



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 18, 2018

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: June 2018 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meets June 7-13, 2018, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Spokane City Center in Spokane, Washington. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Saturday to Tuesday, June 9-12. The HMSAS will be in Suite A and the HMSMT will be in Suite B. The meetings begin at 8 a.m. each day. Seven HMS topics are on the Council agenda. Summaries of these topics follow. I also describe one administrative item that may be of interest.

G.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region will report on HMS Branch activities. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center will report on HMS-related research activities. This agenda item is a briefing, and no Council action will occur under this agenda item.

G.2 Recommendations for International Management Activities

NMFS and Council staff will report on regional fishery management organization activities. At its August meeting, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) must adopt a new Resolution for Pacific bluefin tuna management for 2019 and subsequent years. A joint working group meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee and IATTC to discuss Pacific bluefin management is scheduled for early September. The Council could make recommendations on desired outcomes of these meetings and the ongoing management strategy evaluations for Pacific bluefin and North Pacific albacore.

G.3 Drift Gillnet Performance Metrics

Beginning in 2017, the HMSMT annually reports against bycatch performance metrics for the large mesh drift gillnet fishery. The metrics include selected marine mammals not listed under the Endangered Species Act, an overall finfish retention rate, and selected finfish species of concern. In 2017, the Council asked the HMSMT to also report on take of species originally proposed for hard caps. The HMSMT Report with bycatch/takes against these performance metrics for the

2017/18 drift gillnet (DGN) fishing season is included in the briefing materials. The Council may use this information to consider whether additional mitigation measures should be proposed for the fishery.

G.4 Update on Existing Deep-Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

According to Council Operation Procedure (COP) 20, the Protocol for Consideration of EFPs for HMS Fisheries, each EFP applicant must present a report on the results of the EFP at the June Council meeting. Fishing occurred under two DSBG EFPs in 2017 and the results are reported under this agenda item.

G.5 Deep-Set Buoy Gear Authorization—Final Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Number of Limited Entry Permits

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review a preliminary analysis prepared by the HMSMT to help inform a decision on the number of limited entry permits to distribute for an authorized fishery. Limited entry permits would be required in an area south of Point Conception. The Council may also further consider the alternatives adopted at the March 2018 meeting and, if possible, adopt a preliminary preferred alternative for the number of permits.

G.6 Preliminary Review of New Non-Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Applications and Resubmission of Previous Deep-Set Buoy Gear Applications

In March, the Council decided to pause accepting new applications for DSBG EFPs and revert to the schedule and process outlined in COP 20. While not accepting new applications, the Council indicated it would accept revised applications it had asked be resubmitted. One applicant submitted a revised application. In addition, a new application to test deep-set pelagic longline gear in the west coast Exclusive Economic Zone was received. According COP 20, new applications are given preliminary consideration in June and the Council makes a final decision in September.

G.7 Swordfish Management Project Planning and Observer Coverage

In March, NMFS submitted a report analyzing the range of alternatives the Council adopted for monitoring in the DGN fishery. The Council was unable to consider the report at the time and may do so under this agenda item. The Council also has the opportunity to consider progress made on activities outlined in the Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan last discussed in September 2015.

C.7 Federal Fishery Permit Citizenship Requirements—Scoping

Currently, eligibility to acquire a general HMS permit is limited to U.S. citizens. In November 2016, NMFS informed the Council it had denied a request for a permit from an American Indian born in Canada, because of this eligibility requirement. The petitioner in this case provided information to the Council on the special status of American Indians born in Canada based on the 1795 Jay Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, which allows them to move freely between the two countries, work in the United States, and receive public assistance like a United States citizen, while not having citizenship status. In April 2018, the Council decided to put

consideration of this issue on the June meeting agenda while also giving broader consideration to eligibility requirements for all Federal fishery permits issues under the Council's FMPs. This agenda item is scoping and the Council will make a decision on what action to take, if any.

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings, I am also including the materials for Agenda Item C.11, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. You may wish to provide comments on what topics are proposed and at what meetings.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. You may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item G.1: NMFS Report
3. Agenda Item G.2: Recommendations for International Management Activities
4. Agenda Item G.3: Drift Gillnet Performance Metrics
5. Agenda Item G.4: Update on Existing Deep-Set Buoy Gear (DSBG) Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)
6. Agenda Item G.5: Deep-Set Buoy Gear Authorization—Final Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Number of Limited Entry Permits
7. Agenda Item G.6: Preliminary Review of New Non-Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permit Applications and Resubmission of Previous Deep-Set Buoy Gear Applications
8. Agenda Item G.7: Swordfish Management Project Planning and Observer Coverage
9. Agenda Item C.7: Federal Fishery Permit Citizenship Requirements—Scoping
10. Agenda Item C.11: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
11. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
12. Informational Reports
13. Hotel-related Information
14. Council Roster

PFMC

5/16/18