

FINAL COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
243rd Session of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 9-14, 2018
Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma
One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Contents

INTRODUCTION	7
MEETING SUMMARY	8
A. Call to Order [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:00:09].....	8
1. Opening Remarks – Phil Anderson, Chair [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:00:10]	8
2. Roll Call – Chuck Tracy [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:03:31].....	8
3. Executive Director’s Report – Chuck Tracy [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:04:49] & [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:17:48]	9
4. Agenda – Phil Anderson	9
a. Council Action: Approve Agenda [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:10:26].....	9
B. Open Comment Period.....	9
1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items – Mike Burner [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:18:51]	9
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	9
b. Public Comment.....	9
c. Council Discussion and Comments as Appropriate.....	9
C. Administrative Matters	9
1. Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Update – Chuck Tracy [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:20:22]	9
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:20:38]	9
b. Public Comment.....	9
c. Council Action: Discussion and Guidance on CCC issues, as Appropriate [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:48:29]	10
2. Marine Planning Update – Kerry Griffin [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:52:50]	10
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:55:25]	10
b. Public Comment.....	10
c. Council Discussion and Comments, as Appropriate [mp3: 3-9-18am1 1:04:17]	10
3. National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report – Kerry Griffin [mp3: 3-9-18am1 1:04:55]	10
a. Report of the National Marine Sanctuary Program – Bill Douros [mp3: 3-9-18am1 1:06:47]	10
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:00:12]	10
c. Public Comment.....	10

d. Council Discussion [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:12:01].....	10
4. Legislative Matters – Jennifer Gilden [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:00:11]	11
a. Report of the Legislative Committee – Dave Hanson [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:03:45]...	11
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:07:41]	11
c. Public Comment [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:08:36].....	11
d. Council Action: Consider Legislative Committee Report and Recommendations [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:10:07].....	11
5. Approval of Council Meeting Record – Phil Anderson [mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:36:52].....	11
a. Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record	11
6. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedure – Mike Burner [mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:39:35]	12
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	12
b. Public Comment.....	12
c. Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures [mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:43:01]	12
7. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning – Chuck Tracy [mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:47:38]	13
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:50:19].....	13
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-14-18am2 2:00:06].....	13
c. Council Action: Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning [mp3: 3-14-18am2 2:03:47].....	13
D. Habitat.....	14
1. Current Habitat Issues – Jennifer Gilden [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:16:38]	14
a. Report of the Habitat Committee – Eric Wilkins [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:18:08].....	14
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	14
c. Public Comment [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:28:30].....	14
d. Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Report and Recommendations [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:34:52].....	14
E. Salmon Management	14
1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:00:20]....	14
a. Regulatory Activities – NMFS WCR [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:06:01]	14
b. Fisheries Science Center Activities – NWFSC/SWFSC [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:07:05]	14
c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	15
d. Public Comment.....	15
e. Council Discussion [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:30:48]	15
2. Review of 2017 Fisheries and Summary of 2018 Stock Forecasts – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-10-18pm1 0:00:03].....	15
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-10-18pm1 0:00:18].....	15
b. Public Comment.....	15
c. Council Action – Review and Discuss Relevant Fishery Information, Adopt 2018 Abundance Forecasts and Annual Catch Limits, and Act on Relevant	

Conservation Objectives or Status Determinations as Necessary [mp3: 3-10-18pm1 1:24:26]	15
3. Identification of Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2018 Salmon Management Alternatives Including Test Fishery Alternatives – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-10-18pm2 0:00:07]	16
a. Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission – Phil Anderson [mp3: 3-10-18pm2 0:01:40]	16
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-10-18pm2 0:08:09].....	16
c. Public Comment [mp3: 3-10-18pm3 0:00:05].....	17
d. Council Action: Adopt Council Recommendations for Initial Management Measure Alternatives for Salmon Technical Team Collation and Description [mp3: 3-10-18pm3 0:13:47].....	17
4. Recommendations for 2018 Management Alternative Analysis – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-11-18pm3 0:00:09]	18
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-11-18pm3 0:01:20].....	18
b. Public Comment.....	18
c. Council Action: Direction to the Salmon Technical Team and Salmon Advisory Subpanel on Alternative Development and Analysis	18
5. Further Council Direction for 2018 Management Alternatives – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-12-18pm2 0:00:05]	18
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-12-18pm2 0:01:00].....	18
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-12-18pm2 0:09:57].....	18
c. Council Action: Further Guidance and Direction as Necessary [mp3: 3-12-18pm2 0:16:47].....	18
5. Further Council Direction for 2018 Management Alternatives (Reopened) – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-13-18pm1 0:47:33]	18
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	18
b. Public Comment.....	18
c. Council Action: Further Guidance and Direction as Necessary [mp3: 3-13-18pm1 1:01:45].....	18
6. Adoption of 2018 Management Alternatives for Public Review – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-14-18am2 0:00:25]	19
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-14-18am2 0:01:20].....	19
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-14-18am2 0:54:12].....	19
c. Council Action: Adopt Ocean Salmon Management Alternatives for Public Review [mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:06:17].....	19
7. Appoint Salmon Hearings Officers – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:33:33]	21
a. Council Action: Appoint Hearings Officers - Phil Anderson	21
F. Ecosystem Management	21
1. California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Report and Science Review Topics – Kit Dahl [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:32:08]	21
a. IEA Team Report – Chris Harvey & Toby Garfield [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:37:24].....	21

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 1:35:46].....	21
c. Public Comment [mp3: 3-9-18pm2 0:00:06].....	21
d. Council Action: 1) Consider the California Current Ecosystem Report; 2) Identify Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2018. [mp3: 3-9-18pm2 0:15:09] ...	22
2. Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiatives Update – Kit Dahl [mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:03:05].....	22
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:07:43].....	22
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:42:52].....	22
c. Council Action: Review Progress and Provide Guidance [mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:53:16].....	22
3. Sablefish Ecosystem Indicators: Management Strategy Evaluation – John DeVore [mp3: 3-11-18am1 0:02:53].....	23
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-11-18am1 0:07:48].....	23
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-11-18am1 1:12:10].....	23
c. Council Action: Adopt Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation for Potential Use in Future Assessments and Management Decisions, As Appropriate [mp3: 3-11-18am1 1:13:13].....	23
G. Pacific Halibut Management.....	23
1. Annual International Pacific Halibut Commission Meeting Report – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:02:37].....	23
a. IPHC Report – Dave Wilson [mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:04:39].....	23
b. Council IPHC Representative Report – Phil Anderson and Michele Culver [mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:36:00]	24
c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:47:36].....	24
d. Public Comment.....	24
e. Council Action: Consideration of the IPHC Meeting Reports [mp3: 3-10-18am2 1:02:03].....	24
2. Incidental Catch Recommendation: Options for the Salmon Troll and Final Recommendations for the Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:15:18]	24
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:21:45].....	24
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:38:23].....	24
c. Council Action: Recommend Inseason Changes to April 2018 Retention Limits in the Salmon Troll Fishery, as Necessary; Adopt Public Review Options for Retention in 2018 and April 2019 Salmon Troll Fishery; and Adopt Final Retention Limits for 2018 Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery [mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:43:15].....	25
H. Groundfish Management	26
1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Brett Wiedoff [mp3: 3-11-18am2 1:15:03].....	26
a. Regulatory Activities – Frank Lockhart [mp3: 3-11-18am2 1:16:10].....	26

b.	Fisheries Science Center Activities – Michelle McClure [mp3: 3-11-18am2 1:48:23]	26
c.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:00:37].....	26
d.	Public Comment [mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:14:39].....	26
e.	Council Discussion [mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:27:22]	26
2.	Trawl Catch Shares – Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management – Jim Seger [mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:33:56].....	26
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:58:06].....	27
b.	Public Comment [mp3: 3-11-18pm1 1:33:19] & [mp3: 3-11-18pm2 0:00:46].....	27
c.	Council Action: Provide Guidance on Future Process and Schedule [mp3: 3-12-18am1 0:02:46]	27
3.	Implementation of the 2018 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement – John DeVore [mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:00:32].....	28
a.	Joint Management Committee Report – Phil Anderson [mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:02:31]	28
b.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	28
c.	Public Comment.....	28
d.	Council Action: Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2018 Pacific Whiting Fishery [mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:31:30].....	28
4.	Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference – John DeVore [mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:37:51]	28
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:44:05].....	29
b.	Public Comment [mp3: 3-12-18am2 2:08:46].....	29
c.	Council Action: Adopt for Public Review a Preliminary List and Schedule of Stocks for Assessment in 2019 and 2021 and Terms of Reference for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments, Methodology Reviews, and Rebuilding Analyses [mp3: 3-12-18am2 2:13:14]	29
5.	Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion on the Take of Listed Salmon in Groundfish Fisheries – Kit Dahl [mp3: 3-12-18pm1 0:00:06]	30
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-12-18pm1 0:10:20].....	30
b.	Public Comment [mp3: 3-12-18pm1 1:47:45].....	31
c.	Council Action: Review Biological Opinion Incidental Take Statement and Identify Council Tasks and Schedule for Addressing Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Pursuant Terms and Conditions [mp3: 3-12-18pm1 1:47:43]	31
6.	Trawl Catch Shares – Final Range of Alternatives (ROA) for Follow-On Actions – Jim Seger [mp3: 3-12-18pm2 0:46:41].....	31
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-12-18pm2 1:09:35].....	31
b.	Public Comment [mp3: 3-12-18pm2 1:24:46].....	31
c.	Council Action: Adopt Final ROA for Follow-On Actions Analysis and Provide Guidance on Other Trawl Catch Share Issues [mp3: 3-13-18am1 0:03:38].....	31

7. Update on 2019-2020 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures – John DeVore [mp3: 3-13-18am1 0:41:43]	32
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:00:17].....	32
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:16:17].....	33
c. Council Action: Review Progress, Provide Guidance, and Adopt Revised Harvest Specifications, as Necessary [mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:20:23].....	33
8. Final Inseason Management, Including Shorebased Carryover and Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) – Brett Wiedoff [mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:30:03].....	33
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:33:20].....	33
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-13-18am2 1:51:15].....	34
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 [mp3: 3-13-18pm1 0:00:04]	34
I. Highly Migratory Species Management	35
1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Kit Dahl [mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:01:59]	35
a. Regulatory Activities – Heidi Taylor.....	35
b. Science Center Activities – Gerard DiNardo.....	36
c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:27:46].....	36
d. Public Comment [mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:37:52].....	36
e. Council Discussion [mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:52:12]	36
2. Deep Set-Buoy Gear Authorization – Final Range of Alternatives/Preliminary Preferred Alternative – Kit Dahl [mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:55:35]	36
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:59:32].....	36
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-13-18pm2 1:33:50].....	36
c. Council Action: Adopt a Final Range of Alternatives for Authorization on Deep-Set Buoy Gear and if Possible, Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, for Public Review [mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:02:04]	37
3. Proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits – Kit Dahl [mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:57:41]	39
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-14-18am1 1:03:49]	40
b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-14-18am1 1:17:36].....	40
c. Council Action: 1) Provide Recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service on Exempted Fishing Permits to Test Deep-Set Buoy Gear; 2) Decide on the Process and Schedule for Future Application Reviews [mp3: 3-14-18am1 1:46:02]	40
INFORMATIONAL REPORTS	41
VOTING LOG	41
ADJOURN.....	49

INTRODUCTION

This document contains or identifies the various elements, documents, and sources comprising the complete and official record of Council meeting discussions and actions. In addition to the Meeting Summary, which follows this introductory section (see #7 below), it includes information or references that serve as the functional detailed minutes for this Council meeting as required by §302(i)(2)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The full record is maintained at the Council office, is available on the Council website (<http://www.pcouncil.org/>) or upon request from the Council office, and consists of the following:

1. **Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda** – These documents are available on the Council Website prior to and following each meeting at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.
2. **Attendance Records** – These documents are available for the Council meeting and each advisory body meeting by request from the Council office.
3. **All Documents, Reports, and Presentations for Council Consideration** – These items include (1) all documents produced or received for the meeting briefing book, validated by a label assigned by the Council Secretariat and distributed to Council Members; (2) written public comments received at the Council meeting in accordance with agenda labeling requirements; and (3) electronic material or handout materials used in presentations to Council Members during the open session. They are available from links in the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
4. **Council Decisions Summary Document** – This document is distributed shortly after each Council meeting. It provides very brief descriptions of most key Council decisions and is available at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/> and also provided by agenda item in the Meeting Summary of this document.
5. **Draft or Final Decision Documents Finalized after the Council Meeting** – Documents such as Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments are available on the Council website as they are completed.
6. **Gavel-to-Gavel Audio Recordings** – These recordings contain the testimony, presentations, discussions, and actions occurring at the meeting and are labeled by date and time (e.g., 04-11-15am1) and have been annotated as to the time on the recording for the start of each agenda line item to help facilitate review. The recordings may be accessed from the links contained within the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
7. **Meeting Summary** (immediately follows this section) – The Meeting Summary lists, in agenda item order, the briefing book documents, reports, presentations, and Council motions and actions, including a brief summary from the Council Decisions Summary Document for each agenda item. It constitutes the meeting record formally approved by the Council. The agenda heading for each agenda item, and most listed documents, serve as internet links to the actual briefing book documents. Internet links in brackets (e.g., [[mp3: 11-11-14pm1 @01:21:15](#)]) refer to the audio recording and elapsed time on the recording at which the agenda item was initiated. Links to the audio recordings are annotated by agenda item and may also be accessed at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
8. **Voting Log** – The voting log lists, in agenda order, the summarized Council motions and actions for each agenda item that took place during the meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Call to Order [[mp3: 3-9-18am1](#) 0:00:09]

1. Opening Remarks – Phil Anderson, Chair [[mp3: 3-9-18am1](#) 0:00:10]

Mr. Phil Anderson, Council Chair, called the 243rd meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 9, 2018. A closed session was held before this open session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

2. Roll Call – Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 3-9-18am1](#) 0:03:31]

Council Members present during the meeting week:

National Marine Fisheries Service:	Mr. Ryan Wulff, designee Dr. Peter Dygert, designee Mr. Frank Lockhart, designee Ms. Heidi Taylor, designee
Washington State Official:	Mr. Kyle Adicks, designee Ms. Michele Culver, designee Mr. Corey Niles, designee
Washington Obligatory:	Mr. Rich Lincoln
Oregon State Official:	Dr. Caren Braby, designee Mr. Chris Kern, designee Ms. Maggie Sommer, designee
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Dorothy Lowman
California State Official:	Ms. Joanna Grebel, designee Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee Mr. John Ugoretz, designee Mr. Brett Kormos, designee
California Obligatory:	Mr. David Crabbe, Vice-Chair
Idaho State Official:	Mr. Peter Hassemer, designee
Idaho Obligatory:	Mr. Herb Pollard
Tribal Official:	Mr. David Sones, designee
At-Large:	Mr. Phil Anderson, Chair Mr. William L. “Buzz” Brizendine Mr. Marc Gorelnik Mr. Brad Pettinger
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:	Dr. David Hanson, Parliamentarian, nonvoting designee
U.S. Coast Guard:	LCDR Gregg Casad, nonvoting designee CDR Jason Brand, nonvoting designee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	Dr. Denise Hawkins, nonvoting designee

Absent from the Meeting:

Alaska State Official:	Mr. Charles Swanton (nonvoting)
U.S. State Department:	Mr. David Hogan, nonvoting designee

3. **Executive Director's Report** – Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:04:49](#)] & [[mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:17:48](#)]

Mr. Tracy reported on the staff retreat results, the SCS Meeting that was held in January, and the current status of the hiring process for a Groundfish Staff officer position.

4. **Agenda – Phil Anderson**

a. **Council Action: Approve Agenda** [[mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:10:26](#)]

Motion 1 [[mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:10:40](#)]: Adopt [Agenda Item A.4, March 8-14, 2018 Council Meeting Agenda](#)

Dorothy Lowman/David Sones (Motion carried unanimously)

B. Open Comment Period

1. **Comments on Non-Agenda Items** – Mike Burner [[mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:18:51](#)]

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**

None

b. **Public Comment**

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Public Comment 1](#): February 7, 2018 letter to Council Chair Anderson regarding Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat

[Agenda Item B.1.b, Public Comment 2](#): February 8, 2018 letter from Oceana to Council Chair Anderson regarding Pelagic Longline Swordfish Fisheries

c. **Council Discussion and Comments as Appropriate**

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

C. Administrative Matters

1. **Council Coordination Committee (CCC) Update** – Chuck Tracy [[mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:20:22](#)]

[Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 1](#): DRAFT 2018 Council Coordination Committee Meeting, Holiday Inn Capitol Hill – Washington, DC, Agenda

[Agenda Item C.1, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): Executive Directors Report from the February 27-28, 2018 Council Coordination Committee Meeting

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:20:38](#)]

None

b. **Public Comment**

None

- c. **Council Action: Discussion and Guidance on CCC issues, as Appropriate** [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:48:29]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

2. Marine Planning Update – Kerry Griffin [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:52:50]

Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1: RPB Fact Sheet

Agenda Item C.2, Supplemental Attachment 2: 2017 Annual Meeting Report, Executive Summary

- a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [mp3: 3-9-18am1 0:55:25]

Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1: West Coast Regional Planning Body PFMC Update (*Werner*)

- b. **Public Comment**

None

- c. **Council Discussion and Comments, as Appropriate** [mp3: 3-9-18am1 1:04:17]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

3. National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report – Kerry Griffin [mp3: 3-9-18am1 1:04:55]

- a. **Report of the National Marine Sanctuary Program – Bill Douros** [mp3: 3-9-18am1 1:06:47]

Agenda Item C.3.a, National Marine Sanctuaries Report

Agenda Item C.3.a, Supplemental NMS Presentation 1: National Marine Sanctuaries Coordination Report (*Douros*)

- b. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:00:12]

Agenda Item C.3.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report 1

Agenda Item C.3.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report 1

Agenda Item C.3.b, Supplemental HC Report 1

- c. **Public Comment**

Agenda Item C.3.c, Supplemental Public Comment 1

- d. **Council Discussion** [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:12:01]

Staff Summary:

Representatives of the West Coast Regional Office of the National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) Program provided a [report](#) to the Council on current and upcoming activities. These include the sanctuary nomination process, management plan reviews, seafloor mapping, and efforts aimed at reducing whale entanglements and ship strikes, among others. The Council expressed appreciation and encouraged the NMS representatives to return in 2019.

4. [Legislative Matters](#) – Jennifer Gilden [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:00:11](#)]

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1](#): Staff Summary of Federal Legislation

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 2](#): Letter to Senator Maria Cantwell on MSA reauthorization

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 3](#): Letter to Representative Ken Calvert on HR 3916

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 4](#): Letter to Representative Jimmy Panetta on HR 3916

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 5](#): Letter to Representatives Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson on HR 23

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 6](#): Summary of changes proposed by MSA bills

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 7](#): HR 200 “Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute” (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 8](#): Letter from CCC on MSA Reauthorization (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 9](#): MSA with changes proposed by HR 200 and HR 2023 (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 10](#): American Forest Resource Council Summary of HR 2936

a. [Report of the Legislative Committee](#) – Dave Hanson [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:03:45](#)]

b. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:07:41](#)]

[Agenda Item C.4.b, Supplemental HC Report 1](#)

c. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:08:36](#)]

[Agenda Item C.4.c, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#)

Corey Ridings, Ocean Conservancy

d. **Council Action: Consider Legislative Committee Report and Recommendations** [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:10:07](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

5. [Approval of Council Meeting Record](#) – Phil Anderson [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:36:52](#)]

a. **Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record**

Motion 25 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:37:51](#)]: Council to approve the draft November 2017 meeting record as shown in Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1, Draft November 2017 council meeting record. Change: page 8 of 47, re: attendance should be Brad Pettinger instead of Jeff Feldner Herb Pollard/Pete Hassemer (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

6. [Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedure](#) – Mike Burner [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:39:35](#)]

[Agenda Item C.6, Supplemental Attachment 1](#): NMFS PFMC Designations Letter

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

None

b. Public Comment

[Agenda Item C.6.b, Public Comment 1](#)

[Agenda Item C.6.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

c. Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:43:01](#)]

Motion 26 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:43:09](#)]: Council appoint Mr. Carl Nish to the Processor North of Cape Mendocino seat on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel.

Buzz Brizendine/John Ugoretz (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 27 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:43:42](#)]: Council appoint Mr. Darus Peake to the Oregon Troll seat on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

Chris Kern/Brad Pettinger (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 28 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:44:05](#)]: Council appoint Ms. Ashton Harp to the Tribal seat on Salmon Technical Team.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 29 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:44:43](#)]: Council appoint Mr. James Carretta to fill the vacant Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team.

Ryan Wulff/Herb Pollard (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

The Council reviewed and approved the following appointments:

- Mr. Carl Nish was appointed to the Processor North of Cape Mendocino seat on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) formerly held by Mr. Pierre Marchand.
- Mr. Darus Peake was appointed to the Oregon Troll seat on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel formerly held by Mr. Paul Heikkila.
- Ms. Ashton Harp was appointed to the vacant Tribal seat on Salmon Technical Team.
- Mr. James Carretta was appointed to fill the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the HMSMT formerly held by Dr. Tim Sippel.

NMFS also announced an update to its list of designees for the West Coast Regional Administrators Council seat held by Mr. Barry Thom:

- Mr. Ryan Wulff, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries
- Ms. Aja Szumylo, Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Branch Chief
- Ms. Kelly Ames, Sustainable Fisheries Division Operations and Policy Branch Chief
- Mr. Frank Lockhart, Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Senior Policy Analyst
- Ms. Heidi Taylor, Highly Migratory Species Branch Chief
- Dr. Peter Dygert, Anadromous Harvest Management Branch Chief

7. [Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning](#) – **Chuck Tracy** [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:47:38](#)]

[Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 1](#): Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary

[Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 2](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, April 5-11, 2018 in Portland, Oregon

[Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 3](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, June 7-13, 2018 in Spokane, Washington

[Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 4](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities

[Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental Attachment 5](#): Pacific Council Workload Planning: Preliminary Year-at-a-Glance Summary (*updated 3/13/18 15:54*)

[Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental Attachment 6](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, April 5-11, 2018 in Portland, Oregon (*updated 3/13/2018 5:06 PM*)

[Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental Attachment 7](#): Draft Proposed Council Meeting Agenda, June 7-13, 2018 in Spokane, Washington (*updated 3/13/2018 5:07 PM*)

[Agenda Item C.7, Supplemental Attachment 8](#): Groundfish Workload Priorities (*updated 3/13/18 16:53*)

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:50:19](#)]

[Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental EWG Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental EAS Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item C.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 2:00:06](#)]

[Agenda Item C.7.b, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#)

Mike Conroy

Tara Brock, PEW Charitable Trusts

c. **Council Action: Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning** [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 2:03:47](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

D. Habitat

1. Current Habitat Issues – Jennifer Gilden [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:16:38]

Agenda Item D.1, Attachment 1

Agenda Item D.1, Supplemental Attachment 2: Draft BOEM Letter

a. Report of the Habitat Committee – Eric Wilkins [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:18:08]

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

None

c. Public Comment [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:28:30]

Geoff Shester, Oceana

Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans

d. Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Report and Recommendations [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:34:52]

Motion 2 [mp3: 3-9-18am2 0:38:55]: Council send the letter to DOI and BOEM as shown in Agenda Item D.1, Supplemental Attachment 2 with the edits by Mr. Anderson; and the edits by Mr. Hassemer.

Pete Hassemer/Brad Pettinger (motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

The Council approved and submitted a comment letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, voicing the Council's opposition to offshore oil and gas leasing off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California and asking to be excluded from further consideration of Outer Continental Shelf lease development.

E. Salmon Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Robin Ehlke [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:00:20]

a. Regulatory Activities – NMFS WCR [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:06:01]

Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1: *Federal Register* Notice Dated February 22, 2018 – Proposed Rule – Management Measures to Limit Fishery Impacts on Sacramento River Winter Chinook Salmon

Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2: *Federal Register* Notice Dated February 27, 2018, 90-day finding on a petition to list as threatened or endangered the Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

b. Fisheries Science Center Activities – NWFSC/SWFSC [mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:07:05]

Agenda Item E.1.b, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1: (Lindley)

c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

None

d. Public Comment

None

e. Council Discussion [[mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:30:48](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

**2. [Review of 2017 Fisheries and Summary of 2018 Stock Forecasts](#) – Robin Ehlke
[[mp3: 3-10-18pm1 0:00:03](#)]**

[Review of 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries](#) (*Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1](#): Excerpts from Chapter 3 of the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan

[Supplemental Preseason Report 1](#): Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2018 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations (*Electronic Only*)

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [[mp3: 3-10-18pm1 0:00:18](#)]

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#): Letter dated February 22, 2018 from Barry Thom (NMFS), to Hoopa Valley Tribe re: exceedance of the Klamath River fall Chinook 2017 fishery preseason expectations

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1](#): Hoopa Valley Comments on E.2.a Review of 2017 Fisheries and Summary of 2018 Stock Forecasts

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 2](#): Yurok Tribe Comments on Overharvest of Klamath Fall Chinook Salmon in 2017

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 3](#): Hoopa Valley Tribe

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#): Excerpts from Review of 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and 2018 Preseason Report I (*March 10, 2018*)

[Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)

b. Public Comment

[Agenda Item E.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#)

c. Council Action – Review and Discuss Relevant Fishery Information, Adopt 2018 Abundance Forecasts and Annual Catch Limits, and Act on Relevant Conservation Objectives or Status Determinations as Necessary [[mp3: 3-10-18pm1 1:24:26](#)]

Motion 3 [[mp3: 3-10-18pm1 1:25:09](#)]: Council adopt the stock abundances, ABC's and OFL's as presented in Preseason Report I, dated March 2018, as the best available science for use in 2018 salmon management, as recommended by the SSC in [Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#) on Review of 2017 fisheries and summary of 2018 stock forecasts.

This includes adopting status determinations of overfished for Sacramento Fall Chinook, Klamath River Fall Chinook, Queets River natural coho, Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho and Snohomish natural coho, and triggering Council actions as described in the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan, including the notification of these status changes to the NMFS NWR administrator and other pertinent management agencies consistent with the language in Chapter 3 of the salmon FMP.

Brett Kormos/Chris Kern

Amendment 1 [[mp3: 3-10-18pm1](#) 1:28:22]: add “This includes recommending to NMFS the adoption of status determinations” (replace in first sentence in 2nd paragraph)

Peter Dygert/Pete Hassemer (Amendment carried unanimously).

Main Motion as amended carried unanimously.

Staff Summary:

The Council adopted the stock abundances, acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and overfishing limits (OFLs) as presented in the [2018 Preseason Report I](#), as the best available science for use in 2018 salmon management, as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC).

The Council will recommend National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) consider changes to stock status designation for two Chinook stocks (Sacramento Fall Chinook and Klamath River Fall Chinook), and three coho stocks (Queets River natural coho, Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho, and Snohomish natural coho). These five stocks meet the criteria for ‘overfished’ status described in the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP), as detailed in the 2018 Preseason Report I. The notification of these status changes will also be conveyed to the NMFS Northwest Regional Administrator and other pertinent management agencies consistent with the language in Chapter 3 of the FMP.

3. [Identification of Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2018 Salmon Management Alternatives Including Test Fishery Alternatives](#) – Robin Ehlke [[mp3: 3-10-18pm2](#) 0:00:07]

[Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1](#): Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment

[Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 2](#): Emergency Changes to the Salmon FMP

[Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 3](#): FR 97-22094: Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules

a. Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission – Phil Anderson [[mp3: 3-10-18pm2](#) 0:01:40]

[Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental PSC Report 1](#): Letter dated February 12, 2018 from PSC to DFO

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [[mp3: 3-10-18pm2](#) 0:08:09]

[Agenda Item E.3.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#): NMFS Guidance Letter

[Agenda Item E.3.b, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#): SAS Proposed Initial Salmon Management Alternatives for 2018 Non-Indian Ocean Fisheries (*March 10, 2018*)

[Agenda Item E.3.b, Supplemental Tribal Report 1](#): Testimony of CRITFC, March 10, 2018

[Agenda Item E.3.b, Supplemental WDFW/Tribal Recommendations](#): Tribal and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 2018 Management Objectives for Puget Sound Chinook and Coho Salmon

c. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-10-18pm3 0:00:05](#)]

[Agenda Item E.3.c, Public Comment 1](#)

[Agenda Item E.3.c, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

Doug Laughlin

Dave Helliwell, F/V Corregidor presented [Agenda Item E.3.c, Supplemental Public Presentation 1: 40:10 \(Helliwell\)](#)

Bruce MacKimmie, Coastside Fishing Club

Joel Kawahara

Duane Winter, Mooch Better Fishing

d. **Council Action: Adopt Council Recommendations for Initial Management Measure Alternatives for Salmon Technical Team Collation and Description**
[[mp3: 3-10-18pm3 0:13:47](#)]

Motion 4 [[mp3: 3-10-18pm3 0:14:44](#)]: Council adopt for STT compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2018 non-Indian ocean fisheries as developed by the SAS and described in [Agenda Item E.3.b, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#), March 10, 2018.

Kyle Adicks/Herb Pollard (Motion carried unanimously).

Motion 5 [[mp3: 3-10-18pm3 0:16:04](#)]: Council adopt the following range of preliminary ocean Treaty troll fishery options to be analyzed by the Salmon Technical Team with the understanding this is the first step toward finalizing options that will be adopted by the Council in the coming week and then released for public review.

Treaty Troll Options

	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>
Alternative I	50,000	40,000
Alternative II	40,000	22,000
Alternative III	30,000	12,500

For Chinook:

- **Alternative I** to be modeled with **25,000** taken in the May/June chinook directed fishery and **25,000** taken in the July/August/September all-species fishery.
- **Alternative II** to be modeled with **20,000** taken in the May/June chinook directed fishery and **20,000** taken in the July/August/ September all-species fishery.
- **Alternative III** to be modeled with **15,000** taken in the May/June chinook directed fishery and **15,000** taken in the July/August/ September all-species fishery

David Sones/Dorothy Lowman (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

4. **[Recommendations for 2018 Management Alternative Analysis](#)** – Robin Ehlke [**[mp3: 3-11-18pm3](#)** 0:00:09]

- a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [**[mp3: 3-11-18pm3](#)** 0:01:20]

[Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#): Collation of Preliminary Salmon Management Alternatives for 2018 Ocean Fisheries (*March 11, 2018*)

- b. **Public Comment**

None

- c. **Council Action: Direction to the Salmon Technical Team and Salmon Advisory Subpanel on Alternative Development and Analysis**

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

5. **[Further Council Direction for 2018 Management Alternatives](#)** – Robin Ehlke [**[mp3: 3-12-18pm2](#)** 0:00:05]

- a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [**[mp3: 3-12-18pm2](#)** 0:01:00]

[Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#): Collation of Preliminary Salmon Management Alternatives for 2018 Ocean Fisheries (*March 12, 2018*)

- b. **Public Comment** [**[mp3: 3-12-18pm2](#)** 0:09:57]

Barry Day

- c. **Council Action: Further Guidance and Direction as Necessary** [**[mp3: 3-12-18pm2](#)** 0:16:47]

5. **Further Council Direction for 2018 Management Alternatives (Reopened)** – Robin Ehlke [**[mp3: 3-13-18pm1](#)** 0:47:33]

- a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**

[Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental STT Report 2](#): Collation of Preliminary Salmon Management Alternatives for 2018 Ocean Fisheries (*March 13, 2018*)

[Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1](#) (CRITFC) *March 13, 2018*

- b. **Public Comment**

None

- c. **Council Action: Further Guidance and Direction as Necessary** [**[mp3: 3-13-18pm1](#)** 1:01:45]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

6. [Adoption of 2018 Management Alternatives for Public Review](#) – Robin Ehlke [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 0:00:25](#)]

a. [Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies](#) [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 0:01:20](#)]

[Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#): Analysis of Preliminary Salmon Management Alternatives for 2018 Ocean Fisheries (*March 14, 2018*)

[Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental Tribal Presentation 1](#): (*CRITFC*) Columbia Basin and Tribal Lands

[Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental Tribal Report 1](#) (*CRITFC*) *March 14, 2018*

b. [Public Comment](#) [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 0:54:12](#)]

Dave Bitts, PCFFA

Noah Oppenheim, PCFFA

Joel Kawahara

Barry Day

c. [Council Action: Adopt Ocean Salmon Management Alternatives for Public Review](#) [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:06:17](#)]

Motion 20 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:06:47](#)]: Council to adopt for STT collation, analysis, and public review the salmon management measures for the 2018 commercial and recreational ocean fisheries in the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#) dated March 14, 2018, including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, or exceptions. With the following change:

Commercial Salmon Management Measures – Page 7

OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ)

Alternative 3: Replace August 3 - 31 with August 3 – 28

Brett Kormos/Marc Gorelnik (Motion carried unanimously) – motion to reconsider.

Amendment 1 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:27:05](#)]: move, referring to [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#) dated March 14, 2018 on page 22, referring to the line “federally recognized tribal harvest” add the language which reads as follows:

Under Alternative 2: 2.9 (thousand) of the non-tribal share is being directed to escapement, thus resulting in a higher proportion of the catch being caught by the tribes. Further ask the value of 59.6% be bolded in the text.

Peter Dygert/David Sones (Amendment carried unanimously)

Main motion as amended carried unanimously)

Motion 21 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:10:29](#)]: Council to adopt for public review all alternatives as described in to [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#) dated March 14, 2018, with the following changes:

Commercial troll management alternatives, Table 1, page 5:

In Alternative III for the area from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.:

Change the open days from:

May 18-31
June 12-30
July 13-31
August 1-15
September 1-October 31

To the following open days:

May 1-5, 9-13, and 17-20
June 1-5, 9-13, 17-21, and 25-28
July 1-5, 9-13, 17-21, and 25-28
August 1-4, 9-12, 15-18, and 28-30
September 1-October 31

Chris Kern/Dorothy Lowman (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 22 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:14:15](#)]: For non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area North of Cape Falcon, Council to adopt for public review the alternatives as presented in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#) (March 14, 2018).

It is the Council's intent to adopt management measures in April that target an ocean escapement of Columbia Upriver Brights (page 22) of more than 200,000.

Kyle Adicks/David Sones (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 23 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:19:49](#)]: For the 2018 Treaty Ocean Troll Salmon Season, I move to establish three alternatives for public review as they are presented in Table 3 of the supplemental STT report (E.6.a) dated March 14, 2018 on pages 20-21.

Alternative I quota levels of 50,000 Chinook, and 40,000 coho

Alternative II quota levels of 40,000 Chinook, and 22,000 coho

Alternative III quota levels of 30,000 Chinook, and 12,500 coho

The treaty troll salmon season will consist of a May/June chinook directed fishery and a July/August/September all-species fishery. The Chinook harvest will be evenly split between the two periods with the following sub-quotas: Alternative I: 25,000; Alternative II: 20,000; Alternative III: 15,000.

I would also like to state for the record, that the Tribes and State are just beginning the North of Falcon planning process in which we will evaluate the total impacts of all proposed fisheries on Puget Sound and Columbia River stocks.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 24 [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:25:22](#)]: motion to reconsider the management alternatives south of the OR/CA border

Chris Kern/Dorothy Lowman (motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

The Council adopted three [Alternative sets of management measures](#) for the 2018 ocean commercial, recreational, and tribal salmon fisheries. Public hearings on the Alternatives have been scheduled in Westport, Washington and Coos Bay, Oregon for Monday, March 26 and Salinas, California for Tuesday, March 27. The Council is scheduled to adopt final 2018 ocean salmon regulations at its [April 6-11 meeting in Portland, Oregon](#).

Inseason action was taken to rescind commercial fisheries south of Cape Falcon previously scheduled to begin in March and April. Recreational fisheries were also rescinded in the Fort Bragg and San Francisco management areas that had been scheduled to begin April 7.

7. [Appoint Salmon Hearings Officers](#) – Robin Ehlke [[mp3: 3-14-18am2 1:33:33](#)]
[Agenda Item E.7, Attachment 1](#): Schedule of Salmon Fishery Management Alternative Hearings

a. **Council Action: Appoint Hearings Officers - Phil Anderson**

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

F. Ecosystem Management

1. [California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Report and Science Review Topics](#) – Kit Dahl [[mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:32:08](#)]

a. **IEA Team Report** – Chris Harvey & Toby Garfield [[mp3: 3-9-18pm1 0:37:24](#)]

[Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1](#): California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team, California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) State of the California Current Report, 2018

[Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 2](#): Appendices to the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team, California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) State of the California Current Report, 2018

[Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 3](#): Ecosystem Science Topics Proposed for Scientific and Statistical Committee Review in 2018

[Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental CCIEA Team Presentation 1](#): 2018 California Current Ecosystem Status Report (*Harvey*)

b. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-9-18pm1 1:35:46](#)]

[Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental CPSAS Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental HC Report](#)

[Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental EAS Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental EWG Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#)

c. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-9-18pm2 0:00:06](#)]

[Agenda Item F.1.c, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#)

Corey Ridings, Ocean Conservancy

Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans

Ben Enticknap, Oceana

- d. **Council Action: 1) Consider the California Current Ecosystem Report; 2) Identify Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2018. [[mp3: 3-9-18pm2 0:15:09](#)]**

Motion: None

Staff Summary:

The Council received an update on the [2018 Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report](#). The Council also endorsed the [SSC's recommendations](#) for [ecosystem science topic](#) review in 2018.

2. **[Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiatives Update](#) – Kit Dahl [[mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:03:05](#)]**

- a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [[mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:07:43](#)]**

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Tribal Report 1](#): Climate Change and Our Natural Resources; A Report from the Treaty Tribes in Western Washington Executive Summary (*Full version Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental EWG Presentation 1](#): Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 3: Climate and Communities Initiative (*deReynier*)

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 2](#)

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental EAS Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental HC Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item F.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)

- b. **Public Comment [[mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:42:52](#)]**

[Agenda Item F.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#)

Corey Ridings, Ocean Conservancy

Joel Kawahara, Coastal Trollers Association

- c. **Council Action: Review Progress and Provide Guidance [[mp3: 3-10-18am1 0:53:16](#)]**

Motion: None

Staff Summary:

The Council provided guidance on revisions to the goal statement for this initiative to emphasize the possibility of Council action related to initiative objectives. The Council encouraged its advisory bodies to engage with the organizers of the upcoming May 15-16, 2018 workshop to gather stakeholder input on this initiative. Such engagement will help with planning the format and contents of the workshop. The Council also discussed possible ways to focus initiative activities, such as emphasizing fisheries managed under Council FMPs.

3. Sablefish Ecosystem Indicators: Management Strategy Evaluation – John DeVore
[mp3: 3-11-18am1 0:02:53]

Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: Assessing the Effects of Climate Change on U.S. West Coast Sablefish Productivity and on the Performance of Alternative Management Strategies

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [mp3: 3-11-18am1 0:07:48]

Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1: Assessing the effects of climate change on U.S. West Coast sablefish productivity and on the performance of alternative management strategies (Haltuch)

Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental EWG Report 1

Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental EAS Report 1

Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1

Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1

Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1

b. Public Comment [mp3: 3-11-18am1 1:12:10]

Agenda Item F.3.b, Supplemental Public Comment 1

Corey Ridings, Ocean Conservancy

c. Council Action: Adopt Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation for Potential Use in Future Assessments and Management Decisions, As Appropriate [mp3: 3-11-18am1 1:13:13]

Motion: None

Staff Summary:

The Council recommended further development of a draft Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for sablefish and committed to scheduling an initial session at a future Council meeting to begin stakeholder engagement. The MSE approach should provide insight into environmental drivers that can inform future sablefish stock assessments and management strategies to sustain the stock and dependent sablefish fisheries throughout its range. The process will explore stock dynamics, environmental drivers of sablefish productivity, and fishery management strategies throughout the stock's range in the NE Pacific.

G. Pacific Halibut Management

1. Annual International Pacific Halibut Commission Meeting Report – Robin Ehlke
[mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:02:37]

a. IPHC Report – Dave Wilson [mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:04:39]

Agenda Item G.1.a, IPHC News Release: International Pacific Halibut Commission Completes 94th Annual Meeting

Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental IPHC Report 1: Report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094)

[Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental IPHC Presentation 1](#): Outcomes of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (*Wilson*)

- b. **Council IPHC Representative Report – Phil Anderson and Michele Culver** [[mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:36:00](#)]

[Agenda Item G.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 1](#): Report on the 2018 International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting

[Agenda Item G.1.b, MSAB Representative Report 1](#): Update on the Management Strategy Evaluation Process for Pacific Halibut

- c. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-10-18am2 0:47:36](#)]

[Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental WDFW Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental Tribal Report 1](#)

- d. **Public Comment**

None

- e. **Council Action: Consideration of the IPHC Meeting Reports** [[mp3: 3-10-18am2 1:02:03](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary:

Dr. Dave Wilson, the Executive Director of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), [reported](#) the IPHC was unable to set a total allowable catch for 2018. As a result, the Area 2A catch limit; will be set by NMFS on or before March 24, 2018.

- 2. **[Incidental Catch Recommendation: Options for the Salmon Troll and Final Recommendations for the Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries](#) – Robin Ehlke** [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:15:18](#)]

[Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1](#): Summary of Pacific Halibut Incidental Catch Management

- a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:21:45](#)]

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#)

- b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:38:23](#)]

Paul Clampitt, F/V Augustine

Peter Olsen, F/V St John II

- c. **Council Action: Recommend Inseason Changes to April 2018 Retention Limits in the Salmon Troll Fishery, as Necessary; Adopt Public Review Options for Retention in 2018 and April 2019 Salmon Troll Fishery; and Adopt Final Retention Limits for 2018 Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery** [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:43:15](#)]

Motion 6 [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 0:55:30](#)]: Council adopt for public review a range of options for halibut landing restrictions in the 2018 salmon troll fishery beginning May 1 and for April 1-30, 2019:

- Alternative 1: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per 3 Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 20 halibut landed per trip.
- Alternative 2: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per 3 Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 30 halibut landed per trip.
- Alternative 3: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except two Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip.

Phil Anderson/Marci Yaremko (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 7 [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 1:09:11](#)]: Council adopt the following landing restriction for the incidental halibut in the primary fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA:

Beginning April 1, 2018 and through October 31, 2018, a Pacific halibut landing ratio of 160 pounds dressed weight of halibut for every 1,000 pounds of dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to two additional halibut in excess of that ratio, up to a maximum catch limit of 50,000 pounds of dressed weight of halibut.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

Options for the Salmon Troll:

The Council adopted the following alternatives for public review:

Option 1: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per three Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 20 halibut landed per trip.

Option 2: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per three Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 30 halibut landed per trip.

Option 3: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except two Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip.

Final Council action on halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery is scheduled for the April 2018 Council meeting.

Final Recommendations for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries: The Council recommended the 2018 incidental halibut catch restrictions in the fixed gear fishery north of Point Chehalis from April 1 through October 31, be set at 160 pounds of dressed weight halibut for every 1,000 pounds dressed weight of sablefish, plus 2 additional halibut in excess of the ratio.

H. Groundfish Management

1. [National Marine Fisheries Service Report](#) – Brett Wiedoff [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 1:15:03](#)]

a. [Regulatory Activities](#) – Frank Lockhart [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 1:16:10](#)]

[Agenda Item H.1.a, NMFS Report 1](#): Groundfish and Halibut *Federal Register* Notices

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#): Rulemaking and other Major Activities for Groundfish in Late 2017 and Early 2018

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#): Progress Report on Project to Clarify Confidentiality of Certain State and PacFin Data

[Agenda Item H.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 4](#): Status Update on Whiting Discards Issue in the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permit

b. [Fisheries Science Center Activities](#) – Michelle McClure [[mp3: 3-11-18am2 1:48:23](#)]

c. [Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies](#) [[mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:00:37](#)]

[Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.1.c, Supplemental EC Report 1](#)

d. [Public Comment](#) [[mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:14:39](#)]

Heather Mann, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative

e. [Council Discussion](#) [[mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:27:22](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

2. [Trawl Catch Shares – Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management](#) – Jim Seger [[mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:33:56](#)]

[Agenda Item H.2, Supplemental Staff Presentation 1](#): Agenda Item Overview (Seger)

[Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1](#): Gear Switching and Trawl Sablefish Area Management—
Preliminary Data

[Agenda Item H.2, Supplemental Attachment 2](#): Expanded Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 1 Tables
(*expanded with the addition of data for vessels that only gear switch*)

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-11-18pm1 0:58:06](#)]

[Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-11-18pm1 1:33:19](#)] & [[mp3: 3-11-18pm2 0:00:46](#)]

[Agenda Item H.2.b, Public Comment 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 2](#)

[Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 3](#)

[Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 4](#)

[Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 5](#)

Jake Erickson F/V Alyssa Ann

Paul Clampitt, F/V Augustine

Peter Olsen, F/V St John II

Mark Worley, F/V Golden Chalice

Jeff Middleton, Fairweather Fish

Paul Kujala

Lori Steele, West Coast Seafood Processors Association

Michele Longo Eder

Ralph Brown

Gary Ripka

Bob Alverson, Fishing Vessel Owners Association

Brett Hearne, F/V Last Straw

Tom Libby

Heather McCarty, Besecker Company

Mike Okoniewski & Jonathan Gonzalez, Pacific Seafood

Bernie Burkholder, Buck & Ann Fisheries

John Corbin, Buck & Ann Fisheries

Jeff Lackey, F/V Miss Sue

Kevin Dunn, F/V Iron Lady

Travis Hunter, Fisherman's Marketing Association

John Pennisi

Michelle Norvell & Lisa Damrosch, California Groundfish Collective

Bob Dooley

Georgon Lapham, F/V Michele Ann

c. **Council Action: Provide Guidance on Future Process and Schedule** [[mp3: 3-12-18am1 0:02:46](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary:

At its April 2018 Council meeting, the Council is scheduled to set a calendar for the process of developing alternatives for gear switching and trawl sablefish area management issues. That process will include forming and scheduling meetings of a new ad hoc committee composed of six Council members (one representative from each of the coastal states, NMFS, one at large Council member, and the Council chair) and six members of the public that will act as advisors. The ad hoc committee will focus on identifying obstacles to achieving the goals and objectives of the catch share plan, with particular focus on issues related to gear switching and unharvested sablefish quota pounds (QPs) south of 36 degrees. As appropriate to overcome identified obstacles, the committee will discuss and develop options, including but not limited to, actions that may modify rules for gear switching by trawl permit holders and QP leasing to vessels using fixed gear, as well as options that may encourage increased utilization of sablefish QPs south of 36 degrees.

3. [Implementation of the 2018 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement](#) – John DeVore [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:00:32](#)]

a. Joint Management Committee Report – Phil Anderson [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:02:31](#)]

None

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

None

d. Council Action: Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2018 Pacific Whiting Fishery [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:31:30](#)]

Motion: None

Staff Summary:

Mr. Frank Lockhart, Chair of the Joint Management Committee (JMC), the decision-making body in the international Pacific whiting process, and Mr. Phil Anderson, Council representative to the JMC, reported on this year's Pacific whiting decision. The 2018 Pacific whiting assessment indicated the stock is healthy at 66.7 percent of its unfished spawning biomass, which was slightly lower than estimated last year. The stock has remained at a relatively high abundance since 2013 due to the strength of large 2010 and 2014 cohorts.

The 2018 coastwide total allowable catch (TAC) of 597,500 mt is the same as in 2017, resulting in an allocation of 441, 433 mt for U.S. fisheries.

4. [Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference](#) – John DeVore [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:37:51](#)]

[Agenda Item H.4, Attachment 1](#): Data and Analysis Supporting the Prioritization of Species for Stock Assessments in 2019 and 2021

[Agenda Item H.4, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#): NMFS Prioritization Workbook (*Excel File – Electronic Only*)

[Agenda Item H.4, Attachment 3](#): Draft Terms of Reference for the Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2019-2020

[Agenda Item H.4, Attachment 4](#): Draft Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Rebuilding Analysis for 2019-2020

[Agenda Item H.4, Attachment 5](#): Draft Terms of Reference for the Methodology Review Process for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species for 2019-2020

[Agenda Item H.4, Attachment 6](#): SSC Groundfish Subcommittee Report on Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop Webinar Held on December 1, 2017

[Agenda Item H.4, Supplemental Attachment 7](#): Supplemental Additions to the Data and Analysis Supporting the Prioritization of Species for Stock Assessments in 2019 and 2021

- a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 0:44:05](#)]

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental NWFSC Presentation 1](#): Draft Analysis and Ranking of Pacific Coast Groundfish Species for Assessment in 2019 (and 2021) – *Hastie*

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.4.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

- b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 2:08:46](#)]

Jon Gonzalez, Pacific Seafood

- c. **Council Action: Adopt for Public Review a Preliminary List and Schedule of Stocks for Assessment in 2019 and 2021 and Terms of Reference for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments, Methodology Reviews, and Rebuilding Analyses** [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 2:13:14](#)]

Motion 8 [[mp3: 3-12-18am2 2:30:45](#)]: Council Adopt for public review the following preliminary list of stocks to be assessed in 2019 and 2021:

2019 benchmark:

- Sablefish
- Cowcod
- Cabezon (Oregon and California)
- Longnose skate
- Big skate
- Gopher rockfish (may be gopher and black-and yellow rockfish as a complex)
- Dover sole

2019 update:

- Petrale sole
- Widow rockfish

2021

- Vermilion (may be vermilion and sunset rockfish as a complex south of Pt. Conception and as a separate area model north of Pt. Conception)
- Brown rockfish
- Copper rockfish
- Quillback rockfish
- Bank rockfish
- Black rockfish
- Pacific cod

And adopt for public review the Terms of Reference for the Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2019-2020 ([H.4, Attachment 3](#), March 2018) with revisions as described in the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee report on the December 2017 Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop ([H.4, Attachment 6, March 2018](#)) and endorsed by the SSC in [H.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1 March, 2018](#).
Maggie Sommer/Brad Pettinger (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

The Council adopted for public review the following priorities for groundfish stock assessments to be conducted in the 2019 and 2021 assessment cycles.

2019 Full Assessments: Sablefish, Cowcod, Cabezon (Oregon and California), Longnose skate, Big skate, Gopher rockfish (may be gopher and black-and yellow rockfish as a complex), and Dover sole.

2019 Update Assessments: Petrale sole, Widow rockfish.

2021 Full Assessments: Vermilion rockfish (may be vermilion and sunset rockfish as a complex south of Pt. Conception and as a separate area model north of Pt. Conception), Brown rockfish, Copper rockfish, Quillback rockfish, Bank rockfish, Black rockfish, and Pacific cod.

The Council also adopted the [Scientific and Statistical Committee's recommendations](#) for changes to three terms of reference (those defining the processes for conducting and reviewing stock assessments, rebuilding analyses, and new proposed methodologies) and directed Council staff to coordinate proposed changes to those documents. The Council will take final action on 2019 stock assessment priorities, the three terms of reference, adopt a schedule of 2019 stock assessment review panels, and refine their 2021 stock assessment priorities at their June 2018 meeting in Spokane, Washington.

5. [Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion on the Take of Listed Salmon in Groundfish Fisheries](#) – Kit Dahl [[mp3: 3-12-18pm1 0:00:06](#)]

[Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1](#): Incidental Take Statement (Pages 2-180–2-193) From Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion; Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation Regarding the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (*Full document Electronic Only*)

a. [Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies](#) [[mp3: 3-12-18pm1 0:10:20](#)]

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Groundfish Management Team Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#): Analysis of the West Coast Groundfish Fisheries for the 2017 Salmon ESA Biological Opinion

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1](#): Salmon Bycatch in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries: Overview of Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement (*Bishop*)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental GMT Presentation 1](#): Salmon ITS: Mitigation Measures and Reserve Rules Analysis (*Deorpinghaus*)

[Agenda Item H.5.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-12-18pm1](#) 1:47:45]

Brent Paine, United Catcher Boats

c. **Council Action: Review Biological Opinion Incidental Take Statement and Identify Council Tasks and Schedule for Addressing Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Pursuant Terms and Conditions** [[mp3: 3-12-18pm1](#) 1:47:43]

Motion: None

Staff Summary:

After hearing a presentation from NMFS on the contents of the Incidental Take Statement, the Council expressed concern with the requirement to recommend regulations to close the fishery if guideline amounts for salmon bycatch, plus a reserve amount, were exceeded in a calendar year.

The Council refined a range of alternatives (ROA) proposed by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to address elements in the Reasonable and Prudent Measures that must be implemented as part of the 2019-2020 biennial harvest specifications and management measures process. In particular, the Council addressed fishery specific guideline amounts for the whiting trawl fishery, the shoreside individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery, and other non-trawl fisheries with the intent to “hold harmless” non-trawl fisheries that generally take small amounts of salmon.

The GMT will refine this ROA, which is scheduled for adoption at the April Council meeting.

6. **Trawl Catch Shares – Final Range of Alternatives (ROA) for Follow-On Actions** – Jim Seger [[mp3: 3-12-18pm2](#) 0:46:41]

[Agenda Item H.6, Supplemental Staff Presentation 1](#): Agenda Item Overview (Seger)

[Agenda Item H.6, Attachment 1](#): Follow-On Actions – Issues, Alternatives, and Analysis

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-12-18pm2](#) 1:09:35]

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental CAB Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-12-18pm2](#) 1:24:46]

Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood

John Corbin, Buck & Ann Fisheries

c. **Council Action: Adopt Final ROA for Follow-On Actions Analysis and Provide Guidance on Other Trawl Catch Share Issues** [[mp3: 3-13-18am1](#) 0:03:38]

Motion 9 [[mp3: 3-13-18am1](#) 0:04:20]: Council adopt, for public review: The alternatives in H.6 Attachment 1, March 2018, for the following:

1. At-Sea Whiting Fishery Bycatch Needs and Set-Aside Management
3. Shorebased IFQ Accumulation Limits (Control and Vessel Limits): *only* the alternatives for Daily QP Limits (Overfished Species and Halibut)
4. Shorebased IFQ Sector Harvest Complex Needs, *except* eliminate Suboption B of Alt. 2

5. Catcher Processor Sector Accumulation Limits

7. New Data Collections for Catcher Processors and Quota Share Owners

The purpose and need statements for item 7. New Data Collections, in [H.6 Attachment 1](#), March 2018.

Maggie Sommer/Dorothy Lowman

Amendment 1 [[mp3: 3-13-18am1 0:14:15](#)]: Modify the vessel limit for blackgill rockfish at a later date or the next Council meeting.

Brad Pettinger/Marc Gorelnik (Amendment withdrawn with consent of the second).

Amendment 2 [[mp3: 3-13-18am1 0:20:54](#)]: Council look at a range of alternatives for blackgill rockfish up to 30% prior to implementation.

Brad Pettinger/Marc Gorelnik

Amendment 2a [[mp3: 3-13-18am1 0:23:48](#)]: add the word “vessel limits” after blackgill rockfish; strike out “prior to implementation” and add “as part of the trawl catch share follow on actions”

Joanna Grebel/Phil Anderson (Amendment 2a carried unanimously.

Amendment 2 carried unanimously, Main Motion as amended carried unanimously).

Staff Summary:

The Council moved forward for analysis the [alternatives and purpose and need statements](#), with one exception, and the specification of one additional alternative. With respect to “Shorebased IFQ Sector Harvest Complex Needs,” the Council removed Alternative 1, Suboption B, which would have allowed NMFS to sell surplus QP to those with deficits after then end of the fishing year. With respect to “Shorebased IFQ Accumulation Limits,” the Council specified an action alternative for only one species, blackgill rockfish. The range for analysis for the blackgill rockfish annual vessel QP limit will include the currently recommended limit (9 percent) up to a maximum of 30 percent.

7. [Update on 2019-2020 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures](#) – John DeVore [[mp3: 3-13-18am1 0:41:43](#)]

[Agenda Item H.7, Attachment 1](#): Proposed 2019 and 2020 Harvest Specifications for Lingcod and Bocaccio

[Agenda Item H.7, Attachment 2](#): Narrative for Revised 2017 Lingcod Stock Projections

[Agenda Item H.7, Attachment 3](#): Excel File with Lingcod Stock Projections (Revised2017LingcodOFLs-18Dec2017_V6.xlsx) [*Excel File Electronic Only*]

[Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental Attachment 4](#): Spex Briefing PowerPoint (PDF format) DeVore, et.al

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [[mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:00:17](#)]

[Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#): Results of NEPA scoping and a schedule for regulation deeming and FMP transmittal

[Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#): Yelloweye Rockfish Rebuilding Analysis and Update to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan

[Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:16:17](#)]

[Agenda Item H.7.b, Public Comment 1](#)

Louis Zimm

c. **Council Action: Review Progress, Provide Guidance, and Adopt Revised Harvest Specifications, as Necessary** [[mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:20:23](#)]

Motion 10 [[mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:24:15](#)]: Council adopt the following:

For lingcod; alternative 1 (Table 1, Att. 1)

For bocaccio; revise 2020 values (Table 2, Att. 1)

Yelloweye; default P* (0.40)

Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion withdrawn with consent of the second)

Motion 11: Council adopt the following:

For lingcod values in Table 1, Att. 1

For bocaccio; revise 2020 values (Table 2, Att. 1)

Yelloweye; default P* (0.40)

Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

The Council received an [update](#) on the analyses informing 2019-2020 groundfish harvest specifications and management measures. The Council adopted revised 2019 and 2020 [harvest specifications](#) for lingcod under the No Action alternative (i.e., default harvest control rules [HCRs]) and Alternative 1 (preliminary preferred HCRs) and revised 2020 bocaccio harvest specifications as recommended by the [Scientific and Statistical Committee](#). The Council also confirmed their intent to adopt the default P* (overfishing probability) of 0.40 for yelloweye rockfish used to specify 2019 and 2020 acceptable biological catches. The Council is scheduled to adopt final preferred 2019 and 2020 annual catch limits and preliminary preferred 2019 and 2020 management measures at their April meeting in Portland, Oregon.

8. **[Final Inseason Management, Including Shorebased Carryover and Exempted Fishing Permits \(EFP\)](#)** – Brett Wiedoff [[mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:30:03](#)]

[Agenda Item H.8, Attachment 1](#): 2017 Regulations and Trawl Gear Exemptions by Area

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-13-18am2 0:33:20](#)]

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#): EFP Updates

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1](#): NMFS Presentation on the 2018 Trawl Gear EFP (*Palmigiano*)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, WDFW Report 1](#): Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Inseason Adjustments for 2018

[Agenda Item H.8.a, CDFW Report 1](#): California Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Inseason Adjustments for 2018

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)
[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)
[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#)
[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental SAS Report 2](#)
[Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)

b. Public Comment [[mp3: 3-13-18am2](#) 1:51:15]

[Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#)

Steve Wilson, Jeremy Brown, Joel Kawahara
Greg Mueller, Washington Trollers Association
Sarah Nayani, Sea Storm/Arctic Storm
Lori Steele, West Coast Seafood Processors Association
Travis Hunter

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 [[mp3: 3-13-18pm1](#) 0:00:04]

Motion 12 [[mp3: 3-13-18pm1](#) 0:01:07]: Council recommend that NMFS keep the Trawl Gear EFP South of 42 degrees open, despite attainment of the 80-fish harvest guideline south of 42 degrees. Further recommend that NMFS not count the single 173-fish ‘lightning strike’ event toward the 80-fish sublimit, and that the sublimit should otherwise remain in place.

Second, the Council recommends that NMFS not extend the southern boundary of the bottom trawl portion of the EFP that is shoreward of the RCA from 42 to 40’10”.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion carried, Mr. Pettinger abstained)

Motion 13 [[mp3: 3-13-18pm1](#) 0:22:57]: Council recommend to NMFS that enrollment be re-opened for the 2018 trawl gear EFP.

Phil Anderson/Herb Pollard (Motion carried, Mr. Pettinger abstained)

Motion 14 [[mp3: 3-13-18pm1](#) 0:24:23]: Council recommend the following inseason changes as proposed in WDFW Report 1 and CDFW Report 1 and consistent with the recommendations in Supplemental GMT Report 1 and Supplemental GAP Report 1 submitted under this agenda item:

- For the Washington recreational fishery, the Council recommends increasing the sub-limit to two canary rockfish and allow retention in all marine areas.
- For the Washington recreational fishery, the Council recommends adding a flatfish limit of three per day that would not be subject to the daily aggregate bag limit of nine.
- For the California recreational fishery, the Council recommends increasing the canary rockfish sub-bag limit from one to two.

Corey Niles/Marci Yaremko (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 15 [[mp3: 3-13-18pm1](#) 0:29:51]: Council ask the GMT to discuss and report back to the council the process steps needed to change the salmon to ling cod to salmon ratio from 1 LC to 15 salmon to 1 LC to 5 salmon retaining the other limitations currently in place. The process examination should include changing the ratio by an in season action or through the 2019-2020 harvest specification process.

Phil Anderson/Maggie Sommers (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 16 [[mp3: 3-13-18pm1 0:42:43](#)]: Council recommend issuing carryover consistent with the recommendations in Supplemental GMT Report 2, March 2018.
Corey Niles/Dorothy Lowman (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

For the Washington recreational fishery, the Council recommended an increase in the canary rockfish sub-limit from one to two fish in all marine areas and added a separate flatfish limit of three fish per day that would not be subject to the daily aggregate bag limit of nine. The Council also recommended an increase in the canary rockfish sub-limit from one to two fish for the California recreational fishery.

The Council recommended that NMFS issue surplus carryover pounds from 2017 to 2018 for all non-whiting individual fishing quota species where the annual catch limit (ACL) is less than the acceptable biological catch (ABC). Since the ABC and overfishing limit for sablefish, which are specified coastwide, were not exceeded, the Council also recommended that NMFS issue carryover for sablefish north of 36° N. latitude to eligible vessel accounts despite exceeding the sablefish north ACL in 2017.

The Council did not extend the 2018 Trawl Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) selective flatfish trawl exemption south of 42° N. latitude. In addition, the Council recommended that the salmon recently caught with bottom trawl gear south of 42° N. latitude on a declared EFP trip not be included in the 80-fish EFP limit for that area since the catch of salmon was not made with EFP related gear on that trip, and EFP gear was not deployed on that trip. An EFP is not required to use bottom trawl gear in this area, but is required for a vessel to carry both gears at the same time during the trip. Since the 80-fish limit has not been exceeded, all EFP participants may continue to operate in this area under the 2018 Trawl EFP. The Council also recommended that NMFS reopen the 2018 Trawl EFP enrollment process to new applicants.

Finally, the Council received a [request from the Salmon Advisory Subpanel](#) to change the lingcod-to-salmon retention ratio in the open access fishery north of 40°10' N. latitude from one lingcod per 15 salmon to one lingcod per five salmon. The Council directed the GMT to examine which public process the Council should use to consider changing the ratio. Two options are through an inseason action or through the 2019-2020 harvest specification process.

I. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. [National Marine Fisheries Service Report](#) – Kit Dahl [[mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:01:59](#)]

a. Regulatory Activities – Heidi Taylor

[Agenda Item I.1.a, REVISED NMFS Report 1](#): Report on Highly Migratory Species Activities

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2](#)

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 3](#): DRAFT Increased Monitoring Analysis

[Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1](#): Preliminary Analysis Increased Monitoring of the CA/OR Large-Mesh Drift Gillnet Fishery

b. **Science Center Activities – Gerard DiNardo**

None

c. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [[mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:27:46](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.1.c, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item I.1.c, Supplemental HMSAS Report 2](#)

d. **Public Comment [[mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:37:52](#)]**

Geoff Shester, Oceana

Tara Brock, PEW Charitable Trusts

Doug Fricke

e. **Council Discussion [[mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:52:12](#)]**

Motion: None

Staff Summary: None

2. **Deep Set-Buoy Gear Authorization – Final Range of Alternatives/Preliminary Preferred Alternative – Kit Dahl [[mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:55:35](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.2, Attachment 1](#): Council Action on Authorization of Deep-Set Buoy Gear and Federal Permitting, Agenda Item J.6, September 2017

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies [[mp3: 3-13-18pm2 0:59:32](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.2.a, HMSMT Report 1](#)

[Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 2](#)

[Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental HMSMT Presentation 1](#) (*Enriquez*)

[Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental HMSAS Presentation 1](#)

[Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1](#)

b. **Public Comment [[mp3: 3-13-18pm2 1:33:50](#)]**

[Agenda Item I.2.b, Supplemental Public Comment 1](#) (*Full Version Electronic Only*)

Jon Gonzalez, Pacific Seafood

Bob Osborn

Dr. Alexis Johnson, The Nature Conservancy

Steve Mintz, F/V D.T

Geoff Shester and Andrea Kincaid presented [Agenda Item I.2.b, Supplemental Public Presentation 1](#) (Oceana)

Tara Brock (PEW Charitable Trust) and Andrea Treece (EarthJustice)

Chugey Sepulveda, PIER

Kelly Fukushima

Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans

Bill Sutton

Scott Albers, PIER

Donald Krebs

- c. **Council Action: Adopt a Final Range of Alternatives for Authorization on Deep-Set Buoy Gear and if Possible, Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, for Public Review** [[mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:02:04](#)]

[CDFW Motion from Screen \(not final\)](#)

Motion 17 [[mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:4:09](#)]: Council:

- A) Direct the Highly Migratory Species Management team to conduct at a minimum the following analyses:
1. Using available data, including historic gillnet and CPFV data, analyze the number of vessels that could operate within the Southern California Bight and the relative level of effort by fishing block. Provide these analyses to the Council at the June 2018 Council meeting.
 2. Using data from existing EFP effort and historic PacFIN landings and swordfish imports data from the NMFS Office of Science and Technology, estimate the impacts on price and profitability of DSBG fishing that may occur with larger numbers of DSBG permits. Provide these analyses to the Council at the June 2018 Council meeting.
 3. Using data provided by EFPs, including EFPs issued in 2018, analyze the amount and type of bycatch and relative level of fishing effort by fishing block and report on any known gear conflicts. Provide these analyses to the Council at the March 2019 Council Meeting.
- B) Move forward with the necessary analyses to complete DSBG authorization in a timely manner so that EFP effort does not become a de-facto authorized fishery:
1. During the June 2018 Council meeting, updates on analyses will be provided by the HMSMT.
 2. During the September 2018 Council meeting, the Council will receive input and advice from the advisory bodies on potential qualifying criteria and any additional updates on impact analyses as available.
 3. During the March 2019 Council meeting, adopt a final preferred alternative for NEPA analyses and qualifying criteria, if needed, for a limited entry fishery.
- C) To facilitate these analyses, adopt the following range of alternatives for authorization of a Deep Set Buoy Gear fishery as proposed in the September 2017 motion and modified as noted below:
1. Define DSBG, for the purpose of analysis as follows:
 - a. *Possession* –
 - i. Permits will be issued to any “Person” as defined at 50 CFR §660.702.
 - ii. A person may hold multiple permits, but permits may not be stacked on a single vessel
 - iii. The permit holder will assign the permit to a specific vessel that may be changed by written request to NMFS not more than one time per calendar year unless a *force majeure* event renders the assigned vessel incapable of operation.
 - iv. The permit holder will not be required to be onboard
 - b. *Renewal* – Permits will be valid for one fishing year and expire if not renewed. Such permits would revert to the issuing Agency and, if a limited entry program is in place, would be made available for issuance.

- c. *Transfer*
 - i. Transfer of permits will be prohibited unless the Council determines transfer would benefit management.
- d. Gear Description
 - i. Standard Buoy Gear (SBG) - An actively tended vertical gear configuration that is designed to target west coast highly migratory species. An individual piece of SBG consists of a vertical monofilament mainline suspended from a non-compressible float (>45 lb. flotation) and strike indicator float system that uses a minimum 3.6 kg weight to expedite sink rate and facilitate strike detection. A collective gear set includes ten individual pieces of gear that can fish up to three hooks each (30 total hooks maximum; minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with no more than 10° offset) that must be positioned below 90m deep when fishing. Each piece of gear must also include a locator flag, a radar reflector and vessel/fisher identification.
 - ii. Linked Buoy Gear (LBG): An actively tended gear type in which two or more pieces of standard buoy gear (SBG) may be linked together by means of a horizontal monofilament mainline; no more than three gangions/hooks are connected to this horizontal line per individual piece, not the vertical lines. Serviceable links between each LBG section are suspended at a minimum depth of 11 meters (36 feet) below a non-compressible float system (>45 lb. flotation) that allows for strike detection (based on SBG design standards). No more than 30 hooks (minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with not more than 10° offset) can be deployed simultaneously and all hooks must be fished below >90m. No more than 10 sections of LBG may be used at one time and the overall horizontal footprint of the gear must be less than 5nm. Terminal buoys must include a locator flag, a radar reflector, and vessel/fisher identification.
- e. Gear Tending
 - i. Require that all gear be within a 5 nm diameter area and that the vessel be no more than 3 nm from the nearest piece of gear
- f. Gear Deployment/Retrieval
 - i. Gear may not be deployed prior to local sunrise
 - ii. All gear must be onboard the vessel no later than 3 hours after local sunset
- g. Multiple Gears
 - i. Multiple gears may be used on a trip. All landings must be tagged or marked to identify gear used
- h. Geographic Area
 - i. All Federal waters offshore California and Oregon
- i. Fishery Timing
 - i. No restrictions within the existing fishing season/statistical year
- j. Species
 - i. All species may be retained and landed unless prohibited by other law or regulation
- k. Fishery Monitoring
 - i. Logbooks will be required
 - ii. All monitoring requirements in the HMS FMP will be followed

2. The Range of Alternatives for consideration under NEPA will include
 - a. Permitting
 - i. Open Access
 - ii. Open Access north and west of Point Conception and Limited Access South and East of Point Conception (U.S. Waters South of 34° 27' N. latitude and east of 120° 28' 18" W. longitude)
 1. Limited Access South and East of Point Conception Alternatives
 - a. Capacity
 - i. Not more than 10 permits
 - ii. Not more than 50 permits
 - iii. Not more than 150 permits
 - iv. Not more than 250 permits
 - b. Qualifications to obtain permits
 - i. The Council will determine qualifying criteria with advice from advisory bodies and the public at the time a final preferred alternative is adopted.

John Ugoretz/Buzz Brizendine

Amendment 1 [[mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:40:52](#)]: Direct the HMSMT to consider the use of limited time and area closures to address gear conflict and overcrowding concerns. The analysis should consider both benefits and costs.

Marc Gorelnik/Brad Pettinger (Amendment Withdrawn with consent of the second)

Amendment 2 [[mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:50:15](#)]: Direct the HMSMT to consider the use of limited time and area closures in the Southern California Bight to address gear conflict and overcrowding concerns. The analysis should consider both benefits and costs.

Marc Gorelnik/Brad Pettinger (Amendment carried unanimously)

Amendment 3 [[mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:52:26](#)]: Under section 2, a, ii: Modify the sentence to say Open Access “west of 120° 28’ 18” W. longitude and limited access east of 120° 28’ 18” W. longitude and section 2, a, ii, 1: Limited access east of 120° 28’ 18” W. longitude

Pete Hassemer/Herb Pollard (Amendment carried unanimously)

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

Staff Summary:

The Council adopted a range of alternatives to authorize a deep-set buoy gear (DSBG) fishery based on the [preliminary range adopted in September 2017](#) and provided guidance to the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) on analyses to support a decision on the number of limited entry permits that may be issued. In September 2018 the Council will consider potential qualifying criteria for a limited entry permit. In March 2019 the Council is scheduled to select its final preferred alternatives including qualifying criteria for a limited entry permit.

3. [Proposed Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits](#) – Kit Dahl [[mp3: 3-14-18am1 0:57:41](#)]

[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1](#): Summary of Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Applications Submitted for the March 2018 Council Meeting

[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 2](#): DSBG Application From Robert Breneman
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3](#): DSBG Application From Scott Breneman
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 4](#): DSBG Application From Pietro Buompensiero
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 5](#): DSBG Application From Josh Dagama
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 6](#): DSBG Application From Daniel Fuller
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 7](#): DSBG Application From Clint Funderberg
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 8](#): DSBG Application From David Hatto
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 9](#): DSBG Application From Ben Hyman
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 10](#): DSBG Application From Tyler Scarbrough
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 11](#): DSBG Application From Greg Surgener
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 12](#): DSBG Application From William Sutton
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 13](#): DSBG Application From Matt White
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 14](#): DSBG Application From Thomas Wright
[Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 15](#): Revised DSBG Application From Thomas Carson

a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies** [[mp3: 3-14-18am1](#) 1:03:49]

[Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental EC Report 1](#)
[Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Presentation 1](#) (*Hellmers*)
[Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 1](#)
[Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1](#)

b. **Public Comment** [[mp3: 3-14-18am1](#) 1:17:36]

Steve Mintz (Did not testify)
Chugey Sepulveda, PIER
Theresa Labriola, Wild Oceans
Kent Jacobs
Kelly Fukushima
Bob Osborn

c. **Council Action: 1) Provide Recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service on Exempted Fishing Permits to Test Deep-Set Buoy Gear; 2) Decide on the Process and Schedule for Future Application Reviews** [[mp3: 3-14-18am1](#) 1:46:02]

Motion 18 [[mp3: 3-14-18am1](#) 1:52:30]: Council recommend that NMFS use the HMSMT recommendations for approval, preliminary approval, and resubmission of DSBG EFP applications, and that NMFS issue these EFPs in the order they were submitted until reaching the maximum number described in the current consultation for effects on protected resources. In order to ensure EFP data are collected, the Council recommends that NMFS revoke any DSBG EFPs where the EFP holder has not submitted evidence of DSBG fishing effort by April 1, 2019 and issue those EFPs to applicants approved by the Council.

EFP applications that were recommended for resubmission, if resubmitted, will be reviewed by the Council in June 2018. Other than those applications, the Council will revert to the COP process of receiving HMS EFP applications annually in June and making final decisions in September with the exception that new DSBG EFP applications will not be reviewed until June 2019.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion withdrawn with consent of the second)

Motion 19: Council recommend that NMFS use the HMSMT recommendations for approval, preliminary approval, and resubmission of DSBG EFP applications, and that NMFS issue these EFPs in the order they were submitted until reaching the maximum number described in the current consultation for effects on protected resources. In order to ensure EFP data are collected, the Council recommends that NMFS revoke any DSBG EFPs where the EFP holder has not submitted evidence of DSBG fishing effort by a specified date and issue those EFPs to applicants approved by the Council.

EFP applications that were recommended for resubmission, if resubmitted, will be reviewed by the Council in June 2018. Other than those applications, the Council will revert to the COP process of receiving HMS EFP applications annually in June and making final decisions in September with the exception that new DSBG EFP applications will not be reviewed until June 2019.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

The Council made a recommendation to NMFS on issuance of the 13 DSBG EFP applications submitted for review at this meeting based on [input from its HMSMT](#).

The Council also decided to suspend the current practice of accepting DSBG EFP applications at every meeting at which HMS items are on the agenda. Those applications for which the Council requested revision and resubmission will be reviewed again at the June 2018 Council meeting, when a final recommendation will be made. The Council will next consider new DSBG EFP applications in June 2019, following the process outlined in [Council Operating Procedure 20](#).

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

[Informational Report 1](#): Memo from California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group re: 2017-18 updates and recommendations to reduce whale entanglements

[Informational Report 2](#): NOAA Fisheries Priorities and Annual Guidance for 2018

[Informational Report 3](#): Putting Ocean Tipping Points Science into Practice in Your Ecosystem: A Workshop for Scientists and Natural Resource Managers

VOTING LOG

Motion 1: Adopt [Agenda Item A.4, March 8-14, 2018 Council Meeting Agenda](#)
Dorothy Lowman/David Sones (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 2: Council send the letter to DOI and BOEM as shown in [Agenda Item D.1, Supplemental Attachment 2](#) with the edits by Mr. Anderson; and the edits by Mr. Hassemer.
Pete Hassemer/Brad Pettinger (motion carried unanimously)

Motion 3: Council adopt the stock abundances, ABC's, and OFL's as presented in [Preseason Report I](#), dated March 2018, as the best available science for use in 2018 salmon management, as recommended by the SSC in [Agenda Item E.2.a, SSC Report 1](#) on Review of 2017 fisheries and summary of 2018 stock forecasts.

This includes recommending to NMFS the adoption of status determinations of overfished for Sacramento Fall Chinook, Klamath River Fall Chinook, Queets River natural coho, Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho and Snohomish natural coho, and triggering Council actions as described in the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan, including the notification of these status changes to the NMFS NWR administrator and other pertinent management agencies consistent with the language in Chapter 3 of the salmon FMP.

Brett Kormos/Chris Kern (Main Motion as amended by Peter Dygert/Pete Hassemer, carried unanimously).

Motion 4: Council adopt for STT compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2018 non-Indian ocean fisheries as developed by the SAS and described in [Agenda Item E.3.b, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#), March 10, 2018.

Kyle Adicks/Herb Pollard (Motion carried unanimously).

Motion 5: Council adopt the following range of preliminary ocean Treaty troll fishery options to be analyzed by the Salmon Technical Team with the understanding this is the first step toward finalizing options that will be adopted by the Council in the coming week and then released for public review.

Treaty Troll Options

	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>
Alternative I	50,000	40,000
Alternative II	40,000	22,000
Alternative III	30,000	12,500

For Chinook:

- **Alternative I** to be modeled with **25,000** taken in the May/June chinook directed fishery and **25,000** taken in the July/August/September all-species fishery.
- **Alternative II** to be modeled with **20,000** taken in the May/June chinook directed fishery and **20,000** taken in the July/August/ September all-species fishery.
- **Alternative III** to be modeled with **15,000** taken in the May/June chinook directed fishery and **15,000** taken in the July/August/ September all-species fishery

David Sones/Dorothy Lowman (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Council adopt for public review a range of options for halibut landing restrictions in the 2018 salmon troll fishery beginning May 1 and for April 1-30, 2019:

- Alternative 1: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per 3 Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 20 halibut landed per trip.
- Alternative 2: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per 3 Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 30 halibut landed per trip.
- Alternative 3: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except two Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip.

Phil Anderson/Marci Yaremko (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 7: Council adopt the following landing restriction for the incidental halibut in the primary fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA:

Beginning April 1, 2018 and through October 31, 2018, a Pacific halibut landing ratio of 160 pounds dressed weight of halibut for every 1,000 pounds of dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to two additional halibut in excess of that ratio, up to a maximum catch limit of 50,000 pounds of dressed weight of halibut.

Michele Culver/Rich Lincoln (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 8: Council Adopt for public review the following preliminary list of stocks to be assessed in 2019 and 2021:

2019 benchmark:

- Sablefish
- Cowcod
- Cabezon (Oregon and California)
- Longnose skate
- Big skate
- Gopher rockfish (may be gopher and black-and yellow rockfish as a complex)
- Dover sole

2019 update:

- Petrale sole
- Widow rockfish

2021

- Vermilion (may be vermilion and sunset rockfish as a complex south of Pt. Conception and as a separate area model north of Pt. Conception)
- Brown rockfish
- Copper rockfish
- Quillback rockfish
- Bank rockfish
- Black rockfish
- Pacific cod

And adopt for public review the Terms of Reference for the Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment and Review Process for 2019-2020 ([H.4, Attachment 3](#), March 2018) with revisions as described in the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee report on the December 2017 Groundfish Stock Assessment Process Review Workshop ([H.4, Attachment 6](#), March 2018) and endorsed by the SSC in [H.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report](#) 1 March, 2018.

Maggie Sommer/Brad Pettinger (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 9: Council adopt, for public review: The alternatives in [H.6, Attachment 1, March 2018](#), for the following:

1. At-Sea Whiting Fishery Bycatch Needs and Set-Aside Management
3. Shorebased IFQ Accumulation Limits (Control and Vessel Limits): only the alternatives for Daily QP Limits (Overfished Species and Halibut)
4. Shorebased IFQ Sector Harvest Complex Needs, except eliminate Suboption B of Alt. 2.

5. Catcher Processor Sector Accumulation Limits

7. New Data Collections for Catcher Processors and Quota Share Owners

The purpose and need statements for item 7. New Data Collections, in [H.6 Attachment 1, March 2018](#).

Council to look at a range of alternatives for blackgill rockfish vessel limits up to 30% as part of the trawl catch share follow on actions.

Maggie Sommer/Dorothy Lowman, main motion as amended (Pettinger/Gorelnik) carried unanimously

Motion 10: Council adopt the following:

For lingcod; Alternative 1 ([Table 1, Att. 1](#))

For bocaccio; revise 2020 values ([Table 2, Att. 1](#))

Yelloweye; default P* (0.40)

Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion withdrawn with consent of the second)

Motion 11: Council adopt the following:

For lingcod values in [Table 1, Att. 1](#)

For bocaccio; revise 2020 values ([Table 2, Att. 1](#))

Yelloweye; default P* (0.40)

Joanna Grebel/Buzz Brizendine (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 12: Council recommend that NMFS keep the Trawl Gear EFP South of 42 degrees open, despite attainment of the 80-fish harvest guideline south of 42 degrees. Further recommend that NMFS not count the single 173-fish ‘lightning strike’ event toward the 80-fish sublimit, and that the sublimit should otherwise remain in place.

Second, the Council recommends that NMFS not extend the southern boundary of the bottom trawl portion of the EFP that is shoreward of the RCA from 42 to 40’10”.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion carried, Mr. Pettinger abstained)

Motion 13: Council recommend to NMFS that enrollment be re-opened for the 2018 trawl gear EFP.

Phil Anderson/Herb Pollard (Motion carried, Mr. Pettinger abstained)

Motion 14: Council recommend the following inseason changes as proposed in [Agenda Item H.8.a, WDFW Report 1](#) and [Agenda Item H.8.a, CDFW Report 1](#) and consistent with the recommendations in [Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#) and [Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#) submitted under this agenda item:

- For the Washington recreational fishery, the Council recommends increasing the sub-limit to two canary rockfish and allow retention in all marine areas.
- For the Washington recreational fishery, the Council recommends adding a flatfish limit of three per day that would not be subject to the daily aggregate bag limit of nine.
- For the California recreational fishery, the Council recommends increasing the canary rockfish sub-bag limit from one to two.

Corey Niles/Marci Yaremko (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 15: Council ask the GMT to discuss and report back to the council the process steps needed to change the salmon to ling cod to salmon ratio from 1 LC - 15 salmon to 1 LC to 5 salmon retaining the other limitations currently in place. The process examination should include changing the ratio by an in season action or through the 2019-2020 harvest specification process.

Phil Anderson/Maggie Sommers (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council recommend issuing carryover consistent w/ the recommendations in [Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, March 2018](#).

Corey Niles/Dorothy Lowman (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 17: Council:

A) Direct the Highly Migratory Species Management team to conduct at a minimum the following analyses:

1. Using available data, including historic gillnet and CPFV data, analyze the number of vessels that could operate within the Southern California Bight and the relative level of effort by fishing block. Provide these analyses to the Council at the June 2018 Council meeting.
2. Using data from existing EFP effort and historic PacFIN landings and swordfish imports data from the NMFS Office of Science and Technology, estimate the impacts on price and profitability of DSBG fishing that may occur with larger numbers of DSBG permits. Provide these analyses to the Council at the June 2018 Council meeting.
3. Using data provided by EFPs, including EFPs issued in 2018, analyze the amount and type of bycatch and relative level of fishing effort by fishing block and report on any known gear conflicts. Provide these analyses to the Council at the March 2019 Council Meeting.

B) Move forward with the necessary analyses to complete DSBG authorization in a timely manner so that EFP effort does not become a de-facto authorized fishery:

1. During the June 2018 Council meeting, updates on analyses will be provided by the HMSMT.
2. During the September 2018 Council meeting, the Council will receive input and advice from the advisory bodies on potential qualifying criteria and any additional updates on impact analyses as available.
3. During the March 2019 Council meeting, adopt a final preferred alternative for NEPA analyses and qualifying criteria, if needed, for a limited entry fishery.

C) To facilitate these analyses, adopt the following range of alternatives for authorization of a Deep Set Buoy Gear fishery as proposed in the September 2017 motion and modified as noted below:

1. Define DSBG, for the purpose of analysis as follows:
 - a. *Possession* –
 - i. Permits will be issued to any “Person” as defined at 50 CFR §660.702.
 - ii. A person may hold multiple permits, but permits may not be stacked on a single vessel
 - iii. The permit holder will assign the permit to a specific vessel that may be changed by written request to NMFS not more than one time per calendar

year unless a *force majeure* event renders the assigned vessel incapable of operation.

- iv. The permit holder will not be required to be onboard
- b. *Renewal* – Permits will be valid for one fishing year and expire if not renewed. Such permits would revert to the issuing Agency and, if a limited entry program is in place, would be made available for issuance.
- c. *Transfer*
 - i. Transfer of permits will be prohibited unless the Council determines transfer would benefit management
- d. Gear Description
 - i. Standard Buoy Gear (SBG) - An actively tended vertical gear configuration that is designed to target west coast highly migratory species. An individual piece of SBG consists of a vertical monofilament mainline suspended from a non-compressible float (>45 lb. flotation) and strike indicator float system that uses a minimum 3.6 kg weight to expedite sink rate and facilitate strike detection. A collective gear set includes ten individual pieces of gear that can fish up to three hooks each (30 total hooks maximum; minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with no more than 10° offset) that must be positioned below 90m deep when fishing. Each piece of gear must also include a locator flag, a radar reflector, and vessel/fisher identification.
 - ii. Linked Buoy Gear (LBG): An actively tended gear type in which two or more pieces of standard buoy gear (SBG) may be linked together by means of a horizontal monofilament mainline; no more than three gangions/hooks are connected to this horizontal line per individual piece, not the vertical lines. Serviceable links between each LBG section are suspended at a minimum depth of 11 meters (36 feet) below a non-compressible float system (>45 lb. flotation) that allows for strike detection (based on SBG design standards). No more than 30 hooks (minimum size 16/0 circle hooks with not more than 10° offset) can be deployed simultaneously and all hooks must be fished below >90m. No more than 10 sections of LBG may be used at one time and the overall horizontal footprint of the gear must be less than 5nm. Terminal buoys must include a locator flag, a radar reflector, and vessel/fisher identification.
- e. Gear Tending
 - i. Require that all gear be within a 5 nm diameter area and that the vessel be no more than 3 nm from the nearest piece of gear
- f. Gear Deployment/Retrieval
 - i. Gear may not be deployed prior to local sunrise
 - ii. All gear must be onboard the vessel no later than 3 hours after local sunset
- g. Multiple Gears
 - i. Multiple gears may be used on a trip. All landings must be tagged or marked to identify gear used.
- h. Geographic Area
 - i. All Federal waters offshore California and Oregon
- i. Fishery Timing
 - i. No restrictions within the existing fishing season/statistical year

- j. Species
 - i. All species may be retained and landed unless prohibited by other law or regulation.
- k. Fishery Monitoring
 - i. Logbooks will be required
 - ii. All monitoring requirements in the HMS FMP will be followed
- 2. The Range of Alternatives for consideration under NEPA will include
 - a. Permitting
 - i. Open Access
 - ii. Open Access north and west of 120° 28' 18" W. longitude and Limited Access South and east of 120° 28' 18" W. longitude (U.S. Waters South of 34° 27' N. latitude and east of 120° 28' 18" W. longitude)
 - 1. Limited Access South and East of Point Conception Alternatives
 - a. Capacity
 - i. Not more than 10 permits
 - ii. Not more than 50 permits
 - iii. Not more than 150 permits
 - iv. Not more than 250 permits
 - b. Qualifications to obtain permits
 - i. The Council will determine qualifying criteria with advice from advisory bodies and the public at the time a final preferred alternative is adopted.
- 3. Direct the HMSMT to consider the use of limited time and area closures in the Southern California Bight to address gear conflict and overcrowding concerns. The analysis should consider both benefits and costs.

John Ugoretz/Buzz Brizendine (Main motion as amended (Gorelnik/Pettinger and Hassemer/Pollard) carried unanimously

Motion 18: Council recommend that NMFS use the [HMSMT recommendations](#) for approval, preliminary approval, and resubmission of DSBG EFP applications, and that NMFS issue these EFPs in the order they were submitted until reaching the maximum number described in the current consultation for effects on protected resources. In order to ensure EFP data are collected, the Council recommends that NMFS revoke any DSBG EFPs where the EFP holder has not submitted evidence of DSBG fishing effort by April 1, 2019 and issue those EFPs to applicants approved by the Council.

EFP applications that were recommended for resubmission, if resubmitted, will be reviewed by the Council in June 2018. Other than those applications, the Council will revert to the COP process of receiving HMS EFP applications annually in June and making final decisions in September with the exception that new DSBG EFP applications will not be reviewed until June 2019.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion withdrawn with consent of the second)

Motion 19: Council recommend that NMFS use the [HMSMT recommendations](#) for approval, preliminary approval, and resubmission of DSBG EFP applications, and that NMFS issue these EFPs in the order they were submitted until reaching the maximum number described in the current consultation for effects on protected resources. In order to ensure EFP data are

collected, the Council recommends that NMFS revoke any DSBG EFPs where the EFP holder has not submitted evidence of DSBG fishing effort by a specified date and issue those EFPs to applicants approved by the Council.

EFP applications that were recommended for resubmission, if resubmitted, will be reviewed by the Council in June 2018. Other than those applications, the Council will revert to the COP process of receiving HMS EFP applications annually in June and making final decisions in September with the exception that new DSBG EFP applications will not be reviewed until June 2019.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 20: Council to adopt for STT collation, analysis, and public review the salmon management measures for the 2018 commercial and recreational ocean fisheries in the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report dated March 14 2018](#), including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, or exceptions. With the following changes:

Commercial Salmon Management Measures – Page 7

OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ)

Alternative 3: Replace August 3 - 31 with August 3 – 28

And

Referring to [Agenda Item E.6a., Supplemental STT Report 1 March 14, 2018](#) on page 22, referring to the line “federally recognized tribal harvest” add the language which reads as follows:

Under Alternative 2: 2.9 (thousand) of the non-tribal share is being directed to escapement, thus resulting in a higher proportion of the catch being caught by the tribes. Further ask the value of 59.6% be bolded in the text.

Brett Kormos/Marc Gorelnik (Motion as amended by Dygert/Sones, carried unanimously)

Motion 21: Council to adopt for public review all alternatives as described in to [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report 1 dated March 14, 2018](#), with the following changes:

Commercial troll management alternatives, Table 1, page 5:

In Alternative III for the area from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.:

Change the open days from:

May 18-31

June 12-30

July 13-31

August 1-15

September 1-October 31

To the following open days:

May 1-5, 9-13, and 17-20

June 1-5, 9-13, 17-21, and 25-28

July 1-5, 9-13, 17-21, and 25-28

August 1-4, 9-12, 15-18, and 28-30

September 1-October 31

Chris Kern/Dorothy Lowman (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 22: For non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area North of Cape Falcon, Council to adopt for public review the alternatives as presented in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental STT Report 1 \(March 14, 2018\)](#).

It is the Council's intent to adopt management measures in April that target an ocean escapement of Columbia Upriver Brights (page 22) of more than 200,000.

Kyle Adicks/David Sones (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 23: For the 2018 Treaty Ocean Troll Salmon Season, I move to establish three alternatives for public review as they are presented in Table 3 of the [Supplemental STT report \(E.6.a\) dated March 14, 2018](#) on pages 20-21.

Alternative I quota levels of 50,000 Chinook, and 40,000 coho

Alternative II quota levels of 40,000 Chinook, and 22,000 coho

Alternative III quota levels of 30,000 Chinook, and 12,500 coho

The treaty troll salmon season will consist of a May/June chinook directed fishery and a July/August/September all-species fishery. The Chinook harvest will be evenly split between the two periods with the following sub-quotas: Alternative I: 25,000; Alternative II: 20,000; Alternative III: 15,000.

I would also like to state for the record, that the Tribes and State are just beginning the North of Falcon planning process in which we will evaluate the total impacts of all proposed fisheries on Puget Sound and Columbia River stocks.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 24: Motion to reconsider the management alternatives south of the OR/CA border
Chris Kern/Dorothy Lowman (motion carried unanimously)

Motion 25: Council to approve the draft November 2017 meeting record as shown in [Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1, Draft November 2017 council meeting record](#). Change: page 8 of 47, re: attendance should be Brad Pettinger instead of Jeff Feldner

Herb Pollard/Pete Hassemer (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 26: Council appoint Mr. Carl Nish to the Processor North of Cape Mendocino seat on the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel.

Buzz Brizendine/John Ugoretz (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 27: Council appoint Mr. Darus Peake to the Oregon Troll seat on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

Chris Kern/Brad Pettinger (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 28: Council appoint Ms. Ashton Harp to the Tribal seat on Salmon Technical Team.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion carried unanimously)

Motion 29: Council appoint Mr. James Carretta to fill the vacant Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team.

Ryan Wulff/Herb Pollard (Motion carried unanimously)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on March 14, 2018 at 1:24 p.m.



Phil Anderson
Council Chair

June 25, 2018

Date