

## MID-WATER RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS

The Council is considering regulations for a longleader recreational gear intended to provide increased access to healthy pelagic groundfish while minimizing overfished species bycatch. In recent years, exempted fishing permits (EFP) have been recommended by the Council and issued by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to explore the feasibility and performance of such gear. In June 2013, the Council requested that NMFS prepare an analysis of alternatives for Oregon and California based on the Oregon Recreational Fishing Alliance EFP ([Agenda Item F.3.c, Holloway Proposal, June 2013](#)). NMFS provided a discussion paper that summarizes key issues and requests clarifications on matters that emerged in NMFS' drafting of the preliminary analysis (Agenda Item H.1.a, NMFS Report). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provided an analysis of the viability of a longleader fishery off of Oregon, based on the results of the 2009 and 2011 EFPs (Agenda Item H.1.a, ODFW Report).

The Council should review the reference materials and provide guidance including refining the range of alternatives and selecting a preliminary preferred alternative for public review, if possible. The Council is scheduled to take final action at the November 2015 Council meeting.

### **Council Task:**

- 1. Provide guidance and clarifications necessary for developing regulations to allow a mid-water recreational groundfish fishery in Oregon and California.**
- 2. Refine the range of alternatives, including selection of a preliminary preferred alternative, if possible.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, NMFS Report: Midwater Recreational Groundfish Fishery: Issues for Council Discussion and Clarification.
2. Agenda Item H.1.a, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on the Potential Viability of an Oregon Longleader Sport Fishery.
3. Agenda Item H.1.b, Public Comment.

### **Agenda Order:**

- H.1 Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations in Oregon and California