

**Decision Summary Document
Pacific Fishery Management Council**

April 5-11, 2018

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Meeting Decision Summary Documents are highlights of significant decisions made at Council meetings. Results of agenda items that do not reach a level of highlight significance are typically not described in the Decision Summary Document. For a more detailed account of Council meeting discussions, see the [Council meeting record and voting logs](#) or the [Council newsletter](#).

Coastal Pelagic Species

2018 Exempted Fishing Permits – Final Approval

The Council recommended National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approve two 2018 exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposals from the [California Wetfish Producers Association](#) and the [West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group](#), in support of 2018 coastal pelagic species (CPS) surveys.

Acoustic Trawl Survey Methodology Review – Final Approval

The Council approved the acoustic trawl survey methodology for CPS stocks for use in future integrated stock assessments, consistent with the Methodology Review Panel's [report](#). The Council recommended continuing efforts to better account for nearshore information.

Process for Review of Reference Points for Monitored Stocks

The Council directed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to work with the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) on a method to estimate the nearshore portion of the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA) stock that is not accounted for in the Acoustic Trawl Method (ATM) survey, to develop a timeline and process to establish an overfishing limit (OFL) for CSNA using methods described in the supplemental [SSC Report](#), and to establish a process for evaluating the potential impacts of infrequent changes to reference points against the risk of changing reference points in the absence of new data. The Council directed the SSC to report the results and any additional recommendations on management metrics at the April 2019 Council meeting.

The Council also directed the SSC, the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) to describe how scientific information is used in determining monitored versus active management categories, to assess the workload associated with amending the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to better describe the considerations in assigning stocks to the actively managed versus monitored categories, to develop recommendations and a mechanism (e.g., FMP amendment, Council Operating Procedures [COP], etc.) on potentially revising those categories, and to report back to the Council at the November 2018 meeting.

Finally, the Council requested that the SWFSC work with the SSC, CPSMT, and CPSAS to develop a stock assessment prioritization process for CPS stocks, similar to the process used for groundfish stocks.

Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action

The Council adopted the 2018 sardine [stock assessment](#), which shows a biomass below the 150,000 Cutoff value. Therefore, the 2018 – 2019 directed sardine fishery will again be closed. The Council adopted harvest specifications and management measures, including the following, to account for incidental and Tribal harvest, research, small-scale fishing, and other minor sources of mortality:

Biomass	52,065 mt
OFL	11,324 mt
P* Buffer	0.4
ABC _{0.4}	9,436 mt
ACL	7,000 mt

The Council adopted the following automatic inseason actions for CPS fisheries:

- An incidental per landing allowance of 40 percent Pacific sardine in non-treaty CPS fisheries until a total of 2,500 mt of Pacific sardine are landed.
- When 2,500 mt have been landed, the incidental per landing allowance would be reduced to 20 percent for the remainder of the 2018-2019 fishing year.

Additionally, incidental catch up to 2 mt per landing is allowed in non-CPS fisheries.

The Council also directed the CPSMT to evaluate the live bait fishery allowance in the context of an overfished stock condition, and to develop a purpose and need statement for a potential amendment to FMP section 5.1.4 starting at the June 2018 Council meeting.

Salmon Management

Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection

The Council supported the list of items for review submitted by the SSC, Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW), and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) that included: 1) Complete the documentation of the development of the new Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) base period including algorithms, and review and update the FRAM documentation and

User Manual that is currently on the Council website. 2) Evaluate post-season metrics of model performance for FRAM; and 3) Conduct the technical analysis needed to inform a change of the salmon management boundary line from latitude 40° 05' (Horse Mt.) five miles north to latitude 40° 10'

The Council is scheduled to adopt the final list of topics at the September Council meeting and any final methodology changes/updates at the November Council meeting.

Final 2018 Management Measures

The Council adopted management measures for 2018 ocean salmon fisheries, and will transmit its recommendations to NMFS for implementation beginning May 1, 2018. Detailed management measures and a press release are posted on the Council's [webpage](#).

Groundfish Management

Biennial Harvest Specifications for 2019-2020 Fisheries – Final Action

The Council adopted final 2019 and 2020 harvest specifications for all groundfish stocks and stock complexes, except for yelloweye rockfish. The final preferred harvest specifications for all stocks and stock complexes, except for lingcod north and south of 40° 10' N. latitude, California scorpionfish south of 34° 27' N. latitude, and yelloweye rockfish are provided in Table 1 of [Attachment 2](#); final preferred harvest specifications for lingcod, California scorpionfish, and the preliminary preferred harvest specifications for yelloweye rockfish, are listed under Alternative 1 in Table 2 of Attachment 2. The Council is scheduled to decide final harvest specifications for yelloweye rockfish and a potential change to the rebuilding plan at its June meeting in Spokane, Washington.

Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation Area Amendment 28 – Final Action

The Council took final action to reopen the groundfish trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) in Oregon and California to bottom trawling, and to modify the current configuration of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) where groundfish bottom trawl gear is prohibited coastwide. This includes a new EFHCA prohibiting groundfish bottom trawl gear in most of the Southern California Bight. The Council also took final action to prohibit use of all groundfish bottom contact gear in waters off California deeper than 3,500 meters. The action did not affect non-trawl RCAs, the trawl RCA off Washington, the use of mid-water trawl gear within any of the trawl RCAs, nor any of the EFHCAs in the Tribal usual and accustomed fishing areas off the Washington coast.

Cost Recovery

NMFS reported to the Council that they are working to address industry and constituent requests for additional information on the trawl catch share program costs and cost recovery determinations. The annual report, originally scheduled for this meeting, will instead be presented November 2018, in order to provide the agency with time to make enhancements to the report in response to those requests.

Preliminary Preferred Management Measure Alternatives for 2019-2020 Fisheries

The Council selected preliminary preferred management measures, including allocations for all 2019 and 2020 groundfish fisheries, for public review. The Council adopted the following management measures for public review: 1) status quo allocation proportions to determine fishery harvest guidelines; 2) 2017 trip limits for commercial non-trawl fisheries except those for sablefish, canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish and other slope rockfish, and thornyheads north as recommended by the Groundfish Management Team ([GMT](#)), as well as those for lingcod recommended by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel ([GAP](#)); 3) treaty management measures as recommended by the [treaty tribes](#); 4) Washington recreational management measures as recommended by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ([WDFW](#)) and the [GMT](#); 5) status quo Oregon recreational management measures described in Federal regulations as of April 10, 2018, except allow all depth fishing in April and September; 6) California recreational management measures corresponding to Option 2 as recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ([CDFW](#)); 7) new salmon mitigation measures for groundfish fisheries; 8) new stock complexes for Washington and Oregon stocks (Proposal 1 and Proposal 2, Option 3 as described by the [GMT](#)); 9) elimination of the daily vessel limits for all species in the limited entry trawl individual fishing quota (IFQ) fishery; 10) implementation of survival credits for lingcod and sablefish in the IFQ fishery; 11) continuation of the Adaptive Management pass-through in the IFQ fishery; 12) removal of automatic authority established by Amendment 16-3 of the Groundfish FMP for darkblotched rockfish and Pacific ocean perch in the at-sea whiting fishery; 13) allowing commercial non-trawl and recreational fishing inside of 40 fathoms in the Western Cowcod Conservation Area; and 14) an analysis of allowing an incidental lingcod to Chinook salmon retention in the salmon troll fishery up to 1 lingcod per 5 Chinook retained while maintaining a 10 lingcod trip limit and within the open access monthly limit.

Final action on management measures for 2019-2020 groundfish fisheries is scheduled for the June 2018 Council meeting.

Pacific Halibut Management

Incidental Catch Limits for 2018 Salmon Troll Fishery – Final Action

The Council adopted final incidental landing restrictions for May 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and April 1-30, 2019 as follows: license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 25 halibut landed per trip. Limits may be modified by inseason action.

Administrative Matters

Legislative Matters

The Council approved [updated positions](#), including [the rebuilding standard](#), for use in future comments and discussions regarding Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) reauthorization.

Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) notified the Council that LCDR Scott McGrew has replaced LCDR Gregg Casad as Rear Admiral Throop's first designee on the Council. Mr. Brian Corrigan will remain the Rear Admiral's second designee and CDR Jason Brand his third designee.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has appointed Mr. Greg Busch, the Assistant Director of the West Coast Division Office of Law Enforcement, as their primary Enforcement Consultant. Deputy Special Agent in Charge Michael Killary will continue to serve as an alternate.

The Council created a new ad hoc committee to look at issues affecting attainment of the trawl allocation including sablefish gear switching and sablefish area management. The committee's charge is:

Identifying obstacles to achieving the goals and objectives of the catch share plan related to under attainment of non-sablefish trawl allocations and unharvested sablefish quota pounds (QP) south of 36° N. latitude. 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° N. latitude.

The following Council members were appointed to the committee as voting members: Phil Anderson, Chair (Council Chair); Michele Culver (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife); Maggie Sommer (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife); Joanna Gebel (California Department of Fish and Wildlife); Kelly Ames (National Marine Fisheries Service); and Pete Hassemmer (At-Large; Idaho Department of Fish and Game). The following individuals were appointed to a nonvoting advisory panel for the committee: Bob Alverson; Tyler Besecker; Bob Dooley; Kevin Dunn; Mike Okoniewski; Dan Platt; and Steve Scheiblaue.

Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

The Council directed staff to write a letter to U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross, in support of full Joint Enforcement Agreement funding for the states. The Council also requested that the Council Executive Director, Chuck Tracy and the Council Chair, Phil Anderson, explore support for the Council's position on this matter at the upcoming Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting in May 2018.

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