

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

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft September Council meeting agenda ([Agenda Item E.11, Attachment 2](#)) and the draft year at a glance ([Agenda Item E.11, Attachment 1](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book. The GMT then discussed anticipated workload over the summer and offer the following for consideration.

September Agenda

The GMT appreciates that the September meeting has a slightly lighter groundfish workload and shorter planned GMT attendance than previous meetings. Currently, the GMT is scheduled to start at 0800 on Saturday, September 8. However, there are three ecosystem agenda items that are scheduled on the Council floor that same morning. This schedule will preclude the GMT being able to have any in-person discussions or provide statements on these agenda items. If the Council anticipates needing our input on those items, we would need to have a publicly noticed webinar prior to the meeting, change the GMT's start date, or adjust those items on the Council schedule.

Omnibus workload prioritization is currently on the agenda. The GMT suggests the Council examine the effectiveness of the omnibus process over the last couple of cycles. Some items on the omnibus list have been there for over four years without being addressed. This long delay brings into question whether these items still need to be investigated. Additionally, several items have been given priority over items on the omnibus list, which is counter to how the omnibus list was intended to work. Those items that jump the queue take workload and Council time from the items already on the list. The GMT recommends that if the Council wants the omnibus process to be efficient and effective, a more holistic look at the omnibus process may be warranted. **In preparation for the omnibus item in September, the GMT recommends that the list be reviewed and possibly refined based on information provided on the status of items on the list, as was done for June 2016 ([Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 2, June 2016](#)).**

Based on Council action under Agenda Item E.2, final action on the trawl gear exempted fishing permit (EFP) needs to be added to the September agenda. The GMT expects that this item may need a few hours given the discussions that may be needed on salmon caps and salmon retention provisions.

Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) is a shaded agenda item for September. Based on input received previously, it is unknown whether there will be enough new information available by the September advanced briefing book deadline for the Council to proceed with consideration of the MSE.

November Council Meeting

The GMT notes that there are currently nine groundfish agenda items listed on the November Agenda in Year at a Glance ([Agenda Item C.11, Attachment 1](#)), and several of them may be heavy workload items, including salmon mitigation measures and follow-in actions for the five-year review. The GMT requests the "flexibility in annual catch limits management" agenda item be postponed until new guidance from the National Standard 1 team is available to inform this agenda

item. We note that the same item is also listed for April 2019. The GMT suggests Council staff consider whether the “Gear Switching and Sablefish Management Report” could be moved up to the September meeting, as the first meeting of the ad hoc working group is upcoming in June.

Over Summer Work

Over the summer, the GMT anticipates working with National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) and Council staff to complete any remaining analysis and documentation necessary to finalize the biennial harvest specifications and management measures based on the Council’s decisions at this meeting. A member of the GMT and several others will be attending the June 29 meeting of the Ad Hoc Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC). Additionally, members of the team will likely be assisting with analysis for the catch shares follow on actions and any items resulting from the SaMTAAC meeting. Members will also begin prepping for the 2019 stock assessments, and will consult with Dr. Hastie and the science centers in regards to catch reconstructions for longnose and big skates.

Scientific and Statistical Committee Reviews and Webinars

In the Scientific and Statistical Committee report ([Agenda Item C.11.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)), there are several reviews and webinars listed that have implications to groundfish management. The GMT requests having at least one team member as a participant in those reviews in person.

PFMC
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