



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 30, 2016  
TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons  
FROM: Mike Burner, Staff Officer  
SUBJECT: April Council Meeting

In conjunction with the April Council meeting, the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), Salmon Technical Team (STT), and Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will meet on Friday, April 8, 2016 with the STT and SAS beginning at 8 a.m. and the MEW beginning at 10 a.m. The meetings will be held in Heritage D, Heritage C, and Heritage E Rooms, respectively, of the Hilton Vancouver Hotel, Vancouver, Washington.

The Council will start the salmon agenda on Saturday afternoon (April 9) and continue through Wednesday morning (April 13). Incidental catch of Pacific halibut in the troll fishery will be finalized on Tuesday (April 12), and habitat issues will be covered Sunday, April 10.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be adopting final management measure recommendations for 2016 ocean fisheries (Agenda Items E.1, E.3, and E.4). The STT will join the SAS meeting Friday morning and respond to technical questions regarding the 2016 fishery alternatives as presented in Preseason Report II. The SAS should have its preliminary management measures completed in time to allow editing, collation, and copying in the Council Secretariat. We would like your final input as soon as possible, but no later than 9 a.m. Saturday morning. Please work with the Council staff to coordinate your efforts.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will report to the Council under Agenda Item E.2 on potential topics for methodology review Sunday afternoon. The SAS may wish to make recommendations to both the SSC and Council on reviews or revisions which should be initiated. The SSC will cover this issue with the STT at its meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 9. The SAS should consider sending a representative to the SSC meeting, if possible, to report back to the full SAS. The MEW will meet Friday morning to discuss potential methodology review topics, and will join the SSC meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday to report on their recommendations. Because several members of the MEW are also on the STT or SSC, the MEW meeting will need to be flexible to accommodate the needs of all.

The last salmon item on the Council agenda (Agenda Item E.5) is an initial scoping session on a proposed amendment to the salmon management cycle. In a letter to Mr. Bob Turner, NMFS Assistant Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, dated March 4, 2016, the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission is recommending consideration of annual season-setting schedule adjustments that would include a delay of the April Council meeting and a delay in the start of the

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regulatory year. At the March Council meeting, the Council decided to move forward with an initial scoping session at the upcoming April Council meeting.

The Council will receive an update on current habitat issues on Sunday morning. The Habitat Committee is meeting off-site in the Cowlitz Room of the Heathman Lodge (7801 NE Greenwood Drive, Vancouver, WA 98662), Friday at 9 a.m. and Saturday starting at 9:30 a.m. Jim Hie will provide a summary to the SAS.

Pacific halibut is on the Council's agenda for Tuesday, April 12. The SAS will need to recommend landing restrictions for the troll salmon fisheries to allow utilization of the incidental halibut harvest.

Additionally, there are several Administrative Matters of interest, but not all formally scheduled on your agendas. If the STT, SAS, or MEW would like to comment on one or more of these matters please let me know and we can allocate some discussion time on your agenda. Under Agenda Item C.1 the Council is scheduled to hear an update on the National Ocean Council's marine planning efforts, under Agenda Item C.2 the Council is scheduled to review and comment on the latest draft National Bycatch Reduction Strategy, under Agenda Item C.3 the Council is scheduled to discuss and provide guidance on the upcoming review of the west coast trawl catch share program, under Agenda Item C.4 the Council is scheduled to review the latest legislative issues including Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act reauthorization and drought legislation, and under Agenda Item C.5, the Council is scheduled to receive an update on an electronic technology plan for the West Coast. Mr. Steve Freese of the NMFS West Coast Region is scheduled to review the plan with a joint session of the STT and the SAS at 10 a.m. on Saturday April 9. Lastly, the Council will consider future Council Meeting agendas and adopt the June Council meeting agenda on Thursday, April 14 under Agenda Item C.7.

Please take some time and review your briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance in the Council's salmon management process.

MDB:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, C.5 and C.7 – Council Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Item D.1 and D.2 – Enforcement Issues
4. Agenda Item E.1 through E.5 – Salmon Management
5. Agenda Item G.1 – Habitat Issues
6. Agenda Items I.1 – Pacific Halibut Management
7. Proposed SSC Agenda
8. Proposed HC Agenda
9. Proposed EC Agenda
10. Proposed SAS Agenda
11. Proposed STT Agenda
12. Proposed MEW Agenda
13. Informational Reports
14. Hotel-related Information and Council Roster

PFMC  
03/21/16