



111 SW Columbia St, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97201

Agenda Item F.5.b

Supplemental Public Comment 2 (Electronic Only)

June 2015

June 16, 2015

Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
1100 NE Ambassador Place, #101
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.5 (Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning)

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members,

Please accept these public comments regarding future Council meeting agenda and workload planning.

- Confirm the adoption of a range of alternatives for groundfish EFH and other habitat areas for September (currently shaded on the [YAG](#)). Additionally, we want to confirm that the range of alternatives will include options for extending the trawl footprint closure to the boundary of the EEZ. Our concern is that the remaining uncertainty on authority communicated by NMFS should not preclude development of alternatives, even if they are basic placeholders.
- Keep final action on DGN hard caps and other management measures scheduled for the September meeting. Final action on this item has been delayed a number of times and we are concerned that any further delay will not allow NMFS enough time to implement these measures for the 2016-2017 fishing season.
- Schedule an agenda item at the September Council meeting to start the process of authorizing DSBG under the HMS FMP. At the Swordfish Workshop hosted by NMFS in May, there was broad support and consensus that DSBG should be made an allowable gear. Given 4 years of research already conducted and the interest from fishermen to use the gear, we believe the Council should prioritize this in the HMS workload above other actions such as approving a shallow-set longline outside the EEZ.
- We understand that there is a lot of discussion that will need to occur before buoy gear is authorized. Decisions will need to be made about what kind of permit the Council envisions and how those permits should be assigned. Many of these questions can be analyzed and addressed in scoping and in the development of a ROA and we recommend the Council start this process as soon as possible at the September meeting.
- Schedule time in September for Council consideration of adoption of an ACT for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy, and request that the SSC review a forthcoming abundance estimate developed by Dr. Alec MacCall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Shively". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Paul Shively
Manager, U.S. Oceans, Pacific
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