



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2017

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2017 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet April 6-11, 2017, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Sacramento, California. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will meet April 7-9. The CPSAS will be meeting in the American River Room, and the CPSMT will meet in the Rubicon River Room. Note that we will move to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting (Sacramento Room) at 9:30 a.m. on Friday to listen to the presentation on the Pacific sardine stock assessment before returning to our own meeting rooms. Also note that there are times dedicated to meeting jointly and these are shown in the CPSMT and CPSAS agendas. Major topics for discussion at this meeting are below.

Council Agenda Topics

Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA) Overfishing Limit (OFL) Process (G.2)

In November 2016 the Council asked the SSC to describe alternative approaches to producing a revised OFL for CSNA. The CPSMT joined in that effort to produce a report (Agenda Item G.2.a, SSC/CPSMT Report) describing the alternative approaches, what is needed for each, and approximate time required. The Council is not setting an OFL at this meeting, but may (or may not) recommend moving forward to develop a new OFL. The CPSMT and CPSAS should develop supplemental reports on this agenda item.

Methodology Review Planning (G.3)

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) submitted a proposal (Agenda Item G.3.a SWFSC Report) to have the acoustic-trawl survey methodology reviewed in 2018. If the Council approves, that review would follow the Council Terms of Reference on methodology reviews. The CPSMT and CPSAS should develop supplemental reports on this agenda item.

Small-Scale Fishery Management Final Action (G.4)

The Council is slated to take final action on a Fishery Management Plan amendment that would allow small-scale directed CPS fishing when the directed fishery is otherwise closed. The CPSMT report (Agenda Item G.4.a, CPSMT Report) describes the alternatives, the preliminary preferred alternative (which was selected by the Council at the November 2016 meeting), and analysis of each. The CPSMT and CPSAS should develop supplemental reports on this agenda item.

Final Action on Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures (G.5)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) completed an update stock assessment of the Pacific sardine biomass off the U.S. The biomass estimate falls below the Cutoff value of 150,000 metric tons. The CPSMT and CPSAS are therefore primarily tasked with making recommendations on incidental harvest, while also considering live bait, Tribal harvest, research take, and potentially small-scale fishery harvest. The CPSMT and CPSAS are expected to develop supplemental reports and to assist the Council in making decisions about that 2017-18 fishing year. The Quinault Indian Nation sent a letter proposing access to 800 mt of sardines, which is in your briefing book materials (Agenda Item G.5.b, Tribal Report).

Non-Agenda Topics

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management California Task Force (BOEM TF)

The CPSMT and CPSAS should each send a representative to the Habitat Committee when it hears a presentation at 2 p.m. on April 6. A BOEM TF representative will be presenting upcoming meetings and proposals of potential interest to CPSAS and CPSMT.

Carryover provisions National Standard 1 (NS1) Guidelines

At its March 2017 meeting, the Council asked that the CPSMT and CPSAS consider the possibility of applying the new NS1 guidelines on carryover to CPS fisheries. John DeVore will describe the new guidelines, and the CPSMT and CPSAS should develop supplemental reports on this topic, under future agenda and workload planning (C.4).

Other Topics

The CPSMT should also discuss the Council's November 2016 request for the CPSMT and CPSAS to develop procedures for setting and updating the overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch, and Minimum Stock Size Threshold for CSNA. The CPSMT and CPSAS should develop supplemental reports on this topic, under future agenda and workload planning (C.4).

The CPSMT and CPSAS should also discuss the topic of changing the sardine fishery start date, to better align with the SWFSC's acoustic-trawl survey, which produces a biomass estimate as of July 1 each year. This topic is not on the Council's agenda, but the issue was discussed during the February 2017 sardine stock assessment review meeting. It would behoove the CPSMT and CPSAS to discuss pros and cons of potentially changing the start date in case the subject comes up during Council discussion.

Enclosed are April agenda materials for your review. Thank you for your continued participation in the Council process and for your part in maintaining sustainable fisheries on the U.S. West Coast.

KFG:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item G.1 – NMFS Report
4. Agenda Item G.2 – CSNA OFL Process
5. Agenda Item G.3 – Methodology Review Planning
6. Agenda Item G.4 – Small-Scale Fishery Management Final Action
7. Agenda Item G.5 – Pacific Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures
8. Agenda Item C.4 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
9. CPSAS Agenda
10. CPSMT Agenda
11. SSC Agenda
12. Hotel Information
13. Roster

PFMC

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