

# Pacific Council News

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This newsletter reports mainly on decisions made at the June 2016 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting held in Tacoma, Washington. The Council recommends commercial & recreational fishery management measures for Federal waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. All Council recommendations are subject to approval by National Marine Fisheries Service. [Sign up for other notices here.](#) The Council has five public meetings a year. The public comment deadline for the September 2016 Council meeting is August 18; email [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov).

## CHUCK TRACY NAMED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Charles “Chuck” Tracy has been appointed as the new Executive Director for the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Dr. Don McIsaac, the former Executive Director, retired from the Council in April.

His appointment is effective immediately. He has been serving as the Acting Executive Director since Dr. McIsaac’s retirement; before that he served as Deputy Director for four years.

Mr. Tracy has a degree in biological oceanography from Humboldt State

University with additional graduate level work in estuarine ecology. He has been with the Council since 2001, following several years of service with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife focusing on interjurisdictional fisheries issues, including Columbia River sturgeon research and salmon management. Before becoming the Deputy Director, Mr. Tracy was the Staff Officer responsible for coordinating Council activity on salmon and halibut fishery management matters.

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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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## *Highly Migratory Species News*

### **COUNCIL MOVES TOWARD DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR AUTHORIZATION**

In June, the Council asked the Highly Migratory Species Management Team to develop a list of data gaps and research needs that can be used when the Council considers exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for deep-set buoy gear. (EFPs are issued by National Marine Fisheries Service and allow exemptions from some regulations in order to study the effectiveness, bycatch rate, or other aspects of an experimental fishing gear.)

The Council plans to review and adopt this list in September. To encourage submissions, EFP applications will be considered at any future Council meeting when a highly migratory species topic is scheduled. Applications must be received at least two weeks before the meeting. The Council also asked the Team to identify incentives for test deep-set buoy gear under an EFP, such as prioritized eligibility of EFP participants in a future deep-set buoy gear permit program. Information gathered through EFPs will help the Council to continue development of alternatives to authorize the fishery under the highly migratory species fishery management plan.

### **COUNCIL REAFFIRMS INTENT TO PERMIT CALIFORNIA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY**

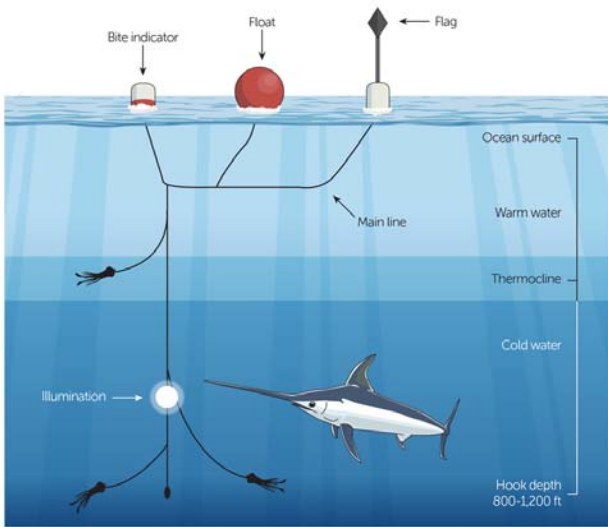
The Council reaffirmed its intent to create a Federal limited-access permit for the California large-mesh drift gillnet fishery, which would allow the Council to more directly manage the fishery, including regulating which vessels will be allowed to participate in the future. The Council plans to adopt a range of alternatives for a Federal limited entry permit in September. Under this action, only fishers authorized to fish with large-mesh drift gillnet gear under California state law would be entitled to a Federal permit endorsed for drift gillnet gear.

### **INTERNATIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSED**

In June, the Council adopted recommendations for domestic and international actions to end overfishing of the Eastern North Pacific swordfish stock. Currently, West Coast highly migratory species fisheries do not harvest this stock, which only occurs south of the U.S.-Mexican border, so the Council concluded there was no need for domestic regulations at this time. However, the Council recommended international measures to eliminate overfishing.

The Council also voiced support for the management strategy evaluation of North Pacific albacore being developed by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC). This includes the management objectives identified at a May ISC workshop, which will be reviewed by the ISC Plenary in July and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Northern Committee in September. These objectives will guide future development of the management strategy evaluation. Management strategy evaluation results will help in the future development of the Northern Committee's precautionary management framework for North Pacific albacore.

In regard to Pacific bluefin tuna, the Council recommended that the U.S. advance a Pacific-wide approach to rebuilding bluefin stocks, recognizing that more than 80 percent of the impacts on the spawning stock biomass comes from Western and Central Pacific ocean fisheries. The Council noted the need for the WCPFC and Northern Committee to adopt new conservation measures for adult bluefin tuna. This could be done through a time-and-area closure of known spawning areas. The Council also endorsed the proposed bluefin tuna management measures being presented to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission by the U.S.



Deep-set buoy gear.  
Photo: Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Council directed its highly migratory species advisory bodies to discuss domestic commercial fishery management measures for Pacific bluefin in 2017-2018. These could include trigger points, trip limit management, or other management measures to regulate catch in the 2017-2018 biennial period.

### EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT MOVES FORWARD

The Council received one exempted fishing permit application from Mr. David Stephens, a commercial fisherman and educator fishing out of San Diego. He proposes to test deep-set buoy gear, which is not currently authorized under the highly migratory species fishery management plan. In June, the Council considered his proposal and asked for some revisions. The Council will take final action in September on a recommendation to National Marine Fisheries Service about issuing the permit.

### BIENNIAL SPECIFICATIONS PROCESS BEGINS

In June, the Council took the first step on developing biennial specifications and management measures for highly migratory species for 2017-2018. Under the management cycle for highly migratory species, Council decision-making occurs at the June, September, and November Council meetings to establish management measures for two years beginning on April 1 of the following year.

The Council asked the Highly Migratory Species Management Team to clarify certain management thresholds in the fishery management plan, and to respond to requests by the Center for Biological Diversity regarding additional management measures for bluefin tuna. The Team is scheduled to provide its clarifications and other responses in September.

## Salmon and Halibut News

### SACRAMENTO WINTER CHINOOK HARVEST CONTROL RULE UPDATED

The Council is concerned with the current status of Sacramento River winter Chinook salmon, which NOAA has identified as one of eight species that are most at risk of extinction in the near future. In 2015 and 2016, because of extended drought and poor juvenile recruitment, the Council applied precautionary restrictions beyond those called for in their current harvest policy. Last November, the Council formed the Ad Hoc Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup, which met in March to explore an alternative harvest policy for this stock in the future. The Council and NMFS are striving to complete this effort for use by 2017.

Sacramento River winter Chinook are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act and are harvested incidentally in ocean fisheries, primarily off the central California coast. In

NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service.  
NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.  
WCPFC: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

2012, NMFS reviewed ocean fishery impacts to the stock and implemented a two-part consultation standard which restricts ocean fisheries and is designed to minimize risks to the stock from incidental fishery encounters; the first component is the season and size limit provisions for central California salmon fisheries. The second component is specified by a control rule that limits the maximum age-3 impact rate for the area south of Point Arena, California based on the geometric mean of the most recent three years of spawner escapement.

The Council has expressed concern that the control rule is unnecessarily restrictive and could allow for *de minimis* levels of fishing, rather than complete closures when abundance is low, without significantly increasing the risk of extinction. There are also concerns that the control rule's reliance on spawner escapement to determine allowable impacts is not sensitive enough to environmental and biological stressors such as the ongoing drought, El Niño events, and reduced juvenile survival.



The Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup held a webinar June 15 and provided a progress report at the June Council meeting. Co-chair Dr. Peter Dygert of NMFS reviewed Council recommendations on Sacramento River winter Chinook harvest policy, and the Council heard a report from California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on preliminary 2016 spawning ground survey results and ocean salmon fishery tag recoveries. The Council was encouraged by progress and anticipates further consideration of alternative control rules at its September meeting in Boise, Idaho. The Workgroup is scheduled to next meet August 16 -17, 2016 at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz, California.

Chinook salmon. Photo: NOAA.

## **HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN ALLOCATION CHANGES DISCUSSED**

In September, the Council will consider proposed changes for the 2017 Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishery regulations with only minor allocation changes among areas or gear groups. Final action for establishing the 2017 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for November.

Over the past few years, the Council has made changes to the Catch Sharing Plan in response to recent increased harvest of Pacific halibut and greater fishery interest off California than when the Plan was created.

The first change, in 2014, created a California recreational allocation of one percent by reducing the Oregon recreational allocation. In 2015, the California allocation was increased from one to four percent by implementing a one percent reduction for the Washington recreational (35.6 percent), Oregon recreational (29.7 percent), and commercial (30.7 percent) sectors.

The Council is currently scoping whether additional changes—greater than those that can be accomplished in a standard two-meeting process—to future Catch Sharing Plan allocations are necessary. As a first step, the Council plans to contact the International Pacific Halibut Commission about estimating the spatial distribution of the Pacific halibut exploitable biomass in Area 2A. Staff will report on this issue in September.

## Habitat and Ecosystem News

### OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND HYPOXIA DISCUSSED; NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO CLOSE

The Habitat Committee heard a presentation by Dr. Terrie Klinger, University of Washington, on the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel. The panel—a team of 20 scientists from California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia—recently summarized current knowledge on ocean acidification and hypoxia and identified management actions to address these problems. In April 2016 they released a final report that described their major findings and recommendations.

The main finding of the Panel is that ocean acidification and hypoxia will have profound ecological and economic consequences for the West Coast, and requires a concerted regional

focus. The West Coast is particularly vulnerable due to increasing dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> due to cold stormy ocean conditions, and changes in wind stress and upwelling, productivity, and terrestrial inputs of nutrients.

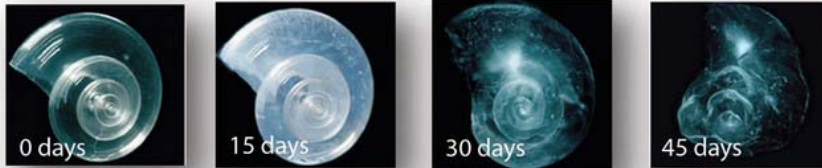
Other findings are that global carbon emissions are the dominant cause of ocean acidification and hypoxia; there are actions we can take to lessen exposure to ocean acidification; we can enhance the ability of ecosystems and organisms to cope with ocean acidification; accelerating ocean acidification science will expand the number of management options available; and inaction now will reduce options and impose higher costs later.

Research has demonstrated that ocean acidification causes biological effects across all critical life stages, but sensitivity to ocean acidification varies widely between species. Pteropods, a key salmon prey species, appear to be among the most sensitive species, and polychaetes and jelly fishes the least sensitive.

Fish are affected in at least three distinct ways: through physiochemical processes to freshwater, estuarine, pelagic, and seafloor habitats; through changes to prey resources; and through changes to physiology, sensory capabilities, and behavior that can affect growth and survival. While all three of these are relevant to essential fish habitat, the Council may have a greater ability to respond to changes in prey resources than to either physiochemical processes or changes to sensory systems and behavior, through management measures that affect important prey species such as krill, sardines, and juvenile rockfishes.

The Panel suggested that reducing other stressors could help organisms be more resilient to ocean acidification impacts. This includes reducing nutrient and temperature impacts, restoring and protecting eelgrass and kelp, and using essential fish habitat conservation areas and other marine protected areas as tools.

The Panel provided a roadmap of management options for addressing ocean acidification and hypoxia that concentrates on reducing exposure to these stressors and enhancing the ability of organisms to cope. These products were submitted to the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health and are being used by building on the Panel's work. The state of California has started using the recommendations in two ways: first, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project is starting to model nutrient inputs within the Southern California Bight to



Photos showing what happens to a pteropod's shell when placed in sea water with pH and carbonate levels projected for the year 2100. The shell slowly dissolves after 45 days. Source: NOAA/National Geographic.

address acidification and hypoxia; second, there is California legislation in the works to create a task force in California to work with and address the recommendations by the panel.

#### *Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant to Close*

On June 21, 2016 Pacific Gas & Electric announced the intention to close the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in 2025. The closure will result in the removal of the largest single point source of fish entrainment and impingement on the coast of California.

## *Groundfish News*

### **INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS**

The Council adopted landing limits for the open access sablefish daily trip limit fishery north of 36° N. latitude of 300 lbs. per day, or one landing per week up to 750 lbs., not to exceed 1,500 lbs. bimonthly, starting Period 5 (September 1) through the end of the year. The Council also adopted landing limits in California north of 40° 10' N. latitude for periods 5 and 6 for minor nearshore rockfish and black rockfish of 7,000 lbs/2 months, of which no more than 1,200 lbs may be species other than black rockfish.

The Council also recommended that NMFS monitor the progress of the at-sea whiting fishery, and, taking into account other relevant factors, make any Pacific ocean perch (POP) projected to remain uncaught in the research off the top deduction available to either at-sea sector that is projected to reach their POP allocation prior to attainment of their whiting allocation. As part of NMFS consideration of whether the full off the top amount of POP will be taken, the Council recommended that NMFS take into account current research catch rates in comparison to recent years' catches during the same time period, and recent years' total research catches of POP.



Jig lure.

### **COUNCIL CONSIDERS USING SET-ASIDES TO MANAGE DARKBLOTCHED, PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH IN WHITING FISHERY**

In April 2016, the Council opted to consider managing the bycatch of darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch in the at-sea whiting trawl fisheries by specifying annual set-asides or changing the formal allocations of these species to these sectors, which would require an amendment to the groundfish fishery management plan and a corresponding three-meeting process. Since this initiative was first introduced in April, the earliest a final decision can be made is September.

In June, the Council adopted a purpose and need statement for this action and narrowed the scope of action to manage the amounts of darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch allocated to the at-sea whiting sectors as yield set-asides rather than hard bycatch caps.

In June, the Council adopted one alternative to status quo for more detailed analysis (set-asides) and identified this alternative as its preliminary preferred alternative. In September, the Council is scheduled to select a final preferred alternative.

### **COUNCIL REVIEWS EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR GROUND FISH**

In June, the Council reviewed two revised exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications - one from the Nature Conservancy and one from the San Francisco Community Fishing Association. The Council approved (for recommendation to NMFS) the Nature Conservancy proposal to

EFP: Exempted fishing permit

POP: Pacific Ocean perch

NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service



Canary rockfish in a British Columbia fish market. Photo: Erin Altomare, Flickr Creative Commons.

ABC: Acceptable biological catch. A level recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. The ABC considers the uncertainty in estimating the overfishing limit and, for groundfish, is always less than that limit.

ACL: Annual catch limit. Accounts for all sources of fishing-related mortality, including research catches and discards. The ACL is based on conservation, socioeconomic, and ecological considerations, as well as risk.

EFP: Exempted fishing permit.

mt: metric ton

P\*: probability of overfishing. For example, a P\* of 0.5 means there is a 50% risk of overfishing. A P\* of 0.1 means a 10% risk of overfishing. This is a policy determination that reflects the preferred level of risk tolerance in setting an overall harvest level for a stock. The highest P\* allowed for groundfish is 0.45.

test pot gear for selective harvest of lingcod in the non-trawl rockfish conservation area off Washington and Oregon seaward of 75 fm, and approved the San Francisco Community Fishing Association proposal to renew a commercial jig fishing experiment in the rockfish conservation area off California.

The recommendations on the jig gear proposal included extending the southern boundary of the EFP area to Point Conception, the addition of three vessels to the original request, and a requirement for observer coverage on 30 percent of the trips combined with fishermen collecting and arranging for analysis of data on the other 70 percent of the trips.

While catch under the Nature Conservancy EFP would be covered with trawl individual fishing quota shares, the catch under the jig gear proposal was

covered by setting aside small amounts of fish from that available for the rest of the fisheries. The species and amounts of the set-asides for the jig fishing EFP were the same as that set aside for the same EFP in previous years except that amounts of chilipepper and bocaccio were increased to accommodate the additional area and vessels, for a total of 30 mt for chilipepper and 10 mt for bocaccio.

## 2017-2018 MANAGEMENT MEASURES FINALIZED

In June, the Council took final action on 2017-2018 harvest specification and management measures for groundfish, including adopting Amendment 27 to the groundfish fishery management plan.

*2017-2018 harvest specifications and default harvest control rules for groundfish stocks and stock complexes:*

The Council confirmed their April decisions for 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications for all stocks and stock complexes with the following changes:

- ... Darkblotched Rockfish: Specify the ACL to be equal to the ABC with a P\* of 0.45. The ACL values would be 641 metric tons (mt) for 2017 and 653 mt for 2018. Specify an additional 50 mt to the off-the-top deduction as an emergency buffer to mitigate unforeseen impacts that may occur in any sector. The remaining yield after the other off-the-top deductions are deducted from the ACL will be allocated to sectors as specified under the fishery management plan's Amendment 21 framework.
- ... Pacific Ocean Perch: Specify ACLs of 281 mt for 2017 and 2018, and adjust the ABCs consistent with a P\* of 0.45, as appropriate. Specify an additional 25 mt to the off-the-top deduction as an emergency buffer for unforeseen catch events that may occur in any sector. The remaining yield after the other off-the-top deductions are deducted from the ACL will be allocated to sectors as specified under the Amendment 21 framework.
- ... Canary Rockfish: Specify the ACL to be equal to the ABC with a P\* of 0.45. The ACL values would be 1,714 mt for 2017 and 1,526 mt for 2018. Establish a buffer of 188 mt in 2017 (there would be no buffer in 2018). The trawl allocation would be 72 percent

and the non-trawl allocation would be 28 percent of the fishery harvest guideline, as recommended in April.

*Management measures, including two-year allocations and adjustments to routine management measures:*

The Council confirmed their April decisions for 2017 and 2018 management measures as described [on the Council's webpage](#), except that the [Rockfish Conservation Area modifications](#) around Noon Day Rock and the Farallon Islands in California recommended by the Council's



Deacon rockfish, formerly known as blue rockfish. Photo: ODFW.

Enforcement Consultants were adopted, exempted fishing permit set-asides were increased for chilipepper (30 mt) and bocaccio (10 mt), open access trip limits for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude [were modified](#) based on a recommendation from the Groundfish Management Team, and [trip limits were increased](#) for shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish south of 40°10 N. latitude.

*New management measures beginning in 2017:*

The new recreational management measures include retention of flatfish at any depth during the seasonal depth closure in Oregon and retention of petrale sole and starry flounder during the seasonal depth closure in California. Additionally, the regulations provide a new inseason process outside of a Council meeting for California fisheries to take action based upon attainment or projected attainment of Federal harvest limits of black rockfish (commercial and recreational), canary rockfish (recreational), and yelloweye rockfish (recreational). The nine new overfished species hot spot closures in California were not adopted for implementation in 2017-2018.

*Guidance on proposed Amendment 27 language:*

The proposed fishery management plan amendment language relates to reclassifying big skate from an ecosystem component species to an actively managed species, and describing a new inseason process in California. Additionally, updates were made to clarify the harvest management framework from Amendment 23 and acknowledge the successful rebuilding of canary rockfish and petrale sole.

Regulations implementing Council action are expected on January 1, 2017.

## **COUNCIL TO REVIEW GROUND FISH CATCH SHARE PROGRAM**

As required by law, the Council is reviewing the trawl catch share program, which went into effect in 2011. The Council is also reviewing intersector allocations, many of which went into effect at the same time.

In June the Council discussed plans for the reviews. Funds for moving forward with the catch share review have been acquired, while funds for completing the review of intersector allocations have not yet been identified.

[A new Council webpage provides updates on the review process.](#)

Under the proposed schedule, public hearings will be held in 9 ports, starting at the end of August. The first hearing will be held in Morro Bay on August 31, followed by Half Moon Bay (Sept. 1), Fort Bragg (Sept. 6), Eureka (Sept. 7), Coos Bay (Sept. 8), Westport (Sept. 12), Seattle (Sept. 13), Astoria (Sept. 28) and Newport (Sept. 29).

The Council will discuss the review plans again in September and finalize plans in November.

ABC: Acceptable biological catch (see previous page).

ACL: Annual catch limit. (see previous page).

mt: metric ton

P\*: the probability of overfishing. (See previous page)

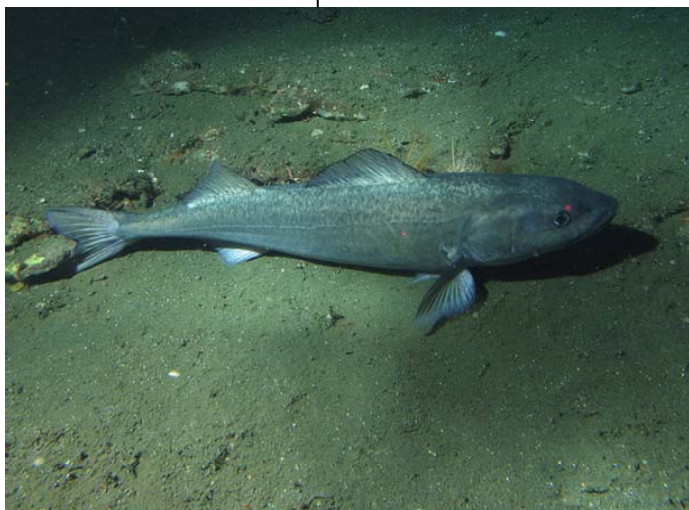


Also in September, the Council will appoint a Community Advisory Board to provide a fishing community perspective on the performance of the trawl catch share program, potential improvements, and other matters.

The Council is soliciting nominations for the following seats on the Community Advisory Board: one shoreside trawl individual fishing quota program participant from Washington, two from Oregon, and two from California; one shoreside nontrawl individual fishing quota program participant (gear switched); one at-sea co-op participant from the catcher-processor/mothership processor/mothership catcher vessel sector; three shoreside buyers/processors; and three at-large representatives. The at-large seats may represent a variety of perspectives, including service providers, local governments, retailers, crew members, non-governmental organizations, or other interests (including fishermen that do not participate in the trawl catch share program). An announcement of this solicitation has been posted on the Council website.

In February 2016, the Environmental Defense Fund, NMFS, and a number of fishing industry organizations sponsored a workshop to provide fishing industry members and stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss the experience with the catch share program. The workshop discussions are summarized in a Supplemental Workshop Report from the June Council meeting.

Canary rockfish.  
Photo: Ricky Romero,  
[Flickr Creative Commons](#).



Sablefish.  
Photo: NOAA.

#### *History of catch share program*

Amendment 20 to the groundfish fishery management plan established the trawl catch share program (trawl rationalization), with an individual fishing quota system for shoreside deliveries and separate co-op programs for the at-sea mothership and at-sea catcher-processors sectors. At the same time, new trawl/non-trawl allocations were established through Amendment 21. Design of the program started in the fall of 2003 and the program went into effect at the start of 2011.

#### **STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANS OUTLINED**

In June, the Council chose groundfish stock assessments to be conducted in 2017. The Council recommended full assessments for blue rockfish/deacon rockfish, California scorpionfish, lingcod, yelloweye rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, and Pacific ocean perch. The Council also recommended updated assessments for bocaccio, darkblotched rockfish, arrowtooth flounder, and blackgill rockfish. A catch report, which evaluates recent catches against prescribed annual catch limits, was recommended for cowcod.

#### **TRAWL CATCH SHARE GEAR REGULATIONS UPDATED**

In March, the Council recommended that trawl gear regulations be updated to reflect the individual accountability provided by the trawl catch share program.

Specifically, the Council recommended allowing vessels to carry and use multiple trawl gear types on a single trip (fish caught using different gears must be stowed separately); eliminating minimum mesh size regulations for the codend and body of the net; eliminating restrictions on codends; eliminating chafing gear restrictions; allowing a new haul to be brought onboard and dumped before all catch from previous haul has been stowed; and changing the selective flatfish trawl gear definition and restrictions. The selective flatfish trawl gear definition would be changed to allow the use of four-seams nets, and the restriction that requires use of selective

flatfish trawl gear shoreward of the rockfish conservation area in the area north of 40° 10' N. latitude would be replaced by a restriction that requires use of small footrope trawl in that area.

In June, the Council approved changes to allow vessels to fish in multiple management areas on the same trip and assign catch to management areas in proportion to the effort in the area on the trip (Option G3 and sorting Option 2 as described [here](#).) This recommendation will be forwarded to NMFS for approval.



California scorpionfish.  
Photo: Greg Mason,  
Flickr Creative  
Commons.

## **GROUNDFISH WORKLOAD PLANNING CONTINUES**

In June of even-numbered years, such as this year, the Council reviews groundfish management measures to be analyzed outside of the biennial specifications and management process. This is referred to as the “omnibus,” and includes trailing actions related to the trawl catch share program.

In June the Council prioritized the focus for the next two years: a greenlight policy to allow mid-biennium increases to the annual catch limit for overfished species due to improved stock assessment results; a harvest policy ramp-up when a stock is rebuilding; revised recreational and commercial discard survival rates; a sablefish and lingcod discard survival credit for the trawl individual fishing quota program; a year-round coastwide midwater trawl fishery; allowing between-sector trading of quota pounds; multi-year average catch policy; and resolution of the long-term non-whiting surplus carryover provision. See [this document](#) for additional information on the timing and steps for moving forward on these issues.

## *Appointments*

The Council elected Mr. Herb Pollard Chair and Mr. Phil Anderson Vice Chair of the Council for the 2016-2017 term, effective August 11, 2016. In addition, the Secretary of Commerce appointed Mr. Marc M. Gorelnik (from California) to the Council’s at-large seat, replacing Mr. Dan Wolford, who has served the maximum allowable three consecutive three year terms. Mr. Gorelnik’s appointment will also be effective August 11, 2016. The U.S. Coast Guard announced Rear Admiral Mark Butt has replaced Rear Admiral Richard Gromlich as commander of the 13th Coast Guard District, and as the Coast Guard representative on the Council. In addition, Lt. Commander Jason Brand will be the U.S. Coast Guard 11th district representative on the Enforcement Consultants as well as the third designee for Rear Admiral Butts. The Council appointed Mr. Pat Pattillo to the Washington at-large recreational seat on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

## *Next Council Meeting*

### **SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN BOISE**

The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for September 12-20 in Boise, Idaho. Public comment materials received by the advance briefing book deadline of **August 18** will be mailed to Council members and appropriate advisory bodies prior to the September meeting.

Public comment materials received at the Council office **after August 18**, but by the supplemental comment deadline of **September 6**, will be included in the supplemental materials distributed to the Council on the first day of the September meeting.

See the [Council's Briefing Book Public Comment Deadlines webpage](#) for complete details on how to submit comments.

## September Council Meeting Agenda

### GROUND FISH

- « NMFS report
- « Stock assessment methodology review
- « Salmon bycatch consultation analysis
- « Scoping trawl sector quota pounds trading
- « Five-year catch share program review update
- « Inseason adjustments
- « Revised Amendment 21 at-sea allocations/set asides
- « Mid-biennium annual catch limit adjustments & rebuilding harvest rate policies

### COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

- « Minimum stock size threshold report
- « Stock assessment workshop report
- « Anchovy management update
- « Artisanal fishery management options

### SALMON & HALIBUT

- « Methodology review topics
- « Sacramento winter Chinook control rule recommendations
- « Preliminary Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan changes

### HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

- « International issues
- « Exempted fishing permits
- « Biennial specifications and management measures
- « Deep-set buoy gear exempted fishing permit criteria
- « Federal drift gillnet permit amendment

### OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- « Habitat issues
- « Appointments
- « Legislative issues
- « West Coast Regional Operating Agreement review
- « Ecosystem Indicators Initiative
- « NMFS Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap comments
- « "Best scientific information available" determinations white paper
- « Bycatch strategy and reporting plan



Scenes from the Astoria trawl field trip in April

## *Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines*

### **SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE WEBINAR**

Dates: August 2

Purpose: To approve new overfishing limit estimates for Pacific ocean perch and to discuss plans for two upcoming workshops on historical catch reconstruction and stock productivity.

Contact: John DeVore ([john.devore@noaa.gov](mailto:john.devore@noaa.gov))

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

### **COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM WEBINAR**

Dates: August 3

Purpose: To discuss potential management options for the northern anchovy .

Contact: Kerry Griffin ([Kerry.Griffin@noaa.gov](mailto:Kerry.Griffin@noaa.gov))

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

### **HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING**

Dates: August 8-11

Location: Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon

Purpose: To draft reports for tasks assigned to the HMSMT by the Council that can be included in the advance briefing materials for the September Council meeting.

Contact: Kit Dahl ([Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov](mailto:Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov))

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

### **AD-HOC SACRAMENTO RIVER WINTER CHINOOK WORKGROUP**

Dates: August 17-18

Location: NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz, California

Purpose: To discuss the development of new predictors of Sacramento River winter Chinook abundance, alternative harvest control rules, and methods for evaluating the performance of alternative control rules.

Contact: Mike Burner ([Mike.Burner@noaa.gov](mailto:Mike.Burner@noaa.gov))

For More Info: [See detailed meeting announcement](#)

### **NOMINATIONS DUE FOR AD HOC COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM (INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS AND AT-SEA CO-OPS)**

Dates: August 18

Contact: Jim Seger ([Jim.Seger@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.Seger@noaa.gov))

For More Info: [Request for Nominations](#)

## **EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Dates: August 29  
Contact: Kit Dahl ([Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov](mailto:Kit.Dahl@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: [Application Instructions](#)

## **TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW HEARINGS**

Dates: August 31 (Morro Bay), Sept. 1 (Half Moon Bay), Sept. 6 (Fort Bragg), Sept. 7 (Eureka), Sept. 8 (Coos Bay), Sept. 12 (Westport, WA), Sept. 13 (Seattle), Sept. 28 (Astoria), Sept. 29 (Newport, OR)  
Purpose: To hear public input on the trawl catch share program.  
Contact: Jim Seger ([Jim.Seger@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.Seger@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: [Trawl Catch Share Program Review web page](#)