

**COUNCIL MEETING RECORD**  
**232<sup>nd</sup> Session of the**  
**Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**November 14-19, 2015**  
 Hyatt Regency Orange County  
 11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840

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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/documents/2015/11/november-2015-decision-document.pdf/>.
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/documents/2015/11/november-2015-decision-document.pdf/> 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/documents/2015/11/november-2015-meeting-recordings.pdf/>.
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/documents/2015/11/november-2015-meeting-recordings.pdf/>.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### A. Call to Order [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#)] @ 0:00:12]

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

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Council Chair, called the 232<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 8:05 a.m. on November 14, 2015. A closed session will be held on November 18 after the close of regular business to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

#### 2. Roll Call - Don McIsaac [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#)] @ 0:02:44]

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

National Marine Fisheries Service:	Mr. Frank Lockhart, designee Mr. Bob Turner, designee Ms. Heidi Taylor, designee
Alaska State Official:	Ms. Nicole Kimball (nonvoting designee)
Washington State Official:	Mr. Kyle Adicks, designee Ms. Michele Culver, designee Mr. Corey Niles, designee
Washington Obligatory:	Mr. Rich Lincoln
Oregon State Official:	Ms. Maggie Sommer, designee Mr. Chris Kern, 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 Mr. David Sones, designee
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:

U.S. State Department: Mr. David Hogan, nonvoting designee

#### 3. Executive Director's Report – Don McIsaac [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#)] @ 0:05:13]



**4. Agenda – Dorothy Lowman [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 0:10:29]**

**a. Council Action: Approve Agenda**

**Motion:** Adopt [Agenda Item A.4](#), November 14-19, 2015 Council Meeting Agenda  
David Crabbe/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously)

**B. Open Comment Period**

**1. [Comments on Non-Agenda Item](#) – Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 0:15:22]**

**a. Advisory Body and Management Entity Comments [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 0:17:09]**

[Agenda Item B.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#): Recreational Fishing Estimates

[Agenda Item B.1.a, Supplemental REVISED HMSAS Report](#): Hard Caps for Priority Protected Species for the Drift Gillnet Fishery; International Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna

**b. Public Comment [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 0:30:27]**

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Public Comment 1](#): Email from Julie Deyerle Regarding Skates

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#): Dave Stephens EFP

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#): Pacific Seafood, Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs

Rod Moore and Lori Steele, West Coast Seafood Processors Association. Mr. Moore commented on his future retirement and introduced Ms. Steele to the Council.

Paul Kujala, F/V Cape Windy

Gerry Richter

**c. Council Discussion as Appropriate [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 0:38:10]**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** None

**C. Enforcement Issues**

**1. [Tri-State Enforcement Report](#) – Jim Seger [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 0:39:16]**

**a. Enforcement Consultants Report – Dan Chadwick, Robert Puccinelli, and Tim Schwartz [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 0:40:09]**

[Tri-State Enforcement Video](#) (.wmv file)

**b. Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities**

None

**c. Public Comment**

None

**d. Council Action: Consider Report from the Tri-State Enforcement Representatives [[mp3: 11-14-15am1](#) @ 1:09:46]**

**Motion:** None

[Agenda Item C.2: Vessel Movement Monitoring Alternatives](#)

[Agenda Item C.2: Supplemental Staff Overview PowerPoint, Wiedoff; \(\*Electronic Only\*\)](#)

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1: Vessel Movement Monitoring Public Scoping Document](#)

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Case Study](#)

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

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

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

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

**Staff Summary:** None

#### **D. Salmon Management**

**1. [National Marine Fisheries Service Report](#) – Mike Burner [[mp3: 11-14-15am2](#) @ 0:00:22]**

**a. [Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities](#) [[mp3: 11-14-15am2](#) @ 0:06:39]**

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint: West Coast Salmon Genetic Stock Identification Update and Plans for 2016 \(\*Electronic Only\*\)](#)

[Agenda Item D.1.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint 2: Recovery Plans \(\*Electronic Only\*\)](#)

**b. [Public Comment](#)**

None

**c. [Council Discussion](#) [[mp3: 11-14-15am2](#) @ 0:22:17]**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** None

**2. [Salmon Methodology Review](#) – Mike Burner [[mp3: 11-14-15am2](#) @ 0:29:51]**

[Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1: Report for the 2015 Salmon Methodology Review on the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model \(FRAM\) Chinook Base Period](#)

[Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 2: Chinook FRAM Base Period Documentation: Growth Functions](#)

[Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 3: Chinook FRAM Base Period Documentation: Sublegal Stock and Age Assignments](#)

[Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 4](#): An evaluation of the proposed increases in spatial stratification for California salmon fisheries

[Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 5](#): California Klamath Fishery Management Zone Test Fishery Proposal

[Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 6](#): April 1, 2015 letter from CDFW Director Bonham to Council Chair Lowman regarding SRWC management in 2015

a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-14-15am2](#) @ 0:39:41]

[Agenda Item D.2.a, PSC Comments](#): Letter from Pacific Salmon Commission Executive Secretary John Field to Pacific Council Executive Director Don McIsaac

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

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

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

b. **Public Comment**

None

c. **Council Action: Adopt Final Methodology changes and Consider Preliminary Test Fishing Proposals** [[mp3: 11-14-15am2](#) @ 1:16:32]

**Motion:** Adopt the two model algorithm changes proposed for the Chinook FRAM—apportioning sublegal encounters among stocks and age classes and derivation of growth functions—as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee for use once the new base period goes into effect for management.

Joseph Oatman/Kyle Adicks (Motion carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council was encouraged by work done on the new base period for the Chinook Fishery Regulation Evaluation Model (FRAM) and approved new algorithms for addressing growth and sublegal encounters, but did not approve other FRAM updates that result in moving to a new base period. Additional co-manager review and validation of the new base period is expected to occur over the winter and the Council anticipates receiving a letter from the co-managers by February 1, 2016 regarding their findings. Due to limited supporting data and in keeping with the recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee and Salmon Technical Team, the Council did not adopt new management lines at Pt. Sur or Pt. Reyes. The Council also received a proposal for an industry-sponsored test fishery in the California Klamath Management Zone and recommended that the proponents of the test fishery coordinate with the National Marine Fisheries Service- (NMFS) proposed genetic stock identification sampling in this area and provide a revised proposal for detailed review at the March 2016 Council meeting.

3. **[Salmon Management Schedule for 2016](#) – Mike Burner** [[mp3: 11-14-15am3](#) @ 0:00:05]

[Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1](#): Pacific Fishery Management Council Schedule and Process for Developing 2016 Ocean Salmon Fishery Management Measures

[Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 2](#): Draft Sacramento River Winter Chinook Harvest Policy Review Process

a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities**

[Agenda Item D.3.a](#): NMFS Report on the Draft Sacramento River Winter Chinook Harvest Policy Review Process

[Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental SWFSC PowerPoint](#): Developing a new winter Chinook control rule

b. **Public Comment**

None

c. **Council Action: Adopt a 2016 Preseason Management Schedule and Consider Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup Membership and Schedule**  
[\[mp3: 11-14-15am3 @ 0:21:20\]](#)

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted the tentative 2016 salmon management schedule ([Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1](#)) including plans for public hearings in Westport, Washington and Coos Bay, Oregon on March 28 and Fort Bragg, California on March 29. Additionally, the Council confirmed a schedule and approved membership for an ad hoc Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup to develop and analyze alternative control rules for this stock. The Council and NMFS are striving to complete the review of Sacramento River winter Chinook incidental harvest policy in time for application for the 2017 salmon management process, but recognize that the schedule is aggressive and relies on a compressed timeframe with a substantial workload.

## E. Habitat

1. **[Current Habitat Issues](#)** – Jennifer Gilden [\[mp3: 11-14-15pm1 @ 0:00:08\]](#)

[Agenda Item E.1, Supplemental Attachment 1](#): Draft Comments on Coast Seafoods Draft Environmental Impact Report

[Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 2](#): Council Letter to Oregon Board of Forestry

[Agenda Item E.1, Supplemental Attachment 3](#): Draft Environmental Impact Report; Coast Seafoods Company Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture Permit Renewal and Expansion Project, Humboldt County, California, SCH #2015082051 (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item E.1, Supplemental Attachment 4](#): Draft Letter re: Coast Seafoods Company Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture Permit Renewal and Expansion Project (letter with Track Changes)

a. **[Report of the Habitat Committee](#)** – Joel Kawahara [\[mp3: 11-14-15pm1 @ 0:01:44\]](#)

b. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities**

None

c. **Public Comment** [\[mp3: 11-14-15pm1 @ 0:17:53\]](#)

[Agenda Item E.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment](#)

Dan Occhipinti, Pacific Seafood

Anna Weinstein, Audubon Society [Agenda Item E.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)  
(Electronic Only)

Robert Smith, Plauche & Carr LLP

Chris Czesla, Confluence Environmental Company  
Geoff Shester, Oceana  
Andrea Treece, Earthjustice

d. **Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Recommendations** [[mp3: 11-14-15pm1](#) @ 0:55:56]

**Motion:** Send the letter identified in Agenda Item E.1, Supplemental Attachment 4, with the following edits:

- Page 2 under item 2: strike the last sentence of that paragraph
- Section 3, strike the first paragraph down to the sentence that says “based on these. . .” and replace it with “as summarized in the DEIR”
- Page 4, third paragraph under herring, strike the California Department of Fish and Wildlife paragraph and the next sentence; delete the next paragraph that starts with “DEIR References and exposures”
- Delete the “section 7 under ecosystem functions.”

Marci Yaremko/Michele Culver

**Amendment 1:** Retain section 3 “Loss of Eelgrass . . .” as shown in Supplemental Attachment 4. Steve Haeseker/Phil Anderson (Amendment carried, Ms. Yaremko voted no).  
Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

**Staff Summary:** The Council approved sending the Habitat Committee’s proposed letter regarding expansion of the Coast Seafoods aquaculture operation in Humboldt Bay ([Agenda Item E.1, Supplemental Attachment 4](#)) to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District, with some edits.

## F. Administrative Matters

1. **[Briefing on Recusals and Financial Interest Disclosures](#)** – Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 11-14-15pm2](#) @ 0:00:20]

a. **NOAA General Counsel Report – Mariam McCall** [[mp3: 11-14-15pm2](#) @ 0:02:07]

[Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1](#): National Marine Fisheries Service Policy Directive 01-116  
Fishery Management Council Financial Disclosures

[Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental NOAA GC Report](#): Annual Briefing on Magnuson-Stevens Act  
Financial Disclosure and Recusal Requirements

b. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities**

None

c. **Public Comment**

None

d. **Council Discussion**

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** None

## G. Highly Migratory Species Management

### 1. [National Marine Fisheries Service Report](#) – Kit Dahl [[mp3: 11-14-15pm2](#) @ 0:29:03]

#### a. Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities

[\[mp3: 11-14-15pm2 @ 0:32:02\]](#)

[Agenda Item G.1.a, NMFS Report](#): National Marine Fisheries Service Regulatory Activities

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#): Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

[\[mp3: 11-14-15pm2 @ 0:44:59\]](#)

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental SWFSC PowerPoint](#): Pacific Bluefin Tuna Research Activities, Domestic & International; Gerard DiNardo (*Electronic Only*)

[\[mp3: 11-14-15pm2 @ 1:15:31\]](#)

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

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

#### b. Public Comment [[mp3: 11-14-15pm2](#) @ 1:27:27]

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

Doug Karpa Turtle Island Resource Network

#### c. Council Discussion [[mp3: 11-14-15pm2](#) @ 1:28:59]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** None

### 2. [Swordfish Fishery Management Policy Connections](#)– Kit Dahl [[mp3: 11-15-15am1](#) @ 0:04:01]

[Agenda Item G.2, Supplemental Attachment 1](#): West Coast Swordfish Fishery Policy Questions

#### a. Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities [[mp3: 11-15-15am1](#) @ 0:12:13]

[Agenda Item G.2.a, NMFS Report](#): Reference Information from NMFS-Sponsored Swordfish Workshops and Recent Bycatch and Landings Data

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

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

#### b. Public Comment [[mp3: 11-15-15am2](#) @ 0:00:35]

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

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

Ben Enticknap, Oceana - [Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#) (*Electronic Only*)

Doug Karpa, Turtle Island Resource Network - [Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#) (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item G.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 5](#) (*Electronic Only*)

Joan Jones Holtz, Sierra Club of California

Ray Hienstrom, Sierra Club

Raymond Hiemstra

Greg Stotesbury, AFTCO

Dave Rudie, Catalina Offshore  
Wayne Kotow, CCA California  
George L Osborne, California Sportfishing League  
Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans  
Ed Martin, Balboa Angling Club & Harbour Rod and Reel Club  
Peter Flournoy, American Fishermen's Research Foundation  
Steve Marx, PEW Environmental Group  
Bob Kurz, International Game Fish Association  
John Gillespie, F/V Windwalker  
Rebecca Lewiston, San Diego State University  
Sarah McTee, Environmental Defense Fund  
Mark, Helvey  
Logan Kock and Paddy Glennon, Santa Monica Seafood

c. **Council Discussion** [[mp3: 11-15-15am3](#)@ 0:00:15]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council reiterated its recommendation to NMFS to issue an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to test the use of modified large mesh drift gillnet (DGN) gear for fishing by two boats inside the Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area (PLCA), with fishing triggered at times and areas by favorable oceanographic conditions—for example, when jellyfish (and theoretically sea turtle) abundance has greatly diminished and swordfish abundance is high. The EFP will test generally whether “eco-set triggered fishing” can result in substantially higher swordfish catch and far less bycatch. The Council confirmed it is their intent that if this initial small-scale testing proved successful, it would lead to a subsequent EFP with more vessels in order to gather a higher volume of scientific data. If innovations tested by this and subsequent EFPs prove successful in reliably demonstrating superior target catch and lower bycatch than the current full fleet DGN fishery, this should lead to allowing DGN vessels to access all or portions of the PLCA at times when swordfish catch rates are higher and protected species bycatch is lower. The Council also stated the expectation that any future fishery that includes all or portions of the PLCA would operate under protected species hard caps like those adopted by the Council in September 2015. In consideration of NMFS’ heightened focus on leatherback turtles, the Council directed further work on estimating the global benefits to leatherback turtles that could be provided by a significantly better performing DGN fishery replacing foreign-caught swordfish in the U.S. marketplace.

The Council also recognized the promise of deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) to be an economically viable low/no bycatch gear for catching swordfish. For that reason, the Council expressed its interest to move forward rapidly to authorize DBSG under the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan while considering the need for a permitting regime to regulate use of this gear.

Initiating a Council process to authorize shallow-set longline gear outside the Exclusive Economic Zone was given lower priority, but still judged to be important in recognition that Hawaii-permitted shallow-set longline vessels are currently landing significant amounts of swordfish on the West Coast.



## H. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

1. **[Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop](#)** – Kerry Griffin [[mp3: 11-15-15pm1@0:00:10](#)]

[Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1](#): Oceana vs. Pritzker Settlement Agreement

- a. **Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop Report** – Owen Hamel [[mp3: 11-15-15pm1@0:04:18](#)]

[Agenda Item H.1.a](#): Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop Report

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental Workshop PowerPoint](#): Report of the National Marine Fisheries Service/Pacific Fishery Management Council Workshop on Pacific Sardine Distribution; Owen Hamel (*Electronic Only*)

- b. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-15-15pm1@0:27:59](#)]

[Agenda Item H.1.b](#): National Marine Fisheries Service Letter

[Agenda Item H.1.b, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

- c. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 11-15-15pm1@1:00:22](#)]

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

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

[Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)

Geoff Shester, Oceana - [Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#) (*Electronic Only*)

Diane Pleschner-Steele, California Wetfish Producers Association

- d. **Council Action: Discuss Workshop Report and Provide Guidance as Appropriate** [[mp3: 11-15-15pm2@0:00:11](#)]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council considered the report on the August 2015 Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop, which reviewed several potential alternatives to the current distribution term in the Pacific sardine harvest control rule. While there are potential alternative approaches to determining the average long-term distribution of the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine that could be explored further, the Council accepted the conclusion that no currently-available alternative is superior to the existing distribution term and did not schedule further consideration of changing the distribution term at this time. However, the Council did task Council staff with recommending better coastwide stock abundance research and estimation cooperation at the upcoming Tri-National Sardine Forum and promoting the display of the kind of variable “decision tables” currently presented for whiting abundance forecasts, as an element in the next sardine stock assessment.

2. **[2016 Exempted Fishing Permits \(EFP\) Notice of Intent](#)** – Cancelled

**Staff Summary:** No EFP applications were received.



3. [Anchovy General Status Overview](#) – Kerry Griffin [[mp3: 11-15-15pm2@ 0:28:47](#)]
- a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-15-15pm2@ 0:32:20](#)]

[Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental SWFSC Report](#): Southwest Fisheries Science Center Summary of Current Information Available on Coastal Pelagic Species with Emphasis on Northern Anchovy

[Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental SWFSC PowerPoint](#): Summary of current information available on Coastal Pelagic Species with emphasis on Northern Anchovy (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental USFWS Report](#): Letter to Chair Dorothy Lowman re: Anchovy General Status Overview

[Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#): Recent CPS Landings

[[mp3: 11-15-15pm2@ 1:03:17](#)]

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

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

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

- b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 11-15-15pm2@ 1:21:09](#)]

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

[Agenda Item H.3.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#) (*Full Version Electronic Only*)

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

[Agenda Item H.3.b, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#)

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

[Agenda Item H.3.b, Supplemental Public Comment 6](#)

Diane Pleschner-Steele, California Wetfish Producers Association

Pete Guglielmo, Southern Seafood

Anthony Russo, F/V King Philip

Devin Reed, Spotter Pilot

Corbin Hanson, F/V Eileen

Andrea Treece, Earthjustice

Niel Guglielmo, Capt. Squid Inc

Anna Weinstein, Audubon Society

Jeff Luboff, JDL Fisheries Inc.

Geoff Shester, Oceana [Agenda Item H.3.b, Supplemental Public Comment 7](#) (Electronic Only, has downloadable .wmv video)

Steve Marx, PEW Charitable Trusts

- c. **Council Action: Discuss Issues and Provide Guidance as Appropriate** [[mp3: 11-16-15am1@ 0:02:08](#)]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council requested the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) finalize their initial planning to conduct a stock assessment of northern anchovy in time to be presented at the November 2016 Council meeting, including plans to convene a scientific workshop to be held in Spring 2016 designed to develop the optimum approach for this stock assessment. The Council requested participation in the spring workshop include members from the Scientific and Statistical

Committee (SSC), Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and possibly Council members.

The Council also asked the CPSMT to explore alternative management and policy approaches, and report back to the Council in Fall 2016. The Council also tasked Council staff with placing consideration of moving to more active management of anchovy fishing seasons on a future Council meeting agenda.

4. [2016 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection Including Data-Limited Assessment Methods](#) – Kerry Griffin - [[mp3: 11-16-15am2@ 0:00:11](#)]

a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-16-15am2@ 0:03:03](#)]

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

[Agenda Item H.4.a, SWFSC Report 1](#): Request for Methodology Review of the Acoustic Trawl Method for Assessing Coastal Pelagic Species

[Agenda Item H.4.a, SWFSC Report 2](#): Using Groundfish Data-Limited Methods to Assess Coastal Pelagic Species

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental SWFSC Report 3](#): Center for Independent Experts Panel Review of the Joint Pacific Sardine and Pacific Hake (SaKe) acoustic – trawl survey (*Electronic Only*)

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

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

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

b. **Public Comment**

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

c. **Council Action: Consider Methodology Topics for Review and Provide Additional Guidance as Necessary** [[mp3: 11-16-15am2@ 0:39:39](#)]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The Council considered two proposals for methodology reviews in 2016: the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Southern California Aerial Survey, and the SWFSC acoustic-trawl survey. Based on SSC recommendations, the Council determined that the proposed sampling approaches of the CDFW aerial survey for coastal pelagic species would need to be improved prior to a formal methodology review. The SWFSC did not feel a methodology of the past SAKE acoustic-trawl survey methodology was appropriate at this time, given various critical changes being implemented in the 2016 spring and summer surveys. This methodology review could happen in the 2017 cycle.

**F. Administrative Matters (Continued)**

2. **Legislative Matters** – Jennifer Gilden [[mp3: 11-16-15am2@ 0:49:00](#)]

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

[Agenda Item F.2, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): Draft detailed letter on California drought legislation

[Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 3](#): Preliminary letter on California drought legislation

- a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-16-15am2@ 0:50:07](#)]

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental Legislative Committee Report](#)

- b. **Public Comment**

None

- c. **Council Action: Consider the Report and Recommendations of the Legislative Committee** [[mp3: 11-16-15am2@ 0:53:16](#)]

**Motion:** Council adopt Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental Legislative Committee Report and send Agenda Item F.2, Supplemental Attachment 2: Detailed Draft letter on California drought legislation.

Dan Wolford/David Crabbe (Motion Carried, Mr. Lockhart abstained).

**Staff Summary:** The Council approved sending the proposed letter ([Agenda Item F.2, Supplemental Attachment 2](#)) on California drought legislation to Reps. Huffman and Thompson, with the edits listed in the Legislative Committee report ([Agenda Item F.2.a](#)).

## I. Groundfish Management

1. **National Marine Fisheries Service Report** – John DeVore [[mp3: 11-16-15am2@ 0:55:40](#)]

- a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-16-15am3@ 0:00:02](#)]

[Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Rulemaking Plan for 2015, Groundfish and Halibut

[Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2](#): Groundfish and Halibut Notices; June 18, 2015-October 19, 2015

[Agenda Item I.1.a, NWFSC Report 1](#): Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Policy of the National Marine Fisheries Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Agenda Item I.1.a, NWFSC Report 2](#): The Anatomy of a Multispecies Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) “Market” in Development

[Agenda Item I.1.a, NWFSC Report 3](#): Estimated Discard and Catch of Groundfish Species in the 2014 U.S. West Coast Fisheries

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NWFSC PowerPoint](#): Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Policy Update (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NWFSC PowerPoint 2](#): Groundfish Science Report; McClure (*Electronic Only*)

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

- b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 11-16-15am3@ 1:29:47](#)]

Robert Alverson, Fisherman’s Marketing Association

John Gillespie, Windwalker

- c. **Council Discussion** [[mp3: 11-16-15am3@ 1:38:04](#)]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** None

**2. [Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit Approval](#) - Jim Seger [[mp3: 11-16-15pm1@0:00:05](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1](#): Collaborative fishing to test pot gear for selective harvest of lingcod off of Washington and Oregon

[Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 2](#): EFP Proposal by United Catcher Boats

[Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 3](#): EFP Application for At-sea Processing of Pacific Whiting by Catcher-Processor (CP) Vessels South of 42 Degrees North Latitude

[Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 4](#): Commercial Midwater Hook & Line Rockfish Fishing in the RCA off the Oregon coast

[Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 5](#): Interim Report: Exempted Fishing Permit Testing Commercial Jig Fishing Gear Targeting Yellowtail Rockfish For 2015/2016 Groundfish Fisheries

[Agenda Item I.2, Supplemental Attachment 6](#): TNC's Exempted Fishing Permit Application, Lingcod Pot Gear Testing

**a. [Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities](#) [[mp3: 11-16-15pm1@0:07:07](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): NMFS Request for Council Support in Adding Vessels to the Electronic Monitoring EFPs for 2016

[Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#): The 1992 Emergency Rule Closing at-sea Processing of Pacific Whiting South of 42° N Lat.

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

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

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

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

**b. [Public Comment](#) [[mp3: 11-16-15pm1@0:42:55](#)]**

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

Jodie Toft & Gway Kirchner, The Nature Conservancy

Barbara Emly, San Francisco Community Fishing Association

Michelle Longo-Eder

Dan Waldeck, Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative

Brent Paine, James Mize and Bob Dooley; United Catcher Boats

Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative

**c. [Council Action: Adopt Preliminary EFP's for Public Review](#) [[mp3: 11-16-15pm2@0:00:20](#)]**

**Motion:** Council approve NFMS' ability to add additional vessels to the EM EFP.

Frank Lockhart/Phil Anderson

**Amendment 1:** Recommend to NMFS that we look at potential for extending EFPs past the 15/16 cycle.

Dave Hanson/Frank Lockhart (Amendment 1 carried unanimously).

**Amendment 2:** insert “up to 20” between ‘add’ and ‘additional’.  
Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Amendment 2 carried unanimously).  
Motion as amended carried unanimously

**Motion:** Council to preliminarily approve and forward [Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1](#) for further review at the June 2016 Council meeting.  
Jeff Feldner/Maggie Sommer

**Amendment 1:** The preliminary approval is conditioned on the applicants modifying the proposal such that the area off the WA coast would be limited to those waters westward of a line approximating the 75 fathom depth contour.  
Phil Anderson/Joanna Grebel (Amendment 1 carried unanimously).  
Motion, as amended, carried (Ms. Culver, Mr. Wolford and Ms. Grebel voted no).

**Motion:** Council to preliminarily approve the application for an EFP for Commercial/midwater hood-and-line rockfish fishing in the Rockfish Conservation Area off Oregon ([Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 4](#)) and forward further review at the June 2016 Council meeting, with the following requests to the applicant:

1. Provide information on the minimum amount of fishing activity required to allow evaluation of the EFP’s objectives,
2. Limit the alternative for number of fishing days to those resulting in yelloweye rockfish impacts of 0.2 mt or less,
3. Provide details on proposed arrangements for observer coverage, and
4. Work with NMFS to determine appropriate ESA Salmon bycatch thresholds.

Maggie Sommer/Jeff Feldner (Motion failed; Mr. Anderson, Ms. Culver, Mr. Brizendine, Ms. Grebel, Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Wolford, and Mr. Crabbe voted no).

**Staff Summary:** The Council approved for further consideration in the 2017-2018 management cycle the EFP proposed by The Nature Conservancy for testing lingcod selective pot gear, with the condition that activity be limited to those waters westward of a line approximating the 75 fathom depth contour. Additionally, it agreed with the NMFS recommendation to expand the number of vessels participating in the fixed gear electronic monitoring EFPs, but recommended a limit of no more than 20 additional vessels. Further, NMFS will consider extending the electronic monitoring EFPs past the 2015/2016 cycle and report back to the Council at a future meeting.

**3. [Final Approval of Stock Assessments](#) – John DeVore [[mp3: 11-17-15am1@ 0:13:23](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1](#): Executive Summary of “Assessments of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) Stocks in California, Oregon and Washington Coastal Waters”

[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1](#): Full Assessment – Assessments of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) Stocks in California, Oregon and Washington Coastal Waters” (**Full Version Electronic Only**)

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

[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3](#): Scientific and Statistical Committee’s Groundfish Subcommittee Mop-up Stock Assessment Review Panel Meeting report

a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-17-15am1@ 0:15:37](#)]

[Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental ODFW Report](#): Oregon Black Rockfish Stock Assessment  
[Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)  
[Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 11-17-15am1@ 0:30:52](#)]

[Agenda Item I.3.b, Public Comments](#)  
Kenyon Hensel

c. **Council Action: Adopt Final Stock Assessments for Black Rockfish off Washington, Oregon and California** [[mp3: 11-17-15am1@ 0:33:02](#)]

**Motion:** Council move to adopt “Assessments of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) Stocks in California, Oregon, and Washington Coastal Waters” ([Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1](#): Full Assessment – Assessments of Black Rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) Stocks in California, Oregon, and Washington Coastal Waters”), recommended by the SSC.  
Maggie Sommer/Jeff Feldner (Motion carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted new full assessments for black rockfish off California, Oregon, and Washington (see [Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1](#)), which indicate the stocks are approaching or above target biomass levels. These assessments will inform management decisions for groundfish fisheries in 2017 and beyond.

4. **Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2017-18 Groundfish Management including Final Overfishing Limits and Acceptable Biological Catches** – John DeVore [[mp3: 11-17-15am1@ 0:37:21](#)]

[Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1](#): Draft Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

[Agenda Item I.4, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#): 2017 and 2018 Groundfish Harvest Specifications

[Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 3](#): Catch-only Projections for Arrowtooth Flounder, Yelloweye Rockfish, Blue Rockfish, and California Scorpionfish Models

[Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 4](#): Harvest Projections for Select West Coast Groundfish Species Used to Inform Harvest Specifications for 2017 and Beyond

[Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 5](#): Projections from the 2015 Kelp Greenling Assessment in Oregon Waters using Alternative Sigma and P\* Values

[Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 6](#): West Coast Lingcod Projections with Actual Catch Number in 2009-2014, and Distributed ACLs in 2015 and 2016

[Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 7](#): West Coast Pacific Ocean Perch Projections from the 2011 Rebuilding Analysis with Actual Catch Number in 2011-2014, and ACLs in 2015 and 2016

[Agenda Item I.4, Supplemental Attachment 8](#): Alternative Harvest Projections for English Sole, Rex Sole, Sharpchin Rockfish, and Yellowtail Rockfish North of 40° 10' N Latitude Used to Inform Harvest Specification for 2017 and Beyond

[Agenda Item I.4, Supplemental Attachment 9](#): Proposed Bootstrap Simulation Method for Analyzing Rockfish Bycatch in the At Sea Whiting Sectors



a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-17-15am1@ 0:52:32](#)]

[Agenda Item I.4.a, WDFW Report](#)

[Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 2](#)

[Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[[mp3: 11-17-15am2@ 0:00:37](#)]

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

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

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 11-17-15am2@ 0:30:58](#)]

Brad Pettinger, Oregon Trawl Commission

Kenyon Hensel

c. **Council Action: Adopt Final Overfishing Limits, Final P\*/Acceptable Biological Catches; Preliminary Preferred Annual Catch Limits for Each Stock and Stock Complex; Receive Updates on Harvest Specification Projections for Select Groundfish Species; and Consider Associated Issues Other than Management Measures** [[mp3: 11-17-15am2@ 0:39:37](#)]

**Motion:** Council:

1. Adopt the final preferred 2017-2018 OFLs, stock categories, and sigma values recommended by the SSC as described in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report, Table 1, except for darkblotched, canary, and widow rockfish, maintain a range of OFLs, as displayed in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, Table 5.
2. Adopt final preferred ABCs for 2017-2018 as described in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, Table 4, except for darkblotched, canary, and widow rockfish, maintain a range of ABCs, as displayed in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, Table 5.
3. Adopt preliminary preferred alternatives for ACLs as described in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, Table 4, except:
  - a. For darkblotched and widow rockfish, maintain a range of ACLs as described in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, Table 5, for No Action and Alternative 1.
  - b. For canary rockfish, maintain a range of ACLs as displayed in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, Table 5, for No Action and Alternative 1, and include a new Alternative 2 that is 33 percent of the No Action ACL (566 mt in 2017 and 524 mt in 2018) for analysis.
4. Approve the models endorsed by the SSC for IFQ catch projection and bycatch of darkblotched rockfish in the at-sea whiting fishery with the SSC-recommended modifications, as described in Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln

**Amendment 1:** Add the following as 3c: For California scorpionfish, adopt the GAP Recommendation of 150 mt for both 2017/2018. Add an ACL alternative for black rockfish in California that is based on a constant catch scenario that maintains at least a 40 percent depletion level.

Joanna Grebel/David Crabbe (Amendment 1 carried unanimously).

(Motion, as amended, carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted final overfishing limits endorsed by the SSC (see [Agenda Item I.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#)); final acceptable biological catches and final annual catch limits (ACLs) for all stocks and complexes other than those for black rockfish in California, California scorpionfish, canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, and widow rockfish as depicted in [Agenda Item I.4, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#); and decided a range of alternative ACLs for detailed analysis for black rockfish in California, California scorpionfish, canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, and widow rockfish. The Council is scheduled to adopt all remaining final 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications at their April 2016 meeting in Vancouver, Washington.

**5. [Whiting Electronic Monitoring Final Alternative and Regulations](#) – Brett Wiedoff  
[[mp3: 11-17-15am3@ 0:00:05](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.5, Staff Agenda Item Overview PowerPoint](#): Wiedoff (Electronic Only)

[Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 1](#): An Electronic Monitoring Program for the Limited Entry Midwater Trawl Whiting Fishery (*Truncated Version*)

[Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 2](#): An Electronic Monitoring Program for the Limited Entry Midwater Trawl Whiting Fishery (*Full Version Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 3](#): Analysis of Enforcement Consultants Recommendations

**a. NMFS Report – Melissa Hooper [[mp3: 11-17-15am3@ 0:18:04](#)] & [[mp3: 11-17-15pm1@ 0:04:23](#)]**

Agenda Item I.5.a, NMFS Report: NMFS Report and Recommendations on the Whiting Electronic Monitoring Final Alternative and Regulations

[Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#): Supplemental NMFS Report on the Whiting Electronic Monitoring Final Alternative and Regulations

[Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#): Supplemental NMFS Report on the Whiting Electronic Monitoring (EM) Final Alternative and Regulations (updated information)

[Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 4](#): Updated Cost Estimates

[Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): Whiting Electronic Monitoring Program; Hooper (*Electronic Only*)

**b. Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities [[mp3: 11-17-15pm1@ 0:29:33](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.5.b, Supplemental GEMPAC Report](#)

[Agenda Item I.5.b, Supplemental GMT Report](#)

[Agenda Item I.5.b, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item I.5.b, Supplemental EC Report](#)

**c. Public Comment [[mp3: 11-17-15pm1@ 1:14:22](#)]**

Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative

Sarah McTee, Environmental Defense Fund; Kate Kauer, The Nature Conservancy, and Lisa Damrosch.

Howard McElderry, Archipelago Marine Research Ltd.



**d. Council Action: Confirm or Revise Adopted Council Final Preferred Alternative for Whiting Fishery Electronic Monitoring and Deem Regulations for Implementing Council Final Action [[mp3: 11-17-15pm1](#) @ 1:37:37]**

**Motion:** Council revise the Final Preferred Alternative by making the following changes (referring to Table 2-1 of page 16 of [Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 1](#)).

- Alternative 2 to 3: Logbooks to estimate discards for the use in electronic monitoring for audit. Audit initially be 100 percent, with the ability to modify the percentage based on performance in consultation with the Council.
- Under discard accounting: for Mothership, change to Option A
- Remove the options for discard species adjustment (Option B)
- Under video/data processing: remove the footnote under Option D

Dorothy Lowman/Michele Culver

**Amendment 1:** with regards to moving from alternative 2 to 3; use a Federal discard logbook. Marci Yaremko/David Crabbe (Amendment 1 was withdrawn with consent of the second, after substitute amendment was withdrawn).

**Amendment 2 (as a substitute to Amendment 1):** with regards to moving from alternative 2 to 3; use a Federal logbook for landings and discards.

Dan Wolford/Buzz Brizendine (Amendment 2 was withdrawn with consent of the second). (Motion as originally stated carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Include in the Final Preferred Alternative, that copies of the discard logbook and state logbook would be required to be submitted to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and postmarked within 24 hours of landing.

Phil Anderson/Michele Culver (motion carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council made the following changes to the final preferred alternative for electronic monitoring for the whiting fishery as described in Table 2-1 of [Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 1](#):

- The Council's preferred alternative is now Alternative 3. Rather than Alternative 2, which requires video recording as the data source to replace data collected by human observers, logbooks would be required, with video recordings used to audit the accuracy of logbooks; the Council adopted 100 percent auditing to be required until changed.
- The Council confirmed their preferred option that a third party provider would conduct video reviews and that the industry would be responsible for paying for the review. The payment responsibility provision is a change from the prior policy that directed NMFS (or their agent) to conduct and pay for video reviews until a third party provider certification process was established in regulation.
- The Council removed the Discard Species List Adjustment option because the whiting fishery will be a maximized retention fishery whereby no discard would be allowed. This negates the need for an allowable discard species list and a Council mechanism to adjust the list in the future. Should this option be needed in the future, the Council will revisit the issue,
- The Council also required that discard logbooks and state logbooks be postmarked and submitted to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission within 24 hours of landing.

- Under discard accounting for the mothership fishery, the Council revised their preferred Discard Accounting from Option D (Deduct "unintentional minor" Discards Preseason) to Option A (Estimate Discard with EM and Count against IFQ).
- No regulations were finalized via the deeming process at this Council meeting.

During the Workload and Future Meeting Planning agenda item, the Council scheduled final deeming of detailed Code of Federal Regulations- (CFR) style whiting fishery regulations for the April 2016 Council meeting. The Council also adjusted the schedule for reaching finality on fixed gear electronic monitoring (EM) regulations and bottom trawl EM regulations by (1) scheduling an EFP results update for the March 2016 Council meeting to cover both remaining sectors, (2) scheduling deeming of CFR-style fixed gear regulations for the April 2016 Council meeting, and (3) scheduling the next consideration of bottom trawl EM regulations for the November 2016 Council meeting.

**6. [Blackgill-Slope Complex Final Reallocation and Accumulation Limits](#) – John DeVore [[mp3: 11-17-15pm2@ 0:00:09](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.6, Attachment 1](#): 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 on Advisory Body and Management Entities [[mp3: 11-17-15pm2@ 0:06:03](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): Blackgill-Slope Complex Final Reallocation and Accumulation Limits

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

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

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

**b. Public Comment [[mp3: 11-17-15pm2@ 0:34:46](#)]**

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

Gerry Richter

Lisa Damrosch, Half Moon Bay Groundfish Marketing

**c. Council Action: Adopt a Final Preferred Intersector Allocation Alternative for Blackgill-Slope Rockfish South of 40° 10' N. latitude and Consider Recommending Accumulation Limit Adjustments [[mp3: 11-18-15am1@ 0:03:26](#)]**

**Motion:** Council to adopt Alternative 1 as the Final Preferred Alternative for Blackgill rockfish and slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. latitude.

Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried; Mr. Wolford, Mr. Feldner, Mr. Crabbe, Ms. Sommer, and Mr. Lincoln voted no; Mr. Lockhart abstained.)

**Staff Summary:** The Council took final action to remove blackgill rockfish from the Slope Rockfish complex south of 40° 10' N. latitude and reallocate blackgill rockfish and the remaining species in the southern Slope Rockfish complex to trawl and non-trawl sectors according to the sharing described in [Agenda Item I.6, Attachment 1](#), Alternative 1. No change was made to accumulation limits for these species. Implementation of this initiative is tentatively scheduled for January 1, 2018.

7. [Stock Assessment Prioritization for the 2019-20 Management Cycle](#) – John DeVore  
[mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 0:00:01]

[Agenda Item I.7.a, Attachment 1](#): Stock Assessment Prioritization for West Coast Groundfish

a. **NFMS Report** – Rick Methot [mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 0:07:42]

[Agenda Item I.7.a, Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint](#): Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments – Implementing the Process for PFMC Groundfish Stocks; Rick Methot (*Electronic Only*)

b. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 0:24:05]

[Agenda Item I.7.b, Supplemental SSC Report](#)

[Agenda Item I.7.b, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item I.7.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report](#)

c. **Public Comment**

None

d. **Council Action: Consider NMFS Proposed Stock Assessment Prioritization Process and Adopt a Groundfish Stock Assessment Planning Process** [mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 0:29:19]

**Motion:** Council to adopt the stock assessment planning process as presented by Dr. Methot with the understanding that NMFS will work with the Council to offset additional costs that may accrue to the Council as a result of our willingness to use this process.

Phil Anderson/Rich Lincoln

**Amendment 1:** Specify that we are talking about the stock assessment planning process for groundfish only.

Marci Yaremko/David Crabbe (Amendment 1 carried unanimously).

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted a new stock assessment prioritization planning process to inform decisions on groundfish stock assessments to be conducted in 2017 to inform management decisions for fisheries in 2019 and beyond. The Council is scheduled to use this new process when deciding groundfish stock assessment priorities for 2017 assessments at the April and June meetings next year.

8. [Consideration of Inseason Adjustments](#) – Kelly Ames [mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 1:08:51]

a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities**

[Agenda Item I.8.a, Supplemental NMFS Letter](#): NOAA is implementing the inseason actions recommended at September 2015 meeting, with one modification to one of the measures

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

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

b. **Public Comment** [mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 1:24:12]

Kevin Dunn, Oregon Trawler

c. **Council Action: Adopt Recommendations for Adjustments to 2015 and 2016 Groundfish Fisheries** [[mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 1:25:06](#)]

**Motion:** Council approve for 2015-2016 inseason adjustments (Agenda Item I.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report):

- Big skate trip limits for 2016: Alternative B, Table 3.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln

Motion carried unanimously

**Staff Summary:** The Council considered the progress to date of the shorebased individual fishing quota program and recommended big skate trip limits for 2016 as 5,000 pounds/2 months for Period 1, 25,000 pounds/2 months for Period 2, 30,000 pounds/2 months for Period 3, 35,000 pounds/2 months for Period 4, 10,000 pounds/2 months for Period 5, and 5,000 pounds/2 months for Period 6.

9. **Biennial Management Measures for 2017-18** – Kelly Ames [[mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 1:28:37](#)]

[Agenda Item I.9, Attachment 1](#): Range of Alternatives for Managing West Coast Skate Species

[Agenda Item I.9, Attachment 2](#): Recent Year Allocations Relevant to Deciding a Range of 2017-2018 Allocations

- a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-18-15am2@ 1:42:01](#)]; [[mp3: 11-18-15pm1@ 0:00:08](#)]; [[mp3: 11-18-15pm2@ 0:00:07](#)]; & [[mp3: 11-18-15pm3@ 0:00:27](#)]

[Agenda Item I.9.a, GMT Report](#): Groundfish Management Team Report on Management Measures for the 2017-2018 Biennial Harvest Specifications

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#): GMT Report on Ecosystem Component Species Designations and Stock Complexes

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3](#): GMT Report 3 on Biennial Management Measures for 2017-2018

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental REVISED GMT Report 4](#): GMT Report 4 on Biennial Management Measures for 2017-2018

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 5](#): Agenda Item I.9, Action Item Checklist

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental GAP Report](#)

[Agenda Item I.9.a, WDFW Report](#): Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Biennial Management Measures for 2017-2018

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): Management Measures for the 2017-2018 Biennial Harvest Specifications

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental Tribal Report](#): Letter to Will Stelle dated November 10, 2015, regarding Makah Treaty Groundfish Fisheries in 2017-2018

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 2](#): Preliminary 2017-2018 Tribal Management Measures

[Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental CDFW Report](#): CDFW to Host Public Meetings Regarding Groundfish Management for 2017-2018

**b. Public Comment [[mp3: 11-18-15pm2@ 0:22:13](#)]**

Bill James, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association \*Did not testify \*

Gerry Richter (for Bob Ingles) Golden Gate Fisherman's Association

Jeff Lackey, F/V Seeker & F/V Miss Sue

Kevin Dunn, Oregon Trawl Fisherman

Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors Association

Dale Myer, Artic Storm Management Group

Robert Smith

Mike Storey, F/V Pegasus

Dan Waldeck/Pete Leipzig Spoke

Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative - [Agenda Item I.9.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)

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

[Agenda Item I.9.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

**c. Council Action: Adopt any Remaining Harvest Specifications, Preliminary Two-Year Allocations, and Management Measures for More Detailed Analysis [[mp3: 11-18-15pm2@ 1:25:27](#)] & [[mp3: 11-18-15pm3@ 0:01:12](#)]**

**Motion:** Council adopt status quo set-asides except for the new request for 200 mt of widow as reflected in Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental Tribal Report and the preliminary 2017-2018 treaty tribal management measures shown in Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 2 for analysis.

David Sones/Phil Anderson (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt the following:

- For blackgill rockfish south of 40° 10' N. latitude, adopt 2017-2018 ACLs identified in Agenda Item I.4, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2 (120.2 mt and 123.0 mt, respectively) and resulting slope rockfish complex annual catch limits (ACLs) with blackgill removed.
- Adopt the following for #1-9, 11-13, 16 as follows in Supplemental GMT Report 5. If no change is mentioned, apply status quo.
  - #1 - Big skate – alternative 1; option 1 and option 2 for management measures
  - #2 – Starry Flounder - manage within other flatfish complex
  - #4 - Off the top deductions -
    - i. research = adopt 2016 values except for canary = 7.2 mt, petrale = 17.7 mt; [Table 1, Supplemental GMT Report 3]
    - ii. incidental open access (OA) = adopt 2016 values except adopt maximum catch approach for darkblotched, Pacific ocean perch, and petrale sole [Table 3, Supplemental GMT Report 3]
  - #5 - ACTs
    - i. cowcod = 4 mt annual catch target (research catches come off annual catch limit) *status quo*;
    - ii. CA scorpionfish = 111 mt for 2017/2018
  - #7 - Allocations (trawl/non trawl)
    - i. OFS: use Sept 2015 scorecard as the starting point, in addition add GAP recommendations for bocaccio and canary rockfish; add GMT option

- for canary rockfish based on 1990-1999 (Table 4, Supplemental GMT Report 3)
  - ii. Big Skate: Alternative 1 (95:5)
- #8 - Whiting At-Sea Set-asides: Adopt values in Table 8 (Supplemental GMT Report 3)
- #9 - Non-Trawl harvest guideline
  - i. MNSRF N - in addition to status quo add (1) an alternative which is based on species contributions based on state boundaries in stock assessments, for those stocks with no stock assessment boundaries, divide equally among states; and (2) an alternative which is based on species contributions based on state boundaries in stock assessment, for those stocks with no stock assessment boundaries, divide based on status quo proportions
- #12 Non-nearshore Trip limits
  - i. Blackgill - to facilitate trip limit modeling, add 70 percent limited entry (LE) and 30 percent OA in addition to status quo
  - ii. Sablefish - to facilitate trip limit modeling, add 75 percent LE and 25 percent OA in addition to status quo
- #13/16 CA Nearshore and Recreational - include CDFW commercial nearshore and recreational management measures identified in September 2015.

Joanna Grebel/Michele Culver

**Amendment 1:** Include the sector-specific range of allocations expressed in Table 4 of Agenda Item I.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3.

Michele Culver/Joanna Grebel (Amendment 1 carried unanimously).

**Amendment 2:** Replace Alternative #1 with Alternative 2 for big skate; retain options 1 and 2 in the main motion.

Maggie Sommer/Jeff Feldner (Amendment 2 failed unanimously).

(Motion, as amended, carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt the following range of alternatives for the Washington recreational fishery for analysis:

- Recreational Groundfish Bag Limits and Sub-limits
  - Status quo: Aggregate bag limit of 12 groundfish which includes a sub-limit of 10 rockfish, 2 lingcod, and 2 cabezon in Marine Areas 1-3, and 1 cabezon in Marine Area 4.
  - Alt. 1: 8 rockfish with status quo lingcod and cabezon sub-limits
  - Alt. 2: 7 rockfish including up to 1 canary rockfish with status quo lingcod and cabezon sub-limits
- Recreational Season Dates
  - Status quo: Open recreational groundfish fishing year-round
  - Alt. 1: Open recreational groundfish in Marine Areas 1 – 4 (excluding Marine Area 4B) March 15 through October 15 (Note: Even though the groundfish fishery dates would be modified, the status quo lingcod season dates would remain in effect for each Marine Area.)

- Modify Recreational Deepwater Lingcod Closure
  - Status quo: Fishing for, retention of, or possession of lingcod is prohibited seaward of a line connecting the following coordinates: 47°31.70' N. lat., 124°45.00' W. long. (Queets River) to 47°38.17' N. lat., 124°30.00' W. long. to 47°38.17' N. lat., 124°21.00' W. long. to 46°28.00' N. lat., 124°21.00' W. long. Year-round except as allowed in Washington Marine Area 2 on days open to the primary Pacific halibut fishery.
  - Alt. 1: Consider revisions to the lingcod closure. WDFW intends to work with stakeholders over the winter to develop specific changes to the coordinates and will have a more detailed alternative specified and analyzed for April 2016.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt the following new management measures for further analysis for the 2017-2018 biennial specifications:

- Retention of flatfish species outside of the seasonal depth restriction in the Oregon recreational fishery, as described in Agenda Item I.9.a, GMT Report.
- In addition, we will be exploring removing the recreational kelp greenling length limit and routine management measures as described in Agenda Item I.9.a, GMT Report (November 2015).

Maggie Sommer/Jeff Feldner (motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt the “At-Sea Trawl Buyback Movement” proposal in Agenda Item I.9.a, GMT Report, November 2015, for further analysis for the 2017-2018 biennial specifications.  
Maggie Sommer/Jeff Feldner

**Amendment 1:** Action be characterized as an interim approach and that the provision of this action would be subject to the five-year review of the Catch Sharing Plan, and that the analysis be limited to a five-year outlook.

Phil Anderson/Rich Lincoln (Amendment 1 carried unanimously).  
(Motion, as amended, carried; Ms. Grebel and Mr. Lockhart abstained).

**Staff Summary:** The Council took final action to reclassify the big skate designation in the Fishery Management Plan from an ecosystem component species to a species actively managed in the fishery beginning in 2017. Big skate would be managed using stock-specific harvest specifications with cumulative landing limits and a sorting requirement.

Further, the Council provided guidance to facilitate analysis of the integrated alternatives, which combines the ACL alternatives and adjustments to routine management measures. The Council also forwarded several new management measures for analysis. The Council set a clear priority for the routine matters necessary to achieve a January 1 start of the fishery, and that analysis of new management measures are second-tier priorities, with an overriding priority that the aggregate of routine and accomplishable new management measures achieve the target of a January 1, 2017 fishery start.



## C. Enforcement Issues

### 2. [Vessel Movement Monitoring Alternatives](#) – Brett Wiedoff [[mp3: 11-19-15am1@0:01:24](#)]

[Agenda Item C.2](#): Supplemental Staff Overview PowerPoint, Wiedoff; (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1](#): Vessel Movement Monitoring Public Scoping Document

[Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2](#): Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Case Study

#### a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-19-15am1@0:07:49](#)]

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

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

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

#### b. **Public Comment**

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

#### c. **Council Action: Consider Revising Purpose and Need Statements and Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Vessel Movement Monitoring Regulations in Council Area Commercial Fisheries** [[mp3: 11-19-15am1@0:37:07](#)]

**Motion:** Council adopt as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative measures in the Supplemental EC and GAP reports as captured in Agenda Item C.2.a; with the one modification provided by the EC that the open access non-groundfish trawl, identify alternative 1 for the pink shrimp, and for all other non-groundfish trawl alternatives 2, 3, and 4.

Gregg Casad/David Sones (Motion carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council discussed the following management measures as discussed in [Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1 - Vessel Movement Monitoring Public Scoping Document](#):

1. Monitoring Restricted Areas with Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)
2. Removal of Derelict Crab Pots from Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs)
3. Fishery Declaration Enhancements
4. Movement of Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Fishpot Gear Across Management Lines

The Council chose to remove for further consideration Management Measure 2, citing that the current state-managed derelict crab gear programs are adequate. The Council adopted the revised purposed and need statements and recommended preliminary preferred alternatives (PPAs) for Management Measures 1, 3, and 4 as presented in the [Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental Enforcement Consultants Report](#) and [Agenda Item C.2.a, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report](#) and are summarized as follows:

*Management Measure 1 PPAs:*

- For limited entry (LE) Groundfish, Open Access Non-Groundfish, LE Fixed Gear, Open Access Fixed Gear (non-IFQ), Open Access Non-Groundfish Trawl (except pink shrimp trawl):
  - Alternative 2 (Increase ping rate to 4 times per hour);



- Alternative 3 (Maintain ping rate one per hour with Electronic Monitoring System on vessel); and
- Alternative 4 (Allow use of enhanced VMS units (non-type approved).
- For pink shrimp trawl fishery: Alternative 1 (status quo of one ping per hour).
- For LE midwater trawl whiting: Alternative 1 (status quo of one ping per hour)
- For albacore vessels larger than 24 meters: Alternative 1 (status quo of one ping per hour).
- For drift gillnet fishery: Alternative 2 (Increase ping rate to 4 times per hour with a continuous transit requirement), but to conduct additional analysis of Alternatives 3 and 4.

*Management Measure 3 PPAs:*

During Gear Testing:

- Alternative 3 (Set up formal exemption process to allow only Shorebased IFQ vessels to be exempt from observer coverage for a trip that tests gear. The trip could be during an open or closed season.)
- The Council created a new Alternative 4, (containing the same provisions as Alternative 3 but for groundfish trawl vessels instead of shorebased IFQ vessels).

Whiting Fishery Declaration: Alternative 2 (allow midwater trawl vessels to change their whiting fishery declaration while at sea).

*Management Measure 4 PPAs:*

- Alternative 2 (allow IFQ fixed gear vessels to move pot gear from one management area to another management area during a single trip, then deploy the gear baited); and
- Alternative 3 (same as Alternative 2 but gear must be deployed non-baited).

**J. Pacific Halibut Management**

1. [Final 2016 Catch Sharing Plan and Management Measures and Preliminary Sablefish Fishery Incidental Landing Regulations](#) – Kelly Ames [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#) @ 0:43:47]

[Agenda Item J.1, Attachment 1:](#) 2015 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A

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

- a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#) @ 0:48:18]

[Agenda Item J.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 J.1.a, Supplemental 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 J.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report:](#) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Informational Report on Recreational Pacific Halibut Catches in 2015

[Agenda Item J.1.a, NMFS Report 1:](#) Report on the 2015 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A

[Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2:](#) NMFS Recommended changes to Federal regulations and 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A

[Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3:](#) Automatic Action Alternatives for Closure of Incidental Halibut Retention in the Sablefish Primary Fishery

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

**b. Public Comment**

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

- c. **Council Action: Adopt Final Changes to the 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishing Regulations; Select Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Sablefish Fishery Incidental Landing Regulations [[mp3: 11-19-15am1@1:05:12](#)]**

**Motion:** Council adopt the following proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2016, which are described in detail and accompanied by proposed Catch Sharing Plan language in Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report:

- For the Columbia River Subarea:
  - Status quo open 4 days per week (Thursday-Sunday)
- For the Oregon Central Coast Subarea
  - Status quo Central Oregon Coast Subarea season structure:
    - 12 percent of the Central Coast Subarea allocation for the nearshore season, 63 percent for the spring all-depth season, and 25 percent for the summer all-depth season.
  - Revise the Central Oregon Coast Subarea nearshore season opening date to June 1, with the season running 7 days per week until October 31, or the allocation is attained.
- For the Southern Oregon Subarea:
  - Allow retention of other species of flatfish, Pacific cod, and sablefish when halibut fishing in the Southern Oregon Subarea.

Maggie Sommers/Jeff Feldner (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt the following proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2016, as described in detail and accompanied by proposed Catch Sharing Plan language in Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report:

- For the Washington North Coast Subarea
  - Revise the season opening date in the north coast subarea to be the first Saturday in May. The season structure would maintain the Thursday and Saturday opening during the second week in May and the management closure already in place during the third week in May.
- For the Washington South Coast Subarea
  - Maintain the status quo South Coast subarea season structure
- For the Columbia River Area
  - Maintain the status quo Columbia River subarea season structure

Corey Niles/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council adopt the changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and codified regulations as described in Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Reports 2, select Alternative 2 from Supplemental NMFS report 3, as the Council Preliminary Preferred Alternative for modifying groundfish automatic action regulations and allow NMFS on this preliminary preferred

alternative the flexibility to propose the automatic action changes to Groundfish regulations through whatever regulatory vehicle NMFS deems most appropriate.  
Frank Lockhart/Corey Niles (Motion carried unanimously).

**Motion:** Council apply the status quo management approach used in 2015 for California management in 2016.

Marci Yaremko/Dan Wolford (Motion carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** The Council took final action on the 2016 CSP and regulations including the following: In Washington, the status quo measures will remain except that the season opening date in the north coast subarea will be the first Saturday in May ([Agenda Item J.1.a, WDFW Report, November 2015](#)). The season structure would maintain the Thursday and Saturday openings during the second week in May and the management closure already in place during the third week in May. In Oregon, status quo measures will continue except that the Central Oregon Coast Subarea nearshore season opening date will be June 1, with the season running 7 days per week until October 31, or until the allocation is attained ([Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report, November 2015](#)). Further, retention of other species of flatfish, Pacific cod, and sablefish when halibut fishing in the Southern Oregon Subarea will be allowed. In California, the same approach used in 2015 to establish the recreational season structure and inseason management processes will be used in 2016 as described in [Agenda Item I.1.a, CDFW Report, September 2015](#). The Council also recommended minor corrections for the CSP and codified regulations proposed by NMFS ([Agenda Item J.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#)).

Additionally, the Council selected a preliminary preferred alternative which would provide NMFS the automatic action authority to prohibit retention of halibut in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington. The automatic action would occur upon posting of the notice by the International Pacific Halibut Commission on its website that the halibut quota for this fishery has been reached. Closures will also be announced on the NMFS halibut hotline. The Council is scheduled to take final action on this measure at the March 2016 Council meeting.

## **F. Administrative Matters (Continued)**

### **3. [Approval of Council Meeting Record](#) – Dorothy Lowman [[mp3: 11-19-15am1@1:19:50](#)]**

[Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1](#): Draft Council Meeting Record: 231st Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (September 11-16, 2015)

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

**Motion:** Council approve the September 11-16, 2015 meeting record as provide in [Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1](#)

Herb Pollard/Phil Anderson (Motion carried unanimously).

**Staff Summary:** None

4. [Fiscal Matters](#) – Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#)@ 1:21:47]
  - a. [Report of the Budget Committee](#) – Dave Ortmann [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#)@ 1:22:31]
  - b. [Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities](#) [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#)@ 1:30:21]

[Agenda Item F.4.b, Supplemental HMSAS Report](#)

- c. [Public Comment](#) [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#)@ 1:32:09]

Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors' Association

- d. [Council Action: Consider Budget Committee Recommendation](#) [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#)@ 1:33:29]

**Motion:** Council approve recommendations of the Budget Committee ([Agenda Item F.4.a, Supplemental Budget Committee Report](#)).

Dave Ortmann/Herb Pollard

**Amendment 1:** Council join with the other Councils within the Council Coordinating Committee in the hiring of a legislative communication coordinator with the understanding that our participation is subject to a review of the merits of the position after a two-year period.

Phil Anderson/Dave Hanson (Amendment 1 carried, Mr. Lockhart abstained).

(Motion, as amended, carried; Mr. Lockhart abstained).

**Staff Summary:** The Council approved a Provisional CY 2016 Operating Budget of \$4,767,288, and tasked the Executive Director with pursuing additional funding for six special projects not funded by routine funding.

5. [Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures](#)– Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#)@ 1:48:07]

- a. [Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities](#)

None

- b. [Public Comment](#)

None

- c. [Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; and Adopt Council Operating Procedures](#) [[mp3: 11-19-15am1](#)@ 1:52:23]

**Motion:** Council appoint the following to the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel:

California Commercial (3):	Mr. Richie Ashley
	Mr. David Haworth
	Mr. Nick Jurlin
Oregon Commercial:	Mr. Ryan Kapp
Washington Commercial:	Mr. Robert Zuanich
California Processor:	Ms. Diane Pleschner-Steele
Oregon Processor:	Mr. Mike Okoniewski
Washington Processor:	Mr. Albert Carter

California Sport/Charter: Mr. Steve Crooke  
Conservation: Ms. Gillian Lyons  
David Crabbe/Dan Wolford (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council appoint the following to the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel:

California At-Large (3): Dr. Pete Adams  
Ms. Kathy Fosmark  
vacant  
Oregon At-Large (3): Mr. Ben Enticknap  
Mr. Frank Warrens  
Mr. Scott McMullen  
Washington At-Large (3): Mr. Paul Dye  
Dr. Terrie Klinger  
Mr. Nate Stone

Frank Lockhart/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council appoint the following to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel:

Fixed Gear At-Large (3): Mr. Bob Alverson  
Ms. Michele Longo-Eder  
Mr. Gerry Richter  
Bottom Trawl: Mr. Travis Hunter  
Midwater Trawl: Mr. Jeff Lackey  
At-Large Trawl: Mr. Kevin Dunn  
Mr. Brent Paine  
Open Access South of Cape Mendocino: Mr. Daniel Platt  
Open Access North of Cape Mendocino: Mr. Jeffrey Miles  
Processors At-Large (2) Ms. Susan Chambers  
Mr. Tom Libby  
At-Sea Processor Mr. Dan Waldeck  
California Charter South of Point Conception: Mr. Louis Zimm  
California Charter North of Point Conception: Mr. Bob Ingles  
Oregon Charter: Mr. Tyler Turner  
Washington Charter: Mr. Robert Mirante  
Sport Fishery At-Large (3) Mr. John Holloway  
Mr. Kevin Lanier  
Mr. Tom Marking  
Conservation: Mr. Shems Jud  
Tribal Fisher: Mr. Steve Joner

Herb Pollard/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council appoint the following to the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel:

Commercial Troll: Mr. Wayne Heikkila  
Commercial Purse Seine: Mr. August Felando  
Commercial Gillnet: Mr. Arthur Lorton  
Commercial Fisheries At-Large (3) Mr. Douglas Fricke  
Mr. William Sutton

Processor South of Cape Mendocino:	Mr. Gary Burke
Processor North of Cape Mendocino:	Mr. Dave Rudie
California Charter Boat:	Mr. A. Pierre Marchand
Washington/Oregon Charter Boat:	Mr. Mike Thompson
Private Sport:	Ms. Linda Buell
Conservation:	Mr. Bob Osborne
Public At-Large:	Mr. Chuck Farwell
	Ms. Pamela Tom

Buzz Brizendine/David Crabbe (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council appoint the following to the Salmon Advisory Subpanel:

California Troll:	Mr. Dave Bitts
Oregon Troll:	Mr. Paul Heikkila
Washington Troll:	Mr. Jim Olson
Commercial Gillnet Fishery:	Mr. Greg Johnson
Processor:	Mr. Gerald Reinholdt
California Charter Boat:	Mr. John Atkinson
Oregon Charter Boat:	Mr. Mike Sorenson
Washington Charter Boat:	Mr. Butch Smith
California Sport Fisher:	Mr. Marc Gorelnik
Oregon Sport Fisher:	Mr. Richard Heap
Washington Sport Fisher:	Mr. Steve Watrous
Idaho Sport Fisher:	Dr. Richard Scully
Washington Tribal:	Mr. Calvin Frank
California Tribal:	Mr. George Kautsky
Conservation:	Mr. Jim Hie

Rich Lincoln/Corey Niles (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council to modify Council Operating Procedure 6 by increasing the number of Public At-Large seats from one to two on the Habitat Committee; and further appoint the following to the Habitat Committee:

Commercial Fishing Industry:	Mr. Joel Kawahara
Sport Fishing Industry:	Ms. Liz Hamilton
Conservation:	Mr. Douglas DeHart
California Tribal:	Mr. Dave Hillemeier
Public At-Large (2):	Mr. Fred Jurick
	Mr. Stephen Scheiblauber

Dave Ortmann/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council appoint the following to the Science and Statistical Committee:

At Large (7)	Dr. Evelyn Brown
	Dr. Michael Harte
	Dr. Dan Holland
	Dr. John Field
	Dr. Andre Punt
	Dr. William Satterthwaite

California Fish and Wildlife: Dr. Aaron Berger  
Mr. John Budrick  
Marci Yaremko/David Sones (Motion carried unanimously)

**Motion:** Council appoint Mr. Andre Klein to the California Fish and Wildlife Seat on the Groundfish Management Team.  
Marci Yaremko/Dan Wolford (Motion carried unanimously)

Ms. Lowman appointed the following to the Ad Hoc Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup:

California Fish and Wildlife (2):	Mr. Brett Kormos
	Mr. Jason Roberts
NMFS WCR (2):	Mr. Peter Dygert
	Mr. Jeromy Jording
NMFS SWFSC (2):	Dr. Michael O'Farrell
	Mr. Michael Mohr
NMFS NWFSC:	Dr. Eli Holmes
US Fish and Wildlife:	Mr. Jim Smith

Ms. Lowman appointed Mr. Dan Erickson to replace Ms. Maggie Sommer in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Seat on the Ad Hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee.

**Staff Summary:** None

**6. [Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning](#) – Don McIsaac [[mp3: 11-19-15am2@0:00:01](#)]**

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

[Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 2](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, March 8-14, 2016 in Sacramento, California

[Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 3](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, April 8-13, 2016 in Vancouver, Washington

[Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 4](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities

[Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 5](#): Staff Report On Issues Included In Trawl Trailing Action Gear Package

[Agenda Item F.6, Supplemental Attachment 6](#): Webinar Series on Ecosystem Indicators to be held in January-February 2016

[Agenda Item F.6, Supplemental Attachment 7](#): Joint NMFS/Council Staff Report on Potential Timeline for Electronic Monitoring Regulatory Amendment

[Agenda Item F.6, Supplemental Attachment 8](#): Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary

[Agenda Item F.6, Supplemental Attachment 9](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, March 8-14, 2016 in Sacramento, California as of 11/19/2015

[Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental Attachment 10](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, April 8-13, 2016 in Vancouver, Washington as of 11/19/2015

[Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental Attachment 11](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities

- a. **Reports and Comments on Advisory Body and Management Entities** [[mp3: 11-19-15am2@0:27:06](#)]

[Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Report](#): Western Regional Action Plan for Implementing the NMFS national Climate Science Strategy

[Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report](#)

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

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

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

- b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 11-19-15am2@1:42:52](#)]

Louis Zimm for John Holloway

Rod Moore for Tom Libby - [Agenda Item F.6.b, Supplemental Public Comment](#) (Astoria Trip)

Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans

Bill James, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association

- c. **Council Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning** [[mp3: 11-19-15am2@1:49:56](#)]

**Motion:** None

**Staff Summary:** The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for March 8-14, 2016 in Sacramento, California. A single-page draft proposed agenda summary is available on the Council website and a draft detailed proposed agenda will be available in early December.

## INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

[Informational Report 1](#): "Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs" — proposed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and distributed on October 1, 2015; AND "Draft Council Staff Comments on Draft Guidance for Conducting Reviews of Catch Share Programs"

[Informational Report 2](#): Letter from WDFW to NMFS regarding responsibilities of NMFS as it relates to Tribal Fisheries usual and accustomed fishing grounds and groundfish essential fish habitat

[Informational Report 3](#): Usual and Accustomed Fishing Areas Regulatory Update

[Informational Report 4](#): Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program Grant Awards by Region  
(NOAA Fisheries Report)

[Informational Report 5](#): Response letter from NMFS to PFMC regarding a request for information regarding the deep-set buoy gear exempted fishing permit that NMFS recently issued to the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research

[Informational Report 6](#): Operational Guidelines for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Fishery Management Process, September 30, 2015 (*Full Version Electronic Only*)

[Informational Report 7](#): Recommendations of the Permanent Advisory Committee to the United States Section to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission



[Supplemental Informational Report 8](#): 19th Western Groundfish Conference, Newport, Oregon  
February 8-12, 2016

[Supplemental Informational Report 9](#): Status Report of the 2015 Ocean Salmon Fisheries off  
Washington, Oregon, and California

**ADJOURN**

The Council meeting adjourned on November 19, 2015 at 2:11 p.m.



March 14, 2016

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Dorothy Lowman  
Council Chair

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Date