

OREGON MID-WATER SPORT FISHERY REGULATIONS FINAL ACTION

The Council is considering regulations for a longleader recreational gear in Oregon intended to provide increased access to healthy pelagic groundfish while minimizing overfished species bycatch. In recent years, exempted fishing permits (EFPs) have been recommended by the Council and issued by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to explore the feasibility and performance of such gear. In June 2013, the Council requested that NMFS prepare an analysis of alternatives for Oregon and California based on the Oregon Recreational Fishing Alliance EFP ([Agenda Item F.3.c, Holloway Proposal, June 2013](#)).

At the September 2015 Council meeting, NMFS prepared a discussion paper that summarized key issues and requested clarifications on matters that emerged in NMFS' drafting of the preliminary analysis ([Agenda Item H.1.a, NMFS Report, September 2015](#)). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) also provided an analysis of the viability of a longleader fishery off of Oregon, based on the results of the 2009 and 2011 EFPs ([Agenda Item H.1.a, ODFW Report, September 2015](#)). The Council adopted a draft purpose and need statement and directed that it be updated for further consideration at the March 2016 Council meeting. The Council also adopted a range of alternatives for developing mid-water recreational fishing regulations for Oregon only. The mid-water gear would be allowed for both charter and private vessels seaward of the 40 fathom seasonal depth closure and monitored with the existing sampling programs. The season dates forwarded for analysis included a) April-September, b) July-September, and c) August. The gear configuration would be as described in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report ([Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental GAP Report, September 2015](#)), including no more than three hooks, at least a 30-foot leader, and a non-compressible float required above the hooks. Further, lingcod retention would be prohibited.

NMFS has provided a draft Environmental Assessment for Council consideration (Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 1, March 2016). The Council should review the Environmental Assessments, adopt a revised purpose and need statement, and select a final preferred alternative.

Council Task:

- 1. Adopt a final purpose and need statement.**
- 2. Select final preferred alternative for a mid-water recreational fishery in Oregon.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.5, Attachment 1: Authorization of an Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery for Mid-water Species, Draft Environmental Assessment.

Agenda Order:

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| G.5 | Mid-Water Recreational Fishing Regulations | Kelly Ames |
| | a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities | |
| | b. Public Comment | |
| | c. Council Action: Adopt Final Regulations for Mid-Water Sport Fishery in Oregon | |