



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2017

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

In conjunction with the March Council meeting, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet on Wednesday March 8, 2017 beginning at 8 a.m. The meetings will be held in Heritage C and Heritage D Rooms, respectively at the Hilton Vancouver in Vancouver, Washington. The Council will begin the salmon agenda on Thursday, March 9, and continue through Monday morning March 13. The Council will receive a briefing on National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulatory and research activities on Wednesday, March 8. Habitat issues will be covered Wednesday, March 8, and ecosystem topics will be covered Wednesday, March 8 and Thursday March 9. Enforcement will provide a report on Thursday March 9. Pacific halibut issues and the topic of salmon bycatch in Groundfish fisheries will be covered on Friday, March 10. Also note that you are invited to the Chair's Reception at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening.

The Council will be briefed Thursday, March 9, by the STT on the *Review of 2016 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* and *Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* (Agenda Item E.2). The *Review of 2016 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* is scheduled to be posted on the Council web site by March 18. The *Preseason Report I* is being compiled by the STT the week of February 20 and should be posted to the Council web site by March 3. The STT and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will discuss salmon topics on Wednesday March 8.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be developing alternatives for modeling 2017 ocean fisheries (Agenda Items E.3, E.4, E.5, and E.6). On Thursday, March 9, the SAS will present the Council with recommendations for three alternatives. SAS representatives should review the *Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment* (Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1) and clearly identify their fishery priorities and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among fishery sectors and areas to arrive at cohesive and coordinated options. The STT will then collate and analyze the alternatives. Working throughout the week the SAS, STT, and Council will refine the alternatives, which are scheduled to be adopted for public review on Monday, March 13.

Each year at the March meeting, the Council receives the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem (CCE) Report to bring ecosystem information into the Council process in a succinct, straightforward format to assist decision-making through the consideration of ecosystem variability.

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The report includes the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (Agenda Item F.1). In addition, the Review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives is scheduled for Thursday, March 9 (Agenda Item F.3). A joint session with the STT and the SAS is scheduled for Wednesday morning March 8 on Agenda Item F.1.

Pacific halibut is on the Council's agenda for Friday March 10. The Council will hear reports on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) meeting (Agenda Item H.1) and will adopt options for halibut retention in the commercial salmon fisheries (Agenda Item H.2). The SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations regarding inseason adjustment of the halibut retention regulations for any April 2017 commercial salmon fisheries as well as alternatives for post-May 1, 2017 and April 2018 fisheries.

Also on Friday, the Council will be hearing an update from NMFS on a consultation under the Endangered Species Act regarding salmon bycatch in the groundfish fisheries (Agenda Item I.1). On Wednesday, March 8, there will be two joint sessions on this matter, one with the STT and GMT and the other with the SAS and GAP.

The Council will consider future Council meeting agendas and workload (Agenda Item C.5) on Monday. The SAS and STT may want to request topics for that agenda item.

Please take some time and review your briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance in the Council's salmon management process.

RDE:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.5 – Council Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Item D.1 – Habitat Issues
4. Agenda Items E.1 through E.7 – Salmon Management
5. Agenda Items F.1 and F.3 – Ecosystem Matters
6. Agenda Item G.1 – Enforcement
7. Agenda Items H.1 and H.2 –Pacific Halibut Management
8. Agenda Item I.1 – Groundfish Management
9. Proposed EC Agenda
10. Proposed HC Agenda
11. Proposed SAS Agenda
12. Proposed STT Agenda
13. Proposed SSC Agenda
14. Hotel-related Information
15. Roster