

Pacific Council News

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This newsletter reports on decisions made at the September Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting, held in Sacramento, California. The Council recommends commercial & recreational fishery management measures for Federal waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. All Council recommendations are subject to approval by National Marine Fisheries Service. [Sign up for other notices here](#). The Council has five public meetings a year. The *supplemental* public comment deadline for the November 2015 Council meeting is 5:00 on Wednesday, November 4; email pfmc.comments@noaa.gov.

Groundfish

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Modifications Moving Forward

Trawl Gear Regulations May be Updated

Alternatives Adopted for Oregon Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations

Stock Assessments Show Bocaccio Nearly Rebuilt; Oregon Kelp Greenling, Widow Rockfish Looking Good

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Marine Mammal Species	Performance Metric*
Minke whales	5
Short-beaked common dolphins	66
Long-beaked common dolphins	24
Risso's dolphin	7
California sea lions	97
Northern elephant seals	6
Northern right whale dolphins	11
Gray whales	5
Pacific white-sided dolphins	22
*Total mortality or serious injury extrapolated from observations.	

record the number of animals killed or injured during the previous fishing season and the current fishing season. When the number for any species reaches (or exceeds) a cap number, the fishery will close for at least the remainder of the fishing season. The fishery will reopen when the rolling two-year total

Select Fish Species	Performance Metric*
Billfish (other than swordfish)	26
Megamouth shark, basking shark, white shark (combined)	2
Hammerhead sharks (any species)	4
Manta ray	2
*Total encounters	

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES NEWS

Council Sets Hard Caps for California Drift Gillnet Fishery

In September, the Council adopted hard caps for the California large mesh drift gillnet fishery. National Marine Fisheries Service plans to put the regulations in place for the 2016/2017 fishing season.

In recent years, participation in California's large mesh driftnet fishery has dwindled to less than 20 vessels. However, the conservation community has raised continued concerns about the fishery's impacts on whales, dolphins, and sea turtles. The level of fish bycatch (fish that are caught but then thrown overboard) has also been raised as a concern.

In response, the Council took action at its September meeting to further reduce bycatch impacts beyond recent levels. The new rules include "hard caps" for high priority protected species, fishery performance measures, and fishery monitoring objectives. The National Marine Fisheries Service plans to put hard cap regulations in place by the May 1 start of the 2016/2017 fishing season.

The Council adopted "two-year rolling hard caps" based on observed mortality or injury. Under this system, onboard fishery observers will record the number of animals killed or injured during the previous fishing season and the current fishing season. When the number for any species reaches (or exceeds) a cap number, the fishery will close for at least the remainder of the fishing season. The fishery will reopen when the rolling two-year total falls below the cap level. In the worst case scenario for fishing opportunity, the fishery could close for almost two fishing seasons if a cap is reached early in a two-year rolling period. (The fishing season begins May 1st and goes through April 31 of the following year, but fishing is limited during this season by time/area closures.)

These rolling hard cap levels are, for high priority protected species, two each of fin whales, humpback whales, sperm whales, leatherback sea turtles, loggerhead sea turtles, olive ridley sea turtles, and green turtles; and four short-fin pilot whales of the California-Oregon-Washington stock.

Currently, about 30% of annual drift gillnet fishing activity is monitored by onboard observers. The hard caps adopted by the Council assume that more animals are affected than are observed, since some of those killed or injured may not be seen by observers. If observer coverage increases, more incidents may be observed. For this reason the Council

decided to re-evaluate hard cap numbers if future observer coverage reaches 75 percent.

In addition to hard caps, the Council also chose annual fishery performance objectives. These provide a way for the Council to monitor bycatch and incidental takes in the fishery during each season compared to historical levels, but are not the same as hard caps and will not be put into regulation. The fishery won't close if one of these objectives is not met. However, if bycatch levels continue at a level higher than the performance objective, the Council could respond with additional regulatory measures to ensure bycatch reduction.



A leatherback sea turtle, one of the species protected by the new drift gillnet regulations (photo: Alastair Rae, [Flickr Creative Commons](#))

Numerical metrics were set for specified marine mammals (these are species observed to be caught in the drift gillnet fishery but not regulated by the Endangered Species Act.) There are also numerical metrics for billfish, certain rare shark species, and manta rays. (The mammal and fish species numerical metrics are listed in the tables on the previous page.) These are based on recent catch levels in the fishery.

Finally, for all finfish the Council set a bycatch rate performance metric based on the total number of fish that are landed, divided by all landed catch and fish thrown overboard dead. The Council chose a rate of 70%, which is also based on recent historical performance in the fishery. This rate will be calculated for each fishing season; the Council would like to see the rate increase, which would mean more fish are landed and/or fewer are thrown overboard dead.

Although the Council doesn't provide funds for observers or other forms of fishery monitoring, it did set an objective for the drift gillnet fishery to reach full monitoring by 2018. This could include methods other than putting human observers on boats, such as installing video cameras to detect interactions with the high priority protected species subject to hard caps.

GROUND FISH NEWS

Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Modifications Moving Forward

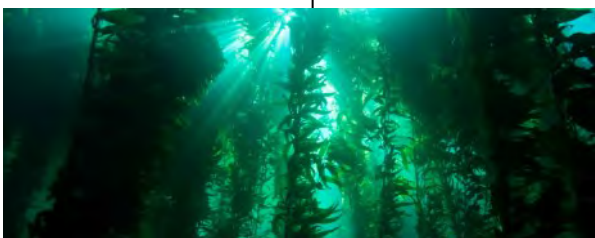
In September, the Council continued the process of considering modifications to groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) and to trawl rockfish conservation areas (RCAs). The Council adopted a purpose and need statement and gave guidance on the range of alternatives that will be considered for eventual adoption.

During the next year, the Project Team will analyze the public proposals and the collaborative group proposal, which include variations of closed and some open areas. The team will also develop alternatives for changes to the trawl rockfish conservation area(s), ranging from complete removal to keeping discrete areas for protection of groundfish species. The Council's [Decision Document](#) provides additional details.

The Council also specified the following issues to be included in the suite of alternatives:

- ◇ Consider closing waters deeper than 3,500 m to bottom contact gear, and develop an exempted fishing permit process for anyone wishing to use bottom contact gear in these waters.

EFH: Essential fish habitat. RCA: rockfish conservation area(s)



Kelp forest: important habitat for groundfish. Photo: National Ocean Service

- ◇ Add text and appendices to the groundfish fishery management plan 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.
- ◇ Develop alternatives that would exclude any changes to EFH or rockfish conservation area regulations within Tribal usual and accustomed areas.



Trawlers in Astoria, Oregon. Photo: Joseph Novak, [Flickr Creative Commons](#).

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

Trawl Gear Regulations May be Updated

Trawl gear regulations may be updated to reflect the new flexibility provided by the trawl catch share program.

Specifically, the Council is considering whether to allow vessels to carry and/or use multiple gears types on a single trip; and whether to loosen or eliminate chafing gear regulations, the minimum mesh size requirement, and selective flatfish trawl gear requirements and restrictions. Large and small footrope distinctions would remain.

In September, working from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel report on the gear regulations, the Council decided to move forward on several issues, as long as they do not cause a delay. They include liberalizing or eliminating codend regulations, allowing a gear to be fished in multiple areas on the same trip, updating how mesh size is measured, and allowing a vessel to deploy gear before all fish from the previous deployment have been stowed.

It is not clear whether all of these issues can be addressed without causing a delay, but three issues that were initially included have been eliminated for the time being: 1) allowing the targeting of whiting with nonwhiting gear, 2) eliminating the distinction between midwater whiting and midwater nonwhiting trips, and 3) eliminating the distinction between midwater and bottom trawl gear. These issues were put aside due to workload constraints, and because their impacts are difficult to determine due to other regulations that interact with these distinctions between gears. Another issue, allowing the use of midwater trawl gear to target nonwhiting within the rockfish conservation areas south of 40° 10' N. latitude, was also eliminated because of workload issues. The time required to work through these complexities would have limited the number of other issues that could have been addressed. The Council is scheduled to take final action on these issues in March 2016.

Any issues not included in the gear rule will be reprioritized along with other groundfish priorities. For information on other trawl-related action items, see the [most recent list of groundfish workload priorities](#).

Alternatives Adopted for Oregon Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations

The Council adopted a range of alternatives for developing mid-water recreational fishing regulations for Oregon to provide increased access to target species while minimizing bycatch of overfished species. The mid-water gear would be allowed for both charter and private vessels seaward of the 40 fathom seasonal depth closure. The gear would be allowed for the duration of the depth closure (April to September) or only for some months. The gear configuration would include no more than three hooks, at least a 30-foot leader, and a non-compressible float required above the hooks to ensure that the gear remains off the bottom. Lingcod retention would be prohibited. The Council is scheduled to take final action at the March 2016 meeting in Sacramento, California.



Ocean Charters,
Garibaldi, Oregon.
Photo: Jennifer
Gilden.

Stock Assessments Show Bocaccio Nearly Rebuilt; Oregon Kelp Greenling, Widow Rockfish Looking Good

A new bocaccio assessment indicates the stock is approaching the target of 40% of unfished spawning output (B40%) and is close to being rebuilt, with an estimated depletion of 36.8% of unfished biomass at the start of 2015. The stock is projected to be rebuilt by the beginning of next year; however, a new assessment will need to be conducted to confirm that prediction.



Female kelp
greenling. Photo:
Benjamin Hollis, [Flickr](#)
[Creative Commons](#).

A new China rockfish assessment shows the stock is healthy north of 40°10' N latitude, but below the target biomass south of 40°10' N latitude, with an estimated depletion of 29.6% of unfished biomass at the start of 2015.

Oregon kelp greenling and widow rockfish are both considered healthy and relatively productive stocks with estimated 2015 depletions of 80% and 75% of unfished biomass at the start of 2015, respectively. The Council adopted the new full assessments for bocaccio, China rockfish, Oregon kelp greenling, and widow rockfish at its September meeting.

New assessments for black rockfish off Washington, Oregon, and California are expected to be adopted at the November Council meeting. This summer's stock assessment review (STAR) panel did not endorse the Oregon black rockfish model and the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommended a revised model be reviewed at a "mop-up" STAR panel at the end of September. The SSC did not endorse the California and Washington black rockfish assessments in September despite the STAR panel endorsement of these models. The SSC does not anticipate that the California and Washington assessments will be re-opened for a full review at the mop-up panel. However, delaying final approval of these assessments was considered prudent to allow for potential changes that could allow consistency among all three assessments.

SSC: Scientific and Statistical Committee:
STAR: stock assessment review (panel)

Electronic Monitoring Regulations and Exempted Fishing Permit Update

In September, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) updated the Council on development of an electronic monitoring program for the midwater trawl whiting fishery. Program regulations are scheduled for deeming (review and approval) at the Council's November meeting. The Council will also review the preferred alternatives they selected for the midwater trawl whiting fishery electronic monitoring program in September 2014. They will consider any new information and may revise their preferred alternatives this November. If the Council changes their preferred alternatives in November, refinement of the proposed regulations may be necessary.



China rockfish.
Photo: Ed Bierman,
[Flickr Creative Commons.](#)

2017-2018 Groundfish Management Process Begins

In September, the Council adopted the range of overfishing limits, acceptable biological catches, and annual catch limits for certain groundfish stocks (those not highlighted [here](#)). They also added new alternatives 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](#) (except items #3 and #5), [Groundfish Advisory Subpanel](#), [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), and [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) reports were forwarded for public review. In November, the Council is scheduled to narrow the range of management measures to be analyzed. Establishing a manageable range of alternatives for analysis will make it more likely that harvest specifications are put in place by January 1, 2017 as the groundfish fishery management plan requires.

Council Considers Removing Blackgill Rockfish from Slope Complex, Other Related Actions

Due to the depressed status of blackgill rockfish, the Council is considering removing the species from the Slope Rockfish complex south of 40°10' N latitude and adopting a new intersector allocation of blackgill and the remaining species in the southern Slope Rockfish complex. The Council is also considering making changes to quota accumulation limits of these species for the trawl groundfish fishery.

Blackgill rockfish are estimated to be at 30 percent of unfished biomass at the start of 2011; 40 percent is the biomass target. If future trawl catches increase, it will be harder to control those impacts on blackgill if the stock is managed in the slope rockfish complex. In September, the Council reviewed the alternatives in the preliminary draft environmental assessment (available [here](#)) and rejected Alternatives 1 and 4 from further analysis since they did not comport with the Council's groundfish allocation framework. The Council is scheduled to select a final preferred alternative in November.

Inseason Adjustments to Groundfish Fisheries

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 in order to mitigate expected 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 eight metric tons of dark-blotched rockfish available to the at-sea whiting sectors, not to exceed five 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.



Upper Sacramento River at Castella, CA.

Photo: Shawn McKone, [Flickr Creative Commons](#).

SALMON NEWS

Sacramento River Winter Chinook Update

The latest information on Sacramento River winter Chinook was presented at the September Council meeting. Preliminary results suggest a return of 2,000-3,000 spawners, and there is tentative optimism that the 2015 brood is experiencing cooler and more consistent flows than the 2014 brood experienced. However, there are still many concerns regarding the future of this stock, largely due to the ongoing drought. The Council may consider a

precautionary approach to the 2016 fishing seasons.

The Council approved a proposed schedule for setting harvest policy for 2017 and beyond and established an ad hoc work group address the issue. This effort is expected to follow the successful process the Council and NMFS have used in the past to address harvest policies for Columbia River tulle fall Chinook and natural coho. The Council will appoint representatives to the ad hoc workgroup at its November meeting in Garden Grove, California.

ECOSYSTEM NEWS

Unmanaged Forage Fish Protected from New Commercial Fisheries without Thorough Analysis

In September, the Council increased protection of certain previously unmanaged forage fish species by prohibiting the development of directed commercial fisheries for the fish until the impacts on fisheries, fishing communities, and the marine ecosystem can be assessed.

The regulations add clarity for law enforcement and harvesters by defining directed commercial fishing, establishing incidental landing limits of 10 mt per trip and 30 mt per year, and placing restrictions on at-sea processing.

The draft regulations will next go out for final public review before being implemented by the NMFS. The Council recognized the possibility that a future fishery could develop for these species if there is adequate supporting scientific information, and approved procedures for reviewing such proposals.



School of sardines.
Photo: Klaus Stiefel,
[Flickr Creative Commons.](#)

Council Focuses on Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

At the September meeting, the Council discussed two Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiatives that it had identified in March 2015 for further consideration.

The Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan includes a process for the Council to regularly review potential ecosystem-based management initiatives. The Council is proceeding with the "Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review" initiative, which focuses on identifying indicators of ecosystem status that will be included in the annual State of the California Current

Ecosystem Report. In addition, the Council endorsed the "Climate Shift" initiative, and plans to integrate it into the ecosystem indicator initiative by developing indicators for monitoring the effects of climate change on West Coast fish and fisheries.

The Council also recommended a project to test a practical application of ecosystem information in fishery management. The Council asked the NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team to 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.

The Ecosystem Workgroup is planning a series of public webinars over the winter on the indicators used in the annual report and will solicit input on other indicators to support fishery management decision making. Recommendations from these webinars will be presented to the Council at the March 2016 meeting.

Habitat Committee Discusses Riparian Rules, Aquaculture Expansion in Humboldt Bay

On September 25, Oregon's Board of Forestry considered new riparian protection rule with important implications for salmon habitat. Riparian vegetation buffers perform several functions that are important to maintaining salmon habitat; for example, they are a source of large woody debris, leaf litter, and insect fall; they provide shade to maintain cool water temperatures; and they filter storm-water runoff before it enters the stream.

Since Amendment 18 to the salmon fishery management plan includes protecting and restoring riparian buffers as important tools for conserving salmon EFH, the Habitat Committee encouraged the Council to send a letter commenting on the rule and recommending a 100-foot buffer for riparian habitat on fish-bearing streams in Oregon. The Council did so; the letter is [available online](#).

At their meeting on September 25, a subcommittee of the Board of Forestry identified two proposals for new state logging rules. One proposal increases no-cut buffer zones to 90 feet (currently, the buffer is 20 feet — less than the buffer required in California, Washington, and Idaho). The other proposal involves other approaches, such as thinning or staggering harvests. The Board of Forestry will consider the proposals on November 5.



Humboldt Bay at low tide. Photo: "Becky,"

[Flickr Creative Commons.](#)

Humboldt Bay Aquaculture Expansion

The Habitat Committee heard a presentation from representatives for Coast Seafoods on proposed shellfish aquaculture expansion in Humboldt Bay. The presentation focused on their impact analysis and mitigation alternatives, which have been and continue to be modified based on feedback from state and Federal agencies. Proposed mitigation alternatives may include seeding

to help regrowth of eelgrass in depleted areas and salt marsh restoration.

Coast Seafoods is currently preparing their draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to submit under the state California Environmental Quality Act. Since the timing of the original comment period did not allow for Council comment, the Council requested that the timing be adjusted, and Coast Seafoods agreed; however, there have been some delays in releasing the draft EIR. The Habitat Committee plans to analyze the draft EIR once it has been publicly released, assuming the timing and comment period coincides with a Council meeting.

Klamath water

In June 2015, the Council sent a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting additional water releases in the Klamath River to avoid die-offs similar to what occurred in 2002. On August 7, Reclamation issued a new biological assessment of additional Trinity River flows to supplement lower Klamath flows, leading to supplemental releases of water from August 21 through September 20. To prevent a major lethal outbreak, a pulse flow initiated on September 8, increasing flows to 5000 cfs for 24 hours. Despite drought and high temperatures, no major fish kill has been reported.

HALIBUT NEWS

2016 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulation Changes Out for Public Review

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

The NMFS report recommends changes intended to improve accuracy and provide a mechanism to automatically prohibit retention of Pacific halibut in the sablefish primary fishery north of Point Chelalis when the quota for this fishery is reached or projected to be reached. The WDFW report proposes revising the season opening date in the North Coast Subarea and revising the Catch Sharing Plan

EIR: (California) Environmental Impact Report; NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service;
WDFW: Washington Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife; ODFW: Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife;
CDFW: California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

allocation language so that the allocation for the sablefish primary fishery north of Point Chehalis is not directly tied to the Pacific halibut total allowable catch, but still connected to the Washington recreational allocation.



Catching halibut.
Photo: Bryan Wilkins,
[Flickr Creative Commons.](#)

ODFW provided alternative season dates for the Columbia River Subareas and the Central Coast Subareas, including the nearshore fishery. Additionally, allocation changes are proposed for the Central Coast Subarea, and groundfish retention options are provided for the Southern Oregon Subarea. CDFW will be using the same structure as in 2015 and recommends defining open and closed fishing periods between May and October, conducting inseason monitoring, and closing the fishery upon quota attainment. Following the determination of the 2016 total allowable catch, CDFW will conduct outreach in early February 2016 to discuss open fishing season dates, which will be established in regulation. The Council is

scheduled to take final action on the 2016 Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishing regulation in November 2015 in Garden Grove, California.

The Council also scheduled time at the June 2016 Council meeting to discuss a broader range of allocation changes for the 2017 Catch Sharing Plan, intended to provide for an increased California recreational allocation.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Legislative Matters

The Council is currently tracking a number of bills moving through Congress. First, the West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act (HR 2168/S 1143), was passed by the House in early October. This bill would ensure that state management of Dungeness crab fisheries continues.

Through its Legislative Committee, the Council is also tracking three California drought bills, HR 2898: Western Water and American Food Security Act (Valadao); S 1894: California Emergency Drought Relief Act (Boxer and Feinstein); and HR 2983/S 1837: Drought Recovery and Resilience Act of 2015 (Huffman and Boxer). The Council believes the first bill, HR 2898, poses a serious threat to salmon populations in California. The Council received a Congressional request to comment on the bills. A [brief letter](#) was sent on September 28, and Council staff are currently analyzing the bills in more detail in preparation for further comments in November.

Appointments

The Secretary of Commerce reappointed three of the five Council members whose terms expired on August 10, 2015 to new three-year appointments. Those members are Mr. Buzz Brizendine, Mr. David Crabbe, and Ms. Dorothy Lowman. The Appointments for Mr. Dale Myer and Mr. David Sones reached the limit of three consecutive terms and were replaced by Mr. Phil Anderson and Mr. Joe Oatman, respectively.

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; and Mr. Joe Petersen to the Tribal seat on the Groundfish Management Team.



Shoreline Wildlife Refuge, California. Photo: "Vee," [Flickr Creative Commons](#).

The Council created an ad hoc Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup 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: the 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, and 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.

UPCOMING DEADLINES AND MEETINGS

Public Comment Deadline – November 2015 Advance Briefing Book

Public comment materials received by **11:59 pm, Friday, October 16, 2015**, were mailed to Council members and appropriate advisory bodies prior to the November meeting. This is known as the "Advance Briefing Book Deadline."

Public comment materials received at the Council office **after the October 16, 2015, 11:59 pm deadline, but by 11:59 pm, Wednesday, November 4** will be included in the supplemental materials distributed to the Council on the first day of the November meeting. This is known as the "Supplemental Public Comment Deadline."

See the [Council's Briefing Book Public Comment Deadlines webpage](#) for complete details on how to submit comments.

November Council Meeting

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.

GROUNDFISH

- ◆ Preliminary exempted fishing permit approval
- ◆ Approval of stock assessments
- ◆ Harvest specifications and management measures for 2017-2018 fisheries
- ◆ Whiting electronic monitoring
- ◆ Blackgill-slope rockfish complex reallocation
- ◆ Stock assessment prioritization
- ◆ Inseason adjustments
- ◆ NMFS report

SALMON AND HALIBUT

- ◆ NMFS report
- ◆ Salmon methodology review
- ◆ Salmon management schedule for 2016
- ◆ 2016 halibut catch sharing plan and management measures, including sablefish incidental landing regulations

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

- ◆ NMFS report
- ◆ Swordfish management policy connections

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

- ◆ Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop report
- ◆ 2016 experimental fishing permits
- ◆ Anchovy status review
- ◆ 2016 methodology review topic selection

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- ◆ Tri-State Enforcement Report
- ◆ Vessel Movement Monitoring
- ◆ Current Habitat Issues
- ◆ Briefing on Recusal of Council Members
- ◆ Legislative Matters

Other Meetings

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE'S SALMON SUBCOMMITTEE, SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM, AND MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP MEETING

Date/Time: October 20 (1:00 P.M.)—October 22, 2015 (noon or whenever business is done)

Location: Radisson Hotel Portland Airport, Concourse Room

Purpose: To discuss and review proposed changes to analytical methods used in salmon management.

Contact: Mike Burner (Mike.Burner@noaa.gov)

For More Info: See detailed meeting announcement

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM WEBINAR

Date/Time: October 27, 2015, 1:00-2:30 pm

Purpose: To discuss agenda items on the November Council meeting and to discuss future meeting plans.

Contact: Kit Dahl (kit.dahl@noaa.gov); (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) for technical information about webinar

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL WEBINAR

Date/Time: November 2, 2015, 1:00-2:30 pm

Purpose: To discuss agenda items on the November Council meeting and to discuss future meeting plans.

Contact: Kit Dahl (kit.dahl@noaa.gov); (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) for technical information about webinar

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE WEBINAR

Date/Time: November 2, 2015, 12:00-2:00 pm

Purpose: To review a revised west coast limited entry trawl individual fishing quota projection model developed by the Pacific Council's Groundfish Management Team to ensure the changes recommended by the SSC's Groundfish and Economics Subcommittees in June were implemented and the model behaves as expected.

Contact: John DeVore (john.devore@noaa.gov); (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) for technical information about webinar

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL AND MANAGEMENT TEAM WEBINAR

Date/Time: November 3, 2015, 1:30-4:30 pm

Purpose: To develop recommendations for the North Pacific albacore management strategy evaluation to be conducted by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean. Recommendations will be forwarded to U.S. government representatives to the planned special meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee to be held in December 2015.

Contact: Kit Dahl (kit.dahl@noaa.gov); (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) for technical information about webinar

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM, SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL, AND MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP WEBINAR

Date/Time: November 4, 2015, 1:30-5:00 pm

Purpose: To discuss items on the Council's November 2015 meeting agenda. Major topics include, but are not limited to: Salmon Methodology Review, Salmon Management Schedule for 2016, and 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Management Measures. The STT, SAS, and MEW may also address one or more of the Council's scheduled Administrative Matters.

Contact: Mike Burner (Mike.Burner@noaa.gov); Kris Kleinschmidt (kris.kleinschmidt@noaa.gov) for technical information about webinar

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)