



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384  
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)  
Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2015

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet November 13-19, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, California. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will meet November 13-14. The CPSAS will be meeting in the Madrid Room, and the CPSMT will be meeting in the Barcelona Room. The CPSAS and CPSMT will meeting jointly in the Madrid Room, 9 a.m. through 2:30 p.m., November 13, and again from 8 a.m. through 9 a.m. on November 14. Major topics for discussion at this meeting include:

#### **Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop**

The Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Southwest Fisheries Science Center co-hosted a scientific workshop to examine the Distribution parameter in the harvest control rule used to manage Pacific sardine. The Council will determine at the November meeting, whether the workshop information and recommendations warrant further consideration of changing the Distribution parameter.

#### **2016 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) Notice of Intent**

If no EFP requests are brought forth at the November meeting, this agenda item will likely be canceled. As of the advance briefing book deadline, no EFP requests had been submitted.

#### **Anchovy General Status Overview**

The SWFSC will provide an update to the Council regarding the current status and management of northern anchovy. Neither the central nor the northern subpopulations of northern anchovy have been assessed recently, and the Council has expressed a desire to gain a better understanding of the status and trends in those stocks.

#### **2016 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection and Data-Limited Assessment Methods**

Council Operating Procedure 26 establishes procedures for the review and Council approval of CPS methodology and data reviews. These reviews are typically related to CPS stock assessments,

although they may be applied to methods in other areas such as economic analysis or ecosystem-based fishery management models. Methodologies proposed for review are submitted for the November Council meeting, and if approved, will be scheduled for a formal review.

The November briefing book contains two methodology review proposals. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Wetfish Producers Association submitted the Southern California CPS Survey, which is a nearshore Southern California aerial survey. The SWFSC submitted the acoustic-trawl survey for review.

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center also will present a white paper that discusses the potential for applying groundfish data-limited stock assessment approaches to CPS.

### **Stock Assessment Prioritization for the 2019-20 Management Cycle**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is proposing a new Stock Assessment Prioritization process to assure efficient use of limited assessment capacity. This process is designed to be implemented in collaboration with the Regional Fishery Management Councils so that it can be tailored to address regional assessment needs. Although the Council's action under this agenda item is specific to Pacific Coast groundfish, the CPSMT and CPSAS should consider potential application of the process to CPS assessments.

Enclosed are November agenda materials for your review. Thank you for spending your time – including many weekends – participating in the important process of West Coast fisheries management.

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.1 – Tri-State Enforcement Report
3. Agenda Item H.1 – Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop
4. Agenda Item H.2 – 2016 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Notice of Intent
5. Agenda Item H.3 – Anchovy General Status Overview
6. Agenda Item H.4 – 2016 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection Including Data-Limited Assessment Methods
7. Agenda Item I.7 – Stock Assessment Prioritization for the 2019-20 Management Cycle
8. Agenda Item F.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
9. CPSAS Agenda
10. CPSMT Agenda
11. SSC Agenda
12. Hotel Information
13. Council Roster



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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2015  
TO: Enforcement Consultants  
FROM: Jim Seger, Staff Officer  
SUBJECT: November 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet November 13-19, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, 11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840.

You are invited to attend the meeting and receive *travel reimbursement for November 13 through 19*. The Enforcement Consultants (EC) will meet in *Seville Room* on Saturday, November 14 starting at 8 a.m. The meeting will continue through Wednesday, November 18 as needed. Enclosed are materials for items on the EC Agenda and additional items that might be of interest to you.

JLS:kma

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Proposed Council Meeting Agenda
2. EC Agenda
3. CPSAS Agenda
4. CPSMT Agenda
5. GEMPAC/GEMTAC Agenda
6. GAP Agenda
7. GMT Agenda
8. HMSAS Agenda
9. HMSMT Agenda
10. Agenda Item C.1. Tri-State Enforcement Report
11. Agenda Item C.2. Vessel Movement Monitoring
12. Agenda Item F.6. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
13. Agenda Item H.2. 2016 Experimental Fishing Permits Notice of Intent
14. Agenda Item I.2. Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit Approval
15. Agenda Item I.5. Whiting Electronic Monitoring Final Alternative and Regulations
16. Agenda Item I.8. Consideration of Inseason Adjustments
17. Agenda Item I.9. Biennial Management Measures for 2017-2018
18. Informational Report 1
19. Hotel-related Information and Council Roster

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 20, 2015

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

FROM: Kelly Ames, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet November 13-19, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County, 11999 Harbor Boulevard, Garden Grove, CA 92840. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday, November 13, 2015 in the Royal F room. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 14 in the Royal E room.

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

- Matters raised during the open comment period;
- A tri-state enforcement report;
- Current habitat issues;
- Legislative matters, including considerations of the Legislative Committee;
- Reports from the West Coast Region and Northwest Fisheries Science Center;
- Preliminary adoption of exempted fishing permits (EFP) for 2017-2018, including deductions from the annual catch limits (ACLs) to accommodate the EFPs;
- Final stock assessments for 2017-2018 management;
- Adopt final overfishing limits and P\*/allowable biological catches, and preliminary preferred ACLs for each stock and stock complex;
- Confirm or adjust the Council-adopted final preferred alternative for whiting fishery electronic monitoring and deem regulations for implementing Council final action;
- Final action on intersector allocation for blackgill and slope rockfish south of 40 °10' N. latitude and accumulation limit adjustments;
- Consider the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed stock assessment prioritization process and adopt a groundfish stock assessment planning process;
- Consider inseason adjustments for 2015 and 2016 fisheries;
- Select a final range of new management measures for detailed analysis from the range adopted at the September 2015 Council meeting. Select a final preferred alternative for

managing big skate. Provide guidance on management measures for 2017-2018, including guidance on preliminary off-the-top deductions from the ACLs, set-asides, two-year allocations, and season structures for commercial and recreational fisheries;

- Consider revising the Purpose and Need statements and adopt preliminary preferred alternatives for vessel movement monitoring regulations in Council area commercial fisheries;
- Adopt final 2016 Pacific halibut catch sharing plan and annual fishing regulations. Select a preliminary preferred alternative to allow National Marine Fisheries Service to use automatic action to prohibit retention of halibut in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington upon projected attainment of the quota;
- Membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures; and
- Future Council meeting agenda and workload planning.

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

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

KLA:kma

Enclosures include:

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



## MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 21, 2015

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: November Council Meeting

The Council meeting begins Saturday, November 14, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, California. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Friday and Saturday, November 13-14. The HMSAS will be in the Valencia Room and the HMSMT will be in the Granada Room. The meetings begin at 8 a.m. each day. Two HMS topics are on the Council agenda. Briefing materials for Agenda Item F.6, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning, are also attached. Summaries of the two HMS topics follow.

### G.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

Ms. Heidi Taylor will provide an update on recent regulatory activities and international fisheries activities related to the Council's Fishery Management Plan for West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species. Dr. Gerard DiNardo will update the Council on National Marine Fisheries Service's current investigation of adult populations of Pacific bluefin tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the possibility they are spawning in this area.

This agenda item does not involve Council action and is noticed as "discussion."

### G.2 Swordfish Management Policy Connections

A draft of the Swordfish Fishery Management and Monitoring Plan was presented to the Council at its September 2015 meeting. The Council requested that an opportunity to further discuss the plan and its contents be placed on the November agenda.

This agenda item does not involve Council action and is noticed as "discussion."

Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1, Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary, shows Federal HMS Permit Scoping and Amendment 4 Scoping: Authorizing Shallow-Set Longline Fishery Outside EEZ HMS are tentatively scheduled for the March 2016 Council meeting. Preliminary discussion of these items is included as a topic on the HMSAS and HMSMT agendas.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item G.1: National Marine Fisheries Report
3. Agenda Item G.2: Swordfish Management Policy Connections
4. Agenda Item F.6: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
5. Informational Reports
6. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
7. Hotel-related Information
8. Council Roster



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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2015  
TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons  
FROM: Mike Burner, Staff Officer  
SUBJECT: November Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet November 13-19, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, California. The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), Salmon Technical Team (STT), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will not be meeting at the November Council meeting. A webinar will be held at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 that will focus on salmon, Pacific halibut, enforcement, and administrative agenda items on the Council's November agenda.

The Council is scheduled to take final action on salmon methodology changes for 2016 and adopt a revised Catch Sharing Plan and 2016 regulations for Pacific halibut. The Council will be conducting its annual review of the salmon preseason process under Agenda Item D.3 and this year's review includes approval of the proposed process and schedule for reviewing Sacramento River winter Chinook harvest policy.

There are a few administrative matters on the September Council agenda of interest. Under Agenda Item F.2, Legislative Matters, the Council and its Legislative Committee will be discussing bills regarding water management drought conditions in California and a draft Council report on the matter. Under Agenda Item F.5 the Council will be appointing non-agency advisory body members for the 2016-2018 term (including all of the members of the SAS) and it is anticipated that the Council will appoint members to the Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup

Under Agenda Item C.2, the Council is scheduled to adopt a preliminary preferred alternative regarding vessel movement monitoring requirements. This item will likely be more of a focus item for the SAS, particularly those commercial fisherman who are required to have a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) due to their participation in the open access sector of the groundfish fishery.

The Council's Annual Award Banquet will be a 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. This year's honorees include Wayne Butler, Gway Rogers-Kirchner, Mark Helvey, Eugene Law, Dale Myer, Andy Rankis, David Sones, Cindy Thomson, and Henry Yuen. Although the salmon advisory groups are not meeting in November, please take a moment to reflect on the substantial contributions that many of these honorees have made to salmon management over the years and please send them your sentiments if you feel so inclined.

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You may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

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

MDB:rdd

Enclosures:

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



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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2015

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: John DeVore

SUBJECT: November 2015 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet November 13-19, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County Hotel, 11999 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, California. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14 starting at 8 a.m. each day in the Terrace A-C Room in the South Tower. Your meeting materials are enclosed, and include additional items that are not on the SSC agenda.

#### Council Administrative Matters

The Council will be reviewing nominations for the 2016-2018 Advisory Body terms, including the seven at-large positions and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) seat on the SSC. Current at-large SSC members who have been re-nominated and John Budrick, the nominee for the CDFW SSC seat, will be asked to leave the room during the SSC closed session deliberations for these seats. The SSC will also be reviewing the nomination of Mr. Andrew Klein for one of the CDFW seats on the Groundfish Management Team (GMT).

The SSC will review their potential workload in the next year and may recommend to the Council which tasks are prioritized. The SSC will also review a report of the SSC's Ecosystem Subcommittee from their September meeting to review the human dimension indicators proposed for the annual California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment report.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has asked for comment on proposed scientific standards for doing the five-year review of the U.S. West Coast Trawl Rationalization program. This request has a January 29, 2016 deadline and was made after the November 2015 briefing book deadline (see Informational Report 1). The SSC is being asked to comment on the proposed scientific standards under Agenda Item F.6 - Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.

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### Salmon Management

The Council is scheduled to adopt final salmon methodology changes under Agenda Item D.2. The SSC should review the recommendations of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and make their recommendations to the Council.

### Coastal Pelagic Species Management

The Council is scheduled to consider the report of the August 2015 Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop under Agenda Item H.1 and decide whether the information and recommendations from the workshop warrant further exploration of changing the Distribution parameter in the Pacific sardine harvest control rule. Also, the SSC should evaluate the technical issues raised in the public comments from Dr. Juan Zwolinski and Oceana.

The Council will be updated on the general status and management of northern anchovy under Agenda Item H.3. A draft journal article, “Recent Collapse of Northern Anchovy Biomass off California” by MacCall et al. (In Review) was submitted under public comment. The SSC should inform the Council on the technical elements and analyses in this paper and how they may be useful in determining status of northern anchovy. The NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) will also be presenting survey data and other information relevant to northern anchovy. The SSC should report whether any of this information is useful in determining the current status of northern anchovy.

The Council will be considering two proposed methodologies for surveying coastal pelagic species (CPS) under Agenda Item H.4. A Southern California Coastal Pelagic Species Survey proposed by CDFW and an Acoustic Trawl Method for assessing CPS proposed by the SWFSC are being considered for a methodology review in 2016. The SSC should consider whether these methods should be recommended for a methodology review next year. Additionally, the SWFSC has provided a white paper on data-poor assessment methods for assessing CPS. The SSC should consider which CPS stocks, if any, these methods are suitable for assessing and whether any of these proposed methods should be subject to a formal methodology review next year.

### Groundfish Management

The SSC will review new full assessments for black rockfish off California, Oregon, and Washington and will consider endorsing these assessments to inform groundfish management decision-making as best available science under Agenda Item I.3. The July Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel endorsed the California and Washington assessments, and their report is provided. The SSC recommended the Oregon assessment be reviewed at the September 28-October 2 mop-up STAR Panel and the mop-up STAR Panel report is also provided.

The SSC will review proposed overfishing limits (OFLs), stock categories, and designated sigmas (i.e., estimated or proxy biomass variances) for each stock not addressed in September to inform 2017 and 2018 management decisions under Agenda Item I.4. The SSC will recommend OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values to the Council. A report from the SSC’s Groundfish Subcommittee from this year’s mop-up STAR Panel meeting will be made available in the SSC’s meeting materials with their recommendations on catch-only projections for arrowtooth flounder,

yelloweye rockfish yield projections, and a proposed new methodology for deriving OFLs and annual catch limits for big skate and other data-moderate stocks. A report from the SSC's Groundfish and Economic Subcommittees from their June review of the GMT's trawl individual fishing quota (IFQ) model and the GMT's model which estimates the probability of exceeding a harvest limit will be made available in the SSC's meeting materials. The final stage of the SSC's review of the IFQ model is the subject of a scheduled November 9 webinar and the SSC's recommendations for using this model will be provided to the Council under Agenda Item I.4. A report on the SSC's recommendations for the GMT's probability model for exceeding a harvest limit is not expected until the SSC's March or April 2016 meeting, pending further model development and documentation by the GMT. The SSC will also review a GMT bootstrap analysis intended to inform rockfish bycatch in at-sea whiting fisheries and report their recommendations at this meeting under Agenda Item I.4.

The SSC received a presentation in September from Dr. Richard Methot on a NMFS initiative to develop criteria and a process to decide future stock assessment priorities. Since then, NMFS has developed a slightly different process for deciding assessment priorities. The SSC will forward their recommendations on methods and criteria for deciding future stock assessment priorities under Agenda Item I.7.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process. See you soon.

JDD:kma

Enclosures include:

**Council and SSC Administrative Matters**

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item F.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
3. Agenda Item F.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

**Salmon Management**

4. Agenda Item D.2 – Salmon Methodology Review

**Coastal Pelagic Species Management**

5. Agenda Item H.1 – Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop
6. Agenda Item H.3 – Anchovy General Status Overview
7. Agenda Item H.4 – 2016 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection Including Data-Limited Assessment Methods

**Groundfish Management**

8. Agenda Item I.3 – Final Approval of Stock Assessments
9. Agenda Item I.4 – Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2017-2018 Groundfish Management Including Final Overfishing Limits and Acceptable Biological Catches
10. Agenda Item I.7 – Stock Assessment Prioritization for the 2019-20 Management Cycle

**SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, etc.**

11. November 2015 SSC Agenda
12. Draft September 2015 SSC Minutes
13. Report of the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee Meeting to Review CCIEA Human Dimensions

14. Scientific and Statistical Committee Groundfish and Economic Subcommittees' Report for Review Meeting on June 13, 2015
15. Catch Distribution Data as the Basis for the Apportionment of Bocaccio ACL and OFL Estimates North and South of 40°10' N Latitude
16. Scientific and Statistical Committee's Groundfish Subcommittee Mop-up Stock Assessment Review Panel Meeting: Report on Arrowtooth Flounder Catch-Only Projections, Yelloweye Rockfish Yield Projections, and a Proposed New Methodology for deriving OFLs and ACLs for Big Skate and Other Data-Moderate Stocks
17. Informational Report 1: Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs (Informs the SSC F.6 Discussion)
18. Hotel-Related Information
19. Roster

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10/22/15