

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDAS AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

Pre-Meeting Webinars/Conference Calls

Over the last year, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) has utilized pre-meeting webinar/conference calls in addition to meeting at Council meetings. For the GMT to have any detailed discussions or make any recommendations on these webinars, they are required to be publicly noticed ahead of time and open to the public. We acknowledge that this puts additional workload on Council staff and resources as they are preparing for the upcoming Council meetings. However, given the number of groundfish and groundfish related items that the GMT is being asked to discuss, analyze, and provide comment on, webinars have become a necessary part of this process. These webinars allow the team to begin our detailed discussions, preventing truncated discussions particularly for those agenda items that are early in the Council meeting's schedule or that are very complex (i.e. harvest specifications). Additionally, this provides some time if additional data or analysis are required, so that it isn't being done "on the fly" during a Council/GMT meeting, where errors are more prone to occur. The overall goal is to provide for the best input possible from the GMT to the Council that is in line with reasonable workload for GMT members. The GMT Chair and Vice Chair are willing to continue to work with Council staff to try to develop solutions for these issues. We provide the following input to illustrate how workload and GMT input was impacted at this meeting.

Regarding VMM

We received an overview and began discussions on Agenda Item C.2. Vessel Movement and Monitoring on our pre-meeting webinar, and discussed it at this meeting; however, given the other workload, the team was unable to have final discussions, develop recommendations, or complete a statement.

Stock Assessment Prioritization

Similar to the VMM agenda item, the GMT received an overview from Mr. Jim Hastie and Ms. Kristen Blackhart on the Stock Assessment Prioritization process. Again, due to workload, the GMT was not able to complete their discussion or develop a statement in time for the Council action.

Gear rules

The GMT was scheduled to receive an overview of the trawl trailing action gear package from Mr. Jim Seger at this meeting. This is another instance where other workload issues prevented the GMT from getting that overview and providing comment.

Catch Share Policy

The GMT was scheduled to receive an overview of the draft Catch Share Policy package from Mr. Jim Seger at this meeting. This is another instance where other workload issues prevented the GMT from getting that overview and providing comment.

GMT representation at the stock assessment post mortem meeting

As stated in our report under the stock assessment agenda item ([Agenda Item I.3.a. Supplemental GMT Report](#)) at this meeting, the GMT is requesting to have representation at the upcoming stock assessment “post mortem” meeting (December 9 and 10 in Seattle), as we are part of the stock assessment review (STAR) panel process, and would like to have the opportunity to provide our perspective-

Overwinter analysis

Until February 9, the GMT will be working with Council and NMFS staff on the analysis and documentation that will be folded into the 2017-2018 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. Additionally, some members of the GMT will be working with NMFS staff on the analysis and documentation for the Midwater Recreational Fishery Environmental Assessment off of Oregon.

March 2016 meeting

The draft March Council meeting agenda contained in the advanced briefing book has eight groundfish items, plus two ecosystem items the team may need to comment on. The GMT may also need to use some of the meeting time at the March meeting to work on biennial harvest specifications and management measures in preparation for the April meeting.

April 2016 meeting

The draft April Council meeting agenda contained in the advanced briefing book has nine groundfish items and two to three non-groundfish items that the GMT could comment on. Included in the groundfish items are both biennial harvest specifications and management measures and essential fish habitat. As we have stated previously, both of those agenda items are complex, and will be workload intensive, and will likely require work prior to the April meeting.

Year-at-a-Glance

Catch Share IFQ 5-year review

The Council is scheduled to begin the 5-year review of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) program at the June 2016 meeting, the same meeting that the Council will be adopting final preferred management measures for fisheries in 2017-2018. The five-year review may be complex and this could be complicated when combined with GMT input necessary for finalizing the biennial harvest specifications and management measures.

PFMC
11/19/15

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