

COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
229th Session of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
April 11-16, 2015
Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma
One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains or identifies the various elements, documents, and sources comprising the complete and official record of Council meeting discussions and actions. In addition to the Meeting Summary, which follows this introductory section (see #7 below), it includes information or references that serve as the functional detailed minutes for this Council meeting as required by §302(i)(2)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The full record is maintained at the Council office, is available on the Council website (<http://www.pcouncil.org/>) or upon request from the Council office, and consists of the following:

1. **Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda** – These documents are available on the Council Website prior to and following each meeting at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.
2. **Attendance Records** – These documents are available for the Council meeting and each advisory body meeting by request from the Council office.
3. **All Documents, Reports, and Presentations for Council Consideration** – These items include (1) all documents produced or received for the meeting briefing book, validated by a label assigned by the Council Secretariat and distributed to Council Members; (2) written public comments received at the Council meeting in accordance with agenda labeling requirements; and (3) electronic material or handout materials used in presentations to Council Members during the open session. They are available from links in the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
4. **Council Decisions Summary Document** – This document is distributed shortly after each Council meeting. It provides very brief descriptions of most key Council decisions and is available at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/> and also provided by agenda item in the Meeting Summary of this document.
5. **Draft or Final Decision Documents Finalized after the Council Meeting** – Documents such as Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments are available on the Council website as they are completed.
6. **Gavel-to-Gavel Audio Recordings** – These recordings contain the testimony, presentations, discussions, and actions occurring at the meeting and are labeled by date and time (e.g., 04-11-15am10) and have been annotated as to the time on the recording for the start of each agenda line item to help facilitate review. The recordings may be accessed from the links contained within the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
7. **Meeting Summary** (immediately follows this section) – The Meeting Summary lists, in agenda item order, the briefing book documents, reports, presentations, and Council motions and actions, including a brief summary from the Council Decisions Summary Document for each agenda item. It constitutes the meeting record formally approved by the Council. The agenda heading for each agenda item, and most listed documents, serve as internet links to the actual briefing book documents. Internet links in brackets (e.g., [[mp3: 11-11-14pm1 @01:21:15](#)]) refer to the audio recording and elapsed time on the recording at which the agenda item was initiated. Links to the audio recordings are annotated by agenda item and may also be accessed at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Call to Order [[mp3: 4-11-15am1](#) @ 0:00:09]

1. Opening Remarks - Dorothy Lowman, Chair

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Council Chair, called the 229th meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:00 a.m. on April 11, 2015. A closed session was held before this open session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

2. Roll Call - Don McIsaac

Council Members present during the meeting week:

National Marine Fisheries Service:	Mr. Frank Lockhart, designee Mr. Bob Turner, designee
Alaska State Official:	Mr. Charles Swanton (nonvoting designee)
Washington State Official:	Mr. Kyle Adicks, designee Mr. Phil Anderson, designee Ms. Michele Culver, designee
Washington Obligatory:	Mr. Rich Lincoln
Oregon State Official:	Mr. Troy Buell, designee Mr. Chris Kern, designee
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
California State Official:	Mr. Chuck Bonham Mr. Bob Farrell, designee Ms. Joanna Grebel, designee Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee
California Obligatory:	Mr. David Crabbe
Idaho State Official:	Mr. David Ortmann, designee
Idaho Obligatory:	Mr. Herb Pollard, Vice Chair
Tribal Official:	Mr. David Sones
At-Large:	Mr. William L. "Buzz" Brizendine Mr. Jeff Feldner Mr. Dale Myer Mr. Dan Wolford
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:	Dr. David Hanson, Parliamentarian, nonvoting designee
U.S. Coast Guard:	LCDR Gregg Casad, nonvoting designee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	Dr. Steven Haeseker, nonvoting designee

Absent from the Meeting:

U.S. State Department: Mr. David Hogan, nonvoting designee

3. [Executive Director's Report](#) – Don McIsaac [[mp3: 4-11-15am1](#) @ 0:05:59]

- [Agenda Item A.3, Supplemental Attachment 1](#): Draft Council Meeting Record, 228th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, March 6-12, 2015

4. **Agenda** – Dorothy Lowman

a. **Council Action: Approve Agenda**

- **Agenda Item A.4:** April 2015 Proposed Council Meeting Agenda (*Includes Ancillary meetings, hotel meeting room map, and quick reference*)

Motion: Adopt Agenda Item A.4, April 11-16, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda with the addition of a widow rockfish allocation presentation before Agenda Item B.1.

David Crabbe/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously)

[**Note:** Under Agenda Item B.1, the meeting agenda was reconsidered and the Council added new Agenda Item J.1 to consider information and decide whether or not to schedule an agenda item later in the week to consider emergency inseason changes to the 2014-2015 sardine fishery. Under Agenda Item J.1, the Council again reconsidered the meeting agenda and added Agenda Item J.2, Emergency In-Season Action in the 2014-2015 Pacific Sardine Fishery.]

[**Note:** At this point [[mp3: 4-11-15am1](#) @ 0:17:52], the Council had an introductory overview of the widow rockfish and divestiture issues of Agenda Item E.6 from Mr. Jim Seger. See Agenda Item E.6 later in these minutes for Mr. Seger's presentation and the complete agenda item.]

B. Open Comment Period [[mp3: 4-11-15am1](#) @ 0:58:37 & [mp3: 4-11-15am2](#) @ 0:00:06]

1. **Comments on Non-Agenda Items - Chuck Tracy**

a. **Advisory Body and Management Entity Comments**

b. **Public Comment**

- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Open Public Comment 1:** Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara; Re: Opposition to Proposed Nomination of New Central California National Marine Sanctuary
- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Open Public Comment 2:** Rob Seitz; Re: AMP implemented in 2011
- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Open Public Comment 3:** Oceana; Re: Request for Immediate Emergency Action to Close the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Fishery
- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Open Public Comment 4:** Martin Steitz; Re: Concern about the significant number of California sea lion pups washing up on California beaches dead and dying
- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Open Public Comment 5:** L.E. MacCarter; Re: Concern with preserving the California Central Coast fleet of small family owned fishing boats
- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 6:** PEW; Re: March Final Action on Unmanaged Forage Fish Initiative
- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 7:** Croonquist; Adjusting the sport halibut season structure in Washington Waters
- **Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 8:** (Lackey) Comments on a review of the 2/11/2015 draft of the WCR Strategic Plan

- [Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 9](#): (Rose Canyon Fisheries) Aquaculture Project
- [Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 10](#): Oceana; Request for Emergency Action to Close the Directed Sardine Fishery
- [Agenda Item B.1.c, Supplemental Procedural Slides](#): Agenda Item B.1: Request for Emergency Closure of Current Sardine Fishery

Don Kent, Rose Canyon Fisheries
 Kevin Dunn, F/B Iron Lady
 Jeff Lackey, F/V Seeker, Inc.
 Christopher Kubiak, Morro Bay Community Quota Fund
 Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors Association
 Geoff Shester, Oceana

c. Council Discussion as Appropriate

Motion: Reconsider the Adoption of Agenda Item A.4, April 2014 Council Meeting Agenda.
 Herb Pollard/Phil Anderson (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Amend Agenda Item A.4 to add an agenda item to be taken up after Agenda Item G.1 [i.e., Agenda Item J.1], to include reports from staff, advisory bodies, management entities, and public testimony for Council action on whether or not to schedule an agenda item later in the week to consider emergency inseason changes to the 2014-2015 sardine fishery.
 Herb Pollard/Phil Anderson (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *This reconsideration of the meeting agenda was necessary based on information and a request to consider the emergency closure of the Pacific sardine fishery.*

C. Habitat

1. [Current Habitat Issues](#) - Jennifer Gilden [[mp3: 4-11-15am2](#) @ 0:55:30]
 - a. Report of the Habitat Committee - Joel Kawahara
 - [Agenda Item C.1.b, Supplemental HC Report](#)
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3: 4-11-15pm1](#) @ 0:00:16]
 - [Agenda Item C.1.b, Supplemental SAS Report](#)
 - c. Public Comment
 - [Agenda Item C.1.c, Public Comment](#)

Geoff Shester, Oceana
 Dave Hillemeier, Yurok Tribe

- d. Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Recommendations [[mp3: 4-11-15pm1](#) @ 0:12:34]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: *The Council directed staff to write three letters on habitat issues. The first letter, to the Department of Interior, will express concerns about current-year water conditions and urge the Department of the Interior to use its authority to release Trinity River water as needed to avoid a fish kill in the Klamath/Trinity Basin. The second letter, recommended originally by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel, will be directed to the California Water Resources Control Board and will ask the Board to manage discharges from Shasta Dam in order to retain an adequate cold water pool for the 2015 winter-run Chinook brood. A third letter addressed to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District will be drafted for the June briefing materials, and will express concerns about the potential effects of proposed aquaculture projects on eelgrass beds, which are both essential fish habitat (EFH) and habitat areas of particular concern for salmon, groundfish, and coastal pelagic species.*

D. Salmon Management

1. **[Tentative Adoption of 2015 Ocean Salmon Management Measures for Analysis](#)** - Mike Burner [[mp3: 4-11-15pm1](#) @ 0:16:59]

- [Preseason Report II](#): Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment – Part 2 for 2015 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations
- [Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 1](#): Emergency Changes to the Salmon FMP
- [Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 2](#): FR 97-22094: Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules
- a. **Update of Estimated Impacts of March 2015 Alternatives - Robert Kope**
- b. **Summary of Public Hearings - Hearing Officers**
 - [Agenda Item D.1.b, Supplemental Public Hearing Report 1](#): Westport, Washington, Public Hearing Summary
 - [Agenda Item D.1.b, Supplemental Public Hearing Report 2](#): Coos Bay, Oregon, Public Hearing Summary
 - [Agenda Item D.1.b, Supplemental Public Hearing Report 3](#): Fort Bragg, California, Public Hearing Summary
- c. **Recommendations of the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission - Bob Turner**
 - [Agenda Item D.1.c, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): Letter to Charles Swanton, ADFG, Regarding Chinook Model Calibration
- d. **Recommendations of North of Cape Falcon Forum - Oregon, Washington, Tribes**
- e. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3: 4-11-15pm2](#) @ 0:00:24]**
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, NMFS Report 1](#): March 19, 2015 NMFS Memo from Michael O'Farrell to Bob Turner on Potential Sacramento Winter Chinook Impact Rates in 2016 Fisheries
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, NMFS Report 2](#): Incidence of Age-2 Sacramento River Winter Chinook in Ocean Fisheries

- [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental CDFW Report](#): CDFW approach to ocean salmon alternatives
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental CDFW Report 2](#): Age composition of scales collected at-sea by California Genetic Stock Identification Collaboration in 2010
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental CDFW Report 3](#): Sacramento River Winter Chinook Historical and Current Management
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental CDFW Report 4](#): Recommendations on Additional Winter-Run Protections in 2015 Ocean Fisheries
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental STT Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental SAS Report](#): Proposed 2015 Salmon Management Measures for Tentative Adoption
 - [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental Tribal Report](#) (CRITFC)
- f. **Public Comment**
- [Agenda Item D.1.f, Public Comment](#)
 - [Agenda Item D.1.f, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)
 - [Agenda Item D.1.f, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)
 - [Agenda Item D.1.f, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#)

Bob Borck
Mike Mansuy, Coastside Fishing Club
Sean O'Rourke, UC Davis
Jim Lowe, Coastside Fishing Club

g. **Council Action: Adopt Tentative 2015 Ocean Salmon Management Measures for Analysis** [[mp3: 4-11-15pm2](#) @ 0:28:58]

Motion: Salmon Technical Team (STT) to use the total allowable catches for aggregate abundance-based management fisheries that are associated with the Chinook Technical Committee Model Calibration #1503 as identified in [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental STT Report](#).
Bob Turner/David Sones (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Tentatively adopt, for analysis by the STT, the following Treaty Indian ocean troll management measures:

- A Chinook quota of: 60,000
- A coho quota of: 42,500

This would consist of a May/June Chinook-only fishery and a July/August/September all-species fishery. The Chinook will be split 30,000 in May/June and 30,000 in July-September.
David Sones/Phil Anderson (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Tentatively adopt for STT collation and analysis the salmon management measures for the 2015 commercial and recreational ocean fisheries in the area from Cape Falcon, Oregon north to the U.S./Canada border as presented in [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental SAS Report](#), dated April 11, 2015.
Phil Anderson/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Adopt for STT collation and analysis, the tentative management measures and quotas for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries from Cape Falcon to the Oregon/California border as shown in [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental SAS Report](#), dated April 11, 2015, including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, or exceptions.

Chris Kern/Jeff Feldner (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Adopt for STT collation and analysis, the tentative management measures and quotas for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as shown in [Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental SAS Report](#), dated April 11, 2015, including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, or exceptions.

Marci Yaremko/Dan Wolford (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

2. [Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection](#) - Mike Burner [[mp3: 4-11-15pm3 @ 0:00:03](#)]

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

- [Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#): Scientific and Statistical Committee Report on Methodology Reviews for 2015
- [Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental MEW Report](#)
- [Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#)
- [Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental STT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)

b. **Public Comment**

None

c. **Council Action: Provide Guidance on Potential Methodologies to Review in 2015** [[mp3: 4-11-15pm3 @ 0:19:47](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: *The Council adopted a preliminary list of topics for the 2015 salmon methodology review as follows, lead entities are shown in brackets:*

- 1) *Update of the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) base period [Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW)].*
- 2) *Update documentation for Chinook and coho FRAM [MEW].*
- 3) *Evaluation of a management line at Point Reyes for the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM), Sacramento Harvest Model (SHM), and Winter Run Harvest Model [California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)].*
- 4) *Evaluation of a potential management line splitting the California Klamath Management Zone in the KOHM and SHM [CDFW, NMFS].*
- 5) *Evaluation of winter Chinook contribution to ocean fisheries north and south of Point Sur [CDFW, NMFS].*

In addition, the Yurok and Hoopa Valley Tribes are interested in developing data to support active management of fisheries for Klamath River spring Chinook salmon, but think that this topic will probably not be ready for presentation at the 2015 Methodology Review.

3. **[Clarify Council Direction on 2015 Ocean Salmon Management Measures](#)** - Mike Burner [[mp3: 4-12-15pm1](#) @ 0:00:11]

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

- [Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental STT Report](#): Preliminary Analysis of Tentative 2015 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures

b. **Public Comment**

Christopher Hessen, Coast Side Fishing Club

Alan Callaghan, Coast Side Fishing Club

c. **Council Guidance and Direction** [[mp3: 4-12-15pm1](#) @ 0:11:23]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

4. **[Additional Council Direction on 2015 Ocean Salmon Management Measures](#)** - Mike Burner [[mp3: 4-13-15pm3](#) @ 0:00:07]

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

- [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental STT Report](#): Preliminary Analysis of Tentative 2015 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 4-13-15pm3](#) @ 0:04:54]

John Koeppen

c. **Council Guidance and Direction** [[mp3: 4-14-15am1](#) @ 0:02:37]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

5. **[Final Action on 2015 Ocean Salmon Management Measures](#)** - Mike Burner [[mp3: 4-14-15pm3](#) @ 0:00:06] & [[mp3: 4-15-15am1](#) @ 0:12:43]

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

- [Agenda Item D.5.a, Supplemental Tribal Report](#) (CRITFC)
- [Agenda Item D.5.a, Supplemental ADFG Report](#)
- [Agenda Item D.5.a, Supplemental STT Report: STT Analysis of Tentative 2015 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures](#)

b. **Public Comment**

None

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Management Measures for 2015 Ocean Salmon Fisheries [mp3: 4-15-15am1 @ 0:35:25]

Motion: Adopt the management measures and quotas for the Treaty Troll Fishery south of the U.S./Canada border to Cape Falcon, Oregon as shown in Agenda Item D.5.a, Supplemental STT Report, dated April 14, 2015, Table 3, including requirements, definitions, restrictions, or exceptions. The Treaty Indian ocean troll fishery would have a quota of:

- 60,000 Chinook and
- 42,500 coho.

The overall Chinook quota would be divided into a 30,000-Chinook sub-quota for the May 1 through June 30 Chinook-only fishery and a 30,000-Chinook sub-quota for the all-species fishery in the time period of July 1 through September 15.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Adopt the non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon management measures for submission to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for the area north of Cape Falcon as presented in Agenda Item D.5.a, Supplemental STT Report, April 14, 2015, with the following modifications:

- For the non-Indian troll fishery in the area between the U.S./Canada Border and the Queets River, May 1 through June 30, change the Chinook catch limit to 9,000 and change the in-season action trigger for that area to 6,750 Chinook.
- For the non-Indian troll fishery in the area between the U.S./Canada Border and the Queets River, May 1 through June 30, add “60 Chinook trip limit.”
- For the non-Indian troll fishery in the area between Ledbetter Point and Cape Falcon, May 1 through June 30, change the Chinook catch limit to 15,000 and change the in-season action trigger for that area to 11,250 Chinook.
- For the non-Indian troll fishery in the area between the U.S./Canada Border and the Queets River, July 1 through September 22, change the Chinook catch limit to 11,000 and change the in-season action trigger to 8,250.

Kyle Adicks/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Adopt the 2015 commercial troll and recreational management measures for South of Cape Falcon for submission to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce as described in Agenda Item D.5.a, Supplemental STT Report, dated April 14, 2015, with the following modification: for commercial troll in the area between Humbug Mt. and the OR/CA Border: modify the season described as “August 1 through the earlier of August 29 or a 500 Chinook quota” to “August 1 through the earlier of August 27 or a 500 Chinook quota.”

Chris Kern/Marci Yaremko (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *Detailed salmon management measures and a press release are posted on the Council’s web page at:*

<https://www.pcouncil.org/salmon-management-documents/>.

E. Groundfish Management

1. **National Marine Fisheries Service Report (NMFS)** - Kelly Ames [[mp3: 4-11-15pm3 @ 0:46:14](#)]
 - a. **Regulatory Activities - Frank Lockhart**
 - [Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Federal Register Notices Published Since the Last Council Meeting
 - [Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 2](#): Rulemaking Plan for 2015, Groundfish and Halibut
 - [Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#): TRAT Compliance Summary, 2015 (*Presentation*)
 - b. **Fisheries Science Center Activities - John Stein, Michelle McClure**
 - [Agenda Item E.1.b, Supplemental Science Center PowerPoint](#): Groundfish Science Report, John Stein and Michelle McClure, Northwest Fisheries Science Center
 - c. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**
 - d. **Public Comment**

Daniel Platt

- e. **Council Discussion** [[mp3: 4-11-15pm3 @ 1:30:33](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

2. **Trawl Cost Recovery Report** - Jim Seger [[mp3: 4-12-15am1 @ 0:01:24](#)]
 - a. **NMFS Report**
 - [Agenda Item E.2.a, NMFS Report](#): Trawl Rationalization Program Cost Recovery Annual Report Fee Calculation for 2015 and Fishing Year 2014 Payments
 - [Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): 2014-2015 Cost Recovery Annual Report Trawl Rationalization Program
 - b. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**
 - [Agenda Item E.2.b, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
 - c. **Public Comment**

Michele Longo-Eder

Jeff Lackey

- d. **Council Action: Consider any Necessary Action Based on the Cost Recovery Report** [[mp3: 4-12-15am1 @ 0:24:56](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: *NMFS presented a report on cost recovery rates in the groundfish trawl fishery. The Council expressed appreciation for the increased detail over the previous year's report and asked that the direction of increasing transparency be maintained for next year's report by*

including breakdown of cost categories into more specific tasks and identifying initial and increasing cost savings resulting from the trawl rationalization program.

3. **Salmon Endangered Species Act Reconsultation Update** - Kit Dahl [[mp3: 4-12-15am1](#) @ 0:55:25]

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

- [Agenda Item E.3.a, NMFS Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2: Estimates of Chinook salmon stock composition in bycatch associated with the 2009 and 2010 US West Coast At-Sea Pacific hake fishery](#)
- [Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)

b. **Public Comment**

None

c. **Council Action: Recommend Preliminary Options for ESA Salmon Consultation Standards for Groundfish Fisheries** [[mp3: 4-12-15am1](#) @ 1:38:12]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: *The Council requested additional information from NMFS in order to further develop the proposed action for the ESA section 7 consultation NMFS plans to reinstate this year for listed Chinook salmon stocks taken in the groundfish fishery. This information includes a description of past section 7 consultations for the groundfish trawl fishery, a breakdown of Chinook catch by fishery sector, and past and present stock composition estimates for Chinook taken in the fishery. The Council expects its advisory bodies to use this information to develop recommendations on the structure of the reconsultation threshold and mitigation measures, including those that could be implemented inseason to prevent the reconsultation threshold from being exceeded.*

4. **Finalize Methodology Review Process Council Operating Procedure** - John DeVore [[mp3: 4-13-15am3](#) @ 0:09:29]

- [Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1](#): Proposed Draft of Council Operating Procedure 25

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [[mp3: 4-13-15am3](#) @ 0:13:48]

- [Agenda Item E.4.a Supplemental SSC Report \(Electronic Version Includes Attachment\)](#)
- [Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

b. **Public Comment**

None

c. **Council Action: Adopt Groundfish Methodology Review Process COP** [[mp3: 4-13-15am3](#) @ 0:25:35]

Motion: Adopt the process and schedule for groundfish methodology reviews as shown in [Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report \(Electronic Version Includes Attachment\)](#), along with the revisions from [Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#).

Troy Buell/Dorothy Lowman (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council adopted a final version of COP 25 which formalizes a methodology review process for methodologies that inform Council groundfish decision-making. The final COP 25 includes recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) ([Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)) and the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) ([Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)).*

5. **Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Amendment Scoping, Including Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and Area Adjustments** - Kerry Griffin and Kelly Ames [[mp3: 4-13-15pm1](#) @ 0:49:47]

- [Agenda Item E.5, Attachment 1](#): Scoping for Essential Fish Habitat and Area Modification Actions
- [Agenda Item E.5, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): Selected rockfish conservation area figures for the areas north of 48°10' N. latitude and south of 40°10' N. latitude including information on essential fish habitat conservation areas and substrate types

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [[mp3: 4-13-15pm2](#) @ 0:00:05]

- [Agenda Item E.5.a, National Marine Sanctuaries Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental Tribal/WDFW Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental Tribal Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[[mp3: 4-14-15am1](#) @ 0:06:25]

- [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental HC Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental EC Report](#)

b. **Public Comment**

- [Agenda Item E.5.b, Public Comment](#)
- [Agenda Item E.5.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#) (Full Version Electronic Only)
- [Agenda Item E.5.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)
- [Agenda Item E.5.b, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#) (Electronic Only)
- [Agenda Item E.5.b, Supplemental Public Comment 5](#) (Electronic Only)

Kevin Dunn, F/V Iron Lady
Dave Fraser, Dan Waldeck and Brent Paine
Tara Brock, PEW Charitable Trusts
Ben Enticknap, Oceana

Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Association
Donna Parker, Arctic Storm
Shems Jud, Environmental Defense Fund
Lance Morgan (Did not testify)
Tom Libby
David Kirk, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association
Seth Atkinson, Brad Pettinger, Muriel Combs, Shems Jud
Bill James, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association

c. Council Action: Determine Scope of Issues to be Addressed in a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment or Other Actions; Provide Guidance on Development and Analysis of Alternatives as Appropriate [\[mp3: 4-14-15am2 @0:00:02\]](#)

Motion: The Council to take the following actions:

1. With regard to the Council's proposed actions for groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and area modifications, ensure there are clear descriptions of the Purpose and Need for EFH protection that are separate and distinct from the Purpose and Need for any proposed modifications to Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) and/or Groundfish Conservation Areas, as well as any area modifications for the purposes of protecting corals and sponges, as needed.

2. Relative to the scope of issues to be advanced for groundfish EFH and area modifications displayed in Agenda E.5, Attachment 1, Table 4:

Item 1 – Description and Identification: Habitat Components – Revise Appendix B

Item 2 – Description and Identification: Spatial Extent – Retain this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 3 – Adverse Effects of Fishing (MSA and non-MSA) and Minimization Measures:

- a) Retain this within the scope of issues to advance, except exclude: the creation of marine reserves for the drift gillnet fishery in the Greenpeace proposal, further changes to "no bottom contact EFH conservation areas," the application of the EFH Conservation Areas to midwater trawl fisheries, and changes to EFH designations or ecological closed areas in waters off the coast of Washington that overlap with the usual and accustomed fishing areas of the Coastal Treaty Tribes.
- b) Indicate the Council's intent to request the midwater trawl fisheries (whiting and non-whiting) voluntarily avoid contacting the bottom with trawl gear in EFH conservation areas, continue to monitor and estimate whether bottom contact occurred in a manner similar to what was presented in NMFS Informational Report 4, and assess whether regulatory measures relative to the use of midwater trawl gear in EFH conservation areas should be considered in the future, as appropriate.

Item 4 – Non-Fishing Effects and Conservation Measures – Update Appendix D, but do not include this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 5 – Cumulative Impacts Analysis – Include this as part of the National Environmental Policy Act analysis

Item 6 – Conservation and Enhancement – Do not include this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 7 – Prey Species – Update Appendix B, but do not include this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 8 – Habitat Areas of Particular Concern – Do not include this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 9 – Research and Information Needs – Move prioritized research recommendations from the fishery management plan (FMP) to an appendix to allow for future updates to research and data needs without an FMP amendment and retain this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 10 – Review and Revise Process – Request Council staff and NMFS explore how a more detailed description could be developed to implement the process described in the FMP (e.g., through a Council Operating Procedure)

Item 11 – Comprehensive Trawl RCA Adjustments – Retain this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 12 – Allow Year-Round Midwater Non-Whiting Fishery – Consider this issue through the 2017-2018 biennial specifications and management process

Item 13 – Remove Small Footrope Restrictions Shoreward of the RCA – Consider this issue through the appropriate biennial specifications and management process with a focus on retaining a small footrope requirement shoreward of a depth contour delineated by coordinates (e.g., the 100-fm line) and remove any references to the RCA

Item 14 – Close the 60-Mile Bank to Reduce Cowcod Bycatch – Do not include this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 15 – Fishing in More Than One individual fishing quota (IFQ) Area – Do not include this within the scope of issues to advance

Item 16 – Eliminate the Selective Flatfish Trawl Requirement Shoreward of the RCA – Consider this issue either through the “Gear Regulations Package” or the 2017-2018 biennial specifications and management process

3. For all issues identified above to be advanced for further Council consideration, request NMFS identify the appropriate authority for rulemaking, and either confirm or suggest alternative rulemaking or packaging for expediency purposes, and provide a report to the Council in June.
4. Request an update and preliminary description of the “collaborative proposal” be provided to the Council in June, and the final “collaborative proposal” be provided to the Council in September.
5. Request the Project Team move forward with developing draft alternatives for the scope of issues identified above, including a placeholder for the “collaborative proposal” and proposals to implement EFH closures within the current RCAs, and provide draft alternatives to the Council in September.
6. Also for September, request NMFS develop groundfish fishing intensity maps that reflect a more recent timeframe and post-trawl IFQ program implementation (2011-2014) and a synthesis of the proposals that were submitted in 2013.

Amendment: Amend Item 3 as follows (strike out and underline):

Item 3 – Adverse Effects of Fishing (MSA and non-MSA) and Minimization Measures –

- a) Retain this within the scope of issues to advance, except exclude: the creation of marine reserves for the drift gillnet fishery in the Greenpeace proposal, further changes to “no bottom contact EFH conservation areas,” and the application of the EFH Conservation Areas to midwater trawl fisheries. ~~and changes to EFH designations or ecological closed areas in waters off the coast of Washington that overlap with the usual and accustomed fishing areas of the Coastal Treaty Tribes.~~

Troy Buell/Jeff Feldner (8/5/0) (Amendment carried; Mr. Crabbe, Mr. Myer, Mr. Ortmann, Ms. Culver, and Mr. Sones voted no)

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously

Staff Summary: *The Council adopted the following with regard to the scope of issues to be moved forward and the development of alternatives to be considered in the future:*

1. *Identification and distribution (EFH habitat components): Update in Appendix B of the Groundfish FMP.*
2. *Identification and distribution (EFH spatial extent): Retain within the scope of issues to be advanced.*
3. *Adverse effects of Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and non-MSA fishing activities on EFH, and minimization measures: Retain within the scope of issues to be advanced, with the exception of:*
 - a. *Creation of marine reserves for the drift gillnet fishery in the Greenpeace proposal;*
 - b. *Further changes to “no bottom contact EFH conservation areas”; and*
 - c. *Application of EFH conservation areas to midwater trawl fisheries.*
4. *Non-fishing effects and conservation measures: Retain within the scope of issues to be advanced.*
5. *Cumulative Impacts: Include this as part of the National Environmental Policy Act analysis.*
6. *Conservation and Enhancement: Do not include this in the scope of issues to be advanced.*
7. *Prey Species: Update Appendix B to the Groundfish FMP, but do not include this within the scope of issues to be advanced.*
8. *Habitat Areas of Particular Concern: Do not include this within the scope of issues to be advanced.*
9. *Research and Information Needs: Retain this within the scope of issues to be advanced. Move prioritized research recommendations from the FMP to an Appendix, to allow for future updates to research and data needs without an FMP amendment.*
10. *Review and Revise Process: Retain this within the scope of issues to be advanced. Request that Council staff and NMFS explore how a more detailed description could be developed to implement the process described in the FMP, e.g., through a COP.*
11. *Comprehensive trawl RCA adjustments: Retain this within the scope of issues to be advanced.*
12. *Allow Year-round Midwater Non-Whiting Fishery: Consider this issue through the 2017-2018 biennial specifications and management process.*

13. *Remove Small Footrope Restrictions Shoreward of the RCA: Consider this issue through the appropriate biennial specifications and management process with a focus on retaining a small footrope requirement shoreward of a depth contour delineated by coordinates (e.g., the 100-fathom line), and remove any references to the RCA.*
14. *Close the 60-Mile Bank to Reduce Cowcod Bycatch: Do not include this within the scope of issues to be advanced.*
15. *Fishing in More than One IFQ Area: Do not include this within the scope of issues to be advanced.*
16. *Eliminate the Selective Flatfish Trawl Requirement Shoreward of the RCA: Consider this issue through either the Gear Regulations Package or the 2017-2018 biennial specifications and management process.*

In addition, the Council adopted the following provisions:

- *Ensure clear descriptions of the purpose and need for EFH protection that are separate and distinct from the purpose and need for any proposed modifications to RCAs and/or Groundfish Conservation Areas, as well as any area modifications for the purposes of protecting corals and sponges, as needed.*
- *Relative to the midwater trawl fisheries (both whiting and non-whiting), request that the industry voluntarily avoid contacting the bottom with trawl gear in EFH conservation areas, continue to monitor and estimate whether bottom contact occurred in a manner similar to what was presented in NMFS [Informational Report 4](#) (in the April 2015 briefing book), and assess whether regulatory measures relative to the use of midwater trawl gear in EFH conservation areas should be considered in the future, as appropriate.*
- *For all issues that will be advanced, request that NMFS identify the appropriate authority for rulemaking, and provide a report to the Council at its June meeting.*
- *Request an update and preliminary description of the 'collaborative proposal' for the June Council meeting, with final 'collaborative proposal' to be provided at the September Council meeting.*
- *Request the Project Team to move forward with developing draft alternatives, including a placeholder for the 'collaborative proposal' and proposals to implement EFH closures within the current RCAs, and provide draft alternatives at the September Council meeting.*
- *Request that NMFS develop groundfish fishing intensity maps that reflect a more recent timeframe and post-trawl IFQ program implementation (2011-2014) and a synthesis of the proposals that were submitted in 2013.*

6. **Final Action on Widow Rockfish Reallocation and Divestiture Issues - Jim Seger**
[mp3: 4-15-15am2 @ 0:00:03]

- [Agenda Item E.6, Supplemental PPT Presentation](#): Final Action On Widow Rockfish Reallocation And Divestiture Issues (*Updated, Jim Seger*)
- [Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 1](#): Trawl Rationalization Trailing Actions: Widow Rockfish Reallocation, Divestiture Deferment and Forfeiture Methodology, Magnuson Stevens Act Analysis and Draft Environmental Assessment
- [Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 2](#): Guidance for Making Allocation Decisions Related to Catch Shares
- [Agenda Item E.6, Supplemental Attachment 3](#): Additional Analysis – Widow QS Reallocation and Divestiture

- [Agenda Item E.6, Supplemental Attachment 4](#): Detailed Description of Reallocation Alternatives
- a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**
 - [Agenda Item E.6.a, NMFS Report](#): NMFS widow rockfish reallocation considerations; including an overview of the range of reallocation alternatives, the individual widow QS control limit, aggregate non-whiting control limit, and divestiture considerations
 - [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
- b. **Public Comment [\[mp3: 4-15-15am2 @ 1:06:59\]](#)**
 - [Agenda Item E.6.b, Public Comment](#)
 - [Agenda Item E.6.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)
 - [Agenda Item E.6.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)

Andrew Bornstein, Bornstein Seafoods
 Steve Bodnar, Coos Bay Trawlers Association
 Gary Wintersteen, Nicole Fisheries
 Pete Leipzig, Fisherman's Marketing Association
 Brett Hearne, F/V Last Straw
 Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood
 Tom Estes, Fort Bragg Trawler
 Vincent Doyle, Fort Bragg Groundfish Association
 Kate Kauer, Nature Conservancy
 Ralph Brown
 Paul Kujala, F/V Cape Windy
 Christopher Kubiak, Morro Bay Community Quota Fund
 Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative
 Al Carter, Ocean Gold Seafood
 Travis Hunter
 Jeff Lackey
 Tom Libby
 Tommy Ancona

- c. **Council Action: Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives for Widow Rockfish Reallocation and Divestiture Issues [\[mp3: 4-15-15am3 @ 0:00:03\]](#) & [\[mp3: 4-15-15pm1 @ 0:00:02\]](#)**

Motion: Adopt as FPA for widow rockfish reallocation, Alternative 2, Suboption a, as described in Agenda Item E.6, Supplemental Attachment 4.
 Michele Culver/ Rich Lincoln

Amendment 1: Change from Suboption a to Suboption b.
 David Crabbe/ Buzz Brizendine

Substitute Amendment 1: Set the allocation formula to evenly split the difference between Suboptions 2a and 2b.

Dale Myer/Rich Lincoln (10/0/3; Motion carried; Mr. Lockhart, Ms. Grebel, and Mr. Ortmann abstained)

Motion, as amended, carried (12/0/1; Mr. Lockhart abstained)

Motion: Adopt for widow, Suboption b (recognizing NMFS comments for no trading in December; one calendar year); for nonwhiting aggregate limit adopt a divestiture deadline to coincide with the widow.

Joanna Grebel/ Dan Wolford

Amendment: For nonwhiting aggregate limit, adopt Suboption a – no action.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (amendment withdrawn with consent of the second)

Amendment: For nonwhiting aggregate limit, adopt Suboption a – no action. If widow reallocation puts any quota share (QS) holder above the aggregate limit, the QS holder has up to the date by which widow divestiture is required to comply with the aggregate limit.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (9/4/0; Amendment carried; Mr. Wolford, Ms. Grebel, Mr. Crabbe, and Mr. Brizendine voted no)

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously

Motion: Allow abandonment consistent with the procedure in [Agenda Item E.6.a, NMFS Report](#), pages 7-8.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council selected Alternative 2 as its final preferred alternative on reallocation of widow rockfish QS and a compromise between suboption a) and suboption b) such that individual permits will receive an amount that is a midpoint between what they would have received under suboption a) as compared to suboption b). Additionally, the Council recommended that the requirement that QS owners divest down to the widow rockfish QS control limit be implemented 12 calendar months after the commencement of widow QS trading after the reallocation is completed (acknowledging that there is no QS trading in the month of December). The current divestiture deadline for the aggregate nonwhiting control limit will go into effect as scheduled (November 30, 2015) however, when widow QS is reallocated, if the reallocation puts anyone above that aggregate limit, they will have until the widow QS divestiture deadline to bring themselves back within the aggregate QS control limit. Finally, the Council recommended that an opportunity be provided for QS owners to divest themselves of QS by abandoning that QS prior to the divestiture deadline and allowing the abandoned QS to be redistributed to other QS accounts in proportion to the QS holdings for that species in those accounts.*

7. [Blackgill and Slope Rockfish Reallocation](#) - John DeVore [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 1:20:18](#)]

- [Agenda Item E.7, Attachment 1](#): Preliminary Draft Analytical Document: Allocation of Harvest Opportunity Between Sectors of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery of Blackgill Rockfish and Other Species Managed in the Slope Rockfish Complex South of 40°10' N. Latitude

- a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 1:29:46](#)]
 - [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
- b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 1:45:48](#)]

Gerry Richter

Bill James (did not testify)

Tom Estes (did not testify)

Vincent Doyle, Fort Bragg Groundfish Association

- c. **Council Action: Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Blackgill and Slope Rockfish Reallocation** [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 1:51:35](#)]

Motion: For blackgill rockfish and the slope rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. latitude, adopt the following:

Purpose and Need

Adopt the purpose and need as described in Section 1-3 of Attachment 1.

Blackgill rockfish

Narrow the range of alternatives for analysis based on the GAP recommendations from the Supplemental GAP report under this agenda item. The range of sector allocation alternatives forwarded for more detailed analysis include No Action, Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and a 50:50 trawl:non-trawl sharing of the available harvest of blackgill, which analyzes a range of sector allocation alternatives with potentially enough contrast to provide insight into the effects on the various sectors.

Remaining Slope Rockfish

Narrow the range of sector allocation alternatives for detailed analysis to include No Action, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. These alternatives also provide contrast to evaluate the effects of various sharing percentages of the Slope Rockfish South complex (with blackgill removed) on both sectors.

Trawl Permit Allocation Alternatives

Adopt the GAP recommendation to include an additional alternative which bases the QS allocations of blackgill on catch histories during 2003-2014. This alternative reflects recent catch histories and provides contrast to using 1994-2003 catch histories, which is the default allocation basis under Amendment 20.

Sharing of Buyback QS

Adopt the GAP recommendation to remove the “no equal sharing” of buyback QS sub-option, which would be overly punitive to those QS holders who have no catch history of blackgill.

GMT Recommendation (Supplemental GMT report)

Reject the GMT recommendation to add or scope an alternative that pulls blackgill rockfish from the complex and apply the Amendment 21 allocation (63 percent trawl: 37 percent non-

trawl) to both blackgill and the remaining slope rockfish species managed in the complex, because it would violate the equitability standards in the FMP allocation framework.

- Pulling blackgill rockfish from the complex and maintaining current allocation would be inequitable to the fixed gear sectors. When the harvest guideline was implemented in 2013, this sector was effectively shut down, and the GMT alternative would have the same effect.
- Because the remaining slope rockfish trawl species are trawl-dominant in aggregate, the GMT alternative would strand valuable slope rockfish in the non-trawl sector where they cannot be accessed by the trawl sector.
- Consider this alternative in the “Considered but Eliminated from Further Detailed Analysis” category in the NEPA analysis.

Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council adopted the range of blackgill and slope rockfish allocation alternatives recommended by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel for detailed analysis. These alternatives contemplate removing blackgill rockfish from the Slope Rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. lat. and allocating the future harvestable surplus of blackgill rockfish and the remaining slope rockfish species in the complex to limited entry trawl and non-trawl sectors, as well as QS allocations of these species to limited entry trawl permits. The Council will discuss alternative QS allocations of blackgill and slope rockfish in June and decide on a preferred alternative in September.*

8. **Inseason Adjustments Including Carryover and Regulatory Amendment to Manage Set-Asides** - Kelly Ames [[mp3: 4-16-15am1](#)] @ 0:00:39]

- [Agenda Item E.8, Attachment 1](#): Flexible Management of Set-Asides

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

- [Agenda Item E.8.a, NMFS Letter](#): Amendment 24 Approval and Ecosystem Component Considerations
- [Agenda Item E.8.a Supplemental NMFS Report](#): West Coast Groundfish, Shorebased IFQ Program First look at 2014
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, ODFW Report](#): Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on State Management of Nearshore Rockfish Complex Species
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, REVISED GMT Report 1](#): Groundfish Management Team Report on Overfished Species Mortality
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, GMT Report 2](#): Groundfish Management Team Report on Big Skate Catch and the Ecosystem Component Species Designation
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3](#)
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 4](#)
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental REVISED GMT Report 5](#)
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 6](#)
- [Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

b. **Public Comment**

- [Agenda Item E.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#)

Paul Kujala, F/V Cape Windy and Blair Miner
Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors Association
Brad Pettinger, Oregon Trawl Commission
Daniel Platt
Bill James, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association

c. **Council Action: Consider Inseason Adjustments as necessary and Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Management of Set-Asides** [[mp3: 4-16-15am2 @ 0:29:30](#)]

Motion: Approve the GMT recommendations in Agenda Item E.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3 and Report 6; and include for big skate the following trip limits:

- 15,000 lbs per month for the month of June
- 20,000 lbs per two months for periods 4-6.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council recommended instituting big skate trip limits for the shorebased IFQ program of 15,000 pounds per month for the month of June and 20,000 pounds per two months for periods 4-6.*

The Council recommended that NMFS issue surplus carryover for all non-whiting IFQ species where the annual catch limit (ACL) is less than the acceptable biological catch (ABC), including sablefish north of 36° N. latitude. Surplus carryover for petrale sole is not eligible under the current NMFS policy, given that the ACL is equal to the ABC. The Council recommended NMFS issue eligible carryover pounds up to the point where the ACL plus surplus carryover equals the ABC.

9. **Final Action to Implement 2015 Pacific Whiting Fishery under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Agreement** - John DeVore [[mp3: 4-14-15pm2 @ 0:31:08](#)]

- [Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 1](#): Status of the Pacific Hake (Whiting) Stock in U.S. and Canadian Waters in 2015. (*Full Version Available Electronic Only*)
- [Agenda Item E.9, Attachment 2](#): Table 1. Estimates of Pacific whiting mortality from 2007-2013 for Research and the Pink Shrimp Fishery

a. **Joint Management Committee Report – Frank Lockhart**

b. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [[mp3: 4-14-15pm2 @ 0:48:30](#)]

- [Agenda Item E.9.b, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

c. **Public Comment**

None

d. **Council Action: Consider any Necessary Action for Implementation of the 2015 Pacific Whiting Fishery** [[mp3: 4-14-15pm2 @ 0:52:36](#)]

Motion: Establish 1,500 metric tons as the 2015 set-aside to accommodate research needs and incidental catch.

Dale Myer/Michele Culver (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council received a briefing on this year's process to set a total allowable catch of Pacific whiting under the U.S.-Canada Whiting Treaty agreement. The Council also recommended 1,500 mt of Pacific whiting be set aside from the directed fishery allocations to accommodate the anticipated catch in research activities, as well as the incidental bycatch in non-whiting fisheries.*

F. Administrative Matters

1. [Seabird Protection Update](#) - Kit Dahl [[mp3: 4-12-15am2](#)] @ 0:00:14]

a. Washington Sea Grant Report - Ed Melvin

- [Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental Sea Grant PowerPoint](#): Preventing Albatross Bycatch in the West Coast Sablefish Longline Fishery

b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities

- [Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

c. Public Comment

None

d. Council Action: Consider Report on Seabird Protection Measures [[mp3: 4-12-15am2](#)] @ 0:44:27]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

2. [Prepare Comments on Proposed Changes to National Standard Guidelines 1, 3, and 7](#) - Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 4-13-15am3](#)] @ 0:36:51]

- [Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1](#): Proposed Changes to the National Standard Guidelines
- [Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2](#): Council Letter to NMFS re: NS-1 Guideline Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

a. NMFS Report - Wes Patrick

- [Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): Proposed Revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standard 1, 3, & 7 Guidelines (*Wes Patrick Presentation*)

[\[mp3: 4-13-15pm1\]](#) @ 0:00:26]

b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3: 4-13-15pm1](#)] @ 0:05:01]

- [Agenda Item F.2.b, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
- [Agenda Item F.2.b, Supplemental GMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item F.2.b, Supplemental EC Report](#)
- [Agenda Item F.2.b, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

c. Public Comment [[mp3: 4-13-15pm1](#)] @ 0:26:34]

- [Agenda Item F.2.c, Supplemental Public Comment](#)

Seth Atkinson, Natural Resources Defense Council

- d. **Council Action: Provide Guidance for Submitting Comments on the Proposed National Standard Guideline Revisions** [[mp3: 4-13-15pm1](#) @ 0:29:19]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: *The Council directed staff to send a letter to NMFS transmitting the Council's comments on the proposed changes to National Standard 1, 3, and 7 guidelines, including the comments of the GMT and the Enforcement Consultants.*

3. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes** - Dorothy Lowman

- [Agenda Item F.3, Supplemental Attachment 1](#): Draft Minutes: 225th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (September 2014)
- a. **Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Minutes** [[mp3: 4-16-15pm1](#) @ 0:00:28]

Motion: Adopt the September 2014 minutes as shown in Agenda Item F.3, Supplemental Attachment 1.

Chris Kern/Dave Ortmann (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

4. **Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures** - Chuck Tracy
[[mp3: 4-16-15pm1](#) @ 0:00:58]

- [Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1](#): Draft COP 3
- a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**
 - [Agenda Item F.4.a, WDFW Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental PSMFC Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)
- b. **Public Comment**

None

- c. **Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures** [[mp3: 4-16-15pm1](#) @ 0:07:13]

Motion: Adopt an updated Council Operating Procedure 3 as presented in Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1, which modifies the GMT Observer seat to an additional Northwest Fisheries Science Center seat.

Frank Lockhart/Herb Pollard (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Appoint Dr. Andi Stephens to the vacant NMFS NWFSC seat on the GMT.
Frank Lockhart/Herb Pollard (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council changed the West Coast Groundfish Observer seat on the GMT to a NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center seat and appointed Dr. Andi Stephens to fill the vacancy.*

5. **[Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning - Don McIsaac \[mp3: 4-16-15pm1 @ 0:10:28\]](#)**

- [Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 1](#): Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary
 - [Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 2](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, June 12-17, 2015 in Spokane, Washington
 - [Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 3](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities
 - [Agenda Item F.5, Supplemental Attachment 4](#): Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary, dated 04/16/15
 - [Agenda Item F.5, Supplemental Attachment 5](#): Draft Proposed Pacific Council Meeting Agenda, June 10-16, 2015 in Spokane, Washington (version dated 04/16/2015)
 - [Agenda Item F.5, Supplemental Attachment 6](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities
- a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**
- [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item F.5.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)
- b. **Public Comment**

Gilly Lyons, PEW Charitable Trusts

- c. **Council Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning [mp3: 4-16-15pm1 @ 0:57:56]**

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

G. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

1. **[Final Action on Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures](#) – Kerry Griffin [mp3: 4-12-15pm1 @ 0:18:12]**

a. **Stock Assessment Report - Kevin Hill**

- [Agenda Item G.1.a, Stock Assessment Report Executive Summary](#): Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2015 for U.S.A Management in 2015-16
- [Agenda Item G.1.a, Stock Assessment Report](#): Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2015 for U.S.A Management in 2015-16 (**Full Report ELECTRONIC ONLY**)
- [Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental SWFSC-FRD PowerPoint](#): Assessment of the Pacific Sardine Resource in 2015 for USA Management in 2015-16

b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3: 4-12-15pm2 @ 0:00:30](#)]

- [Agenda Item G.1.b, Tribal Report](#): Letter from Ed Johnstone, Quinault Fisheries Policy Spokesperson, regarding the Quinault Indian Nation's intent to establish a tribal allocation and to enter the 2015-16 Pacific sardine fishery
- [Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental SSC Report](#)
- [Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

c. Public Comment

- [Agenda Item G.1.c, Public Comment](#)
- [Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#) (*Full Version Electronic Only*)
- [Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)
- [Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#) (*PowerPoint, Electronic Only*)

Steve Crooke, Sportfishing Association of California

Gilly Lyons, PEW Charitable Trusts

Geoff Shester, Oceana

Diane Pleschner-Steele, California Wetfish Producers Association

d. Council Action: Adopt Pacific Sardine Assessment and Final Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2015-2016 Sardine Fishery [[mp3: 4-12-15pm3 @ 0:00:06](#)]

Motion: Council to:

1. Adopt the Pacific sardine assessment for use in management for the 2015-2016 season as shown in the stock assessment report under Agenda Item G.1.a.
2. Approve the values for biomass, OFL, P* buffer, ABC, ACL, and annual catch target (ACT) as shown in Table 3 of [Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#), with the following amendment: change the ACL value to 7,000 mt, from 8,000 mt.
3. Approve the CPSMT List of Recommended Accountability Measures as shown on page 4 of [Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#), with a modification to the fourth (last) bullet point to remove the term "incidental" for clarity.
4. Recommend the Southwest Fisheries Science Center proceed with the methodology review of the acoustic trawl survey, as recommended by the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and SSC.

Marci Yaremko/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried, Mr. Lincoln voted no)

Staff Summary: *The Council adopted the 2015 stock assessment and approved the biomass estimate of 96,688 metric tons. The Council adopted an overfishing limit of 13,227 mt, selected a P* buffer of 0.4, and established an ABC of 12,074 mt, an ACL of 7,000 mt, and an ACT of 4,000 mt. A fall 2015 in-season review of incidental catch will be scheduled, so that the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Management Team and the Council can consider revisions for incidental trip allowances.*

The Council also adopted the following accountability measures for incidental catch:

- *An incidental per landing allowance of 40 percent Pacific sardine in non-treaty CPS fisheries until a total of 1,500 mt are landed*
- *When the 1,500 mt is achieved, the incidental per-landing allowance will be reduced to 30 percent*
- *When the ACT (4,000 mt) is reached, the incidental per landing allowance would be reduced to 5 percent for the remainder of the 2015-2016 fishing year*
- *A 2 mt incidental per landing allowance in non-CPS fisheries*

Because the biomass estimate is below the cutoff value of 150,000 mt, there will be no directed non-tribal fishery for the 2015-2016 sardine season. The only catch allowed will be Tribal, incidental catch while targeting other species, live bait, research, and other minor sources of mortality.

The Council also reiterated its support of a methodology review for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center Acoustic-Trawl survey.

2. **[Finalize Methodology Review COP](#)** - Kerry Griffin [[mp3: 4-13-15am2](#) @ 0:52:38]

- [Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1](#): Draft Council Operating Procedure 26
- [Agenda Item G.2, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): COP 26, Methodology and Data Review Process for Coastal Pelagic Species

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

- [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)
- [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

b. **Public Comment**

None

c. **Council Action: Adopt Coastal Pelagic Species Methodology Review Process COP** [[mp3: 4-13-15am2](#) @ 0:58:30]

Motion: Adopt COP 26 as shown in [Agenda Item G.2, Supplemental Attachment 2](#).

Jeff Feldner/Chris Kern (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council adopted COP 26, which describes the process for proposing and conducting methodology reviews for CPS.*

[**Note:** At this time [[mp3: 4-13-15am3](#) @ 0:00:27], the Council heard comments by Mr. Chuck Bonham, CDFW Director, regarding water issues in California]

H. Pacific Halibut Management

1. **[Final Action on Incidental Landing Restrictions for 2015-2016 Salmon Troll Fishery](#)** - Kelly Ames [[mp3: 4-14-15am2](#) @1:09:40]

- [Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1](#): Summary of Pacific Halibut Incidental Catch Management

- a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**
 - [Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)
- b. **Public Comment**

Joel Kawahara

- c. **Council Action: Adopt Final Incidental Pacific Halibut Catch Recommendations for 2015 and April 2016 Non-Indian Salmon Troll Fisheries**
[\[mp3: 4-14-15am2 @1:14:27\]](#)

Motion: Adopt as the final landing restrictions for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the non-Indian salmon troll fishery May 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 and April 1-30, 2016, as recommended by the SAS (Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental SAS Report):

Alternative I: May 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 and April 1-30, 2016, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each four Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 12 halibut landed per trip.

Incidental Pacific halibut catch regulations in the commercial salmon troll fishery may be modified by inseason action.

Dale Myer/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: *The Council confirmed the existing halibut landing ratios for the commercial salmon troll fisheries will remain in place from May 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 and April 1-30, 2016, unless modified by inseason action. The limit is no more than one halibut per each four Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement and no more than 12 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip.*

I. Enforcement Issues

1. **[Regulations for Vessel Movement Monitoring](#) - Brett Wiedoff [\[mp3: 4-14-15pm1 @ 0:00:03\]](#)**
 - [Agenda Item I.1, Supplemental Staff Overview Presentation \(Wiedoff\): Vessel Movement Monitoring –Scoping and Strawmen Alternatives](#)
 - [Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1: Vessel Movement Monitoring Public Scoping Document](#)
 - a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [\[mp3: 4-14-15pm1 @ 0:32:14\]](#)**
 - [Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental EC Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)
 - [Agenda Item I.1.b, HMSAS Report](#)
 - b. **Public Comment [\[mp3: 4-14-15pm2 @ 0:00:10\]](#)**
 - [Agenda Item I.1.c, Public Comment: Athens Letter](#)
 - [Agenda Item I.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 2: VMM](#)

Tara Brock, PEW Charitable Trusts
Seth Atkinson, Natural Resources Defense Council
Bill James, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association

c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Alternatives for Vessel Movement Monitoring Regulations in Council Area Commercial Fisheries [[mp3: 4-14-15pm2 @ 0:06:48](#)]

Motion: Adopt the range of alternatives and the purpose and needs outlined in the staff report included in Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1; and the recommendations in Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental GAP Report for further analysis.
Bob Farrell/David Crabbe

Amendment: Amend Alternative E under Derelict Gear Removal (page 11 of [Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1](#)) to read as follows: Alternative E – Allow limited entry groundfish vessels to retrieve derelict gear from RCAs (with or without groundfish on board) provided the vessel has a non-trawl VMS unit described in Alternatives C, D, E, or F, or Alternative B with an observer onboard.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Amendment carried unanimously)
Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

Staff Summary: *The Council adopted the purpose and need statements and a range of alternatives for each management measure as presented in the [Council staff public scoping document](#). Under Management Measure 2 of the scoping document, Removal of Derelict Crab Pots from the RCA, the Council modified Alternative E to include additional vessel monitoring requirements. The Council also supported the recommendations for further analysis and clarifications provided in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Supplemental Report.*

J. Emergency Sardine Considerations

1. [Consideration to Schedule Emergency Action for Changes to the 2014-2015 Pacific Sardine Directed Fishery](#) - Kerry Griffin [[mp3: 4-13-15am1 @ 0:02:25](#)]

- [Agenda Item J.1, Supplemental Attachment 1](#): Procedural Considerations for Emergency Council Action for Changes to the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Fishery
- [Agenda Item J.1, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): Long-term Productivity of Pacific Sardines under Four Different Harvest Control Rules

a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities

- [Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)
- [Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

b. Public Comment [[mp3: 4-13-15am1 @ 0:59:56](#)]

- [Agenda Item J.1.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#) (PowerPoint, Electronic Only)

Andrea Treece, Earthjustice
Geoff Shester, Oceana
Ben Enticknap, Oceana

Gilly Lyons, PEW Charitable Trusts

- c. **Council Action: Consider Scheduling Emergency Action to Consider Changes to the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Fishery** [[mp3: 4-13-15am2 @ 0:00:11](#)]

Motion: Council to schedule consideration of emergency action during the course of this meeting.
Dan Wolford/Michele Culver (Motion carried, Mr. Lockhart voted no)

Motion: Amend the previously adopted Agenda Item A.4, for the purpose of adding another agenda item.

Dan Wolford/Dale Myer (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion: Amend our agenda to add “Agenda Item J.2: Consider the emergency action on the 2014-2015 sardine fishery.

Dan Wolford/Chris Kern (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

2. **Emergency In-Season Action in the 2014-2015 Pacific Sardine Fishery** – Kerry Griffin [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 0:00:08](#)]

- a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 0:03:55](#)]

- [Agenda Item J.2.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item J.2.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)
- [Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)
- [Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)
- [Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

- b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 0:27:30](#)]

- [Agenda Item J.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#) (*Electronic Only*)

Ben Enticknap, Oceana

Al Carter, Ocean Gold Seafoods

John Huelman, Fish Spotter

Keary Sorenson

Sally Sorenson

Andrea Treece, Earthjustice

Gilly Lyons, PEW Charitable Trusts

- c. **Council Action: consider Emergency Action for Changes to the 2014-15 Pacific Sardine Fishery** [[mp3: 4-15-15pm2 @ 1:01:40](#)]

Motion: Request NMFS adopt regulations as quickly as possible to close the current 2014-2015 directed non-tribal sardine fishery.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried (12/1/0; Mr. Lockhart voted no)

Staff Summary: *The Council recommended that NMFS close the current Pacific sardine fishery as quickly as possible to stay within the remaining quota. NMFS will immediately work with the*

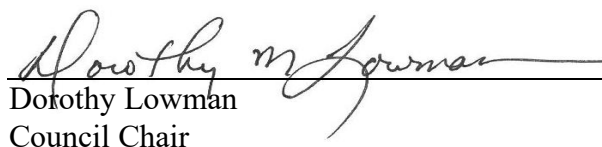
states to assess landings and catch rate, to determine a closure date associated with the remaining available quota, such that the directed catch quota will not be exceeded and the 500 mt set aside for incidental take will be protected. After the directed commercial fishery is closed, harvest will be limited to Tribal, incidental catch in other CPS fisheries, and the live bait fishery for the remainder of the 2014-2015 fishing year, which ends June 30, 2015.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

- [Informational Report 1](#): Letters and Responses RE: bycatch reduction in and the transition of the West Coast swordfish fishery from the use of drift gillnets
- [Informational Report 2](#): Whiting Mothership Cooperative; An Amendment 20 Mothership Catcher Vessel Cooperative Final Report on the 2014 Pacific Whiting Fishery Prepared by: Dave Fraser, WMC Coop Manager
- [Informational Report 3](#): Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative; Amendment 20 Catcher/Processor Cooperative; Final Annual Report 2014
- [Informational Report 4](#): NMFS Report on Analysis of Seafloor Contact in Midwater Trawls Engaged in the US West Coast Pacific Hake Fishery
- [Informational Report 5](#): NMFS Report – A Summit on the Role of Deep-Sea Corals and Sponges as Habitat for Managed Species off the West Coast and Alaska – Summary Outcomes
- [Informational Report 6](#): Vessel Monitoring System Pink Shrimp Bottom Trawl Report Distribution North of 40° 10' N. LAT., 2011-2013, and 2009-2013
- [Informational Report 7](#): National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program 2015 Request for Proposals
- [Informational Report 8](#): Letter from NMFS dated March 23, 2015, approving Amendment 14 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan
- [Supplemental Informational Report 9](#): Letters from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, West Coast Region (*Full Version Electronic Only*)
- [Supplemental Informational Report 10](#): MOU referenced in the letters from Members of Congress included in Informational Report 1; Morocco and the United States

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on April 16, 2015 at 1:13 p.m.


Dorothy Lowman
Council Chair

June 15, 2015

Date