

Pacific Council News

Fall 2017 | www.pcouncil.org

This newsletter reports mainly on decisions made at the September 2017 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting. The Council recommends commercial & recreational fishery management measures for Federal waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. All Council recommendations are subject to approval by National Marine Fisheries Service. [Sign up for other notices here](#). The Council has five public meetings a year. The November Council meeting will be held in Costa Mesa, California; the public comment deadline for the meeting is 5 p.m. on October 19. The supplemental public comment deadline is 5 p.m. on November 6. Email comments to pfmc.comments@noaa.gov.

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Groundfish

STOCK ASSESSMENTS ADOPTED FOR LINGCOD, YELLOWEYE, YELLOWTAIL, OTHERS

New stock assessments for lingcod, yelloweye rockfish, yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat., blue and deacon rockfishes, and California scorpionfish were adopted in September, along with catch-only updates for canary and chilipepper rockfishes.

The lingcod stock north of the California-Oregon border is considered healthy, with a 57.9 percent depletion at the start of 2017. The stock has increased over the last five years as a result of high recruitment in 2008 and 2013. The southern lingcod stock is estimated to be below the management target (40 percent depletion) with a depletion of 32.9 percent, and is currently in the precautionary zone. Although it is believed that spawning biomass in the southern region has been increasing in recent years, and was above the minimum stock size threshold in 2016, it remains a concern that recruitment has been well below average over the last 10-15 years.

The new coastwide assessment of yelloweye rockfish indicated the stock was at 28% depletion at the start of 2017, which is up from 21% in the 2011 assessment, but is still within the precautionary zone. This was the first yelloweye assessment where recruitment deviations (estimates of year class strength relative to average recruitment) were estimated, leading to less uncertainty in the assessment results.

Two yellowtail assessments, north and south of 40° 10' N. lat., were conducted; however, only the northern assessment was adopted. The northern yellowtail stock is considered healthy, with a depletion of 75.2 percent at the start of 2017.

**PACIFIC FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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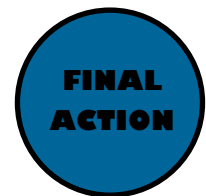
The new assessment of blue and deacon rockfishes assessed these species as a complex, with separate assessments conducted for Oregon and California north of Point Conception. The California assessment estimates that the population reached a low depletion level of 15.6 percent in 2007, and had recovered nearly to the target level, being at 37.3 percent of the unfished spawning output in 2017. A strong 2013 year class appears to be entering the population. The Oregon assessment estimated the population to have been lightly exploited, and to be at a historically low level of depletion (68.6 percent of unfished spawning output) in 2017. The 2013 year class is estimated to be strong in Oregon waters, as in California.

The California scorpionfish population south of Point Conception is estimated to be at a depletion level of 54.3 percent of the unfished spawning output in 2017. The 2015 year class is estimated to be the highest in over 20 years.

The executive summaries of these assessments and the corresponding Stock Assessment Review Panel reports are available at <http://tinyurl.com/y7l8me34> (Agenda Item E.8). The approved assessments will be used to set groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the next biennial management period.

**FINAL ACTION TAKEN ON NON-WHITING MIDWATER TRAWL,
GEAR MODIFICATION EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS**

In September, the Council made a final recommendation on a bottom trawl and nonwhiting midwater trawl exempted fishing permit (EFP) for 2018. The EFP expands the 2017 gear EFP to incorporate additional elements on trawl gear regulations and expands fishing opportunities for vessels using midwater gear to target nonwhiting species. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) may decide to issue two EFPs, one covering bottom trawl gear regulations and the other for midwater trawl opportunities.



The 2018 EFP (or EFPs) include a continuation of the 2017 gear EFP's exemptions from the mesh size requirement and requirement to use selective flatfish trawl gear shoreward of the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) north of 40° 10' N. latitude. The 2018 EFP would add a change to how mesh size is measured, an exemption to the definition of selective flatfish trawl that would allow the use of a four seam selective flatfish trawl net, and a possible geographic extension down to 40° 10' N. latitude. Additionally, the Council recommended that the EFP provide an exemption to the prohibition on the use of multiple trawl gears (midwater and bottom trawl) during the same trip; an exemption allowing new hauls to be brought on board and dumped on deck before all catch from previous hauls has been stowed; and an exemption to the prohibition on use of midwater trawl gear year-round (including prior to May 15) shoreward, within, and seaward of the RCAs north of 40° 10' N. latitude and within and seaward of the RCAs south of 40° 10' N. latitude. Inclusion of exemptions related to non-whiting midwater trawl will depend on the completion of the Endangered Species Act salmon consultation and time required thereafter to complete the impact analysis for the EFP.

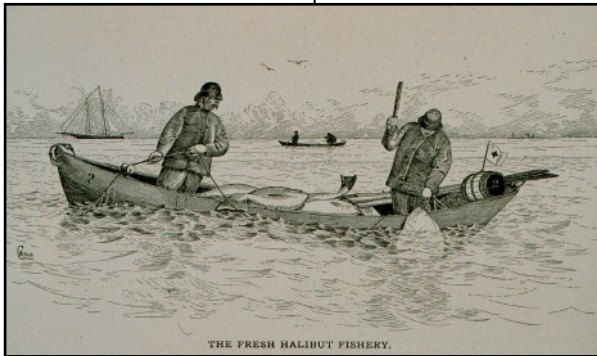
In 2017, the gear EFP covered only areas north of the Oregon/California border. For 2018, the bottom trawl gear portions of the EFP may be extended south to 40° 10' N. latitude, if a review of the salmon preseason forecasts for 2018 indicates such an extension would be appropriate. The salmon preseason forecasts

are available in early February, so a determination of whether such an extension will be made will occur after that time.

With respect to EFP fishing south of 42° N. latitude, all fishing activities covered by the EFP would be subject to an 80 chinook bycatch limit for the entire year. A coastwide 3,547 Chinook salmon harvest guideline would apply to all activity covered in the EFP—both the gear-related provisions and the midwater trawl-related provisions—regardless of whether a single or two EFPs are issued. The Council also recommended closure of the Klamath Salmon Conservation Zone and Columbia River Salmon Conservation Zone.

In 2018, the industry proposed the same gear EFP issued for 2017 in order to implement the elimination of a minimum mesh size and the requirement for use of selective flatfish trawl shoreward of the RCAs north of 40° 10' N. latitude. With the lifting of these restrictions, vessels were able to target midwater pelagic rockfish (primarily widow rockfish and yellowtail rockfish) using modified bottom trawl gear.

Currently, use of midwater trawl gear to target nonwhiting species is allowed year-round seaward of the RCAs in areas south of 40° 10' N. latitude and, after the start of the whiting season on May 15, in all areas north of 40° 10' N. latitude (within, shoreward, and seaward of the RCA).



Halibut dory and crew hauling the trawl. Drawing by H. W. Elliott and Capt. J. W. Collins. NOAA's Historic Fisheries Collection.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES FLEXIBILITY IN ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS

In June of this year, the Council began to consider integrating an average-catch policy in the groundfish management framework. This is now possible due to changes to National Standard 1 guidelines, which allow a multi-year approach, not to exceed three years in retrospect, to determine overfishing status.



In September, the Council's groundfish advisory bodies provided comments on this action. They recommended that the Council pursue a fishery management plan amendment to add two new carry-over provisions to allow some portion of unutilized harvestable surplus to be carried over from one year to the next by increasing the second year's harvest specifications. This would allow fuller utilization of harvestable surpluses. The Council is scheduled to decide in November whether to add this to the 2019-2020 annual specifications.

PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES UNDER ELECTRONIC MONITORING DISCUSSED

In September, the Council released preliminary preferred alternatives on two issues related to electronic monitoring for public review. The first is a draft Pacific halibut discard mortality rate calculation method for bottom trawl and midwater trawl vessels using electronic monitoring. Currently all halibut discarded under electronic monitoring are assigned a mortality rate of 90%, meaning managers conservatively assume that 9 out of 10 halibut are dead after they are discarded. However, actual mortality rates may be considerably less with good handling and quick release of the fish back into the ocean.

The Council is considering using a discard mortality rate of less than 90 percent for halibut when they are discarded under electronic monitoring in the bottom trawl and midwater trawl fisheries. A model is being developed to use time on deck collected from electronic monitoring data to assign a discard mortality rate to each discarded halibut. A fisherman's catch share account is then

debited for all halibut that are considered dead after discard.

The second is a third-party review model for providers who will use electronic monitoring video to audit discard accounting in logbooks. Under a third-party review model, prospective providers would need to qualify and compete for contracts with the industry to review electronic monitoring video. As part of the program, NMFS would audit the performance of the providers to ensure they are meeting program goals. The Council has asked its Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy and Technical Advisory Committees to begin developing business rules for third-party review providers.

In addition, the Council is considering a flexible and transparent method to make changes to a vessels' discard species list—a method that would not involve changes to regulations, but would allow the Council and the public to provide feedback to NMFS. These three items will be discussed further in November, when the Council intends to finalize these issues.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES CATCH SHARE REVIEW, FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS, AT-SEA SET-ASIDES

In September, the Council continued to address the catch share review, follow-on actions, and at-sea set-aside management issues related to the catch share program and intersector allocation.

Five-year review

In June, the Council approved the bulk of the catch share review document, which was released for public review in mid-August. In

September, the Council approved a section on research and data needs and another on recommendations, along with an appendix that summarizes information by community. The comment deadline is October 19.

Follow-on actions

The Council delayed selection of a final preferred alternative for catch share follow-on actions from April to November 2018. The following is a summary of the follow-on issues the Council is considering and the guidance it provided in September.

At-sea whiting fishery bycatch: The Council forwarded for further consideration the alternatives provided in the Community Advisory Board (CAB) report, but limited the reconsideration of trawl/nontrawl allocations to at-sea bycatch species (canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, and widow rockfish). In addition to revising allocations, the CAB alternatives included using set-asides for the management of all at-sea sector groundfish bycatch; increasing the amounts available for harvest through less precautionary policies; allowing between-sector trading of quota; and allowing the carryover of at-sea set asides.

Trawl sablefish area management: The Council forwarded the CAB alternatives for further consideration, including possible elimination of the division of trawl sablefish allocation at 36° N. latitude (along with possible mitigation measure to limit gear switching).

Revising shoreside individual fishing quota (IFQ) accumulation limits: The Council forwarded for further consideration revision of aggregate nonwhiting control limits and individual species vessel quota pound (QP) limits, elimination of the daily QP limit, and revisions to the mathematical formulas used to determine an individual's aggregate holdings.



Astoria trawlers. Photo: Joseph Novak, Flickr Creative Commons.

Meeting the shoreside IFQ sector harvest complex needs: The Council forwarded for further consideration the CAB alternatives that would allow post-season trading of quota pounds, raise annual vessel QP limits, eliminate the September 1 deadline for transferring QP to vessel accounts, and increase carryover amounts. The Council directed that other alternatives be dropped from further consideration.

Gear switching: the Council forwarded for further consideration alternatives that would limit the amount of quota shares that could be used by gear switching vessels (or ensure a certain amount of quota shares be available for use by trawl gear), but also instructed the CAB to consider options developed by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

Catcher-processor accumulation limits: The Council forwarded for further consideration alternatives to limit the number of permits and amount of processing that any one entity could control.

Adaptive management: The Council endorsed continuation of the Adaptive Management Program QP pass-through until an alternative use of Adaptive Management Program QP is implemented.

As part of limiting gear switching, the Council may consider capping the amount of quota or number of permits that are allowed to gear switch. The Council adopted September 15, 2017 as a control date to provide public notice that if the Council adopts restrictions on gear switching it may or may not provide credit for activity after that date in establishing that limitation. A *Federal Register* notice will be published with a full explanation of the control date.



Finally, the Council adopted the Fishery Management Plan Amendment 21-3 language pertaining to at-sea set-asides of darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch (<http://tinyurl.com/yahr8xuj>). In September 2016, the Council took action to change the at-sea whiting sector allocations of darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch to set-asides, while maintaining the allocation formulas in the fishery management plan for these two stocks to determine the set-aside amounts. This change is the substance of Amendment 21-3, and the proposed amendment language is provided at the link above. NMFS will publish a proposed rule to implement this action in time for the start of the 2018 whiting fishery.

Lingcod at Hood Canal.
Photo: Dan Hershman,
Flickr Creative Commons

2019-2020 OVERFISHING LEVELS, HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS ADOPTED

In September, the Council adopted 2019 and 2020 overfishing levels and other harvest specifications (<http://tinyurl.com/ybowyeaj>), as well as preliminary management measures (<http://tinyurl.com/yctv2aah>, Table 1).

For the lingcod stock south of 40° 10' N. lat., which is in the precautionary zone, the Council will consider acceptable biological catches (ABCs) based on an overfishing probability (P*) of 0.45 and decreased annual catch limits (ACLs) according to the 40-10 adjustment, which is a precautionary ACL reduction when a stock is below target biomass. For California scorpionfish, the Council will consider setting ACLs at the same level as ABCs (the default harvest control rule is a constant catch of 150 mt).

Additionally, the Council will consider new measures for managing the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery in California and Oregon. The alternatives include exempting the fishery from the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) or changes in depth restrictions,

requiring installation of a vessel monitoring system and declaration requirement for vessels that are exempt from the RCA or depth restrictions, moving the non-trawl RCA boundary from 100 fm to 75 fm, and modifying the commercial non-trawl RCA 100-fm boundary in Oregon to create discrete open areas. RCA modifications would apply to both the Pacific halibut fishery and the commercial fixed gear fisheries. The Council also adopted a new alternative to manage a new stock complex comprised of Oregon kelp greenling and Oregon cabezon, and an option to add modifications and/or corrections to existing RCA lines.

The Council will discuss 2019-2020 specifications and management measures in November, with final action on harvest specifications in April 2018 and final action on management measures in June 2018.

FINAL TOPICS SELECTED FOR SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The Council approved the proposed Technical Revision to the Marine Survival Index of the Oregon Coastal Natural Coho Work Group Harvest Matrix as a final topic for the 2017 salmon methodology review. The methodology review is scheduled for a one-day webinar on October 17, 2017 which is open to the public.

In addition, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced plans to adjust the commercial salmon troll fishery boundary between North and Central Oregon areas beginning in 2018. A methodology review will not be required for this action.

Salmon

FOUR ALTERNATIVE CONTROL RULES ADOPTED FOR SACRAMENTO RIVER WINTER CHINOOK

The Council has been working to develop an alternative control rule for Sacramento River winter Chinook salmon since 2015. The topic is approaching the final stages of analysis and review. In September, four alternative control rules were adopted for public review (see <http://tinyurl.com/ybwkjm25> for more details).



The control rule affects salmon fisheries in the area south of Point Arena, California. The current control rule is based on recent year spawning escapement, with allowable (age-three) impacts ranging from zero to twenty percent. If abundance was less than an average of 500 fish, allowable impacts are zero. This results in a complete salmon fishery closure south of Point Arena. The Council has expressed concern that the control rule may be unnecessarily restrictive, and could be adjusted to allow for *de minimis* levels of fishing without significantly increasing the risk of extinction. This approach is currently used for several stocks of salmon, including

Sacramento River fall Chinook. There are also concerns that the control rule's reliance on the previous three years of spawner escapement to determine allowable impacts does not consider abundance during the affected season. The Council believes that including more forward-looking indicators in the current-year forecast would be beneficial.

The Council will make a final recommendation in November. NMFS will consider the Council's recommendation during its review of the consultation standards under the Endangered Species Act for 2018 ocean salmon fisheries and beyond.

Highly Migratory Species

COUNCIL DISCUSSES OBSERVERS, ELECTRONIC MONITORING IN DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY

In September, the Council discussed observers and electronic monitoring in the drift gillnet fishery.

In 2015, the purpose of implementing 100 percent monitoring by 2018 was tied to the

application of protected species “hard caps,” which were not implemented. Without hard caps in place, the Council needed to revisit its rationale for increased monitoring in the drift gillnet fishery. The Council adopted a revised purpose and need statement which will allow NMFS to analyze the Council’s 2015 range of alternatives on their own merits.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

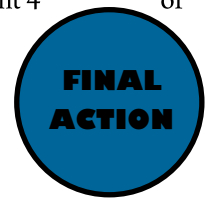
West Coast Pacific bluefin tuna catch in 2017 exceeded 425 mt, the maximum allowed in any one year under the current catch limit system, and NMFS has prohibited landings for the remainder of the year. Since the U.S. catch limit is 600 mt for 2017-18, remaining catch for 2018 will be less than 130 mt. For this reason, the Council recommended a very small trip limit in 2018 to account for incidental catch while discouraging a directed fishery. Based on past incidental landings, the Council thinks this would be a trip limit of around 1 mt. The Council also encouraged NMFS to consider whether a small amount of incidental landings could be allowed for the remainder for 2017. Otherwise, fish that will be unavoidably caught will have to be discarded. NMFS will publish a proposed rule with the public comment period overlapping with the November Council meeting.

TWELVE DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FORWARDED TO NMFS

Thirteen deep-set buoy gear exempted fishing permit applications were reviewed by the Council in September, and twelve were forwarded to NMFS for further review and issuance. Details about the applications are online (<http://tinyurl.com/yd89vcy5>). In addition, Steve Mintz submitted a revised application, which the Council will review in November.

CHANGES TO HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 4 ADOPTED

In September the Council adopted changes to Amendment 4 of the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. The changes revise dated and inaccurate text and address the process for revising estimates of maximum sustainable yield, optimum yield, and status determination criteria.



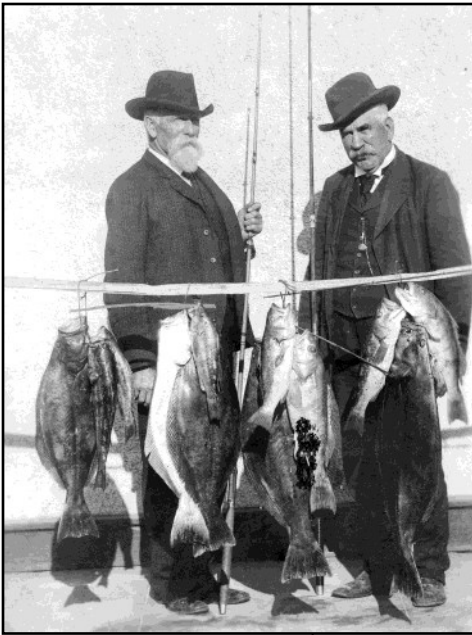
Among other things, the changes shift the biennial management cycle from a June-September-November meeting schedule to a September-November-March meeting schedule to better align it with the NMFS process for making stock status determinations. This allows the Council to more effectively review and comment on the basis for status determinations made by NMFS, resulting in a more consistent schedule for notifications to the Council when

stocks are determined to be subject to overfishing or overfished.

ALTERNATIVES FOR MANAGING DEEP-SET BUOY GEAR FISHERY ADOPTED

The Council has adopted a range of alternatives for managing a future deep-set buoy gear fishery. A preliminary preferred alternative will be selected in March 2018.

The alternatives focus on a limited entry permit program for the fishery in the Southern California Bight. To date, most deep-set buoy gear fishing has occurred in this area, and there are concerns that without a limit on participation there could be conflicts both among deep-set buoy gear fishers and between them and other commercial and recreational fisheries in this region. These alternatives (<http://tinyurl.com/y8xz5349>) cover the number of limited entry permits that would be issued, as well as eligibility criteria for receiving a permit. Outside the Southern California Bight, the fishery would be open access. The Council also identified management measures that would apply to both the open access and limited entry portions of the fishery, including gear definitions and gear tending requirements. The Council decided that the fishery would be permitted in Federal waters of California and Oregon.



Postcard reading "Bass and halibut caught in the Pacific Ocean, 4-18-08, off Huntington Beach, California. E. T. Chamblin, George McWilliam." Photo courtesy Orange County Archives.

Halibut

CHANGES TO CATCH SHARING PLAN ADOPTED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Council adopted for public review proposed changes to the 2018 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishing regulations. The changes are specific to the Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries; no changes were proposed for California recreational fisheries.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed four changes for public review:

**FINAL
ACTION IN
NOVEMBER**

- 1) Retain the current statewide season structure (i.e. manage the North Coast, South Coast, and Puget Sound subareas under a common season) with either status quo management, where each subarea has its own quota and is managed to remain within that individual quota; or shared quota management, where the three sub-areas would be managed under a shared quota to provide for a minimum of four days of a statewide season and then the balance of the shared quota would be distributed to the subareas as usual;
- 2) Revise the catch sharing calculations for incidental halibut retention in the sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis so that when the Area 2A total allowable catch is less than 1.5M lbs, the status quo formula would apply for up to a maximum allocation of 50,000 lbs. When the Area 2A total allowable catch allocation is 1.5M lbs or more, the maximum allocation would increase to 70,000 lbs.;
- 3) Analyze alternatives for annual bag limits ranging from two to six fish per angler;
- 4) For the Columbia River subarea, change the days open for the all-depth fishery from Thursday through Sunday (four days) to Thursday, Friday, and Sunday (three days).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed one change for public review regarding the Central Coast Subarea: Maintain status quo, or split the Subarea into a north and south sub-area each with its own allocation. The north/south split would be at the North Florence Jetty. Three alternatives (1a, 1b, and 1c) were described that would share the allocation between north and south: 91/9 percent (1a), 92/8 percent (1b) and 90.2/9.8 percent (1c).

Although no changes to the non-tribal directed halibut fishery were proposed, the Council asked the states and the International Pacific Halibut Commission to continue investigating options that would move the fishery away from a "derby-style" fishery. The Council will review proposed analysis and alternatives again in November, but does not expect changes for the 2018 fishery.

The public is encouraged to comment on these propose changes. Final action for establishing the 2018 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for the November 2017 Council meeting.

Ecosystem & Habitat

Climate will be the focus of the next initiative addressed under the Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan. The Council chose the initiative as a priority in September. Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiatives address issues that affect two or more Council fishery management plans.

Over the next year, the Ecosystem Workgroup will organize a series of webinars on the effects of climate variability/change on the California Current Ecosystem and plans to prepare a report describing major Council decisions that may benefit from increased ecosystem science input. The Nature Conservancy has also offered to sponsor a workshop in Spring 2018 that could further the objectives of this initiative. Although not a Council-sponsored workshop, it could provide information in support of the Council's climate initiative. In September 2018, the Council will narrow down the goals of this initiative.



Willapa Bay estuary.
Photo: Jennifer Gilden.

In a related move, NMFS Northwest and Southwest Science Center staff have completed two climate vulnerability assessments. The first—an assessment of vulnerability of the Council-managed species and Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed marine species—uses NMFS' Climate Vulnerability Assessment Methodology. The second—an assessment of the vulnerability of all ESA-listed salmonid evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) on the west coast and four comparison unlisted ESUs—uses a tailored methodology that includes appropriate

life history and freshwater considerations. These climate vulnerability assessments combine expert opinion and climate model outputs to quantify sensitivity of key managed fish species, which can be used as a basis for management decisions and to prioritize future research. The assessments also include information on the relative vulnerability of fish species overall and with respect to particular climate stressors. See <http://tinyurl.com/ybva386a> for more information.

In Habitat news, the Council directed staff to send a letter to the California Dept. of Water Resources and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relating to essential fish habitat for fall Chinook and the operation of the Oroville Dam and related facilities. The letters are posted at <http://tinyurl.com/PFMC-habitat>.

Other Business

LEGISLATIVE

Currently, four bills have been introduced to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the main bill that determines how ocean fisheries are managed in the United States. The current bills include HR 200 (Don Young, Alaska), HR 2023 (Garrett Graves, Louisiana), S 1748 (Marco Rubio, Florida), and S 1520 (Roger Wicker, Mississippi). In addition, Rep. Jared Huffman (California) has released a draft bill to reauthorize the MSA. Hearings have been held on MSA in both the House and Senate. The Council discussed the bills in September and will do so in November and at each Legislative Committee meeting until the MSA is reauthorized. For more information, see the "administrative" section of the briefing book for summaries of the bills.

The Council has been asked to comment on David Valadao's (California) bill HR 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act, which could have a major impact on California salmon and salmon fisheries. The bill is similar to previous versions, and a draft letter will be in the

November briefing book. The Council has also been asked to comment on HR 3916 (Ken Calvert, California), which would transfer jurisdiction for anadromous fish under the Endangered Species Act from NMFS to the Dept. of Interior. Finally the Council is also tracking a bill on Columbia River hydropower operations (HR 3144, McMorris-Rodgers, Washington), which would have the effect of reducing Court-ordered spill in the Columbia hydropower system.

MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS AND COUNCIL PROCESSES

The Council reviewed and approved the following appointments in September: **Phil Anderson** was reappointed as the Council representative to the U.S. Section of the Joint Management Committee of the U.S. – Canada Pacific Hake/Whiting Agreement. **Rich Lincoln** was identified as the designee for the Council Chair appointment to the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Meisha Key and **Dr. Rishi Sharma** were appointed to the two vacant at-large seats on the Scientific and Statistical Committee. **Alex Letvin** was appointed to the vacant California Department of Fish and Wildlife seats on the Salmon Technical Team and the Model Evaluation Workgroup. **Melissa Mandrup** was appointed to the vacant California Department of Fish and Wildlife seat on the Groundfish Management Team. **Dr. Kayleigh**

Somers was appointed to the vacant Northwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the Groundfish Management Team. **Dr. Andrew Thompson** was appointed to the vacant Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the Groundfish Management Team.

Brent Paine has notified the Council of his intent to resign from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel trawl at-large seat after the November 2017 Council meeting. Council staff will be accepting nominations through October 19 to replace Paine for the remainder of the 2015-2018 term.

Additionally, new Council member **Brad Pettinger** has resigned his seat on the ad hoc Community Advisory Board and it is anticipated that the Council Chair will appoint a new representative at the November Council meeting.

The Council adopted changes to Council Operating Procedure 9 regarding the biennial management cycle and activities related to highly migratory species management, contingent upon approval by the Secretary of Commerce.



Conducting a salmon spawning survey with Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game. Photo: Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Upcoming Meetings

AD HOC COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Dates: October 24-25
Purpose: To review the public review draft of the catch share program five-year review document and continue to develop ranges of alternatives for Council consideration in November 2017.
Contact: Jim Seger (jim.seger@noaa.gov)
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y9hgzaqf>

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM & MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP WEBINAR

Dates: November 2, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Purpose: To consider topics on the November 2017 Council meeting agenda.
Contact: Robin Ehlke (Robin.Ehlke@noaa.gov)
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y9jrfrb3>

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM AND ADVISORY SUBPANEL WEBINAR

Dates: November 7, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Purpose: To consider topics on the November 2017 Council meeting agenda.
Contact: Kerry Griffin (Kerry.Griffin@noaa.gov)
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y9d27b6v>

SIXTH NATIONAL MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (SCS6)

Dates: January 17-19, 2018
Location: Kona Kai Hotel, San Diego, California
Contact: John DeVore (John.DeVore@noaa.gov)
For More Info: tinyurl.com/scs2018

The Council Staff Gives Back

The Council staff regularly organizes drives to help out those in need. This fall the staff donated five large bins full of clothes, toiletries, books, toys, and other items to benefit foster children through the Oregon Dept. of Human Services. In addition, the Council staff collected and forwarded \$765 for hurricane relief. In December, the staff plans to “adopt” a local family for Christmas through the Salvation Army for the tenth year in a row.

November Council Meeting Agenda

GROUNDFISH

- ◆ NMFS Report
- ◆ Catch Share Program Review: Final Report Adoption & Preliminary Follow-On Actions
- ◆ Informational Update on Essential Fish Habitat/Rockfish Conservation Area Amendment
- ◆ Final Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses
- ◆ Final Action: Mid-Biennium Harvest Specs Adjustment
- ◆ 2019-2020 Biennial Harvest Specs, Including Final Overfishing Limits and Annual Biological Catches
- ◆ ESA Consultations on Salmon and Seabirds
- ◆ Preliminary Approval of Exempted Fishing Permits
- ◆ Off-Year Science and Stock Assessment Methodology Review—Final Topic Selection
- ◆ Electronic Monitoring—Halibut Discard Mortality Rate and Third Party Review
- ◆ Cost Recovery Update
- ◆ Inseason Adjustments

HALIBUT

- ◆ Final 2018 Catch Sharing Plan changes and 2018 annual regulations

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

- ◆ NMFS Report
- ◆ International management activities
- ◆ Exempted fishing permits: final approval and initial review of new EFPs

SALMON

- ◆ NMFS Report
- ◆ Methodology Review: Final Approval
- ◆ Sacramento River Winter Chinook Harvest Control Rule: Final Recommendations
- ◆ 2018 Preseason Management Schedule

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

- ◆ NMFS Report
- ◆ 2018 Exempted Fishing Permits: Notice of Intent
- ◆ Methodology Review: Preliminary Topic Selection

OTHER

- ◆ Tri-State Enforcement Report
- ◆ Legislative matters



Redfish Lake, Idaho, home of the iconic sockeye salmon. In the 1880s, 25,000-35,000 sockeye returned annually to the Sawtooth Valley and Payette River Basin. Dam building starting as early as the 1900s reduced their range and population. In 1992 only one – Lonesome Larry – made it back to Redfish Lake. A captive broodstock program was created to preserve the stock. The program has since evolved into a hatchery program to produce sockeye for release into the wild. Sockeye travel the furthest of all Idaho salmon, swimming more than 900 miles and climbing more than 6,500 feet in elevation to their home waters. Photo: Jennifer Gilden. Text: IDFG.