

## CONSIDERATION OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS, INCLUDING CARRYOVER

Management measures for groundfish are set by the Council with the general understanding that these measures will likely need to be adjusted within the biennium to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits (ACL). This agenda item will consider inseason adjustments to 2017 fisheries. Potential actions include adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Area boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on recent catch data and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

### **Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program**

Under this agenda item, the Council is also expected to provide a recommendation regarding the issuance of 2016 surplus carryover quota pounds (QP) into the 2017 shorebased IFQ program. The surplus carryover provision allows up to 10 percent of the cumulative QPs (used and unused) in a vessel account to be carried over from one year to the next (see regulations at 660.140(e)(5)). The current National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) policy, based on a court ruling in 2014, is that NMFS will not issue surplus carryover QP for IFQ species that have ACLs established equal to their acceptable biological catches ([Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 4, June 2014](#)).

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) is expected to provide a supplemental report on fishery performance in 2016 and projections for 2017 to inform decision-making. The Council can recommend, for each individual species or species complex, that NMFS: a) issue carryover up to 10 percent, b) issue carryover at some level lower than 10 percent (i.e., reduce the eligible carryover percent), or c) forego carryover.

Additionally, the Council may wish to modify, through routine inseason action, the requirement that observers must count and weigh bocaccio, canary, cowcod, and yelloweye prior to leaving a vessel before catch from the trip has been offloaded (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1). These species were chosen in 2011 because they were overfished, had low trawl allocations, and were no longer required to be discarded (see [Agenda Item I.7.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 2, April 2011](#) and [Agenda Item E.6.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 2, June 2011](#)). Canary rockfish is now rebuilt with substantially higher ACLs and trawl allocations for 2017-2018 than in 2011 (e.g., the trawl allocation was 26 mt, now 1,014 mt). Though not rebuilt, the 2017-2018 ACLs and trawl allocations for bocaccio rockfish are also substantially higher than in 2011 (e.g., the trawl allocation was 60 mt, now 283 mt). To the extent increased allocations result in higher landings for these species, the current regulations may result in an increased burden to industry, observers, and observer providers. The Council could consider modifications to this regulation, while ensuring accurate catch accounting in the shorebased IFQ program.

### **International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Stock Assessment Survey Expansion**

Under Agenda Item H.1, the Council is expected to receive a report from the IPHC regarding the 2017 expansion of the Pacific halibut stock assessment survey in northern Washington and northern California. The GMT is expected to provide a report updating the research projections for the groundfish species that may be encountered on the survey (e.g., yelloweye rockfish).

**Council Action:**

1. Consider projections for the 2017 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary.
2. Consider data on 2016 surplus carryover QPs and projections for fishery performance in 2017. Recommend the amount of surplus carryover that should be issued.
3. Consider modifications to the requirement that observers must count and weigh bocaccio, canary, cowcod, and yelloweye prior to leaving a vessel.
4. Consider research projections for the expanded IPHC stock assessment survey.

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1: Excerpt of the Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program Regulations.

**Agenda Order:**

- I.3 Consideration of Inseason Adjustments, Including Carryover Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Recommendations for Adjustments, Including Carryover, to 2017 Groundfish Fisheries, as Necessary

PFMC  
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