

# Pacific Council News

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This newsletter reports mainly on decisions made at the September 2016 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting held in Boise, Idaho. 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 supplemental public comment deadline for the November 2016 Council meeting is 5:00 p.m. on November 8; email [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov).

## TRAWL CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW CONTINUES

The Council is conducting scoping for its review of the catch share program and intersector allocations. In September the Council decided to speed up the schedule, aiming to have the catch share program review done by November 2017. This November, the Council will decide whether and how to proceed with further review of the intersector allocations.

Scoping hearings were held in fishing communities this fall; approximately 150

members of the public attended and over 60 of those attending testified. Hearing summaries are available on the Council website (<http://tinyurl.com/Syearreview>).

When the review is complete, the Council will consider follow-up actions to be analyzed in the winter of 2017/2018. Final Council decisions on follow-on actions are tentatively slated for the spring. The actual schedule for final actions will depend on the number and complexity of the actions being

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considered.

In September, the Council appointed members of the Community Advisory Board (CAB), which is charged with providing the perspective of fishing communities on the performance of the trawl catch share program, possible improvements to the program, and other advice requested by the Council. The CAB includes harvesters, fish buyers and processors, and others impacted by the trawl rationalization program (see pages 9-10 for details). The CAB's first meeting will be held November 2 and 3 in Seattle, Washington, when it will discuss the Economic Data Collection Program data and the blueprint for the five-year review, as well as potential follow-on actions.

## *Ecosystem and Habitat News*

### **COUNCIL COMPLETES ECOSYSTEM INDICATOR REVIEW**

In September, the Council concluded its work on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative and commented on National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) draft Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Road Map.

Each March, the Council receives the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report from NOAA's California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment scientists. The Annual Report characterizes the ecosystem through a suite of indicators that track trends in the physical, biological, and human environment making up the California Current Ecosystem. The Council heard recommendations from its advisory bodies for potential changes to the indicators included in the report. Generally, the Council recognized that developing and implementing new indicators is a long-term task, with the expectation that its recommendations would be addressed in future Annual Reports. The Council also suggested that future reports could be tailored to support particular decisions the Council would be making. The Council also endorsed the idea of adopting ecosystem-level goals and objectives. This will be discussed during the five-year review of the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan, which begins in 2018.

Heather Sagar, Senior Policy Advisor for NOAA Fisheries, briefed the Council on the EBFM Roadmap, which describes how the agency will implement the principles outlined in a recently issued policy directive. The directive lists six guiding principles to enhance and speed up the implementation of EBFM. The agency asserts that EBFM will improve decisions regarding trade-offs among and between fisheries (commercial, recreational, and subsistence), aquaculture, protected species, biodiversity, and habitats in order to maintain resilient ecosystems in the face of change. To help put this new policy in place, the Road Map will guide the policy over the next five years. During that time, NMFS regions will also create regional EBFM implementation plans.

### **DAMS, OCEAN ENERGY TOPICS OF DISCUSSION**

The Habitat Committee discussed California dam relicensing, Columbia/Snake River hydropower operations, ocean energy, and other issues at its meeting in September.

*Oroville Dam Relicensing:* NMFS is currently working on a biological opinion and essential fish habitat consultation for the relicensing of Oroville Dam on the Feather River, a tributary of the



Steelhead habitat on Trapper Creek, Washington. Photo: Jennifer Gilden

Sacramento River. Some fishing groups are concerned that measures to protect Endangered Species Act-listed Sacramento spring-run Chinook salmon may inadvertently harm habitat for fall-run Chinook salmon. The Habitat Committee plans to review the Biological Opinion when it becomes available and report findings back to the Council.

*Columbia/Snake River Biological Opinion:* The “action agencies” for the Columbia/Snake River Biological Opinion are set to begin scoping for a comprehensive environmental impact statement to address the management and operation of Federal dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. A draft letter on this subject is available in the November briefing book (<http://tinyurl.com/PFMCbriefingbook>).

*Ocean Energy:* The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) described the Trident Winds offshore energy wind project, which would be located 33 nautical miles offshore of Morro Bay in 400-500 fathoms and could eventually consist of 100 floating units generating 6-8 MW each. Authority to exclude vessels from a wind project lies with the Coast Guard rather than BOEM, but if the project goes forward, such exclusion is very likely. Trident proposes to be operational by 2025. Additional information is available at [www.tridentwinds.com](http://www.tridentwinds.com). BOEM will provide another update to the Habitat Committee in November.

Cal Poly’s “CalWave Power Technologies” is another energy project proposed off California that will serve as a test site for energy developers. This test site will be located offshore of Vandenberg Air Force Base near Point Conception. A Renewable Energy conference is scheduled for Nov. 1-2 at University of California Davis to address California-specific energy issues.

## *Coastal Pelagic Species*

### **MINIMUM STOCK SIZE THRESHOLDS FOR COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MAINTAINED**

In September, NMFS presented information on minimum stock size thresholds (MSSTs) for coastal pelagic species, which include Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, the central subpopulation of northern anchovy, the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy, and jack mackerel.

MSSTs are status determination criteria designed to gauge whether a stock is overfished. If a stock’s biomass falls below its designated MSST, that stock is considered overfished.

The current MSSTs for coastal pelagic species finfish stocks are: 50,000 metric tons (mt) for Pacific sardine and 18,200 mt for Pacific mackerel. MSSTs have not been specified for anchovies and jack mackerel.

In September, the Council elected to maintain the current MSSTs for now, and asked NMFS to explore methods for developing new MSSTs for Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, the northern sub-stock of northern anchovy, the central sub-stock of northern anchovy, and jack mackerel based on the guidance provided by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and as data become available.

BOEM: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
MSST: minimum stock size threshold  
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service.

## **COUNCIL ENDORSES COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES STOCK ASSESSMENT REPORT**

In September, the Council endorsed the findings of a report from a technical workshop, held in La Jolla this May, to recommend stock assessment approaches for coastal pelagic species. The

workshop was jointly hosted by the Council and the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC).

Since more data are needed on many west coast coastal pelagic species (CPS) stocks, and several stocks have not been assessed for years, the workshop looked at ways that stock assessments for these types of stocks have been conducted in other parts of the world. The focus of the workshop was on the central subpopulation of northern anchovy, due to concerns that the biomass may have declined recently and the fact that the stock has not been assessed for over 20 years. The workshop also addressed other finfish stocks, including the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, Pacific sardine, and jack mackerel.

The workshop report includes recommendations for both short-term and a long-term approaches for assessing the central population of northern anchovy. The SWFSC developed a relative index of abundance for consideration in November. The workshop also produced recommendations for assessing the other CPS stocks, research recommendations related to processing of biological samples, and considered various indices of abundance.

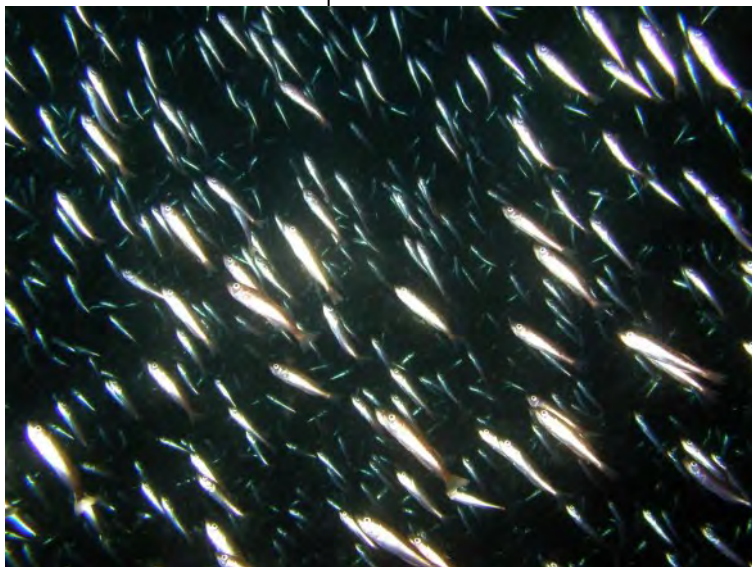
### **ANCHOVY FISHERY UPDATE**

The Council considered future management of anchovy in September, and received an update on the 2016 anchovy fishery in the Columbia River area, where northern anchovy landings have increased substantially in recent months. The Council asked the states to report on any state management actions for the 2016 fishery and for the CPSMT to compile information on the status of the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy for the November meeting.

### **COUNCIL CONSIDERS ACCOMMODATING SMALL-SCALE CPS FISHING**

In September, the Council heard a Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) report on ways to allow small-scale directed fishing to continue when the directed fishery has closed. The issue arose during the past two Pacific sardine fishing seasons, when all directed sardine fishing was closed except for limited amounts of tribal harvest and live bait fishing. The management team compiled data on small-scale fishing activities and identified a handful of options that would allow this type of fishing to continue even when the directed fishery is closed. All options would require either a fishery management plan amendment or a regulatory amendment.

The Council considered several variables, such as whether small-scale fisheries would only apply to Pacific sardines or to other CPS stocks, which gears would be covered, and appropriate trip limit size. The Council then directed the CPSMT to develop alternatives to be presented in November.



Pacific Sardines. Photo: California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

CPS: Coastal pelagic species  
CPSMT: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team  
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service  
SWFSC: Southwest Fisheries Science Center

## Highly Migratory Species

### PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS

In September, the Council discussed international efforts to rebuild the Pacific bluefin tuna stock. Pacific bluefin is overfished, and the spawning population biomass is estimated to be 2.6 percent of the level that would be expected if no fishing were occurring.

A Joint Working Group, composed of member countries of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee, made recommendations on a Pacific-wide rebuilding plan this September. The recommendations include conservation measures to be adopted by both regional fishery management organizations.



Bluefin tuna (not Pacific). Photo: Aziz Saltik, [Flickr Creative Commons](#).

In October, the IATTC adopted a resolution based on a U.S. proposal for Pacific bluefin conservation in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The proposal includes catch limits, continuing the 2015-2016 U.S. commercial limit for Pacific bluefin of 600 metric tons into 2017 and 2018. The Joint Working Group recommends rebuilding the spawning stock to its median spawning biomass during the 1952-2014 period (estimated to be about 41,000 metric tons) by 2024. Once the spawning stock reaches this size, measures would be put in place to rebuild the stock to a higher level by 2030. The Council agreed with the U.S. position that the initial target will not rebuild the Pacific bluefin stock to a large enough size to achieve maximum sustainable yield. The U.S. has proposed a rebuilding target of spawning stock biomass reaching 20 percent of unfished biomass as an approximation of the maximum sustainable yield level, which the

Council endorses as the second rebuilding target to be achieved by 2030. The Joint Working Group will meet again in 2017 to agree on the second rebuilding target; IATTC would then adopt the 2030 target at its 2018 meeting.

The Council also expects to review and comment on draft regulations implementing Pacific bluefin catch limits at its November meeting.

### DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT UPDATE

In September, the Council recommended that NMFS approve an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application from Mr. David Stephens, a commercial fisherman/educator fishing primarily Southern California waters based out of San Diego. He proposes to test deep-set buoy gear.

The Council asked that NMFS consider an observer coverage rate as low as 30 percent, which is consistent with the coverage rate for the current EFP issued to the Pflegler Institute of Environmental Research to test deep-set buoy gear.

In addition, the Council has decided to accept deep-set buoy gear EFP applications at any Council meeting where highly migratory species topics are on the agenda. To make the application process easier, the Council tasked the Highly Migratory Species Management Team with developing an application template, which the Council will review and adopt at its November meeting. They also directed the Team to identify criteria for deciding on appropriate observer coverage levels for all new deep-set buoy gear EFPs. All these initiatives are meant to encourage people to apply for deep-set buoy gear EFPs, which will provide the

EFP: exempted fishing permit  
HMSMT: Highly Migratory Species Management Team  
IATTC: Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission  
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service

Council with the information it needs to draft regulations to make deep-set buoy gear legal under the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. The Council expects to begin working on these regulations in mid-2017.

## **BIENNIAL HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS MOVE FORWARD**

The Council reviewed recommendations from the HMSMT in September on amendments to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, including a process for setting criteria for deciding when a species is subject to overfishing or overfished. NMFS would use these

guideposts when they determine stock status for highly migratory species. The Council recognized that this proposal is beyond the scope of the biennial process and asked the HMSMT, with input from the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, to come back in March 2017 with proposed amendment language. Public review and Council final action will then follow.

The Council briefly discussed two other issues, but deferred action. The first is a response to the requests contained in the Center for Biological Diversity's petition for additional domestic actions regarding Pacific bluefin tuna, which the Council will take up in November. Second, the Council was notified by NMFS that the Western and Central North Pacific Ocean stock of striped marlin is overfished and subject to overfishing. The Council has a year to

respond to the notification with its recommendations. The Council will take this up in 2017.

## **DRIFT GILLNET PERMIT AMENDMENT PROCEEDS**

In September, the Council approved two alternatives for converting the current state permit for the large mesh drift gillnet fishery to a Federal permit. If the Council decides to continue, drift gillnet permits would be issued by NMFS instead of the state of California. Anyone holding a state permit when the regulations are finalized would be eligible for a Federal permit that would have the same provisions as the current state permit, including the limit on transferring a permit once every three years.

The Council intentionally kept the scope of this action narrow so that it could be implemented quickly. Once the Federal permit is in place, the Council will consider further limits on future participation such as retiring so-called latent permits, which are those that haven't been used for some period of time. As part of putting the Federal permit in place, California would retire the state drift gillnet permit although other state permits, such as the general gillnet permit, would still set conditions on fishery participation.

The Council tentatively scheduled final action on this issue for March 2017.



Pulling in a striped marlin in Mexico (later released).

Source: Kate Crandell, [Flickr Creative Commons](#).

HMSMT: Highly Migratory  
Species Management  
Team  
NMFS: National Marine  
Fisheries Service

## Legislative News

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES SEAMOUNT, CRAB BILLS

At its September meeting, the Legislative Committee discussed HR 5797, the California Seamounts and Ridges National Marine Conservation Area Designation and Management Act, sponsored by Rep. Sam Farr of California. The Council received two requests for comment on the bill, and sent a letter responding to the comments on October 4. The letter focuses on the importance of consulting with the Council on any Federal activities, including area closures and monuments, that affect fishery or habitat resources in Federal West Coast waters, as well as the need for fisheries to be managed exclusively through the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Council emphasized the benefits of its transparent public process and asked for more clarity in certain

areas of the bill. The letter is online at <http://tinyurl.com/ho76pyb>.

The Legislative Committee also discussed S 1143, the West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act. This bill would extend state jurisdiction of the Dungeness crab fishery off the West Coast, which expired in September 2016. If Congress fails to take action, enforcement of state regulations in Federal waters (e.g., at-sea processing restrictions), which are important to the management of the fishery, may be revoked. A hold was placed on S. 1143 in an attempt to encourage passage of unrelated red snapper legislation for the Gulf of Mexico, and it appears that the hold has not been lifted.



Dungeness crabs. Source: California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

## Salmon News

### UPDATE ON SACRAMENTO RIVER WINTER CHINOOK CONTROL RULE

In September, the Council received an update on the development of a new harvest control rule for Sacramento River winter Chinook and approved a range of alternate control rules for analysis. A new control rule is not expected to be available by 2017.

The Council is concerned with the current status of the stock, which is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act and is incidentally caught in ocean fisheries, mainly off the central California coast. NMFS has identified the stock as one of eight “Species in the Spotlight,” which are among the most at risk of extinction in the near future. In 2015 and 2016, the Council applied fishery restrictions and levels of precaution beyond what is called for in the current harvest policy due to extended drought conditions and evidence of poor juvenile recruitment.

A two-part consultation standard was put in place for Sacramento River winter Chinook in 2012. The first part is a set of season and size limit provisions for central California salmon fisheries. The second is a control rule that limits the maximum age-three impact rate for the area south of Point Arena, California. The Council has expressed concern that this rule is unnecessarily restrictive, and that the Council 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 adequately reactive to environmental and biological stressors.



Rockfish for sale. Photo: Paul Sableman, [Flickr Creative Commons](#).

## COUNCIL ADOPTS HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN CHANGES FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Each September, the Council considers proposed changes to the annual Pacific halibut regulations and the Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A. These changes usually relate to recreational season structures (e.g., opening dates, days per week, early season/late season ratios, and port/area sharing) and minor allocation changes among areas or gear groups.

The Council adopted for public review, proposed changes to the Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries which are described in the reports provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (<http://tinyurl.com/z77tqaa>) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (<http://tinyurl.com/zSyy5n6>).

No changes were proposed for the Southern Oregon or California sub-area recreational fisheries, or any commercial fisheries. The same approach to establish the California recreational season structure and inseason management processes used in 2016, as described in the current Catch Sharing Plan (<http://tinyurl.com/hrtqr5o>), will be used in 2017.

The Council is scheduled to take final action on the 2017 Pacific halibut regulations and the Catch Sharing Plan at the November Council meeting.

## *Groundfish News*

### COUNCIL TAKES FINAL ACTION ON AT-SEA SECTOR SET-ASIDES

Darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch caught by the at-sea whiting sectors will be managed as set-asides, rather than total catch limits, following a Council decision in September. The key difference involved with set-aside status relates to the management response in case of a sector overage. Exceeding a set-aside does not cause the fishery to automatically close. This decision was made to address the difficulty in avoiding bycatch of these species by the at-sea whiting fleets. Beyond the socioeconomic impact of decreased fleet efficiency, there has been a risk of early closure of the fishery.

Using set-asides does not risk early closure or disruption of the at-sea whiting fishery when the set-aside amount is exceeded, unless there is a risk of exceeding an annual catch limit for all sectors. In addition, specifying the set-aside amounts based on the Amendment 21 allocation scheme avoids a controversial reallocation of these species, since no other sectors are likely to be directly affected.

The Council also recommended giving NMFS inseason authority to automatically close the 2017 or 2018 at-sea whiting fisheries if species-specific set-aside amounts and buffer amounts are expected to be exceeded.

### GREEN LIGHT POLICY, RAMP-UP POLICY DISCUSSED

In September, the Council discussed two initiatives that affect groundfish fisheries: a mid-biennium adjustment to harvest specifications policy (the Green Light Policy) and a proposed Rebuilding Harvest Rate Ramp-up Adjustment Policy.





Measuring rockfish on a NOAA trawl survey.  
Photo: Jennifer Gilden.

### *Green Light Policy*

The Green Light policy relates to changing harvest specifications in the second year of a biennial management cycle. Currently, the biennial management cycle begins in odd years when groundfish stock assessments are conducted, reviewed, and adopted. Assessment results inform management decisions for two years beginning in the next odd year. In September, the Council considered whether mid-biennium harvest specification adjustments should be considered if there are significant changes in stock status from a new assessment and an increase in the available harvest in the second year of the management cycle could mitigate negative socioeconomic impacts.

The Council directed staff to prepare strawman alternatives exploring a provision to allow such increases for overfished species and for other constraining stocks. The Council is scheduled to adopt a range of alternatives and a preliminary preferred alternative at their November meeting in Garden Grove, California.

### *Rebuilding Harvest Rate Adjustment Policy (Ramp-Up)*

The second initiative, recommended by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, would create a default rebuilding revision rule such that when an overfished stock rebuilds to a biomass above the minimum stock size threshold, the 40-10 or 25-5 harvest control rule is automatically implemented. The Council decided not to take action on this issue at this time.

## **CLARIFICATIONS PROVIDED ON GROUND FISH SPECIFICATIONS**

In June 2016, the Council adopted final 2017 and 2018 harvest specifications and management measures. Subsequent analysis revealed the need to clarify the effect of the action. Specifically, clarification was needed on the following topics:

### *2018 Canary Rockfish Harvest Specifications*

The Council's final decision on canary rockfish annual catch limits (ACLs) specified a harvest control rule where the ACL equals the acceptable biological catch (with a probability of overfishing ( $P^*$ ) of 0.45). The Council's motion specified ACLs of 1,714 mt and 1,588 mt for 2017 and 2018, respectively. The Council also decided sector allocations with an intent to maintain a yield buffer in both years to cover unanticipated impacts. However, the actual 2018 ACL under the Council's preferred harvest control rule is 1,526 mt, and there would be no buffer.

### *2018 Blackgill Rockfish Harvest Specifications*

Under their Amendment 26 action in November 2015, the Council decided to remove blackgill rockfish from the southern Slope Rockfish complex with a consequent change in the Amendment 21 allocation. The Council's recommended timeline was to make this change in stock composition and allocation for the start of 2018. Documents provided to inform Council decision-making on the biennial harvest specifications for 2017-2018 presumed this change in the southern Slope Rockfish stock complex for 2018, presenting stock complex harvest specifications that did not include the contribution from blackgill rockfish. However, the Amendment 26 rulemaking would be implemented after the final rulemaking for the 2017-2018

ACL: Annual Catch Limit  
 $P^*$ : A measure of uncertainty

specifications. The Council confirmed the intent of their 2018 final preferred harvest specifications for the southern Slope Rockfish complex and blackgill rockfish was to adopt the harvest specifications for the complex that included the contribution from blackgill rockfish (with a harvest guideline for southern blackgill rockfish) in the interim until Amendment 26 is implemented. In other words, the 2017-2018 harvest specifications and management measures action would not unilaterally pull blackgill rockfish out of the southern Slope Rockfish complex.

### *Pacific Ocean Perch Harvest Specifications*

The Council’s final decision on 2017 and 2018 ACLs for Pacific ocean perch north of 40° 10’ N. lat. affected the overfishing limits (OFLs) for this stock. The Council tasked the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) with evaluating the Council’s ACL decision and determine the OFLs consistent with that decision. In its August 2 webinar, the SSC endorsed OFLs of 964 mt and 984 mt for 2017 and 2018, respectively. Minutes for the August 2 webinar are appended to the draft June SSC minutes in the September briefing book. These OFLs will be in the proposed rule.

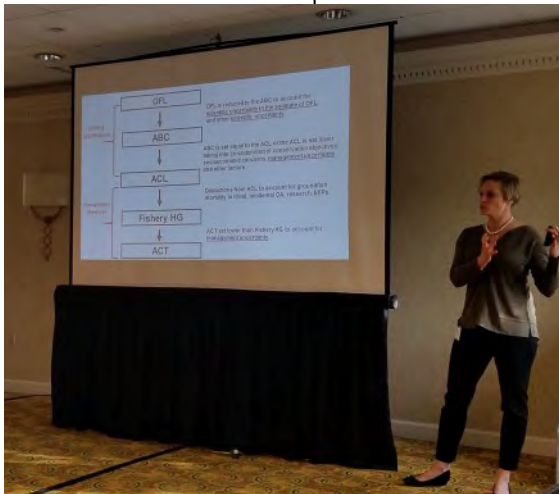
## *Marine Resource Education Trainings Held in Santa Cruz, Portland*

Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) workshops were held in Santa Cruz, California and Portland, Oregon this year. MREP was founded 12 years ago by a group of New England fishermen. The program, which is organized by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, aims to provide a neutral, workshop-based overview of fisheries science and management to fishermen. To date, more than 800 fishermen in six Council regions have graduated from the program.

MREP West was developed to equip fishermen working in West Coast fisheries with the tools to confidently engage in the management process today. It runs through the fisheries science and management processes, demystifies the acronyms and vocabulary, and provides a neutral setting in which fishermen can meet scientists and managers, ask personally relevant questions, and share feedback from the fishing community.

A Fishery Science Workshop was held August 30-September 1 in Santa Cruz, followed by a Fishery Management Workshop held October 18-20 in Portland. Presenters were drawn from NMFS, Council staff, research institutions, and the fishing community. Topics for the science workshop included sources of fisheries-dependent and -independent data, stock assessments and modeling (with a focus on the methods and models used for groundfish and salmon), the Council’s stock assessment review process, and advancements in fishing gear technology—a session largely led by fishermen. The management workshop focused on the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the bridge from science to management, how to get involved in the Council process, the tribal role in fisheries management, the role of uncertainty and management thresholds, and other topics. Participants applied their MREP learning in a mock Council scenario, where they recommended management measures for the fictitious “bossfish” fishery.

For more information, including workshop materials, see <http://tinyurl.com/hglub4o>.



Kelly Ames presenting at the MREP management workshop in Portland. Photo: Twitter user @Fishvid.

ACL: Annual catch limit  
MREP: Marine Resources Education Program  
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service  
OFL: Overfishing limit  
SSC: Scientific and Statistical Committee

CAB: Community  
Advisory Board  
NMFS: National Marine  
Fisheries Service  
WDFW: Washington Dept.  
of Fish and Wildlife

## Appointments

The Council appointed Larry Phillips to the previously vacant Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Wendy Beeghley to the WDFW seat on the Salmon Technical Team. The Council also appointed Jim Yarnall to the California Sport Fisheries seat on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

Council Chair Herb Pollard appointed the following representatives to the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and appointed Mr. Shems Jud as the Chair of the CAB: Shoreside Trawl, IFQ Program Participants: Nate Stone (Washington); Brad Pettinger and Mike Retherford (Oregon); Chris Kubiak and Michelle Norvell (California). Shoreside Nontrawl, IFQ Program Participant (Gear Switched): Michele Longo-Eder. At-sea Co-op Catcher-Processor: Dan Waldeck. At-sea Co-op Mothership Processor: James Mize. At-sea Co-op At-sea Co-op Mothership Catcher Vessel: Kurt Cochran. Shoreside Buyers/Processors: Andrew Bornstein, Jim Caito, and Mike Okoniewski. At-Large: Paul Clampitt, Robert Dooley, Shems Jud, Steve Scheiblauser, and Kevin Dunn.

## Next Council Meeting

### NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN GARDEN GROVE

The next meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for November 13-21 in Garden Grove, California. Public comment materials received by the supplemental briefing book deadline of 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 8** will be provided to Council members on the first day of the November meeting.

## November Council Meeting Agenda

### GROUND FISH

- ◆ NMFS report
- ◆ Methodology review topic selection
- ◆ Inseason adjustments
- ◆ Groundfish essential fish habitat and Rockfish Conservation Area alternatives
- ◆ Trawl gear modification exempted fishing permit final action
- ◆ Five-year catch share program and intersector allocation review plans and fishery management update
- ◆ Mid-biennium harvest specification adjustment policies

### COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

- ◆ Methodology review preliminary topic selection
- ◆ Small-scale fishery management alternatives
- ◆ Northern anchovy stock assessment and management measures

### SALMON & HALIBUT

- ◆ Salmon methodology review
- ◆ Chinook fishery regulation assessment model update
- ◆ Preseason salmon management schedule for 2017
- ◆ Final Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan changes

### HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

- ◆ International issues
- ◆ U.S.-Canada albacore tuna treaty
- ◆ Swordfish fishery management
- ◆ Deep-set buoy gear exempted fishing permits

### OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- ◆ Habitat issues
- ◆ Appointments
- ◆ National Standard Guidelines update

See the Council's Briefing Book Public Comment Deadlines webpage for complete details on how to submit comments (<http://tinyurl.com/nyaq23n>)

## *Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines*

### **HISTORICAL CATCH RECONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP**

Dates: November 1-3  
Location: Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR  
Purpose: To review methods used to reconstruct historical groundfish catches off Washington, Oregon, and California for use in stock assessments. Data stewards and others who are familiar with catch accounting systems will participate in the workshop.  
Contact: John DeVore ([john.devore@noaa.gov](mailto:john.devore@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/zcd9ltl>

### **TRAWL CATCH SHARE REVIEW COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

Dates: November 2-3  
Location: Hotel Deca, Seattle, WA  
Purpose: To develop recommendations pertaining to plans for the Council's five-year review of the groundfish trawl catch share program; specifically, to comment on the detailed outline (blueprint) for the review document.  
Contact: Jim Seger ([Jim.Seger@noaa.gov](mailto:Jim.Seger@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/jetrogq>

### **GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM WEBINAR**

Dates: November 7, 1:30-3:30  
Purpose: To prepare for the November 13-21, 2016 Pacific Council meeting in Garden Grove, California.  
Contact: Kelly Ames ([Kelly.Ames@noaa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Ames@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/jhozpx>