



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2015

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Interested Persons

FROM: Brett Wiedoff, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 9-16, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2015 in the California Salon III. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, September 11 in California Salon IV.

The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest, including:

- Matters raised during the open comment period;
- Reports from the West Coast Region and Northwest Fisheries Science Center;
- Update on Council Coordination Committee Meeting;
- Deeming regulations for unmanaged forage fish and finalizing Council procedures for authorizing new forage fish fisheries;
- Current habitat issues;
- Adopt preliminary preferred alternatives for mid-water recreational fishing regulations in Oregon and California;
- Adopt a range of alternatives for changing gear regulations for the trawl catch shares sector;
- Legislative matters, including considerations of the Legislative Committee;
- Approve final stock assessments for 2017-2018 Management;
- Consider preliminary results of electronic monitoring exempted fishing permits and implications for development of proposed regulations for electronic monitoring in the whiting fishery;
- Specifications Process for 2017-2018 Management - Review a contingency schedule, adopt final overfishing limits and preliminary P*/Acceptable Biological Catches, preliminary preferred alternative for managing skates, and a preliminary range of new management measures;

- Consider the salmon Endangered Species Act Reinitiation of Consultation Workshop Report and provide guidance regarding the Biological Opinion's proposed action for ongoing management of the groundfish fishery;
- Adopt a preliminary preferred intersector allocation alternative for blackgill-slope rockfish and consider recommending accumulation limit adjustments;
- Adopt a range of alternatives for analysis for an amendment to modify groundfish essential fish habitat and adjust rockfish conservation areas;
- Consider inseason adjustments for 2015 fisheries;
- Adopt a plan for improvements in groundfish management science and identify priority stock assessment methodology review topics for 2016;
- Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2016 Pacific halibut catch sharing plan and annual fishing regulations;
- Membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures; and
- Future Council meeting agenda and workload planning

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week. As always, all briefing materials are also available on the web at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

BLW:kma

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.5 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B – Open Comment Period
3. Agenda Item C.1 – Update on Council Coordination Committee Meeting
4. Agenda Item C.2 – Legislative Matters
5. Agenda Item C.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
6. Agenda Item C.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
7. Agenda Item D – Ecosystem Management
8. Agenda Item F.1 – Current Habitat Issues
9. Agenda Item H – Groundfish Management
10. Agenda Item I – Pacific Halibut Management
11. EC Agenda
12. GAP Agenda
13. GMT Agenda
14. SSC Agenda and Draft Minutes
15. Informational Reports
16. Hotel-related Information
17. Council Roster