



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2018

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: March 2018 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meets March 9-14, 2018, at the Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma Wine Country in Rohnert Park, California. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Sunday to Tuesday, March 11-13. The HMSAS will be in the Redwood Room and the HMSMT will be in the Oak Board Room. The meetings begin at 8 a.m. each day. Three HMS topics are on the Council agenda. Summaries of these topics follow.

#### I.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region will report on HMS Branch activities. The Region office is also organizing briefings on current advances in bycatch mitigation under its report. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center will report on HMS-related research activities. This agenda item is a briefing, and no Council action will occur under this agenda item.

#### I.2 Deep-Set Buoy Gear Authorization – Final Range of Alternatives/Preliminary Preferred Alternative

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to adopt a final range of alternatives for authorization of deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) and, if possible, adopt a preliminary preferred alternative for public review. The HMSMT submitted a report describing the range of alternatives based on the Council's motion from September 2017. Three alternatives are described: 1) no action, 2) an open access fishery, and 3) an open access fishery north of Point Conception and a limited entry fishery south of Point Conception. The HMSMT Report identifies aspects of the range of alternatives that need further clarification.

#### H.3 Proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

The Council has received 13 new applications for review at the March Council meeting. The Council will also consider whether to continue accepting DSBG EFP applications at every meeting when HMS items are on the agenda as it has been doing since June 2016. The Council could revert

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to the annual schedule described in Council Operating Procedure 20 or set another alternative schedule for accepting applications.

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings, I am also 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. You may 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.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item I.1: NMFS Report
3. Agenda Item I.2: Deep-Set Buoy Gear Authorization – Final Range of Alternatives/Preliminary Preferred Alternative
4. Agenda Item I.3: Proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits
5. Agenda Item C.7: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
6. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
7. Informational Reports
8. Hotel-related Information
9. Council Roster

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