



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Philip Anderson, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2018

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

In conjunction with the March Council meeting, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet from Friday, March 9, through Tuesday, March 13, 2018. The Council meeting is at the DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma in Rohnert Park, California. The STT will meet in the Bodega Room, and the SAS will meet in the Chardonnay Room; meetings will start at 8 a.m. The Council will begin the salmon agenda on Friday, March 9, and continue through Wednesday, March 14. The Council will receive a briefing from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on salmon related topics on Friday, March 9. Other topics of interest on the Council agenda include: habitat issues, ecosystem topics, Pacific halibut, and the groundfish topic related to salmon bycatch in groundfish fisheries. Also note that you are invited to the Chair's Reception at 6 p.m. Friday evening.

The Council will be briefed Saturday, March 10, by the STT on the *Review of 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 2018 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* (Agenda Item E.2). The *Review of 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* is scheduled to be posted on the Council web site by February 16. The *Preseason Report I* is being compiled by the STT the week of February 20 and should be posted to the Council web site by March 2. The STT and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will discuss salmon topics on Friday, March 9.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be developing alternatives for modeling 2018 ocean fisheries (Agenda Items E.3, E.4, E.5, and E.6). On Saturday, March 10, the SAS will present the Council with recommendations for three alternatives. SAS representatives should review the *Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment* (Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1) and clearly identify their fishery priorities and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among fishery sectors and areas to arrive at cohesive and coordinated options. The STT will then collate and analyze the alternatives. Working throughout the week the SAS, STT, and Council will refine the alternatives, which are scheduled to be adopted for public review on Wednesday, March 14.

Each year at the March meeting, the Council receives the Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem (CCE) Report to bring ecosystem information into the Council process in a succinct, straightforward format to assist decision-making through the consideration of ecosystem variability. The report includes the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (Agenda Item F.1), and is on the Council

agenda Friday, March 9. A joint session with the STT and the SAS is scheduled for Friday morning, March 9 on Agenda Item F.1. An update on the Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative is on the Council agenda Saturday, March 10 (Agenda Item F.2). There is an opportunity to learn more about this topic (Agenda Item F.2.) at a public webinar prior to the March Council meeting. The webinar is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2018. SAS and STT members are encouraged to participate in this webinar. Information for the webinar will be on the PFMC website (pcouncil.org), or click [here](#).

For Pacific halibut, the Council will hear reports on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) meeting (Agenda Item G.1) on Saturday, March 10. On Sunday March 11, the Council will adopt for public review options for halibut retention in the commercial salmon fisheries (Agenda Item G.2). The SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations regarding inseason adjustment of the halibut retention regulations for any April 2018 commercial salmon fisheries, as well as alternatives for post-May 1, 2018 and April 2019 fisheries.

On Monday, March 12, the Council will be hear a report from NMFS on the consultation under the Endangered Species Act regarding salmon bycatch in the groundfish fisheries (Agenda Item H.5). A Biological Opinion on this topic was recently issued by NMFS. The SAS and STT are scheduled to hold a joint meeting with NMFS to be briefed on this topic.

Habitat issues are covered on Friday, March 9 (Agenda Item D.1). Please review the documents related to habitat and have draft statements prepared, as Habitat topics are on the agenda on the first day of the meeting. The Council will consider future Council meeting agendas and workload planning (Agenda Item C.7) on Wednesday, March 14. The SAS and STT may want to request topics for the C.7 agenda item.

Please take some time and review your briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance in the Council's salmon management process.

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Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.7 – Council Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Item D.1 – Habitat Issues
4. Agenda Items E.1 through E.7 – Salmon Management
5. Agenda Items F.1 and F.2 – Ecosystem Matters
6. Agenda Items G.1 and G.2 – Pacific Halibut Management
7. Agenda Item H.5 – Groundfish Management
8. Proposed SAS Agenda
9. Proposed STT Agenda
10. Proposed SSC Agenda
11. Hotel-related Information

PFMC
02/14/18