



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2018

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer
Mike Burner, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: April 2018 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet April 5-11, 2018, at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, in Portland, Oregon. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will meet April 5-7. The CPSAS will be meeting in the Garden B room, and the CPSMT will meet in the Garden C Room. Note that we will move to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting (Mt. St. Helens C) twice on the first day to listen to presentations on the acoustic-trawl methodology review (Agenda Item C.3) and the Pacific sardine stock assessment (Agenda Item C.5) before returning to their own meeting rooms. Major topics for discussion at this meeting are below.

2018 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs), Final Approval (C.2)

The Council will be considering two proposals for EFPs, one from the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group, and one from the California Wetfish Producers Association and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If recommended by the Council, the proponents would then apply directly to the National Marine Fisheries Service for the actual permit.

Acoustic-Trawl Survey Methodology (ATM) Review, Final Approval (C.3)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Southwest Fisheries Science Center's (SWFSC) ATM was reviewed January 29 – February 2, 2018, by a Methodology Review Panel. The Panel report is included in advanced Briefing Book Materials, and includes Appendices 8 and 9, which document the ATM Team's comments on specific portions of the Panel's report, and the Panel's rebuttal to those comments, respectively.

Process for Review of Reference Points for Monitored Stocks (C.4)

This agenda item is intended to cover the Council's request from April 2017, that the SSC complete some additional evaluation of processes used to establish the overfishing limit for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy, and also as an opportunity to discuss and consider process issues related to review of reference points for monitored stocks.

Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action (C.5)

The SWFSC completed an update stock assessment of the Pacific sardine biomass off the United States. The biomass estimate falls below the Cutoff value of 150,000 metric tons (mt). The CPSMT and CPSAS are therefore primarily tasked with making recommendations on incidental harvest, while also considering live bait, Tribal harvest, research take, and small-scale fishery harvest. The CPSMT and CPSAS are expected to develop supplemental reports and to assist the Council in making decisions about that 2017-18 fishing year. The Quinault Indian Nation sent a letter proposing access to 800 mt of sardines, which is in your briefing book materials (Agenda Item C.5.a, Tribal Report).

Research and Data Needs Document

The CPSMT should also discuss the preliminary draft Research and Data Needs document, sent to CPSMT and CPSAS via email. This Council document is updated every five years, and the SSC is seeking advanced feedback from Advisory Bodies. A draft will be in the June Briefing Book, with final approval scheduled for September 2018. Any comments should be compiled and provided to Mr. John DeVore, the SSC Staff Officer by May 4.

Annual United States Coast Guard Fishery Enforcement Report

Finally, the CPSMT and CPSAS will receive a presentation on the United States Coast Guard's annual report (Agenda Item I.1), and may wish to provide a supplemental report to the Council.

Enclosed are April agenda materials for your review. Thank you for your continued participation in the Council process and for your part in maintaining sustainable fisheries on the U.S. West Coast.

KFG:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item C.1 – NMFS Report
4. Agenda Item C.2 – 2018 Exempted Fishing Permits
5. Agenda Item C.3 – Acoustic-Trawl Survey Methodology (ATM) Review
6. Agenda Item C.4 – Process for Review of Reference Points for Monitored Stocks
7. Agenda Item C.5 – Pacific Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures
8. Agenda Item H.3 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
9. Agenda Item I.1 – Annual United States Coast Guard Fishery Enforcement Report
9. CPSAS Agenda
10. CPSMT Agenda
11. SSC Agenda
12. Hotel Information
13. Roster

PFMC

03/22/18