



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 25, 2015

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kit Dahl, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet September 11-16, 2015 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, California. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and Ad Hoc Ecosystem Work Group (EWG) will meet jointly on Thursday, September 10 in the Redwood Room.

There are two agenda topics under the Ecosystem heading: D.1, Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative Scoping and D.2, Unmanaged Forage Fish Regulations. The EWG has prepared reports on these topics, which are included in the attached materials.

In March 2015, the Council identified a new initiative, Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review, to pursue. This initiative would refine and improve the ecosystem indicators presented in the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. The EWG Report includes workload assessments and a timeline for the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative, their relationship to the Council's four fishery management plans' goals and objectives, and a description of Council decision points that could be supported by the indicators. The Report also presents revisions to the Climate Shift Initiative addressing the Council's March request.

At the March meeting, the Council also took final action on the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1 (CEBA 1), which would prohibit the future development of directed commercial fisheries for certain forage fish species in Federal marine waters until the Council has had a chance to assess potential impacts. Section 303(c) in the Magnuson-Stevens Act stipulates that proposed regulations the Council "deems necessary or appropriate for the purposes of implementing a fishery management plan or plan amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary [of Commerce]..." The National Marine Fisheries Service typically drafts implementing regulations on the Council's behalf, but litigation has resulted in an affirmative action by which the Council "deems" draft regulations consistent with the intent of the plan amendment. The Council is scheduled to review proposed regulations at the September Council meeting. The Council also needs to consider adopting Council Operating Procedure (COP) 24, which describes procedures the Council would employ when reviewing proposed fisheries for unmanaged forage fish. The EWG Report contains a proposed COP for Council consideration.

This joint meeting of the EAS and EWG will be an opportunity for the two committees to discuss these issues. I expect that the EWG will brief EAS members on the status of these initiatives and solicit feedback on the further development of the ecosystem indicators initiative.

The Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Team, comprised of staff from the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers, will be meeting with the Scientific and Statistical Committee's Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee on September 9 to discuss indicators used in the annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. Although travel authorization has not been extended to EAS and EWG members to attend this meeting, those that are interested could plan to arrive early on September 9 (a travel day) to catch at least part of that meeting.

I have also included the briefing materials for two administrative topics, Agenda Item C.5, Membership and Appointments, and Agenda Item C.6, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. Current three-year terms for advisory subpanel members end this year, and the Council will be seeking nominations for the next term (2016-2018). The Council may also consider changes in the composition of advisory bodies. The EAS and EWG may wish to comment on these administrative topics.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website, as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

Fun fact about Sacramento: You can visit the grave of Senator Capitol Kitty on the state capitol grounds. This feral cat lived at the state capitol for 13 years.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.5 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item D.1 – Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative Scoping
3. Agenda Item D.2 – Unmanaged Forage Fish Regulations
4. Agenda Items C.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
5. Agenda Items C.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
6. Informational Reports
7. EAS-EWG Agenda
8. Hotel-related information
9. Council Roster