



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2015
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee
FROM: John DeVore
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 Hotel, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, California. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 starting at 8 a.m. each day in the Salon II Room. Your meeting materials are enclosed, and include informational items that are not on the SSC agenda.

Council Administrative Matters

There are no nominations to Council advisory bodies for the SSC to review. Therefore, this agenda item may be removed from the SSC's agenda.

The SSC will review their potential workload in the next year and may recommend to the Council which tasks are prioritized.

The SSC will be briefed on proposed changes to National Standard guidelines 1, 3, and 7 and will prepare comments on these proposed changes to the Council.

The SSC will be briefed on the Ocean Modeling Forum by Dr. André Punt.

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

The Council is scheduled to take final action on harvest specifications and management measures for the 2015-2016 (July-June) fishery. The SSC will deliberate recommending the new update assessment, which was reviewed on March 6 by the SSC's Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee. The SSC will also recommend an overfishing limit for Pacific sardine for the 2015-2016 fishery.

The Council is scheduled to take final action on adopting a methodology review Council Operating Procedure (COP) for CPS analyses (COP 26). The SSC will provide their recommendations on this COP.

Salmon Management

The SSC will review a list of potential salmon methodology topics to be reviewed later this year. The SSC will receive input from the Salmon Technical Team and the Model Evaluation Workgroup, and provide recommendations for methodologies to be reviewed in 2015.

Groundfish Management

The Council is scheduled to take final action on adopting a methodology review COP for groundfish analyses (COP 25). The SSC will provide their recommendations on this COP.

The SSC will review a new management strategy evaluation (MSE) of overfished species' rebuilding revision rules from Ms. Chantel Wetzel. The SSC will provide their recommendations on the MSE as best available science at the June Council meeting.

The SSC will consider a review of a proposed Groundfish Management Team (GMT) methodology for estimating the species composition of unidentified skates landed on the west coast to determine better estimates of big skate mortalities. Further, the GMT requests feedback and a recommendation on an assumed discard mortality rate for big skate. A 50 percent discard mortality rate was recommended by the SSC in March 2012 for longnose skate with the rationale, "... discard mortality assumptions be consistent between assessments and management. Although the discard mortality assumptions used in the assessments are based on very limited information, they represent the best information available." Given that the 2007 longnose skate assumed a 50 percent discard mortality rate, this rate was recommended for determining total estimated discard mortalities and for making management decisions. The question to the SSC is, can this discard mortality rate be used as a proxy for big skate? SSC and GMT recommendations on these issues will be presented to the Council under Agenda Item E.8, Inseason Adjustments Including Carryover and Regulatory Amendment to Manage Set-asides.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process. See you soon.

JDD:kma

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item F.2 – Prepare Comments on Proposed Changes to National Standard Guidelines 1, 3, and 7
3. Agenda Item F.5 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

4. Agenda Item G.1 – Final Action on Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures
5. Agenda Item G.2 – Finalize Methodology Review Council Operating Procedures (COP)

Salmon Management

6. Agenda Item D.2 – Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection

Groundfish Management

7. Agenda Item E.4 – Finalize Methodology Review Council Operating Procedures (COP)
8. Agenda Item E.8 – Inseason Adjustments Including Carryover and Regulatory Amendment to Manage Set-Asides

SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, etc.

9. April 2015 SSC Agenda
10. Draft March 2015 SSC Minutes
11. SSC CPS Subcommittee Meeting Report: Sardine Assessment Update Review, March 6, 2015, Vancouver WA
12. Informational Report 8: March 23, 2015 NMFS approval letter of Amendment 14 to the CPS FMP.
13. Hotel-Related Information
14. Roster

PFMC
3/26/15