	1,500
Yellowtail N. of 40°10'	4,579	4,584	4,378	4,382	4,371	4,378	4,382
STOCK COMPLEXES							
Minor Nearshore Rockfish North	110	110	94	94	99	94	94
Minor Shelf Rockfish North	2,183	2,195	1,920	1,932	968	968	968
Minor Slope Rockfish North	1,518	1,553	1,381	1,414	1,160	1,160	1,160
Minor Nearshore Rockfish South	1,164	1,160	1,005	1,001	990	990	990
Minor Shelf Rockfish South	1,910	1,913	1,617	1,620	714	714	714

Schedule of Events

For more information on these meetings, please see our website (www.pccouncil.org/events/csevents.html) or call toll-free (866) 806-7204.

Pacific Sardine Survey Methodology Review Panel

Purpose: To review the West Coast Vancouver Island stock assessment survey for potential use in U.S. sardine stock assessments.

Dates: May 29-31, 2012

Location: NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California

Contact: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team & Advisory Subpanel Conference Call

Purpose: To discuss various CPS-related issues.

Dates: June 11, 2012

Contact: Kerry Griffin (kerry.griffin@noaa.gov)

Habitat Committee

Purpose: To discuss various habitat-related issues, including Columbia River water issues

Dates: June 12, 2012

Location: Pacific Fishery Management Council office, Portland, OR

Contact: Jennifer Gilden (jennifer.gilden@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dates: June 21-26, 2012

Location: San Mateo Marriott, San Mateo, California

Contact: Carolyn Porter (carolyn.porter@noaa.gov)

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