

**COUNCIL MEETING RECORD**  
**231<sup>st</sup> Session of the**  
**Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**September 11-16, 2015**  
Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento  
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815

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## INTRODUCTION

This document contains or identifies the various elements, documents, and sources comprising the complete and official record of Council meeting discussions and actions. In addition to the Meeting Summary, which follows this introductory section (see #7 below), it includes information or references that serve as the functional detailed minutes for this Council meeting as required by §302(i)(2)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The full record is maintained at the Council office, is available on the Council website (<http://www.pcouncil.org/>) or upon request from the Council office, and consists of the following:

1. **Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda** – These documents are available on the Council Website prior to and following each meeting at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.
2. **Attendance Records** – These documents are available for the Council meeting and each advisory body meeting by request from the Council office.
3. **All Documents, Reports, and Presentations for Council Consideration** – These items include (1) all documents produced or received for the meeting briefing book, validated by a label assigned by the Council Secretariat and distributed to Council Members; (2) written public comments received at the Council meeting in accordance with agenda labeling requirements; and (3) electronic material or handout materials used in presentations to Council Members during the open session. They are available from links in the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
4. **Council Decisions Summary Document** – This document is distributed shortly after each Council meeting. It provides very brief descriptions of most key Council decisions and is available at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/> and also provided by agenda item in the Meeting Summary of this document.
5. **Draft or Final Decision Documents Finalized after the Council Meeting** – Documents such as Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments are available on the Council website as they are completed.
6. **Gavel-to-Gavel Audio Recordings** – These recordings contain the testimony, presentations, discussions, and actions occurring at the meeting and are labeled by date and time (e.g., 04-11-15am1) and have been annotated as to the time on the recording for the start of each agenda line item to help facilitate review. The recordings may be accessed from the links contained within the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
7. **Meeting Summary** (immediately follows this section) – The Meeting Summary lists, in agenda item order, the briefing book documents, reports, presentations, and Council motions and actions, including a brief summary from the Council Decisions Summary Document for each agenda item. It constitutes the meeting record formally approved by the Council. The agenda heading for each agenda item, and most listed documents, serve as internet links to the actual briefing book documents. Internet links in brackets (e.g., [[mp3: 11-11-14pm1 @01:21:15](#)]) refer to the audio recording and elapsed time on the recording at which the agenda item was initiated. Links to the audio recordings are annotated by agenda item and may also be accessed at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### A. Call to Order [[mp3: 9-11-15am1](#): 0:00:09]

#### 1. Opening Remarks - Dorothy Lowman, Chair

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Council Chair, called the 231<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:45 a.m. on September 11, 2015. A closed session was held before this open session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

#### 2. Council Member Appointments – Bob Turner [[mp3: 9-11-15am1](#): 0:05:10]

Mr. Bob Turner presented the newly-appointed Council members with their Certificates of appointments and Mr. Phil Anderson and Mr. Joseph Oatman were sworn in as Council Members.

#### 3. Roll Call - Don McIsaac [[mp3: 9-11-15am1](#): 0:08:22]

##### Council Members present during the meeting week:

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):	Mr. Frank Lockhart, designee Mr. Bob Turner, designee
Washington State Official:	Ms. Michele Culver, designee Mr. Corey Niles, designee
Washington Obligatory:	Mr. Rich Lincoln
Oregon State Official:	Dr. Caren Braby, designee Ms. Maggie Sommer, designee
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
California State Official:	Ms. Joanna Grebel, designee Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee
California Obligatory:	Mr. David Crabbe
Idaho State Official:	Mr. David Ortmann, designee Mr. Pete Hassemer, designee
Idaho Obligatory:	Mr. Herb Pollard, Vice Chair
Tribal Official:	Mr. Joseph Oatman
At-Large:	Mr. William L. “Buzz” Brizendine Mr. Jeff Feldner Mr. Phil Anderson Mr. Dan Wolford
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:	Dr. David Hanson, Parliamentarian, nonvoting designee
U.S. Coast Guard:	LCDR Gregg Casad, nonvoting designee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	Dr. Steven Haeseker, nonvoting designee

##### Absent from the Meeting:

Alaska State Official:	Mr. Sam Cotton
U.S. State Department:	Mr. David Hogan, nonvoting designee

4. **Executive Director's Report** – Don McIsaac [[mp3: 9-11-15am1: 0:09:41](#)]

The Executive Director presented his report and introduced the informational reports. Information was presented by Dr. Cisco Werner and Dr. John Stein regarding Informational Report 2.

[Agenda Item A.4, Attachment 1](#): Meeting Agenda and Summary of the June 22-25, 2015 Council Coordination Committee Meeting

5. **Agenda – Dorothy Lowman** [[mp3: 9-11-15am1: 1:01:59](#)]

**a. Council Action: Approve Agenda**

**Motion:** Adopt [Agenda Item A.5](#), September 11-16, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda with the potential changes to the schedule to accommodate the Agenda Item Overview on H.8 to be presented before the next day's state delegation meetings.  
David Crabbe/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously)

**B. Open Comment Period**

1. **Comments on Non-Agenda Items** - Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 9-11-15am1: 1:02:35](#)]

**a. Advisory Body and Management Entity Comments**

[Agenda Item B.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): Domestic Highly Migratory Species Activities

**b. Public Comment**

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Public Comment 1](#): Fourth Grade Class Sardine Letters

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 2](#): "Supporting a Spatial Analysis of the Distribution and Size of Rebuilding Stocks in the Rockfish Conservation Areas through Directed Surveys" (TNC Exempted Fishing Permit EFP #13-14-TNC-01)

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 3](#): Stephens – Preliminary Experimental Fisheries Permit

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Open Public Comment 4](#): PowerPoint – Supporting a Spatial Analysis of the Distribution and Size of Rebuilding Stocks in the Rockfish Conservation Areas through Directed Surveys (*Electronic Only*)

Christopher Kubiak, CCJCLC and Mary Gleason, Nature Conservancy presented

Gerry Richter

Geoff Shester, Oceana

Corey Ridings, Ocean Conservancy

**c. Council Discussion as Appropriate**

**Motion:** None



## C. Administrative Matters

### 1. [Update on Council Coordination Committee Meeting](#) - Don McIsaac [[mp3: 9-11-15am1: 1:17:32](#)]

[Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 1](#): Agenda for the June 22-25, 2015 CCC Meeting

[Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 2](#): June 22-25, 2015 CCC Meeting Summary Document, including Outcome Statements and Recommendations

#### a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities

None

#### b. Public Comment

None

#### c. Council Action: Consider Report from the Council Coordination Meeting

**Motion:** None

## D. Ecosystem Management

### 1. [Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative Scoping](#) - Kit Dahl [[mp3: 9-11-15am1: 1:34:07](#)]

[Agenda Item D.1, Supplemental Attachment 1](#): NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy Highlights

#### a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3: 9-11-15am1: 1:39:50](#)] & [[mp3: 9-11-15pm1: 0:00:17](#)]

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Ecosystem Workgroup Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental EWG PowerPoint](#): Ecosystem Workgroup Presentation for D.1.a. (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental EAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental EWG Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental HC Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

#### b. Public Comment [[mp3: 9-11-15pm1: 0:30:29](#)]

[Agenda Item D.1.b, Public Comment](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

Corey Ridings, Ocean Conservancy

Gilly Lyons, PEW Charitable Trusts

Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans

Geoff Shester, Oceana

- c. **Council Action: Determine Timeline for, and Issues to be Addressed in: 1) an Initiative to Develop and Refine Indicators for Ecosystem, and 2) an Initiative to Monitor Climate Shift** [\[mp3: 9-11-15pm1: 0:39:32\]](#)

**Motion:** Council request that the Northwest Fisheries Science Center Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team work with the sablefish Stock Assessment Team and Scientific and Statistical Committee members to initiate a comprehensive review of the status of the sablefish stock throughout its range, including in Canada and Alaska. The review would overlay information in the assessments with ecosystem information (e.g. changes in ocean conditions and predator/prey interactions) to evaluate whether there is any relationship between ecosystem changes and changes in stock trends that could help inform the next assessment and Council management. Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council 1) will proceed with development of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative on Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review and endorsed the steps described in the [Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Report](#); 2) endorsed the Climate Shift Initiative, but work on this initiative would be integrated into later stages of the Indicator initiative. Indicators for monitoring the effects of climate change could be developed in the meantime; and 3) recommended a project to test a practical application of ecosystem information in fishery management. Specifically, the Council asked the NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team work with sablefish assessment scientists and members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee to initiate a comprehensive review of the sablefish stock throughout its range and to explore potential relationships between stock status and ecosystem changes that could help inform the next assessment.

2. **[Unmanaged Forage Fish Regulations](#)** - Mike Burner [\[mp3: 9-11-15pm2: 0:00:04\]](#)

[Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1](#): Draft Council Operation Procedure 24

- a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [\[mp3: 9-11-15pm2: 0:08:44\]](#) & [\[mp3: 9-11-15pm3: 0:00:38\]](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, EWG Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 2](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): Draft Federal Regulations to Implement Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1 (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): NMFS Report on Federal Regulations to Implement Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1: Protecting Unfished Forage Fish Species

[Agenda Item D.2.a Supplemental EAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental EC Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)

- b. **Public Comment** [\[mp3: 9-11-15pm3: 0:25:02\]](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#)

[Agenda Item D.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans  
Ben Enticknap, Oceana  
Gilly Lyons, PEW Charitable Trusts  
Greg Helms, Ocean Conservancy  
Brent Paine, United Catcher Boats and Dan Waldeck, PWCC

**c. Council Action: Deem Regulations Implementing Unmanaged Forage Fish Regulations in Four Fishery Management Plans and Finalize Council Operating Procedure 24 Outlining Process for Authorizing New Forage Fish Fisheries**  
**[[mp3: 9-11-15pm3: 0:53:17](#)]**

**Motion:** Deem the regulations implementing unmanaged forage fish regulations in D.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report w/ the following changes:

- Page 13: Section 660.112 (d) (16) insert the words “retain and” at the beginning of the sentence, and prior to the word “process” in the middle of the sentence. Same change to (e)(10).
- Page 12: Delete the reference of 0 to 3 nm offshore consistent w/ the EC recommendation.
- Approve proposed changes to COP 24 in Agenda Item D.2.a, EWG Report.

Michele Culver/Phil Anderson

**Amendment 1:** Agenda Item D.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report, strike the paragraph on page 13: (b) transfer at sea.

David Crabbe/Buzz Brizendine (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

**Amendment 2:** Agenda Item D.2.a, EWG Report, COP 24, page 2 strike “exceptional circumstances.”

David Crabbe/Buzz Brizendine (Amendment 2 carried unanimously)

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

**Staff Summary:** The Council deemed regulations implementing protective measures for a suite of unmanaged forage fish that prohibit the development of new directed commercial fisheries on these species in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The regulations define directed commercial fishing, establish incidental landing limits of 10 mt per trip and 30 mt per year, and place restrictions on at-sea processing. Additionally, the Council approved Council Operating Procedure 24, a Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for Shared Ecosystem Component Species, including the suggested edits of the Ecosystem Workgroup.

## **E. Salmon Management**

### **1. [Salmon Methodology Review](#) - Mike Burner [[mp3: 9-12-15am1: 0:00:23](#)]**

[Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 1](#): May 11, 2015 email to the agencies from Mike Burner regarding preliminary topic selection

#### **a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3: 9-12-15am1: 0:12:26](#)]**

[Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental STT Report](#)

[Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental MEW Report](#)

**b. Public Comment**

None

**c. Council Action: Identify Priority Projects for Review in 2015** [[mp3: 9-12-15am1: 0:20:38](#)] & [[mp3: 9-12-15am1: 1:29:48](#)]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** Of the preliminary methodology review topics identified in April, the Council approved the follow four topics for the final 2015 review process:

- Update of the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) base period and associated base period algorithms.
- Update documentation for Chinook FRAM.
- Evaluate Sacramento River winter Chinook (SRWC) contribution to ocean fisheries north and south of Point Sur.
- Evaluate a management line at Point Reyes for the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM), Sacramento Harvest Model (SHM), and Winter Run Harvest Model.

Regarding the fifth preliminary topic, the evaluation of a potential management line splitting the California Klamath Management Zone, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reported that there is insufficient data to address the issue, and that the agencies are planning to work with the California salmon fishing industry to develop a test fishery for 2016 to start collecting the required information.

Additionally, the Council approved a CDFW request for a review of the use of SRWC stock projections from jack returns as a management tool, as indicated in Agenda Item D.1.e, Supplemental CDFW Report at the April 2015 Council meeting. It is not anticipated that this review will result in policy recommendations or a full scientific review, rather it is anticipated to be a general review of the merits of this mechanism as a tool for management and a discussion of what is necessary to pursue the matter further.

The 2015 methodology review meeting has been scheduled for October 20-22 in Portland, Oregon. Review materials are due to the Council office no later than October 5. The Council will consider final methodology changes at the November Council meeting in Garden Grove, California.

**2. [Sacramento River Winter Chinook \(SRWC\) Update](#) - Mike Burner** [[mp3: 9-12-15am1: 0:40:43](#)]

[Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1](#): May 29, 2015 from Dr. Donald McIsaac to Mr. Howard of the State Water Resources Control Board and Mr. Milligan of the Bureau of Reclamation

[Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 2](#): July 7, 2015 letter from Mr. Howard of the State Water Resources Control Board to Mr. Milligan of the Bureau of Reclamation regarding Sacramento River temperature management planning

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [[mp3: 9-12-15am1: 0:46:32](#)]

[Agenda Item E.2.a, NMFS West Coast Region Report](#): Reconsideration of the Sacramento River winter Chinook Harvest Control Rule

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint 1](#): Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon Update (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint 2](#): Species in the Spotlight: Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#): Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Update, August 31, 2015

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental HC Report](#)

**b. Public Comment**

None

**c. Council Action: Consider Sacramento River and Ocean Conditions Relative to SRWC Spawning and Survival, Revisions to the Harvest Control Rule, and Plans for 2016 Fishery Management Objectives** [[mp3: 9-12-15am1](#): 1:21:21]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council heard reports from CDFW and NMFS regarding the current status of SRWC and the in-river spawning and rearing habitat they rely on. The Council has continuing concerns for SRWC largely due to the ongoing drought, but was encouraged by reports of cooler and more consistent flows in the Sacramento River than were observed in 2014. Preliminary results suggest that the 2015 spawning escapement of SRWC will be in the range of 2,000-3,000 spawners. The Council also discussed the existing harvest policy for SRWC under the Endangered Species Act, the potential for a precautionary approach to 2016 fisheries, and a process to explore a revised harvest policy for 2017 and beyond. To develop alternative harvest controls for future management, the Council decided to establish a schedule and an ad hoc workgroup that are modeled after the successful processes used for Columbia River tule fall Chinook and natural coho. It is anticipated that the Council will appoint representatives to this workgroup at its November meeting in Garden Grove, California.

**F. Habitat**

**1. [Current Habitat Issues](#) - Jennifer Gilden** [[mp3: 9-12-15am2](#): 0:00:14]

[Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1](#): Summary of Oregon Dept. of Forestry rulemaking issue

[Agenda Item F.1, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): Native Eelgrass (*Zostera Marina*) Impact Analysis for Coast Seafoods Company, Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture: Permit Renewal and Expansion Project (*Full Version Electronic Only – includes all files and the presentation*)

**a. Report of the Habitat Committee – John Stadler** [[mp3: 9-12-15am2](#): 0:01:45]

[Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental HC Report](#)

**b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities**

None

**c. Public Comment** [[mp3: 9-12-15am2](#): 0:15:35]

[Agenda Item F.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment](#) (*Electronic Only*)

Robert Smith, Plauche & Carr LLP

Anna Weinstein, Audubon Society

Geoff Shester, Oceana

Dan Occhipunti, Pacific Seafood

**d. Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Recommendations [[mp3: 9-12-15am2: 0:40:14](#)]**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council directed staff to send a letter to the Oregon Department of Forestry relating to recommendations for riparian reserves and other forest practices in accordance with the Habitat Committee's recommendations, and directed staff to send a brief letter to Coast Seafoods requesting an extension of the comment deadline for the Humboldt Bay aquaculture project, and attaching the letter previously sent to Coast Seafoods by the Council.

**G. Highly Migratory Species Management**

**1. Update on International Issues - Kit Dahl [[mp3: 9-12-15am2: 0:56:14](#)]**

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1](#): Attachment 4 to the Report of the Albacore Working Group Workshop, 20-22 April 2015, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries Shimizu, Shizuoka, Japan (Annex 8 to the Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean)

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 2](#): Evaluation of Candidate Harvest Control Rules For North Pacific Albacore, WCPFC-NC11-2015/DP-01

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 3](#): Precautionary Management Framework for Pacific Bluefin Tuna, WCPFC-NC11-2015/DP-02

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 4](#): Rebuilding Plan for Pacific Bluefin Tuna WCPFC-NC11-2015/DP-03

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 5](#): Precautionary Management Framework For Swordfish in the North Pacific Ocean, WCPFC-NC11-2015/DP-04

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 6](#): Provisional Annotated Agenda, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee Eleventh Regular Session

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 7](#): Proposed Rule to Revise Regulations to Implement the Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

[Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 8](#): Notice Soliciting Public Input on Draft Principles for Determining Seafood Species at Risk of IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud

[Agenda Item G.1, Supplemental Attachment 9](#): WCPFC Meeting Outcomes

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3: 9-12-15am2: 1:08:53](#)] & [[mp3: 9-12-15pm1: 0:00:35](#)]**

[Agenda Item G.1.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Update on International Activities

[Agenda Item G.1.a, NMFS Report 2](#): Letter from Will Stelle, WCR Regional Administrator to Dorothy Lowman, Council Chair, Notifying that EPO Swordfish is Subject to Overfishing

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#): Follow-up to North Pacific Swordfish Overfishing Determination Letter (*see NMFS Report 2, Agenda Item G.1.a*)



[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): International Activities Update (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental SWFSC ISC PowerPoint](#): Activity Report of the 15th Meeting of the ISC July 2015 Kona, Hawaii (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#): 2015 Pacific Bluefin Tuna Aerial Survey

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 2](#): Pacific Bluefin Monitoring and Management Activities for Recreational and Commercial Fisheries

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental CDFW PowerPoint](#): Pacific Bluefin Tuna Aerial Survey, Southern California Bight, July 2015 (*Electronic Only*)

**[[mp3:9-12-15pm1](#): 0:21:08]**

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-12-15pm1](#): 0:37:09]**

[Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#)

[Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#) (*Electronic Only*)

Doug Karpa, Turtle Island Restoration Network

Geoff Shester, Oceana

Wayne Heikkila, WFOA

Peter Flournoy, International Law Offices of San Diego

**c. Council Action: Consider Action on International Issues as Appropriate, including Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Activities [[mp3:9-12-15pm1](#): 0:56:08]**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council will submit comments on the proposed rule (80 FR 48172) to revise NMFS regulations to implement the import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The Council heard about the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for North Pacific albacore being performed by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species (ISC). Member countries of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee have been requested to submit candidate operational objectives, biological reference points, and harvest control rules to the ISC Chair and ISC Albacore Working Group Chair by November 19. The Council tasked the Highly Migratory Species Management Team and Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel with review and completion of a template of necessary MSE inputs and any other relevant recommendations on objectives and management strategies for the MSE. During the workload planning agenda item, the Council decided to not schedule a Council floor session on this matter at the November Council Meeting, but instead to forward the HMS Advisory Body recommendations directly to the Council representatives to the WCPFC meeting in December. An October webinar will be considered to develop the HMS Advisory Body recommendations.”

**2. Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan Hardcaps - Kit Dahl [mp3:9-12-15pm2: 0:00:40]**

[Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1](#): Pacific Coast Swordfish Fishery Management and Monitoring Plan

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [mp3:9-12-15pm2: 0:08:52]**

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Marine Mammal Commission Report](#): Letter from Dr. Rebecca Lent, Executive Director, to Ms. Eileen Sobeck, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

[Agenda Item G.2.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of Drift Gillnet Hard Caps and Monitoring Alternatives and Preliminary Analysis of Options for Council and Bycatch Performance Metrics for the U.S. West Coast Large-Mesh Drift Gillnet Fishery

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#): U.S. West Coast Swordfish Meeting Key Outcomes Memorandum

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#): Report on Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan Hardcaps (corrected Table 5)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 4](#): Sobeck Response Letter

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 5](#): Bootstrap Analysis to Compare the Operation of the Drift Gillnet Fishery under Hard Caps Alternatives (Stephen M. Stohs)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment of Drift Gillnet Hard Caps and Monitoring Alternatives (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental Congressional Letters](#)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental REVISED HMSMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [mp3:9-12-15pm2: 1:36:21]; [mp3:9-12-15pm3: 0:00:29] & [mp3:9-13-15am1: 0:02:08]**

[Agenda Item G.2.b, Public Comment](#) (*Full Version Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

[Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)

[Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 6](#)

Jason Schratwieser, International Game Fish Association (did not speak)

Beverly Seltzer, IGFA, CCA, PEW

Diane Glim, American Cetacean Society

Doug Karpa, Turtle Island Restoration Network, presented [Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 7](#) – TIRN (*Electronic Only*)

Tara Brock, PEW Charitable Trusts

Jonathan Gonzalez, presented [Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#) – Gonzalez (*Electronic Only*)

Ben Enticknap and Geoff Shester, Oceana presented [Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 5](#) – Oceana (*Electronic Only*)

Kathy Fosmark, Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters

August Felando



Peter Flournoy, American Fishermen's Research  
Dave Rudie, California Fisheries & Seafood Institute  
Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans  
Gary Burke, CFSB  
Louie Zimm  
Sarah McTee, Environmental Defense Fund  
John Hall, CPFA

- c. **Council Action: Consider Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan, and Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives for Hardcaps** [\[mp3:9-13-15am1: 0:28:27\]](#); [\[mp3:9-13-15am2: 0:00:08\]](#); [\[mp3:9-13-15pm1: 0:07:41\]](#); and [\[mp3:9-14-15am1: 0:05:41\]](#)

**Motion:** Council adopt the following as the final preferred alternative:

- 1) Protected Species Hard Caps: Two-year rolling hard caps based on entanglement. Automatically adjust hard caps when observer coverage reaches 75 percent and 100 percent as described in Supplemental HMSMT Report.

Species	Two-Year Average Observed Entanglement Cap	Estimated Two-Year Take
Fin whale	0.6 (1)	2
Humpback whale	0.6 (1)	2
Sperm whale	0.6 (1)	2
Leatherback sea turtle	0.9 (1)	3
Loggerhead sea turtle	0.9 (1)	3
Olive ridley sea turtle	0.6 (1)	2
Green sea turtle	0.6 (1)	2
Short-fin pilot whale C/O/W	1.5 (2)	5
Common bottlenose dolphin C/O/W	1.8 (2)	6

Hard caps are based on entanglement and aligned with the fishing season (May 1-January 31).

Fishery would automatically close when estimated cap is reached or exceeded.

Hard caps assume 30 percent observer coverage and would be applied to any entanglement regardless of the time of year.

Entanglement caps will automatically be revised when coverage levels reach 75 percent and 100 percent. The intent is to give NMFS the ability to take automatic action based on pre-season projections of observer coverage at the beginning of the season. Caps would not change mid-season.

Caps are informed by incidental take statement/potential biological removal (ITS/PBR) but are not directly tied to them. Changes in ITS/PBR do not automatically require a change to caps. The Council has the ability to revisit caps at its discretion, but does not have to automatically revisit caps due to changes in ITS/PBR.

Joanna Grebel/Dan Wolford

**Amendment 1:** strike “estimated” in the second bullet.

Dan Wolford/Buzz Brizendine (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

**Amendment 2:** strike “Entanglement caps will automatically be revised when coverage levels reach 75 percent and 100 percent. The intent is to give NMFS the ability to take automatic action to take this action based on pre-season projections of observer coverage at the beginning of the season.” And; strike the two columns in the table titled “two-year average observed entanglement cap,” and “estimated two-year take.” Replace with the following table:

Table with Ms. Culver’s Amendment:	Alt. 5	
	Two-Year Hard Caps based on Observed Entanglement	
<i>Observer Coverage</i>	<75%	>=75%
Fin whale	2	When observer coverage reaches 75% or higher, the Council will revisit the hard cap values
Humpback whale	2	
Sperm whale	2	
Leatherback sea turtle	2	
Loggerhead sea turtle	2	
Olive ridley sea turtle	2	
Green turtle	2	
Short-fin pilot whale C/O/W	4	
Common bottlenose dolphin C/O/W	4	

Michele Culver/Phil Anderson (Amendment 2 carried unanimously)

**Amendment 3:** Change wherever “entanglement” is used to “mortality or serious injury.” NMFS and the HMSMT would develop a mortality or serious injury determination process.  
David Crabbe/Buzz Brizendine

**Amendment 3a:** Remove the word “serious” from the prior amendment.  
Bob Turner/Caren Braby (Amendment 3a carried unanimously).  
Amendment 3, as amended, carried unanimously.

**Amendment 4:** Strike whale and dolphin caps from the new table listed in the motion.  
David Crabbe/David Ortmann (Amendment 4 failed with a roll call vote; Mr. Turner, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Wolford, Dr. Braby, Ms. Grebel, Ms. Culver, and Mr. Lincoln voted no.)  
Motion, as amended, carried (Mr. Crabbe, Mr. Pollard, and Mr. Ortmann voted no).

[Council suspended this Agenda Item; and made motion to reconvene A.5.]

**Motion:** Suspend Agenda Item G.3, Scoping Amendment 4: Authorizing Shallow-Set Longline Fishery outside EEZ.  
Phil Anderson/Dan Wolford (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt Alternative 3 as the final preferred alternative for fishery monitoring “Maintain the 30 percent target observer coverage level at a minimum and/or require EM (for the purpose of catch and bycatch accounting). Remove the unobservable vessel exemption. Achieve 100 percent monitoring by 2018.

Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt final performance objectives for Non-ESA-listed marine mammals and Finfish as follows:

**Non-ESA-listed marine mammals: Alternative 4 (Council PPA), sub-option 2**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Annual performance metrics based on estimated total mortality/serious injury extrapolated from observer data</b>
Minke whale	5
Short beaked common dolphin	66
Long beaked common dolphin	24
Risso’s dolphin	7
California sea lion	97
Northern elephant seal	6
Northern right whale dolphin	11
Gray whale	5
Pacific white-sided dolphin	22

**Finfish: Alternatives 2 and 3 (as modified)**

Alternative 2: Establish a performance metric for total finfish bycatch based on total catch minus live animals released, as indicated in the Table below, and deleting the column which is titled “Alternative 1.” If the DGN finfish bycatch exceeds the performance metric in a single fishing season, the Council would determine if additional management measures are needed to further minimize bycatch.

Alternative 3: Include finfish species groups and annual performance objectives based on estimated total encounters (dead + alive) for billfish (other than swordfish), prohibited sharks (megamouth, basking, white), hammerhead sharks, and manta ray - as described below.

<b>Finfish Species Group</b>	<b>Annual performance objectives based on average annual total estimated encounters</b>
Billfish (other than swordfish)	26
Prohibited sharks (megamouth, basking, white)	2
Hammerhead sharks	4
Manta Ray	2

Joanna Grebel/Dan Wolford

**Amendment 1:** Amend as follows: replace the language associated that starts “Alternative 2” with the following statement for finfish bycatch establish a performance metric in a single fishing season for a total finfish retention rate of 70 percent based on the following calculation: retained catch / (retained catch plus dead and unknown discards).

Dan Wolford/Joanna Grebel (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)  
(Motion, as amended, carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council briefly discussed the content of the draft West Coast Swordfish Fishery Management and Monitoring Plan. The Council plans to discuss the structure, concordance, and general questions about current policies for swordfish fisheries at its November 2015 meeting

The Council took final action in adopting final preferred alternatives for management of the California large mesh drift gillnet fishery including hard caps for high priority protected species, performance objectives for non-ESA listed marine mammals and finfish, and fishery monitoring objectives. See the [HMS blog on the Council’s website](#) and the forthcoming Council fall newsletter for more detail on the final preferred alternatives.

## **H. Groundfish Management**

### **1. Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations - Kelly Ames [mp3:9-13-15pm1: 0:44:09]**

#### **a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-13-15pm1: 0:50:23](#)] & [[mp3:9-13-15pm2: 0:00:05](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.1.a, NMFS Report](#): Midwater Recreational Groundfish Fishery: Issues for Council Discussion and Clarification

[Agenda Item H.1.a, ODFW Report](#): Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on the Potential Viability of an Oregon Longleader Sport Fishery

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#): Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental EC Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

#### **b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-13-15pm2: 0:11:22](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.1.b, Public Comment](#)

Louie Zimm

Larry Giese

Daniel Platt

Ray Nottmangel

Robert Ingles

Tom Marking

Tyler Turner (did not speak)

Bill James

John Holloway, Recreational Fisherman’s Alliance, Oregon

**c. Council Action: Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations in Oregon and California [[mp3:9-13-15pm3: 0:00:14](#)]**

**Motion:** Council request analysis of:

- 1) No action
- 2) Oregon only, April-September
- 3) Oregon only, 3 months July-September
- 4) Oregon only, 1 month August

For alternatives 2 through 4, this would include both commercial passenger fishing vessel and private vessel participation, would be monitored through existing programs (Ocean Recreational Boat Survey, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission), would be prosecuted with gear as described in GAP Report (with a float above the hooks, no more than 3 hooks, at least 30' leader and a bottom weight), would have lingcod prohibited, quota limiting species and other species set-asides would come from within harvest guideline for Oregon (and could be closed with Oregon emergency action quickly).

In addition, I move to approve the "Purpose and Need" specified in the NMFS report, and update based on information in the ODFW Report and Supplemental ODFW Report and bring back to the Council in March 2016.

Caren Braby/Jeff Feldner (Motion carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted a draft purpose and need statement and directed that it be updated for further consideration at the March 2016 Council meeting. The Council also adopted a range of alternatives for developing mid-water recreational fishing regulations for Oregon only. The mid-water gear would be allowed for both charter and private vessels seaward of the 40 fathom seasonal depth closure and monitored with the existing programs. The season dates forwarded for analysis include: a) April-September, b) July-September, and c) August. The gear configuration would be as described in the [Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report](#), including no more than three hooks, at least a 30-foot leader, and a non-compressible float required above the hooks. Further, lingcod retention would be prohibited. The Council is scheduled to take final action at the March 2016 meeting in Sacramento, California.

**2. Consideration of Gear Regulations for the Trawl Catch Shares Sector – Kelly Ames, Jamie Goen [[mp3:9-13-15pm3: 0:24:30](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1](#): Groundfish Gear Changes – Draft Purpose and Need, Alternatives

[Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 2](#): Regulations Related To Trawl Gear Configuration, Gears Allowed On Board, and Area of Use

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-13-15pm3: 0:40:01](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental EC Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-13-15pm3: 0:59:49](#)]**

Kevin Dunn, Trawl Fisherman  
Seth Atkinson, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors Association  
Ralph Brown

**c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Alternatives for Changing Gear Regulations for the Trawl Catch Shares Sector [[mp3:9-13-15pm3: 1:18:40](#)]**

**Motion:** Adopt for public review the consideration of gear regulations for the trawl catch share sector including the draft purpose and need statement and the alternatives identified in Agenda item H.2, Attachment 1 and the recommendations from the GAP contained in Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report.

Phil Anderson/Corey Niles

**Amendment:** This motion does not include options where large footrope is used shoreward of the RCA.

Caren Braby/Dorothy Lowman (Amendment carried unanimously)  
(Motion, as amended, carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted the purpose and need found in [Attachment 1](#) for considering gear regulation changes for the trawl catch shares sector. The Council also adopted the range of alternatives contained in Attachment 1 and the recommendations forwarded by the [Groundfish Advisory Subpanel](#), except that large footrope gear would not be considered shoreward of the rockfish conservation area. The Council is scheduled to take final action on this issue at its March 2016 meeting.

**G. Highly Migratory Species Management (continued)**

**3. Scoping of Amendment 4 to the FMP: Authorizing a Shallow-Set Longline Fishery Outside of the EEZ - Kit Dahl [AGENDA ITEM CANCELLED]**

**C. Administrative Matters (continued)**

**2. [Legislative Matters](#) - Jennifer Gilden [[mp3:9-14-15am1: 0:10:56](#)]**

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1](#): Staff Summary of Federal Legislation

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2](#): Congressional Research Service summary of HR 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 3](#): Letter from Golden Gate Salmon Association and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) to House Natural Resources Committee on HR 2898

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 4](#): Letter from PCFFA to Council on drought legislation

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 5](#): Statement of Administration Policy on HR 2898

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 6](#): S 1894, the California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2015  
(*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 7](#): HR 2983, the Drought Recovery and Resilience Act of 2015  
(*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 8](#): HR 1668, Save Our Water Act

[Agenda Item C.2, Supplemental Attachment 9](#): Letter to the PFMC from the Honorable Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman requesting thorough analysis and comments on HR 2898, HR 2983, and S. 1894

a. [Report of the Legislative Committee](#) - Dave Hanson

b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities

[Agenda Item C.2.b, Supplemental SAS Report](#)

c. Public Comment

None

d. Council Action: Consider the Report and Recommendations of the Legislative Committee [[mp3:9-14-15am1](#): 0:18:46]

Motion: None

**Staff Summary:** The Council directed staff to send the letter on drought legislation to Representatives Huffman and Thompson as included in the [Supplemental LC Report](#).

## H. Groundfish Management (continued)

3. [Final Stock Assessments](#) - John DeVore [[mp3:9-14-15am1](#): 0:26:09]

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1](#): Executive Summary of “Status of Bocaccio, *Sebastes paucispinis*, in the Conception, Monterey and Eureka INPFC areas for 2015”

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1](#): Full Assessment “Status of Bocaccio, *Sebastes paucispinis*, in the Conception, Monterey and Eureka INPFC areas for 2015” (*Full Assessment Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 2](#): Bocaccio Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 3](#): Executive Summary of “Status of China rockfish off the U.S. Pacific Coast in 2015”

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 3](#): Full Assessment “Status of China rockfish off the U.S. Pacific Coast in 2015” (*Full Assessment Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 4](#): China Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 5](#): Executive Summary of “Assessments of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) Stocks in California, Oregon and Washington Coastal Waters”

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 5](#): Full Assessment “Assessments of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) Stocks in California, Oregon and Washington Coastal Waters” (*Full Assessment Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 6](#): Black Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 7](#): Minority report from a member of the Black Rockfish STAT: “Why it is silly to allow sex-specific values for natural mortality (M) for young black rockfish”

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 8](#): Executive Summary of “Status of Kelp Greenling (*Hexagrammos decagrammus*) along the Oregon Coast in 2015”

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 8](#): Full Assessment “Status of Kelp Greenling (*Hexagrammos decagrammus*) along the Oregon Coast in 2015” (*Full Assessment Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 9](#): Kelp Greenling Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 10](#): Executive Summary of “The Status of Widow Rockfish (*Sebastes entomelas*) Along the U.S. West Coast in 2015”

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 10](#): Full Assessment “The Status of Widow Rockfish (*Sebastes entomelas*) Along the U.S. West Coast in 2015”

[Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 11](#): Widow Rockfish Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel Meeting Report

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-14-15am1](#): 0:27:25]**

[Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-14-15am1](#): 0:43:54]**

Kenyon Hensel

**c. Council Action: Approve Final Stock Assessments for 2017-2018 Management [[mp3:9-14-15am1](#): 0:52:45]**

**Motion:** Adopt as final stock assessments for 2017-2018 management, the recommendations as shown in Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report:

Bocaccio – update

China Rockfish – full

Kelp Greenling off OR – update

Widow – update

Phil Anderson/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted new full assessments for bocaccio, China rockfish, Oregon kelp greenling, and widow rockfish, which were endorsed as the best available science by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). A new black rockfish assessment for the portion of the stock off Oregon will be reviewed at the end of September at a “mop-up” stock assessment review panel. Pending the outcome of that review and subsequent SSC review at the November meeting, new assessments for black rockfish off Washington, Oregon, and California are anticipated for Council adoption in November 2015.

**4. [Electronic Monitoring Regulations and Exempted Fishing Permit Update](#) - Brett Wiedoff [[mp3:9-14-15am2](#): 0:00:03]**

[Agenda Item H.4, Supplemental Agenda Item Overview Presentation \(Wiedoff\)](#)

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-14-15am2](#): 0:03:19]**

[Agenda Item H.4.a, NMFS Report](#): Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits Update and NMFS Recommendations for the Whiting Regulatory Amendment



[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint: Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits Update; Hooper \(\*Electronic Only\*\)](#)

[\[mp3:9-14-15am2: 0:57:09\]](#)

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental EC Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [\[mp3:9-14-15am2: 1:23:04\]](#)**

[Agenda Item H.4.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#)

Brent Paine, United Catcher Boats

Kate Kauer, the Nature Conservancy & Sarah McTee, Environmental Defense Fund

**c. Council Action: Consider Preliminary Results of EFPs Relative to Council Action and Implications for Development of Proposed Regulations for Electronic Monitoring in the Whiting Fishery [\[mp3:9-14-15am3: 0:00:08\]](#)**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council heard an update from NMFS regarding implementation of the electronic monitoring (EM) exempted fishing permits and the development of EM program regulations for the midwater trawl whiting fishery. The Council provided guidance to NMFS and Council staff for the development of the whiting fishery EM program regulations that are scheduled for deeming at the Council's November meeting in Garden Grove, California. The Council will also review the preferred alternatives they selected for the whiting fishery EM program during the September 2014 meeting in Spokane, Washington. They will consider any new information and may revise their preferred alternatives at the November meeting. It's expected that the draft EM program regulations will reflect the Council's current set of preferred alternatives. If the Council changes their preferred alternatives in November, refinement of the regulations would be necessary.

**5. [Specifications Process for 2017-2018 Management](#) - John DeVore, Kelly Ames  
[\[mp3:9-14-15am3: 0:35:15\]](#) and [\[mp3:9-14-15pm1: 0:00:08\]](#)**

[Agenda Item H.5, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1: 2017 and 2018 Groundfish Harvest Specifications](#)

[Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 2: Draft Range of Alternatives for Managing West Coast Skate Species](#)

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [\[mp3:9-14-15pm1: 0:16:58\]](#) & [\[mp3:9-14-15pm2: 0:00:33\]](#)**

[Agenda Item H.5.a, NMFS Report: Specifications Process for 2017-2018 Management](#)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental ODFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-14-15pm2: 0:06:46](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.5.b, Public Comment](#)

[Agenda Item H.5.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

Brent Paine, United Catcher Boats, David Jinks, Donna Parker & Jeff Lackey

Kenyon Hensel

Bill James PSLCFA [Agenda Item H.5.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)

**c. Council Action: Adopt Final Overfishing Limits and Preliminary P\*/Acceptable Biological Catches, a Range of Alternatives and a Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Managing Skates, a Preliminary Range of New Management Measures, and Review a Contingency Schedule [[mp3:9-14-15pm2: 0:30:48](#)]**

**Motion:** Adopt 2017-2018 stock categories, OFLs, and sigma values as recommended by the SSC.

Phil Anderson/Herb Pollard (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council adopt a preliminary range of new management measures for the 2017-18 management cycle that includes the management measures identified by the states, the Groundfish Management Team and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel understanding that additional measures may be added in November after the remaining stock assessments have been recommended by the SSC for use in this management cycle.

Phil Anderson/Herb Pollard

**Amendment 1:** Referring to GMT Report, page 4, New Management Measures:

- Item #2 – to expand, change it to say “in the commercial and recreational fisheries.”
- Delete Item #3.
- Item #4 – if there are additional species to be considered, select those that are the most likely to constrain the fisheries.

Dan Wolford/Buzz Brizendine (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

**Amendment 2:** Referring to GMT Report, page 4, New Management Measures, delete item #5.

Joanna Grebel/Dan Wolford (Amendment 2 carried unanimously)

(Motion, as amended, carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council include a P\* for china rockfish of 0.4 in addition to the default harvest control rule of P\*.45 for more detailed analysis and request updates to the rebuilding analyses for yelloweye rockfish and Pacific ocean perch for consideration by the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Michele Culver/Phil Anderson (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council include annual catch limit values for canary rockfish that are 50 percent below the ACL values as reflected in Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, Table 4 for 17/18 for more detailed analysis.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** For widow and darkblotched rockfish, a range of P\* values of .45 to .25 and a range of ACLs that go from default in original Attachment 1, all the way ACL to ABC (ACL=ABC). Jeff Feldner/Caren Braby (Motion carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted the range of overfishing limits (OFLs), acceptable biological catches, and annual catch limits (ACLs) for stocks that were not highlighted in [Agenda Item H.5, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1](#). They also added ACL alternatives to default ACLs for China rockfish, canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, and widow rockfish for further analysis. Most of the new management measures recommended in the Groundfish Management Team (GMT), Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and state reports under this agenda item were also adopted for public review. In November, the Council is scheduled to narrow the range of new management measures for more detail. Establishing a manageable range of alternatives for analysis will increase the likelihood that harvest specifications are implemented January 1, consistent with the Fishery Management Plan.

**6. [Salmon Endangered Species Act \(ESA\) Reinitiation of Consultation Workshop Report](#) - Kit Dahl [[mp3:9-14-15pm3](#): 0:52:29]**

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-14-15pm3](#): 0:58:55] and [[mp3:9-15-15am1](#): 0:02:15]**

[Agenda Item H.6.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Report of the Public Work Session on the Effects of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery on ESA listed Pacific Salmon

[Agenda Item H.6.a, NMFS Report 2](#): A Draft Proposal for Managing Salmon Bycatch in the Groundfish Fishery

[Agenda Item H.6.a, NMFS Report 3](#): Chinook Catch per Unit Effort for the Bottom Trawl and Non-Whiting Midwater Trawl Fisheries

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 4](#): Chinook salmon bycatch in the at-sea sectors of the Pacific hake fishery: Summary of stock composition estimates for 1983, 2008–2013

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): Salmon Consultation on the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery: Update (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental SAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-15-15am1](#): 0:31:22]**

Peter Leipzig, Fishing Marketing Association

Seth Atkinson, Natural Resources Defense Council

Tom Libby, California Shellfish

Brad Pettinger, Oregon Trawl Association

Steve Bodnar, Coos Bay Trawlers Association

Ralph Brown

Paul Kujala and Kevin Dunn

**c. Council Action: 1) Consider Workshop Report and New Information on Salmon Bycatch in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery and 2) Provide Guidance on the Biological Opinion Proposed Action for Ongoing Management of the Groundfish Fishery Taking into Account Salmon Bycatch [[mp3:9-15-15am1](#): 1:05:11]**

**Motion:** Council request NMFS to expand the analysis of Proposal One, contained in the NMFS PPT on salmon bycatch in the groundfish fishery, by adding the following parameters:

For the Whiting Fishery:

- 1) Base the analysis on an 11,000 fish threshold for the whiting fishery
- 2) Assume the whiting fishery's geographic footprint is unchanged and alternatively,
- 3) Analyze an alternative assuming that the whiting fishery's at-sea processing geographic footprint is expanded south of 42 degrees and that 10 percent of the at-sea catch, using the most recent 5-year average, is harvested south of 42 degrees.

For the bottom trawl, LE/OA fixed gear, and recreational fishery:

- 1) Analyze three threshold values including 1,000, 4,500, and 9,000 chinook salmon.
- 2) For the 1,000 threshold value, assume the same fishing structure and pattern that reflects the most recent 3 years.
- 3) For the 4,500 threshold value, assume the RCA is open to trawl fishing, and that the geographic distribution of the fleet/harvest is similar to 2000-2005.
- 4) For the 9,000 threshold value, assume the RCA is open to trawl fishing, the geographic distribution of the fleet/harvest is similar to the 2000-2005 timeframe, and that there is a midwater yellowtail/widow fishery conducted in a manner similar to historical patterns when such a fishery took place.

Other options and considerations:

- Add a suboption that includes a whiting threshold value of 11,000, a bottom trawl threshold of 4,500 and a 5,500 fish reserve.
- If feasible, the analysis should include an enumeration of the impacts on listed stocks overall and a geographic breakdown of where the impacts occur using the available geographic cells that are currently available using existing modeling tools.
- Include the reports from the GAP and GMT in the documents that are conveyed to NMFS on this matter.
- include the key points made in public testimony.

Phil Anderson/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried Ms. Yaremko abstained).

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted a motion and provided guidance to NMFS for analysis of a range of alternatives to determine the salmon bycatch threshold for the ongoing ESA Section 7 consultation on the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Council also discussed a schedule for completing the Council recommendation for this consultation that allows for appropriate analysis and refinement of the best threshold numbers, but also optimizes the other workload commitments of key NMFS staff and the Council's GMT. During the workload planning agenda item, the Council scheduled a description of the alternatives to be analyzed and an update on any other possible progress at the Council's March 2016 meeting, with a final Council recommendation scheduled for the September 2016 Council meeting.

7. **Blackgill-Slope Rockfish Intersector Allocation and Accumulation Limit Adjustments** - John DeVore [[mp3:9-15-15am2: 0:00:14](#)]

[Agenda Item H.7, Attachment 1](#): Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment: Allocation of Harvest Opportunity Between Sectors of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery of Blackgill Rockfish and Other Species Managed in the Slope Rockfish Complex South of 40°10' N. Latitude

a. **Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities** [[mp3:9-15-15am2: 0:04:37](#)]

[Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3:9-15-15am2: 0:21:23](#)]

Peter Leipzig, Fishing Marketing Association presented [Agenda Item H.7.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#) (Leipzig)

Andrea Lueker and Chris Kubiak, Morro Bay Community Quota Fund

Vince Doyle

Tom Estes, F/V Tara Dawn Inc.

Gerry Richter

Michelle Norvell, Fort Bragg Groundfish Association and California Groundfish Collection

c. **Council Action: Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Intersector Allocation Alternative for Blackgill-Slope Rockfish and Consider Recommending Accumulation Limit Adjustments** [[mp3:9-15-15am2: 0:49:55](#)]

**Motion:** Adopt the GMT recommendations in Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report. Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council reviewed the preliminary draft environmental assessment for this proposed action provided under [Agenda Item H.7, Attachment 1](#) and decided to reject alternatives 1 and 4 as “considered but rejected from further detailed analysis” since they were not consistent with the groundfish FMP’s allocation framework. They also requested further analysis on accumulation limit adjustments for blackgill rockfish and the remaining slope rockfish species in the event blackgill is removed from the southern Slope Rockfish complex. The Council was not prepared to select a preliminary preferred alternative at this meeting. A final preferred alternative for this item is scheduled for Council consideration in November.

8. **Amendment to Modify Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat and to Adjust Rockfish Conservation Areas** - Kerry Griffin, Kelly Ames [[mp3:9-14-15pm3: 0:00:48](#)] and [[mp3:9-15-15am3: 0:00:26](#)]

[Agenda Item H.8, Supplemental Staff Report](#): Pacific Coast Groundfish Goals and Objectives

[Agenda Item H.8, Supplemental Agenda Item Overview Presentation \(Griffin\)](#)

[Agenda Item H.8, Supplemental Agenda Item Overview Presentation \(Brady\)](#)

[Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 1](#): Draft Range of EFH Alternatives

[Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 2](#): Draft Range of RCA Alternatives

[Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 3](#): Trawl Survey CPUE Analysis

[Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 4: IFQ Hotspot Analysis](#)

[Agenda Item H.8, Supplemental Attachment 5: Addendum to Draft Range of EFH Alternatives](#)

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-15-15am3: 0:01:24](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.8.a, NWFSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental IPC OCNMS PowerPoint: The Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Habitat Framework Initiative](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report](#)

**[[mp3:9-15-15am3: 0:35:54](#)] [[mp3:9-15-15pm1: 0:00:17](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental EC Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental HC Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-15-15pm1: 0:51:12](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Public Comment 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Public Comment 2](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#) (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 5](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 6](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 7](#)

Tom Libby, Kate Kauer, Seth Atkinson, Shems Jud, and Brad Pettinger presented [Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 9](#)

Kevin Dunn

Paul Kujala

Andrea Treece, Earthjustice

Mariel Combs and Geoff Shester, Oceana presented [Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 8](#)

Ralph Brown

Andrew Thurber, Oregon State University

Tom Rudolph, PEW Charitable Trusts

Jeff Lackey, F/V Seeker

**c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Alternatives for Analysis [[mp3:9-15-15pm2: 0:00:15](#)]**

**Motion:** As NOAA Fisheries develops alternatives for EFH closures for the Council, they honor their Treaty Trust Responsibility to the Hoh, Quileute, Makah Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation by initiating a separate process for any EFH conservation closures, RCAs, or any other related management measures proposed adjacent to or within the usual and

accustomed treaty areas north of Pt. Chehalis. That process will be agreed upon with each Tribe under the guidelines of Executive Order 13175 requiring consultation with the tribes and following the guidelines of any individual tribe's consultation policy. The process will require meaningful tribal participation in the analysis of proposals that will result in alternatives presented to the Council. Further, NOAA Fisheries will be responsible for reporting on that Tribal process to the Pacific Fishery Management Council for communication and coordination purposes.

Joseph Oatman/Frank Lockhart (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** The Council, based on the Goals and Objectives in the West Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (Agenda Item H.8, Supplemental Staff Report), adopt the Purpose and Needs as described in Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 1, as modified by the recommendations in the advisory body reports, and the following draft range of alternatives and sub-alternatives for analysis:

1. All of the No Action Alternatives 1a-11a
2. Alternative 1b, as modified: Eliminate some or all of the existing 34 bottom trawl EFHCAs only within the contexts of the public proposals (which includes the collaborative proposal)
3. Alternative 2e, as modified: Adopt expansions to existing EFHCAs and adopt one or more of the EFHCAs in the public proposals
4. Revise the title of Alternative 3 to: New EFHCAs Within the Current RCAs
5. Alternative 3c, as modified: Add new EFHCAs in trawl RCA, based on verification of the presence of priority habitats
6. Alternative 3d, as modified: Add new EFHCAs within core RCA that has not been groundfish-trawled for which modeling efforts indicate are likely to have priority habitats
7. Alternative 4f: Remove the trawl RCA
8. Alternative 4e: Closures for overfished groundfish species
9. Alternative 4d, as modified: Closures for overfished groundfish species and/or catch control mechanisms for non-overfished groundfish species
10. Alternatives 5b, 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b
11. Alternative 11b: Use MSA Sec. 303(b)(2)(A), 303(b)(2)(B), or 303(b)(2)(12) to close waters deeper than 3,500 m to bottom contact gear, consistent with Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental NFMS Report

This action would specifically remove Alternatives 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3b, 4c, 4b, and 11c.

Also, adopt the recommendations as described in Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental CDFW Report, and the approach described in that report for the states of California, Oregon, and Washington.

And include the option recommended in Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report, for no changes in groundfish EFH regulations within the usual and accustomed fishing areas of the Coastal Treaty Tribes.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln



**Amendment 1:** Modify final paragraph to read (addition underscored): And include the option recommended in Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental Tribal Report, for no changes in groundfish EFH and RCA regulations within the usual and accustomed fishing areas of the Coastal Treaty Tribes.

Frank Lockhart/Joseph Oatman (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)  
(Motion, as amended, carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted a Purpose and Need statement, as modified by input from Council Advisory Bodies and Management Entities. The Council also tasked the Project Team to include the following in developing a suite of alternatives for consideration at future Council meetings:

- Opening current Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) closed to bottom trawling that are included as part of the six public proposals or the collaborative group proposal.
- The proposed new or expanded EFHCAs that are included in the six public proposals or the collaborative group proposal.
- The six public proposals and the collaborative group proposal as stand-alone alternatives.
- New EFHCAs within existing trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs), based on priority habitats.
- Closing waters deeper than 3500 m to bottom contact gear, and develop an exempted fishing permit process for anyone wishing to use bottom contact gear in these waters.
- Removing the trawl RCA completely.
- Removing the trawl RCAs except establishing discrete area closures designed to reduce catch of selected groundfish species
- Removing the trawl RCAs except establish discrete area closures designed to reduce catch of overfished species.
- FMP text and appendices that describe species life history, habitats, and major prey items; fishing and non-fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH; research and information needs; an EFH review and revision process; and minor clarifications and corrections.

The Council also asked the Project Team to develop alternatives that would exclude any changes to EFH or RCA regulations within Tribal Usual and Accustomed areas.

The Project Team will provide an update on the alternatives at the April Council meeting. The full suite of alternatives is tentatively scheduled for Council consideration and selection of preliminary preferred alternatives at the September 2016 meeting.

**9. Inseason Adjustments - Kelly Ames [[mp3:9-15-15pm3](#): 0:00:20]**

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-15-15pm3](#): 0:02:13]**

[Agenda Item H.9.a, NMFS Letter](#): Inseason Adjustments from the June 2015 Council Meeting

[Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): NMFS Report on Closure of Halibut Retention in the Sablefish Primary Fishery

[Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental ODFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#)



[Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)  
[Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)  
[Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-15-15pm3: 0:41:07](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.9.b, Public Comment](#)

Brad Pettinger, Oregon Trawl Association  
Kevin Dunn  
Gerry Richter  
Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors Association  
David Jinks, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative  
Dan Waldeck, Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative  
Jeff Lackey, F/V Seeker

**c. Council Action: Consider Inseason Adjustments as Necessary [[mp3:9-15-15pm3: 1:02:40](#)]**

**Motion:** Council allow NMFS to make up to 4 mt of darkblotched rockfish available to the at-sea whiting sectors, not to exceed 2.5 mt to either sector.

Phil Anderson/Corey Niles

**Motion (as a substitute):** Council allow NMFS to make up to 8 mt of darkblotched rockfish available to the at-sea whiting sectors, not to exceed 5 mt to either sector.

Jeff Feldner/Maggie Sommer

**Amendment 1:** strike the words “up to”

Rich Lincoln/Phil Anderson (Amendment 1 carried Mr. Lockhart abstained)

Substitute Motion, as amended, carried (Mr. Lockhart and Ms. Grebel abstained)

**Motion:** Council take GMT recommendation Alternative 1 for both the limited entry daily trip limit north and open access north sablefish sectors as captured in Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report.

Corey Niles/Jeff Feldner (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Close the incidental halibut in the sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis as soon as possible.

Frank Lockhart/Phil Anderson (Motion carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council considered the progress to date of the fisheries, as presented in the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reports, as well as reports from Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and the public. The Council recommended that the limited entry and open access daily trip limit fisheries for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude should close on November 1. The fishery closure is necessary to mitigate the anticipated quota overages for both sectors. The Council also recommended that NMFS monitor the progress of the at-sea whiting sectors, and, taking into account other relevant factors, make 8 metric tons of darkblotched rockfish available to the at-sea whiting sectors, not to exceed 5 metric tons to either mothership or catcher-processor sector, at a time that will not interrupt the fisheries. Additionally, the Council recommended NMFS prohibit Pacific halibut retention in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis as soon as

possible, to make the groundfish regulations conform with the earlier closure announced under the halibut regulations and Washington state regulations.

**10. Groundfish Management Science Improvements and Methodology Review Topics - John DeVore [[mp3:9-16-15am1: 0:04:10](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.10, Attachment 1](#): Research Recommendations from Recent Stock Assessments and STAR Panel Reports

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-16-15am1: 0:41:51](#)]**

[Agenda Item H.10.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)  
[Agenda Item H.10.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)  
[Agenda Item H.10.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

**b. Public Comment**

None

**c. Council Action: Adopt a Plan for Improvements in Groundfish Management Science and Identify Priority Stock Assessment Methodology Review Topics for 2016 [[mp3:9-16-15am1: 0:46:26](#)]**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council discussed proposed science activities for next year to improve stock assessments and other scientific analyses that inform management decision-making. The Council voiced support for the three items prioritized by the SSC under [Agenda Item H.10.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#) (these items were also prioritized by the GMT and GAP in their supplemental reports under this agenda item). There was also some support to address recreational catch per unit effort index standardization, an important element of many nearshore stock assessments. The Council will be informed of the priorities and resources available from the NMFS Northwest and Southwest Science Centers in November under the groundfish NMFS Report; additional work planning may occur at that Council Meeting.

**I. Pacific Halibut Management**

**1. 2016 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulation Changes - Kelly Ames [[mp3:9-16-15am1: 1:02:02](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1](#): 2015 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A  
[Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 2](#): Visual Representation of the 2015 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-16-15am1: 1:05:25](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Report on the 2015 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A  
[Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2](#): NMFS Proposed Changes to Federal Regulations and 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#): Report on the 2014 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A (9/1/2015)

[Agenda Item I.1.a, WDFW Report](#): Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and 2016 Annual Regulations

[Agenda Item I.1.a, ODFW Report](#): Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2016 Fishery

[Agenda Item I.1.a, CDFW Report](#): California Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 2](#)

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-16-15am2: 0:00:21](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.1.b, Public Comment](#)

Tom Marking

**c. Council Action: Adopt for Public Review Proposed Changes for the 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishing Regulations [[mp3:9-16-15am2: 0:05:28](#)]**

**Motion:** Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2016 Pacific halibut CSP and the proposed changes– as proposed by the GAP (Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental GAP Report).

Marci Yaremko/David Crabbe

**Amendment 1:** Remove the proposal to include the modification in the allocation of halibut between WA/OR/CA sport fisheries.

Phil Anderson/Rich Lincoln (Amendment 1 carried, Ms. Yaremko, Mr. Crabbe, and Mr. Brizendine voted no; Mr. Pollard, Mr. Ortmann and Mr. Lockhart abstained)

(Motion, as amended, carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary: 2016 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulation Changes**

The Council forwarded, for public review, proposed changes and processes for establishing the 2016 Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishing regulations as described in [NMFS Report 2](#), [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), and both reports provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ([Report 1](#) and [Report 2](#)).

**C. Administrative Matters (continued)**

**3. [Approval of Council Meeting Record](#) - Dorothy Lowman [[mp3:9-16-15am2: 0:18:09](#)]**

[Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1](#): Draft Council Meeting Record: 230th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (June 10-16, 2015)

**a. Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record**

**Motion:** Approve the draft June 2015 Council meeting record as shown in Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: Draft Council Meeting Record: 230th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (June 10-16, 2015).

Herb Pollard/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried, Mr. Anderson abstained)

4. [Fiscal Matters](#) - Chuck Tracy [[mp3:9-16-15am2: 0:20:29](#)]

- a. [Report of the Budget Committee](#) - Dave Ortmann
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment

None

d. **Council Action: Consider Budget Committee Recommendations**

**Motion:** None

5. [Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures](#) - Chuck Tracy  
[[mp3:9-16-15am3: 0:00:03](#)]

[Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1](#): Advisory Body Composition

[Agenda Item C.5, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): Draft Sacramento River Winter Chinook Harvest  
Policy Review Process

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-16-15am3: 0:18:26](#)]

[Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental EAS Report](#)

[Agenda Item C.5.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

- b. Public Comment

None

- c. **Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures** [[mp3:9-16-15am3: 0:21:12](#)]

Ms. Lowman appointed Mr. Rich Lincoln to the Legislative Committee and Mr. Phil Anderson to the Budget Committee.

**Motion:** Council appoint Mr. Phil Anderson as the Council representative to the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and Ms. Michele Culver as his alternate.

Maggie Sommer/Jeff Feldner (motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council appoint Mr. Alan Sarich to the Tribal seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Mr. Joe Petersen to the Tribal seat on the Groundfish Management Team.

Joseph Oatman/Frank Lockhart (motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council create an ad hoc Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup to participate in the development of an abundance forecast methodology.

Herb Pollard/Dan Wolford (motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council terminate the following ad hoc committees:

- Groundfish Amendment 24 Workgroup
- Groundfish Process Improvement Committee
- Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup
- South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Policy Committee
- South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Workgroup
- Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee
- Mitchell Act Committee

Herb Pollard/Phil Anderson (motion carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council made the following appointments:

- Mr. Rich Lincoln to the Legislative Committee
- Mr. Phil Anderson to the Budget Committee
- Mr. Phil Anderson as the Council representative to the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and Ms. Michele Culver as his alternate
- Mr. Alan Sarich to the Tribal seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team
- Mr. Joe Petersen to the Tribal seat on the Groundfish Management Team

The Council created an ad hoc Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup to review harvest policies for ESA-listed Sacramento River winter Chinook and to develop a suite of options and supporting analyses for Council review. The proposed schedule advises the culmination of this effort in November 2016 when the Council would adopt final harvest policy recommendations to NMFS for implementation in 2017 and beyond.

The Council terminated the following ad hoc committees:

- Groundfish Amendment 24 Workgroup
- Groundfish Process Improvement Committee
- Lower Columbia River Natural Coho Workgroup
- South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Policy Committee
- South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Workgroup
- Trawl Rationalization Regulatory Evaluation Committee
- Mitchell Act Committee

The Council also directed staff to solicit nominations for the three-year terms of all advisory subpanel members, the seven at-large members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the four non-agency members and the tribal members of the Habitat Committee, all of which expire on December 31, 2015. Interested parties should monitor the Council website for details on the application procedures.

6. [Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning - Don McIsaac \[mp3:9-16-15am3: 0:31:31\]](#)

[Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 1:](#) Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary

[Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 2](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, November 13-19, 2015 in Garden Grove, California

[Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 3](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities

[Agenda Item C.6, Supplemental Attachment 4](#): Council Policy Statements Relevant to the Development of the West Coast Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan

[Agenda Item C.6, Supplemental Attachment 5](#): Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary (as of September 16, 2015)

[Agenda Item C.6, Supplemental Attachment 6](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, November 13-19, 2015 in Garden Grove, California (as of 9/16/2015)

[Agenda Item C.6, Supplemental Attachment 7](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities (as of 9/16/15)

[Agenda Item C.6, Supplemental Attachment 8](#): Stock Assessment Prioritizations

**a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities [[mp3:9-16-15am3: 0:35:24](#)]**

[Agenda Item C.6.a, NMFS Report 1](#): West Coast Regional Planning Body Charter

[Agenda Item C.6.a, NMFS Report 2](#): Email Re: PFMC- Request for Agenda Item EBFM Policy

[Agenda Item C.6.a, NMFS Report 3](#): Stock Assessment Prioritization

[Agenda Item C.6.a, NMFS Report 4](#): Rulemaking Plan for 2015 – Groundfish and Halibut

[Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental NMS Report](#): Request for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, West Coast Region

[Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item C.6.a, Supplemental CPSMT/CPSAS Report](#)

**b. Public Comment [[mp3:9-16-15am3: 1:47:03](#)]**

[Agenda Item C.6.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#)

John Holloway, RFA-Oregon

Geoff Shester, Oceana

Doug Karpa, Turtle Island Restoration Network

Steve Marx, PEW Charitable Trusts

**c. Council Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning [[mp3:9-16-15am3: 2:05:46](#)]**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for November 13-19, 2015 in Garden Grove, California. A single-page draft proposed agenda summary is available on the Council website and a draft detailed proposed agenda will be available in late October.

## **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

[Informational Report 1](#): Release Mortality Workshop SMART Tool Results

[Informational Report 2](#): El Nino Update – Submitted to the PFMC by Dr. Cisco Werner (NMFS SWFSC) and Dr. John Stein (NMFS NWFSC)

[Informational Report 3](#): NOAA National Habitat Policy (NOAA Administrative Order 216-117  
[Informational Report 4](#): Draft Flow Scale Regulation Revisions  
[Informational Report 5](#): NOAA Fisheries Report – Pacific Halibut Bycatch in US West Coast Fisheries (2002-2014)  
[Supplemental Informational Report 6](#): Proposed Rule to clarify the regulatory requirements for vessels using midwater trawl gear in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota Program  
[Supplemental Informational Report 7](#): U.S. Coast Guard Exams  
[Supplemental Informational Report 8](#): NMFS Report on Domestic Highly Migratory Species Activities  
[Supplemental Informational Report 9](#): Fisheries advocate and volunteer recognized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Richard Heap, PFMC Salmon Advisory Subpanel Member)  
[Supplemental Informational Report 10](#): California Groundfish Collective Report  
[Supplemental Informational Report 11](#): *Federal Register* Notice, September 2, 2015; Process for Divestiture of Excess Quota Shares in the Individual Fishing Quota Fishery  
[Supplemental Informational Report 12](#): PowerPoint – Present oceanic conditions in the North Pacific (Werner/Stein)  
[Supplemental Informational Report 13](#): Status Report of the 2015 Ocean Salmon Fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California; Preliminary Data Through August 31, 2015

## ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 2:02 p.m.



December 14, 2015

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Dorothy Lowman  
Council Chair

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Date