

INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Management measures for groundfish are set by the Council with the general understanding that these measures will likely need to be adjusted within the biennium to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits. This agenda item will consider inseason adjustments to 2015 fisheries. Potential inseason adjustments include adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Area boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on recent landings and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

At the June 2015 meeting, the Council recommended trip limit adjustments for big skate; black rockfish between 40°10' and 42° N latitude; blackgill rockfish south of 40°10' N latitude; sablefish north of 36° N. latitude; minor shelf rockfish complex, shortbelly, widow, and chilipepper between 40°10' and 34°27' N latitude; and California scorpionfish. Details of the Council recommendations can be found in the Groundfish Inseason Blog (see <http://tinyurl.com/pq3mz4s>). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) indicated that most of the Council recommendations were implemented on August 14, 2015 (see [NMFS Public Notice NMFS-SEA-15-18](#)), except for the trip limit adjustments to the minor shelf rockfish complex, shortbelly, widow, and chilipepper as well as California scorpionfish (Agenda Item H.9.a, NMFS Letter). The agency determined that the trip limit adjustments for those species would require notice and comment rulemaking. The Council should review the information contained in the NMFS letter and provide guidance on the desired process for implementation.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider projections for the 2015 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary.**
- 2. Discuss the NMFS letter regarding inseason adjustments from the June 2015 Council meeting, provide guidance on the desired process for implementation.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.9.a, NMFS Letter: Inseason Adjustments from the June 2015 Council Meeting.
2. Agenda Item H.9.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

H.9 Inseason Adjustments

Kelly Ames

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Consider Inseason Adjustments as Necessary