



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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www.pcouncil.org Herbert A Pollard II, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 2016
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee
FROM: John DeVore
SUBJECT: September 2016 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 12-20, 2016 at the Riverside Hotel, 2900 Chinden Boulevard, Boise, Idaho. The Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) Ecosystem Subcommittee will meet Monday, September 12 and Tuesday, September 13 starting at 9 a.m. both days in the Cinnabar Room. The full SSC will meet Wednesday, September 14 and Thursday, September 15 starting at 8 a.m. both days in the Cinnabar Room. Your meeting materials are enclosed.

Ecosystem Management

The Council will be providing guidance on ecosystem indicators for incorporation into the 2017 State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. The SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee will meet with the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment team on September 12 and 13 to discuss and recommend ecosystem indicators for incorporation in the 2017 report. Dr. Martin Dorn, the chair of the Ecosystem Subcommittee, will provide an overview of the subcommittee meeting and their recommendations to the full SSC for consideration of final SSC recommendations to the Council on proposed ecosystem indicators.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published a new policy directive describing the agency's implementation of ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM). NMFS has prepared an EBFM roadmap to facilitate implementation of this EBFM policy. Ms. Heather Sagar, senior NMFS policy advisor, will provide an overview of the EBFM roadmap to the SSC (and Groundfish Management Team (GMT) in joint session) to facilitate development of recommendations to the Council. The Council will in turn review the EBFM roadmap, the comments and recommendations of the SSC and other Council advisors, as well as public comments before providing their comments to NMFS on the EBFM roadmap.

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

As a result of the *Oceana v. Pritzker* settlement agreement, the NMFS is responsible for compiling information on minimum stock size thresholds (MSSTs) for managed coastal pelagic species (CPS) stocks (i.e., Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, the central substock of northern anchovy (CSNA), the northern substock of northern anchovy (NSNA), and jack mackerel). The SSC is tasked with reviewing the NMFS report on MSSTs for these managed CPS stocks and commenting on the robustness of any described methodologies for developing or revising MSSTs.

The SSC will deliver its statement from June on the CPS Assessment Workshop Report but is not scheduled to discuss this item further at this meeting.

The Council tasked the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) to explore alternative management policies for the central substock of northern anchovy and report back to the Council at this meeting. The CPSMT has developed a white paper on management policies for the CSNA and other CPS stocks for Council consideration. Ms. Lorna Wargo, CPSMT chair, will provide an overview of the white paper to the SSC. While the Council has not elected to change anchovy management, the SSC is being asked to consider the white paper and provide their input to the Council regarding anchovy management.

Groundfish Management

The Council is scheduled to determine which groundfish methodology topics may merit a formal SSC review next year. The SSC will work in conjunction with the GMT on which new or revised models/methodologies proposed to inform future decisions in the specifications process merit a methodology review. Additionally, the SSC will discuss the merits of reviewing proposed or potential methodologies that may inform future stock assessments.

In response to stated Council member concerns, Council staff is providing for Council consideration a more aggressive timeline on completing the five-year review of the trawl catch share program that may impact the SSC schedule for evaluating analyses pertinent to the review. The SSC should weigh in on the proposed timeline (details provided in Agenda Item F.5, Attachment 1) and recommend whether the proposed SSC review schedule can be accommodated given other SSC workload priorities.

The Council will be evaluating a new default rebuilding revision rule recommended by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) termed the harvest rate “ramp-up” strategy. The SSC will review comparative rebuilding simulations for yelloweye rockfish and Pacific ocean perch prepared by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and comment on the results of these simulations relative to the proposed GAP strategy. The SSC may want to recommend a pathway forward for developing policies relative to revising rebuilding plans.

Salmon Management

The Council is scheduled to set priorities for salmon methodology review topics. The SSC will review and prioritize those topics that are recommended to be reviewed at the SSC’s Salmon Subcommittee and Salmon Technical Team meeting in October.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process. See you soon.

JDD:rdd

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Agenda Item A.5 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item G.5 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
3. Agenda Item G.6 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Ecosystem Management

4. Agenda Item D.1 – Fishery Ecosystem Plan Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative
5. Agenda Item D.2 – Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

6. Agenda Item E.1 – Minimum Stock Size Thresholds Report
7. Agenda Item E.3 – Anchovy Management Update

Groundfish Management

8. Agenda Item F.2 – Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection
9. Agenda Item F.5 – 5-Year Catch Share Program and Intersector Allocation Review Update
10. Agenda Item F.8 – Mid-biennium Annual Catch Limit Adjustment and Rebuilding Harvest Rate Adjustment Policies

Salmon Management

11. Agenda Item H.2 – Salmon Methodology Review

SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, etc.

12. September 2016 SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee Agenda
13. September 2016 SSC Agenda
14. Draft June 2016 SSC Minutes
15. Informational Reports
16. Hotel-Related Information
17. Roster

PFMC

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