



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2015

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Interested Persons

FROM: Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet April 10 - 16, 2015 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) meetings will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 10, 2015 in the Vineyard Room and Sonoma Room, respectively.

The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest, including:

- Matters raised during the open comment period;
- Current habitat issues;
- A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) trawl cost recovery report;
- An update regarding the Endangered Species Act reconsulation on salmon
- Update regarding sea bird protection
- Finalize Council Operating Procedures for the groundfish methodology review process
- Preparation of comments on proposed changes to National Standard 1, 3, and 7 Guidelines
- Determine the scope of issues for a groundfish essential fish habitat amendment, including rockfish conservation areas and area adjustment
- Development of a reasonable range of alternatives for vessel movement monitoring
- Adoption of final preferred alternatives for widow rockfish quota share reallocation and divestiture;
- Adoption of preliminary preferred alternatives for blackgill and slope rockfish trawl and non-trawl allocations, including restructuring of the Slope Rockfish complex south of 40°10' N. latitude;
- Consideration of inseason adjustments for 2015 and 2016 fisheries, including carryover;
- Adoption of preliminary preferred alternatives for the management of set asides allocations;
- Final action to implement the 2015 Pacific whiting fishery under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Agreement;

- Membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures; and
- Future Council meeting agenda and workload planning

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

BLW:kma

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment Period
3. Agenda Item C.1 – Habitat Issues
4. Agenda Item E.1 – NMFS Report
5. Agenda Item E.2 – Trawl Cost Recovery Report
6. Agenda Item E.3 – Salmon Endangered Species Act Reconsultation Update
7. Agenda Item F.1 – Seabird Protection Update
8. Agenda Item E.4 – Finalize Methodology Review Council Operating Procedures
9. Agenda Item F.2 – Prepare Comments on Proposed Changes to National Standard Guidelines 1, 3, and 7
10. Agenda Item E.5 – Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Amendment Scoping, Including Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and Area Adjustments
11. Agenda Item I.1 – Regulations for Vessel Movement Monitoring
12. Agenda Item E.6 – Final Action on Widow Rockfish Reallocation and Divestiture Issues
13. Agenda Item E.7 – Blackgill and Slope Rockfish Reallocation
14. Agenda Item E.8 – Inseason Adjustments Including Carryover and Regulatory Amendment to Manage Set-Asides
15. Agenda Item E.9 – Final Action to Implement 2015 Pacific Whiting Fishery under the U.S.-Canada Pacific Whiting Agreement
16. EC Agenda
17. GAP Agenda
18. GMT Agenda
19. SSC Agenda and Draft Minutes
20. Informational Reports
21. Hotel-related Information
22. Council Roster