



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2015

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Mike Burner, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet September 9-16 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento in Sacramento, California. The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), Salmon Technical Team (STT), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will not be meeting at the September Council meeting. A webinar will be held on September 2, 2015 that will focus on salmon, ecosystem, and Pacific halibut agenda items on the Council's September agenda.

The Council is scheduled to adopt a final list of topics for this year's methodology review. A list of preliminary topics adopted in April is included in your briefing materials. The methodology review meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 20-22, 2015 in Portland, Oregon.

During the 2015 salmon preseason process and the March and April Council meetings, the Council was briefed on poor survival concerns for the 2014 brood of Sacramento River winter Chinook (SRWC). The ongoing drought conditions in California are likely contributing to decreased spawning success and increased juvenile mortality that could result in low adult recruitment for this brood depending on ocean rearing conditions. The onset of El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean in the spring of 2015 during the outmigration of the 2014 brood has raised concerns about ocean rearing conditions. The Council is scheduled to receive an update on the status of SRWC and the National Marine Fisheries Service will report on recent thinking about developing new harvest policy and the Council role in development and evaluation of harvest alternatives.

Under Agenda Item I.1 – Pacific Halibut Management, the Council is scheduled to adopt proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and changes to annual fishery regulations for 2016. The Council will consider the proposals in September and is scheduled to take final action at the November Council meeting in Garden Grove, California.

The Council will be taking up two matters regarding Ecosystem-Based Management. Under Agenda Item D.1 the Council is scheduled to discuss Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiatives regarding refined ecosystem indicators and the monitoring of effects of climate shift. Under Agenda Item D.2, the Council will be reviewing proposed regulations regarding the protection of unmanaged forage species, including the management of incidental landings. The Council will also consider the adoption of Council Operating Procedure 24 that describes proposed requirements for considering potential future fishing activity.

There are a few administrative matters on the September Council agenda of interest. Under Agenda Item C.2, Legislative Matters, the Council and its Legislative Committee will be discussing a variety of bills regarding water management drought conditions in California. The Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations has submitted a letter urging the Council to comment on the proposed legislation, as appropriate.

Lastly, under Agenda Item C.5, the Council will be discussing appointments for the next advisory body term (2016-2018). All of the current SAS appointments will expire at the end of 2015. STT and MEW appointments are not subject to terms and are unaffected. Beginning with this meeting and finalizing at the November meeting, the Council will consider the composition of each advisory body. With Council and Federal budgets likely to be constraining in the future and state budgets already at reduced levels, consideration should be given to ensuring advisory body compositions are adequate while also being as efficient as possible. Comments on salmon advisory body member compositions should be reported to the Council at the September meeting. Following the September Council meeting, staff will solicit nominations for the 2016-2018 SAS term from which the Council will make appointments at the November 2015 meeting. Please consider nominating yourself and/or others for the next round of SAS appointments and stay tuned after the September Council meeting for an announcement of the nomination deadline.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may 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.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your participation.

MDB:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A – Executive Director's Report and Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.2, C.5, and C.6 – Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Item D.1 and D.2 – Ecosystem Management
4. Agenda Item E.1 and E.2 – Salmon Management
5. Agenda Items F.1– Habitat Issues
6. Agenda Item H.6 – Groundfish Management
7. Agenda Item I.1 – Pacific Halibut Management
8. Informational Reports
9. Council Roster