



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 24, 2015

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Mike Burner, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

In conjunction with the March Council meeting, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet on Sunday, March 8, 2015 beginning at 8 a.m. The meetings will be held in Heritage C and D, respectively of the Hilton Vancouver Hotel in Vancouver, Washington. The Council will begin the salmon agenda on Monday (March 9), and continue through Thursday morning (March 12). Habitat issues will be covered Sunday, March 8, and Pacific halibut issues will be covered on Tuesday, March 10. The Council will receive a briefing on National Marine Fisheries Service regulatory and research activities, including a report on the three-year review of the Lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook harvest matrix, on Monday (Agenda Item F.1). Also note that you are invited to the Chair's Reception at 6 p.m. Sunday evening.

The Council will be briefed Monday by the STT on the Review of 2014 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 2015 Ocean Salmon Fisheries (Agenda Item F.2). Please note that Preseason Report I is not included with your briefing materials this year. The STT meeting to compile Preseason Report I was held February 17-20, while briefing materials were mailed out. You should be able to access an electronic version from the Council web site by February 27, and there will be printed copies at the Council meeting. The STT and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will discuss salmon topics on Saturday beginning at 11:30 a.m. in Heritage E.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be developing alternatives for modeling 2015 ocean fisheries (Agenda Items F.2, F.3, F.4, F.5 and F.6). Monday the SAS will present the Council with recommendations for three alternatives. SAS representatives should review the *Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment* (Agenda Item F.3.a, Attachment 1) and clearly identify their fishery priorities and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among fishery sectors and areas to arrive at cohesive and coordinated options. The STT will then collate and analyze the alternatives. Working throughout the week the SAS, STT, and Council will refine the alternatives, which are scheduled to be adopted for public review on Thursday.

Pacific halibut is on the Council's agenda for Tuesday. The Council and the SAS will hear reports on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) meeting (Agenda Item G.1) the Council will adopt options for halibut retention in the commercial salmon fisheries (Agenda Item G.2). The SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations regarding inseason adjustment of the halibut retention regulations for any April 2015 commercial salmon fisheries as well as alternatives for post-May 1, 2015 and pre-May 1, 2016 fisheries.

The Council will consider future Council meeting agendas and workload (Agenda Item I.5) on Thursday. The SAS and STT may want to request topics for that agenda item.

Each year at the March meeting, the Council receives the Annual State of the California Current Report to bring ecosystem information into the Council process in a succinct, straightforward format to assist decision-making through the consideration of ecosystem variability (Agenda Item E.1). These other ecosystem matters will be before the Council in March, the review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) initiatives (Agenda Item E.2) NMFS Climate Change Strategy Update (Agenda Item E.3), and FEP Initiative 1 regarding the protection of unmanaged forage species (Agenda Item E.4).

Please take some time and review your briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance in the Council's salmon management process.

MDB:rd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.1 – Enforcement
3. Agenda Item D.1 – Habitat Issues
4. Agenda Item E.1 through E.3 – Ecosystem Management
5. Agenda Items F.1 through F.6 – Salmon Management
6. Agenda Items G.1 through G.2 –Pacific Halibut Management
7. Agenda Item I.1, I.2, and I.5 – Council Administrative Matters including Legislative Matters
8. Proposed EC Agenda
9. Proposed HC Agenda
10. Proposed SAS Agenda
11. Proposed STT Agenda
12. Proposed SSC Agenda
13. Informational Reports
14. Hotel-related Information
15. Roster
16. Review of 2014 Ocean Salmon Fisheries