



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Philip Anderson, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2018

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kit Dahl, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 9-14, 2018, at the Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park, California. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) will meet Thursday and Friday, March 8-9. The EAS will be in the Redwood Room and the EWG will be in the Oak Board Room.

There are three agenda topics under the Ecosystem heading. I have also included the briefing materials for C.7, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. Summaries of these topics follow.

#### Agenda Item F.1 California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Report and Science Review Topics

The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) composed of staff from the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers produce the State of the California Current Ecosystem Report annually and deliver it at the March Council meeting. The report informs the Council on ecological conditions through various indicators for physical, biological, and social processes.

As part of the Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative, the EWG recommended expanding the utility of the Report by periodically identifying “focal topics.” Delivery of the 2018 Annual Report is an opportunity for the Council to identify focal topics and other improvements for future annual reports.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee Ecosystem Subcommittee has been regularly meeting with members of the CCIEA at the September Council meeting to conduct technical review of selected indicators in the annual ecosystem status report and other ecosystem research topics. The SSC recommended creating a standard process for identifying topics for review that would allow other advisory bodies and the Council to provide guidance on review topics. The CCIEA submitted its list of proposed review topics for 2018 as Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 3.

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Agenda Item F.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative Update

In September 2017, the Council adopted this initiative based on input from the EAS, EWG, and other advisory bodies. The “Climate and Communities Initiative” name emphasizes that the Council’s role in responding to the effects of climate change includes the human component of the ecosystem. The EWG submitted a report for the advance briefing book that reviews the initiative objectives and schedule and provides more information on management questions and issues that could benefit from increased climate and ecosystem science input. This will be an opportunity to further plan activities that would be carried out under this initiative.

Agenda Item F.3 Sablefish Ecosystem Indicators: Management Strategy Evaluation

In March 2016, the Council requested the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) evaluate ecosystem indicators that may influence sablefish recruitment. Dr. Melissa Haltuch from the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center will brief the Council and its advisors at this meeting on progress made to date on this effort.

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings, I am including the materials for Agenda Item C.7, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. You may wish to provide comments on what topics are proposed and at what meetings.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website, as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item F.1: California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Report and Science Review Topics
3. Agenda Item F.2: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative Update
4. Agenda Item F.3: Sablefish Ecosystem Indicators: Management Strategy Evaluation
5. Agenda Item C.7: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
6. EAS and EWG Agendas
7. Informational Reports
8. Hotel-related information
9. Council Roster