

## FINAL INSEASON MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING SHOREBASED CARRYOVER AND EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFP)

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 progress to date of the groundfish fisheries, including considerations for issuing shorebased individual fishing quota (IFQ) surplus carryover and modifications to previously approved exempted fishing permits (EFPs), as well as routine inseason adjustments to the 2018 fisheries. Potential routine inseason adjustments include adjustments to Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on recent landings and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) submitted a report requesting modifications to Washington recreational bag limits for canary and flatfish (Agenda Item H.8.a, WDFW Report). Based on fishery performance in 2017, WDFW is proposing to increase the canary sublimit to two fish and allow canary retention in all marine areas. In addition, WDFW is proposing to allow the retention of three flatfish, in addition to the status quo aggregate daily groundfish limit of nine.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) submitted a report requesting inseason adjustments to the California recreational bag limits (Agenda Item H.8.a, CDFW Report). Based on fishery performance in 2017, CDFW is proposing to increase the canary bag limit from one to two in 2018.

### *Shorebased IFQ Surplus Carryover*

The Council is expected to provide a recommendation regarding the issuance of 2017 surplus carryover quota pounds (QP) into the 2018 shorebased IFQ program. The surplus carryover provision in the shorebased IFQ program allows unused QP in amounts of 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 50 CFR 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](#)).

At this meeting, the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) is expected to provide a supplemental report on fishery performance in 2017 and projections for 2018 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 less than 10 percent (i.e., reduce the eligible carryover percent), or c) forego carryover.

### *EFP Updates*

The Council recommended an EFP for 2017 and 2018 sponsored by The Nature Conservancy to test pot gear for selective harvest of lingcod within the non-trawl RCA off Washington and Oregon; however permit issuance has been delayed. At the November 2017 Council meeting, the Council recommended NMFS modify the terms and conditions of the San Francisco Community Fishing Association & Dan Platt EFP to allow canary rockfish to be sold in 2018 given that the stock is rebuilt. Under this agenda item, the Council is expected to receive an update from NMFS regarding the status of these previously approved EFPs.

At the September 2017 Council meeting, the Council recommended an EFP to provide exemptions to select bottom and midwater trawl gear regulations. These exemptions expand the times and areas in which midwater trawl gear can be used to target non-whiting species, and allows use of small footrope gears other than selective flatfish trawl (SFFT) shoreward of the RCA and north of 42° N. latitude. Information to be collected by this EFP includes salmon bycatch data. Attachment 1 contains a summary of the current trawl gear-type regulations that pertain to the area and time in which gears may be used (Figure 1) and the exemptions provided in the current EFP (Figure 2). Pending a review of the salmon preseason forecasts for 2018, the Council could consider expanding the selective flatfish trawl gear exemption for vessels fishing shoreward of the RCA from 42° N. latitude to 40°10' N. latitude (Figure 2, shaded area). This extension would go through the end of the year or until such time as the EFP is otherwise modified or closed. The extension of the SFFT requirement would continue to be subject to an 80 Chinook bycatch limit for the entire year south of 42° N. latitude. NMFS will provide a supplemental report regarding EFP performance.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Consider projections for the 2018 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary.**
- 2. Consider data on 2017 surplus carryover QPs and projections for fishery performance in 2018. Recommend the amount of surplus carryover that should be issued.**
- 3. Discuss the 2018 EFPs including the potential to expand the bottom trawl exemptions south of 42° N. latitude.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 1: 2017 Regulations and Trawl Gear Exemptions by Area.
2. Agenda Item H.8.a, WDFW Report 1: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Inseason Adjustments for 2018.
3. Agenda Item H.8.a, CDFW Report 1: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on inseason Adjustments for 2018.

### **Agenda Order:**

- H.8 Final Inseason Management, Including Shorebased Carryover and Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) Brett Wiedoff
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment

- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2018, Including Shorebased Carryover and Exempted Fishing Permits, as Necessary, to Achieve, but Not Exceed, Annual Catch Limits and Other Management Objectives

PFMC  
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