



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Herbert A. Pollard II, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2017
TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons
FROM: Kit Dahl, Staff Officer
SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 7-13, 2017, at the Hilton, Vancouver, Washington. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) will meet Tuesday and Wednesday, March 7-8. The EAS will be in the Discovery E Room and the EWG will be in the Discovery D Room.

There are three agenda topics under the Ecosystem heading. I have also included the briefing materials for Agenda Item C.4, Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures, and C.5, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. Summaries of these topics follow.

Agenda Item F.1 Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report

Staff from the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers produce the State of the California Current Ecosystem Report annually and deliver it at the March Council meeting. The report informs the Council on ecological conditions through various indicators for physical, biological, and social processes. Report contributors met with the Ecosystem-Based Management Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee in September 2016 to review the current suite of indicators and obtain advice on their ongoing development. The Council has also just completed the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative, and Report authors considered recommendations provided by the Council in developing this year's report.

As part of the just-completed Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative, the EWG recommended expanding the utility of the Report by identifying "focal topics" for that year's work. Delivery of the 2017 Annual Report is an opportunity for the Council to recommend focal topics and other improvements for future annual reports.

Agenda Item F.2 Sablefish Ecosystem Indicators

In March 2016, the Council requested the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluate ecosystem indicators that may influence sablefish recruitment. Dr. Melissa Haltuch from the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center will brief the Council and its advisors at this meeting on progress made to date on this effort.

Agenda Item F.3 Review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

This agenda item is an opportunity for the Council to identify which of the initiatives listed in Appendix A to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan to take on next and identify and prioritize new initiatives. The Council also may provide guidance on other revisions to Appendix A. The EWG has weighed in on this topic in a committee report and plans to further elaborate their recommendations in a supplemental report.

I have included the materials for Agenda Item C.4, Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures. Under this agenda item the Council will be considering changes to Council Operating Procedure 1 affecting the procedures for submitting written public comment. The EAS, in particular, may wish to weigh in on these changes.

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings, I am also including the materials for Agenda Item C.5, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. You may wish to provide comments on what topics are proposed and at what meetings.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website, as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

Fun fact: It is illegal to harass Sasquatch (bigfoot) or any undiscovered subspecies in Vancouver. Violations are punishable by a fine or even imprisonment.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item F.1: Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report
3. Agenda Item F.2: Sablefish Ecosystem Indicators
4. Agenda Item F.3: Review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives
5. Agenda Item C.4: Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
6. Agenda Item C.5: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
7. EAS and EWG Agendas
8. Informational Reports
9. Hotel-related information
10. Council Roster