

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft June 2018 Agenda ([Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 2](#)), Year-at-a-Glance ([Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 1](#)), and Groundfish Workload Priorities ([Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 3](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book and provide the following comments.

### **Between April and June Council Meetings**

Members of the GMT will be working on the yelloweye rockfish rebuilding analysis to support the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Preferred Preliminary Alternative 1 for the yelloweye rockfish annual catch limit, which will be due for the advance briefing book deadline of May 11. Key members of the GMT will also continue to work on salmon mitigation measures for the biennial management measures and community impact analyses to support the revision to the yelloweye rockfish rebuilding plan. Finally, there could be additional workload associated with completing any remaining analyses and addressing any National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerns with the new management measure forwarded for consideration. These must be addressed before the Council considers the Final Preferred Alternative in June.

The GMT is also reviewing the Research and Data Needs document, as comments are due by May 4. Additionally, some members of the GMT will be attending The Nature Conservancy's Ecosystem Workshop May 14-15 in Portland. Members of the GMT may also be involved with the Trawl Allocation and Sablefish South item, however we are unsure of the extent at this time.

### **June Agenda**

The draft June agenda in the advanced briefing book ([Agenda Item H.3, Attachment 2](#)) has final approval of exempted fishing permits (EFPs) scheduled as the last agenda item on Saturday, June 9. The first agenda item the following morning is the adoption of final management measures for 2019-2020. The GMT needs the Council's decision on EFPs in order to complete our recommendations for management measures. Given the many decision points and potential complexity of some of the decision points, the GMT would like to have our statements submitted, and available to Council members by the end of the day on Saturday. This will allow time that evening and early the next morning for Council members, and others, to review and digest the materials in the GMT report(s). **Therefore, the GMT recommends the EFP agenda item be moved earlier in the Council's agenda, allowing time for the GMT to incorporate those decisions into our management measures report(s) in time to be submitted on the above timeline.**

### **Trawl Gear EFP in 2019 per NMFS report**

As discussed under [Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#), there have been some preliminary discussions of a potential 2019 Trawl Gear EFP which, at a minimum, would consist of exemptions from the Trawl Gear EFP in 2018 not included in the trawl gear rulemaking package (i.e. coastwide, year-round non-whiting midwater trawl fishery). **The GMT recommends that the Council take up any applications for a 2019 Trawl Gear EFP under the June Council meeting inseason agenda item.** At that time, the GMT could provide comments and suggested revisions. The applicants could then bring a final version of their application for the Council's

consideration to the September Council meeting. The GMT has been advised by NMFS staff that receiving a final application in October would still provide enough time to implement a Trawl Gear EFP by January 1, 2019.

**Trawl Allocation and Southern Sablefish Attainment Committee (TASSAC)**

[Agenda Item H.3.a, Attachment 4, April 2018](#) presents a proposed schedule for the TASSAC to discuss issues related to sablefish. The GMT does not see any concerns with the proposed schedule. **However, the GMT does recommend that the webinar slated for May/June 2018 be after the June Council meeting so that members of the GMT, as well as Council and NMFS staff focused on finalizing the 2019-2020 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures analysis (including salmon and yelloweye) can participate in the scoping of any analysis, alternatives, and discussions.**

PFMC  
04/11/18