

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the [Groundfish Workload Priorities](#), draft agenda for November 2015 ([Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 2](#)), and Year-at-a-Glance ([Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 1](#)) documents included in the briefing book under this agenda item and offers the following thoughts and considerations.

### **Groundfish Priorities**

The GMT reminds the Council that any items that are intended to be included in the 2017-2018 biennial harvest specifications and management measures analysis, such as re-evaluating big skates as ecosystem component species, should be finalized at the November Council meeting. Any new items that come after that time have the potential to complicate and/or delay the process and timing.

### **October GMT Meeting**

The GMT is currently scheduled to have a work session in Portland, Oregon from October 5-9. During that meeting, the GMT will be primarily working on biennial harvest specifications and management measures issues. The GMT was also tasked at this meeting to determine the list of non-overfished groundfish species for consideration of discrete area closures under Agenda Item H.8.

### **November 2015 Schedule**

The draft proposed November Council meeting agenda contained in the advanced briefing book includes eight groundfish agenda items. The GMT currently expects to provide comment on seven of those agenda items. Additionally, there are enforcement and non-groundfish items in which some members of the GMT will also need to be involved (i.e., Vessel Movement Monitoring and Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan). Therefore, if there are agenda items that the Council would like the GMT to prioritize, or that the Council does not see a need for input from the GMT, we would appreciate that feedback at this time.

**The GMT requests time on the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) agenda to provide updates on the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) model and the Probability Analysis used to Evaluate Risk of Exceeding Catch Limits.** Both of these reviews were initiated at the June 2015 Council meeting. Additional input is needed to finalize the IFQ model for use in the 2017-2018 harvest specifications and management measures analysis that will occur over the winter. The GMT would also like to provide additional information and get SSC feedback on the probability analysis.

The GMT received a presentation on the 2015 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Technical Memorandum National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)-F/SPO-152 “Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments” from Dr. Richard D. Methot, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Senior Scientist for Stock Assessments. The GMT recognizes that implementation of the stock assessment prioritization plan will require additional exploration and discussion, including input from advisory bodies. **The GMT**

**recommends the NOAA stock prioritization plan be discussed at the November 2015 meeting.**

### **Overwinter Analysis**

Over the winter, the GMT will be working with Council and NMFS staff on analyses and documentation for the 2017-2018 biennial harvest specifications and management measures. As the GMT stated in its supplemental GMT statement under Agenda Item H.6.a, Endangered Species Act Salmon Re-consultation, we have concerns about our ability to actively engage in the re-consultation, given the timeline presented by NMFS and our responsibilities with the biennial harvest specifications process.

### **GMT Recommendations:**

- 1. Time be reserved on the SSC agenda in November for the GMT to provide updates on the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) model and the Probability Analysis used to Evaluate Risk of Exceeding Catch Limits.**
- 2. The NOAA stock prioritization process be discussed at the November 2015 meeting.**

PFMC  
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