



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Philip Anderson, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 2018

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

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September 2018 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet September 6-12, 2018, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport, in Seattle, Washington. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will meet for one day, Thursday, September 6. The CPSAS will be meeting in the Cascade 12 Room, and the CPSMT will meet in the Cascade 13 Room, and the CPSAS will join the CPSMT for two agenda items. There is only one main CPS item on the Council's agenda, with a handful of other agenda items that the CPSAS or the CPSMT may wish to consider and possible develop supplemental reports on.

Amendment 17: Live Bait Fishery Allowance (C.1)

At its June 2018 meeting, the Council initiated a fishery management plan (FMP) amendment process to address take in the live bait fishery when a CPS stock is overfished. The CPSMT developed a range of alternatives (ROA) document (Agenda Item C.1.a, CPSMT Report 1) that includes background information and two alternatives for consideration. The CPSMT and CPSAS should consider whether the ROA represents a reasonable path forward and whether the Council should consider any other alternatives.

Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (ToR) (I.4)

The joint CPS and Groundfish ToR is updated every two years. This update (Agenda Item I.4, Attachment 1) contains changes that mostly affect the groundfish assessment process, but the CPSAS and CPSMT may wish to submit supplemental reports.

Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan Agenda Items (G.1, G.2, and G.3)

The Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) is hosting a webinar on August 21 to present Agenda Items G.2 and G.3 (Fishery Ecosystem Plan [FEP] 5-year review scoping and the FEP Climate and Communities Initiative, respectively). At least one representative from the CPSAS and CPSMT will attend, and will lead the discussion at the September meetings. Agenda item G.1 is on the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap.

Each of these is included in the CPS agendas, and the CPSMT and CPSAS may wish to provide supplemental comments.

Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (F.6)

The three-year terms of all advisory subpanel members, eight at-large members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and four non-agency members and the tribal members of the Habitat Committee expire on December 31, 2018. Beginning with this meeting and finalizing at the November meeting, the Council will consider the composition of each advisory body and recommend any needed revisions to associated COPs. Applications for the next three-year term for those advisory bodies listed above will be solicited soon after the September meeting. Please also note that Dr. James Hilger has been nominated by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) to fill the CPSMT seat currently held by Dr. Emmanis Dorval.

Discussion Items

The CPSMT agenda includes time to discuss upcoming work products for the November 2018 meeting. These are stock assessment prioritization and CPS management categories. These two items are for discussion only, and intended to learn from and provide feedback to the lead authors on the two products.

Enclosed are September 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:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.5 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item C.1 – Amendment 17: Live Bait Fishery Allowance
4. Agenda Item I.4 – Stock Assessment Terms of Reference
5. Agenda Item G.1 –Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap
6. Agenda Item G.2 – FEP 5-year Review Scoping
7. Agenda Item G.3 – Climate and Communities Initiative
8. Agenda Item F.6 – Membership Appointments and COPs
9. Agenda Item F.7 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
10. CPSAS Agenda
11. CPSMT Agenda
12. SSC Agenda
13. Hotel Information
14. Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 2018

TO: Enforcement Consultants

FROM: Jim Seger, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September 2018 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 5-12, 2018, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport, 18740 International Blvd., Seattle, Washington 98188; telephone, 206-246-8600.

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) will meet in the Cascade 3/4 Room on Friday, September 7 starting at 8 a.m. and as necessary thereafter, through Tuesday, September 11. Enclosed are materials for items on the EC Agenda and additional items that might be of interest to you.

JLS:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.5, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda
2. EC Agenda
3. HC Agenda
4. LC Agenda
5. CPSAS Agenda
6. CPSMT Agenda
7. GAP Agenda
8. GMT Agenda
9. HMSAS Agenda
10. HMSMT Agenda
11. C.1: Amendment 17: Live Bait Fishery Allowance
12. G.2: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review – Scoping
13. H.2: Final Recommendations on Non-Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)
14. I.2: Amendment 28 – Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation
15. I.3: Endangered Species Act Consultation on Eulachon

16. I.7: Five-Year Catch Share Follow On Action – Preliminary Action
17. J.1: 2019 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations
18. I.8: Continuing Midwater Trawl and Gear EFP and Salmon Bycatch Provisions in New EFPs
19. I.10: Inseason Adjustments—Final Action
20. F.7: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
21. Information Report on Data Modernization
22. Hotel-related Information
23. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 2018

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kit Dahl, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September 2018 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet September 7-12, 2018, at the Doubletree by Hilton Seattle, Washington. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) will meet Thursday and Friday, September 6-7. The EAS will be in Cascade 5-6 and the EWG will be in Cascade 7-8.

There are three agenda topics under the Ecosystem heading. I have also included the briefing materials for C.7, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. Summaries of these topics follow.

G.1 West Coast Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap Implementation

In 2016 NMFS released an Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Road Map document. This Road Map recommends that NMFS develop regional Road Map implementation plans to take into account the particular nature and challenges of each U.S. marine ecosystem. A Western Road Map Implementation Plan (WRIP) for the California Current Ecosystem (CCE) was released earlier this year for review and comment by September 30. This agenda item is an opportunity for the Council to articulate comments on the WRIP it would like to submit to NMFS.

G.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review – Scoping

The Pacific Coast Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) was finalized in 2013 and calls for a review after five years. This agenda item is an opportunity for the Council to decide on the scope of any such review.

G.3 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative Update

In September 2017, the Council adopted this initiative based on input from the EAS, EWG, and other advisory bodies. The “Climate and Communities Initiative” name emphasizes that the Council’s role in responding to the effects of climate change includes the human component of the

ecosystem. The Council last considered what it would do under this agenda at its March 2018 meeting. This agenda item is an opportunity to continue to identify activities to be undertaken under this initiative.

The EWG submitted reports for the advance briefing book for agenda items G.2 and G.3. In addition, the EWG organized a webinar on August 21 to help other Council advisory bodies and the public develop recommendations on these two topics. Webinar discussions could contribute to the drafting of supplemental EAS and EWG reports.

F.6 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

The three-year terms of all advisory subpanel members expire on December 31, 2018. Beginning with this meeting and finalizing at the November meeting, the Council will consider the composition of each advisory body and recommend any needed revisions to associated COPs. The EAS should consider whether the current subpanel composition adequately represents the range of stakeholders, and if appropriate, recommend changes.

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings, I am including the materials for Agenda Item F.7, 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. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at <http://www.pccouncil.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.

KRD:rd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.5: Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item G.1: West Coast Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap Implementation
3. Agenda Item G.2: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review – Scoping
4. Agenda Item G.3: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative Update
5. Agenda Item F.6: Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
6. Agenda Item F.7: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
7. EAS and EWG Agendas
8. Informational Reports
9. Hotel-related information
10. Council Roster



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 2018

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Interested Persons

FROM: Mr. Todd Phillips, Groundfish Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 5-12 the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, Seattle, WA 98188. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meetings will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 8 in Cascade 7/8 and Cascade 9/10, respectively.

The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest, including:

- Matters raised during the Open Comment Period;
 - Habitat;
 - Research and Data Needs Document – Final Adoption;
 - West Coast Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap Implementation;
 - Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review – Scoping;
 - Climate and Communities Initiative Update;
 - Legislative Matters;
 - Reports from the West Coast Region and Northwest Fisheries Science Center;
 - Amendment 28 – Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation – Implementation Update;
 - Review Draft Incidental Take Statement for Endangered Species Act Consultation on Eulachon;
 - Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Terms of Reference – Final Action;
 - Methodology Review – Preliminary Topic Selection;
 - Science Improvement Report;
 - Five-Year Catch Share Follow On Action – Preliminary Action;
 - Pacific Halibut: 2019 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations;
 - Electronic Monitoring Program Update and Cost Allocation Procedural Directive;
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- Continuing Midwater Trawl and Gear Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) and Salmon Bycatch Provisions in New EFPs – Final Recommendations;
- Omnibus Workload Planning Process;
- Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2018;
- Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (COPs); and
- Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.

Of particular note, the Council has the opportunity to consider the composition of its advisory bodies and appoint members for three-year terms under Agenda Item F.6, Memberships Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (COPs). The Council will also review and consider revisions to the COPs. Recently, GMT and GAP membership has changed and both groups are scheduled to review their current membership and provide direction to the Council regarding potential changes to their respective compositions to ensure adequate expertise and representation.

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week. As always, all briefing materials are also available on the web at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-meetings/current-meeting/>.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

TMP:rdd

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.5 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B – Open Comment Period
3. Agenda Item D – Habitat
4. Agenda Item F.1, F.2, F.3, F.6, and F.7 – Administrative Matters
5. Agenda Item G – Ecosystem
6. Agenda Item I – Groundfish Management
7. Agenda Item J – Pacific Halibut
8. Enforcement Consultants Agenda
9. GAP Agenda
10. GMT Agenda
11. Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel/Workgroup Agenda
12. Scientific Statistical Committee Agenda and Draft Minutes
13. Informational Reports
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 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: September 2018 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meets September 7-12, 2018, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport in Seattle, Washington. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Friday and Saturday, September 7-8. The HMSAS will be in Cascade 12 and the HMSMT will be in Cascade 13. The meetings begin at 8 a.m. each day. Six HMS topics are on the Council agenda. Summaries of these topics follow. I also describe several other items that may be of interest.

H.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.

H.2 Final Recommendations on Non- Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

In June, the Council received one non-deep-set buoy gear EFP application submitted by Dr. John Hall to test the use of a 5 nautical mile section of deep-set pelagic longline fishing gear inside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone off the West Coast. The Council preliminarily approved the application for public review and will make a final recommendation to NMFS at this meeting. For the September meeting Dr. Hall submitted a slightly revised application specifying that fishing will not occur in waters off of Washington and adding a section discussing how the gear will be actively tended.

H.3 Recommendations for International Management Activities

NMFS and Council staff will report on regional fishery management organization activities. By the time the Council meets, both the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee will have met. The

principal outcome of these meetings of interest to the Council will be Pacific bluefin tuna management measures. The IATTC also may consider changes to the current tropical tuna measure to address new information on the status of bigeye and yellowfin tunas.

H.4 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

With Amendment 4 to the HMS FMP the biennial management process has a changed schedule and focus. This will be the first biennial process under these changes. NMFS has provided a report summarizing estimates of status determination criteria (maximum sustainable yield, maximum fishing mortality threshold, and minimum stock size threshold), which are used to determine if a stock is subject to overfishing or overfished. This information should be incorporated into the HMS Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report as part of the biennial process. The Council also has the opportunity to propose management measures to address stock status or other conservation issues.

H.5 Drift Gillnet Performance Metrics Methodology

The HMSMT has recommended that the random forest regression tree method be used for the purpose of establishing and reporting on drift gillnet fishery bycatch performance. Currently, ratio estimation is used, which likely produces less accurate estimates compared to the regression tree method. In June, the Council requested the Scientific and Statistical Committee review the regression tree methodology and report on its suitability for establishing and reporting on performance metrics. The HMSMT could make additional recommendations on the application of the regression tree method for reporting in June 2019.

H.6 Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan

In June, the Council reviewed the 2015 draft of its Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan. Because of Council and NMFS actions in the intervening years the Plan needs to be updated. In addition, the Council and advisory bodies made recommendations for changes to the Plan. Staff drafted a revised draft of the Plan for Council review.

Ecosystem Agenda Items

There are three agenda items related to the Council's Fishery Ecosystem (FEP); two of them in particular merit comment by the HMSAS and HMSMT.

The FEP mandates a five-year review; since the plan was finalized in 2013, the five-year review is scheduled to begin this year. Agenda Item G.2 kicks off this process with the Council providing initial guidance on the scope of any such changes. Since September 2017, the Council has been developing ideas for an FEP "Climate and Communities Initiative." The purpose of this Initiative is for the Council to identify ways its management can be more flexible and responsive in the face of climate change, with a special focus on impacts to fishing communities. Agenda Item G.3 is an update on the development of this Initiative.

The Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup organized a webinar on August 21 to help other Council advisory bodies and the public begin developing their comments and recommendations on these topics. The HMSAS and HMSMT have an opportunity to provide input on these topics.

The third topic, which would be a lower priority for comment, is the West Coast Road Map Implementation Plan (WRIP) for the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). This document describes activities NMFS is planning to further an ecosystem based fishery management approach. At this meeting, the Council has the opportunity to provide comments to NMFS on the Plan before it is finalized. (NMFS set a comment deadline of September 30.)

F.3 Electronic Monitoring Program Review and Cost Allocation Procedural Directive

NMFS has published a draft Procedural Directive on Cost Allocations in Electronic Monitoring Programs for Federally Managed U.S Fisheries. This Procedural Directive establishes a framework for allocating costs for electronic monitoring programs in federally managed U.S. fisheries between NOAA Fisheries and the fishing industry, and a timeline for implementing the framework. Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to formulate its comments on this Directive. The HMSAS in particular may wish to report to the Council on its views about this Directive since it may impact fisheries that are subject to electronic monitoring.

F.6 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures

The three-year terms of all advisory subpanel members expire on December 31, 2018. Beginning with this meeting and finalizing at the November meeting, the Council will consider the composition of each advisory body and recommend any needed revisions to associated Council Operating Procedures. The HMSAS should consider whether the current subpanel composition adequately represents the range of stakeholders, and if appropriate, recommend changes. Likewise, the HMSMT has the opportunity to submit recommendations on agency representation and whether the membership is adequate to address Council workload.

F.7 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.

I have also included the materials for this agenda item to help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings. You will note that further consideration of the range of alternatives for a deep-set buoy gear fishery does not appear on the draft November agenda. In June, the HMSMT recommended removing this topic from the September agenda. While not specifying that it be rescheduled to November, that may have been your intent. But the current planning schedule only contemplates this topic returning in March 2019 for Council action. You may wish to submit a report clarifying your preferences for future Council consideration of this topic.

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.5: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item H.1: NMFS Report
3. Agenda Item H.2: Final Recommendations on Non- Deep-Set Buoy Gear Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)
4. Agenda Item H.3: Recommendations for International Management Activities
5. Agenda Item H.4: Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures
6. Agenda Item H.5: Drift Gillnet Performance Metrics Methodology
7. Agenda Item H.6: Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan
8. Agenda Item G.1: West Coast Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap Implementation
9. Agenda Item G.2: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review – Scoping
10. Agenda Item G.3: Climate and Communities Initiative Update
11. Agenda Item F.3: Electronic Monitoring Program Review and Cost Allocation Procedural Directive
12. Agenda Item F.6: Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
13. Agenda Item F.7: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
14. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
15. Informational Reports
16. Hotel-related Information
17. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 17, 2018

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Salmon and Halibut Staff Officer

SUBJECT: September 2018 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet September 5-12, 2018, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport in Seattle, WA. The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), the Salmon Technical Team (STT), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will not be meeting at the September Council meeting, but will meet via webinar on August 22, 2018 to discuss pertinent topics on the Council agenda. The Chairs of these groups are invited to attend.

The Council's September meeting agenda includes topics on salmon and halibut, as well as topics on ecosystem and administration matters that may be of interest.

There are two agenda items on the Council schedule related to salmon management. The first is the final topic selection for the 2018 salmon methodology review (Agenda Item E.1), and the second is an update on the salmon rebuilding plans (Agenda Item E.2). Salmon is on the Council agenda Friday, September 7.

At the April Council meeting, the Council recommended three topics for methodology review in 2018; however, additional topics may be added prior to the final adoption. Currently, the topics listed for methodology review include: 1) 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' (into the California KMZ).

Under Agenda Item E.2, the STT will provide a second update on the development of five salmon rebuilding plans. This will include a summary of work completed, future tasks, and the general status of plan development. The Council is scheduled to review the draft plans at the November 2018 Council meeting.

For Pacific Halibut Management topics (Agenda Item J.1), the Council is scheduled to adopt for consideration proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2019, and proposed changes to annual fishery regulations for 2019. The Council will consider the proposals at the upcoming September meeting, and is scheduled to take final action at the November Council meeting. Also under this agenda item, the International Pacific Halibut Commission will provide a report that may include potential changes to the non-Indian commercial directed halibut fishery season structure for 2019. Pacific Halibut is on the Council agenda Monday, September 10.

Ecosystem topics of interest include the 5-year review of the Council's Fishery Ecosystem Plan (Agenda Item G.2) and an update on the Climate and Communities Initiative (Agenda Item G.3). Ecosystem topics are on the Council agenda Saturday, September 8. A webinar is scheduled for August 21 to review these topics. Check the Council website for details.

In addition to the usual administrative matters including future workload and agenda planning (Agenda Item F.7), the Council will also discuss membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures (Agenda Item F.6) on Wednesday, September 12. Under Agenda Item F.6, among other things, the Council will begin to review Advisory Body membership. Advisory Body memberships are three-year terms, and all members are nominated; there is no automatic renewal. It is anticipated that the Council will announce a call-for-nominations shortly after this September meeting, with nominations due in October; in time for the November advanced briefing book.

Electronic copies of all the meeting materials are posted on our website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/>. We will also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

RDE:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Items E.1, E.2 – Salmon Management
2. Agenda Items F.6, F.7 – Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Items G.2, G.3 – Ecosystem Management
4. Agenda Item J.1 – Pacific Halibut Management

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 20, 2018
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee
FROM: John DeVore
SUBJECT: September 2018 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 5-12, 2018 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport, 18740 International Blvd., Seattle, WA. The Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC's) Ecosystem Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, September 5, starting at 8 a.m. in the Cascade 11 Room. The full SSC will meet Thursday, September 6 and Friday, September 7 starting at 8 a.m. each day in the Cascade 11 Room. Your meeting materials are enclosed.

Council Administrative Matters

The SSC will review the credentials for Mr. Jonathan Carey who has been nominated for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region seats on the Salmon Technical Team and Model Evaluation Workgroup vacated by Mr. Larrie LaVoy. The SSC will also review the credentials for Dr. James Hilger who has been nominated for the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team vacated by Dr. Emmanis Dorval. The SSC will be in closed session during this discussion which is listed on the agenda as Agenda Item F.6.

The SSC will also discuss potential changes to Council Operating Procedure 4 in preparation for considering appointments for at-large seats on the SSC. The SSC may deliberate the need for additional seats, fewer seats, and/or particular expertise needed to conduct future SSC business. This discussion will occur under Agenda Item F.6 later in the agenda.

The Council is scheduled to adopt a final draft of the 2018 Research and Data Needs document. The SSC will recommend research and data needs priorities and provide comments on the revised draft document.

Salmon Management

The SSC will recommend candidate items for an October methodology review by the SSC's Salmon Subcommittee and the Salmon Technical Team.

Ecosystem Management

The Council will consider the scope and schedule of its five-year review of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan at this meeting. The SSC will provide their recommendations on any changes to the plan and the review schedule.

The Council will consider the next steps in advancing the Climate and Communities Initiative. The SSC will review the report of The Nature Conservancy Workshop that was conducted in May 2018 and the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) report on this initiative and provide their recommendations to the Council. Dr. Dan Holland will attend an August 21 webinar conducted by the EWG on this initiative and provide a briefing to the SSC.

Highly Migratory Species Management

The SSC will review proposed methods for estimating bycatch relative to performance metrics in the drift gillnet fishery and make their recommendations to the Council.

Groundfish Management

The Council is scheduled to adopt a final 2019-2020 Terms of Reference (ToR) for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments. The SSC will review a revised draft of proposed changes to the ToR and make their recommendations to the Council.

The SSC will review new proposed methodologies or impact analyses informing groundfish management and will consider recommending those that merit a formal review next year.

The SSC will review a proposal for improving catch estimation methods in sparsely sampled mixed-stock fisheries and the report of the Methodology Review Panel. The SSC will consider endorsing this new methodology in their report to the Council.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process. See you soon.

JDD:rdd

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Agenda Item A.5 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item F.1 – Research and Data Needs Document – Final Adoption
3. Agenda Item F.6 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
4. Agenda Item F.7 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Salmon Management

5. Agenda Item E.1 – Salmon Methodology Review – Final Topic Selection

Ecosystem Management

6. Agenda Item G.2 – Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review – Scoping
7. Agenda Item G.3 – Climate and Communities Initiative Update

Highly Migratory Species Management

8. Agenda Item H.5 – Drift Gillnet Performance Metrics Methodology

Groundfish Management

9. Agenda Item I.4 – Stock Assessment Terms of Reference – Final Action
10. Agenda Item I.5 – Methodology Review Topic Selection
11. Agenda Item I.6 – Science Improvement Report

SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, Etc.

12. September 2018 SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee Agenda
13. September 2018 SSC Agenda
14. Draft June 2018 SSC Minutes
15. Administrative Closed Session
16. Council Operating Procedure 4 (*SSC Only*)
17. Center for Independent Experts (CIE) External Independent Peer Review – Independent Peer Review of Catch Estimation Methods in Sparsely Sampled Mixed Stock Fisheries (*SSC Only*)
18. Informational Reports
19. Hotel-Related Information
20. Council Roster