

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

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the proposed schedules and other materials under this agenda item, and provides the following comments. The GMT appreciates the Council's support for our recommendations on priorities provided under the future meeting agenda item in March ([Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)), which allowed us to focus on priority issues such as harvest specifications and management measures at this meeting.

June 2016 Council Meeting

The draft June Council meeting agenda in the advanced briefing book ([Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 2](#)) has eight groundfish items and two non-groundfish items that the GMT might be expected to comment on. Several agenda items will be very complex and workload intensive (biennial harvest specifications and management measures, trawl rationalization program 5-year review), and will likely require a great deal of work prior to, and, at the June meeting. Table 1 shows information on the GMT's estimate, likely conservative based on our April experience, of the amount of time each potential agenda item might require (overview, discussion, writing, and analysis). This table does not include any time for GMT members to be on the council floor, or seeing to their other (state/Federal) duties. The total estimated hours of GMT time is 61, which equates to 7.5 8-hour days, again not including any time other than GMT overview, discussion, writing, and analysis time. There are approximately six hours of overview that the GMT has identified could potentially be done via a pre-meeting webinar, in addition to the amount of time we anticipate in person at the meeting. However, even with a pre-meeting webinar, work on those items will need to be done in person at the meeting.

As in March, we attempted to develop a priority order for the GMT's time and efforts. We are currently unsure on what the "5-year catch share program review" agenda item will entail, or the expectations on input from the GMT. Therefore, its priority order and hours of workload may need to be adjusted.

GMT's April priority for June Agenda Items

1. Adopt final 2017-2018 management measures
 2. Omnibus workload planning
 3. Inseason
 4. Adopt final stock assessment plans and Terms of Reference
 5. Gear change regulations for management lines Final Preferred Alternative
 6. 5-year catch share program review
- Will discuss and comment as time allows:
7. Exempted Fishing Permit final approval
 8. Sablefish ecosystem indicators assessment
 9. National Marine Fisheries Service report
 10. Future meeting planning

Table 1. GMT’s estimate of hours for overview, discussion, and writing and analysis time for groundfish and groundfish related agenda items at the June Council meeting.

Agenda Item #	Agenda Item Description	Day/ Time on Council Floor	Council Floor time (hrs)	Potential Webinar Discussion Time (hrs)	GMT Meeting Discussion Time (hrs)	Projected Writing/ Analysis Time (hrs)	Total GMT Time (hrs)
D.1.	Halibut scoping CSP allocation changes	Thur: 15:00	2				0
E.1.	NMFS Report	Fri; 0800	1		1	1	2
E.2.	Adopt final stock assessment plans and TOR	Fri; 0900	2		2	2	4
E.3.	Gear Change Regulations for Management Lines FPA	Fri; 1100	1		2	4	6
G.1.	Sablefish ecosystem indicators assessment	Fri; 1500	2	2	2	2	6
E.4.	EFP final approval	Sat; 0800	1		1	2	3
E.5.	Adopt final 2017-2018 MM	Sat: 0900	5		6	12	18
E.6.	5-year catch share program review	Sun; 0800	3.5	2	2	6	10
E.7.	Inseason	Mon; 1100	2		3	2	5
E.8.	Omnibus workload planning	Tues; 08:00	2	2	2	5	9
I.6.	Future meeting planning	Tues; 1100	2		2	2	4
Total	11		23.5	6	23	38	61

The EFP agenda item would normally be higher on the priority list; however, the two EFPs that have been forwarded may not require further input from the GMT. For one, this is the third renewal of this particular EFP, and we have commented on it in previous cycles. The outstanding issues that the GMT might be expected to comment on are the observer coverage rate and the expansion south. For the other, all take will be covered under individual fishing quota pounds held by the applicants, therefore no set-asides are requested.

Year at a Glance

The GMT has the following thoughts on the preliminary year at a glance summary ([Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1](#)). There are currently no groundfish items scheduled for March of 2017. While we appreciate the effort to give the GMT a “meeting off” and are aware of cost savings of not having the GMT at one meeting, skipping March in 2015 did not work from the GMT’s perspective. There was no proportional reduction in groundfish, or groundfish related, agenda items, or the expected output from the GMT, it was just compressed into four meetings instead of five (Table 2). In 2014, with five meetings, there were 36 groundfish agenda items over the course of the year. The GMT submitted 41 statements during those 37 meeting days. In 2015,

with the no groundfish on the March agenda, there were 38 groundfish agenda items over the course of the year; in other words, two more than covered in 2014 with one less meeting. The GMT submitted 50 statements, nine more than in 2014, over the course of 33 meeting days, 4 less than in 2014.

Table 2. Comparison of the number Council meetings with groundfish agenda items, total yearly groundfish agenda items, number of GMT statements, and approximated days of GMT meetings, by year 2013 through 2015.

	2013	2014	2015
Council meetings with groundfish	5	5	4
Groundfish agenda Items	41	36	38
GMT statements a/	58	41	50
Days of GMT meetings	35	37	33

a/ includes some non-groundfish items such as Ecosystem, Administrative, VMM, etc.

As in March of 2015, there are currently two ecosystem agenda items scheduled for March 2017 that the GMT may be expected to provide comment on. In order to have GMT discussions where recommendations are developed, a publicly noticed meeting or webinar is required if we do not attend in the March meeting in person. However, in our opinion, these webinars are not as effective as in-person meetings, as conversations can be somewhat stifled and then result in having to find time during the Council meeting not previously scheduled for further discussion.

Additionally, the Groundfish Workload Priorities list ([Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 3](#)) currently contains 30 unscheduled projects that were initially identified under the omnibus process. This does not include anything that is added through the Omnibus agenda item in June. The GMT would like to remind the Council that some of these items have the potential to be quite workload intensive.

PFMC
04/14/16