

# Pacific Council News

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• Reporting on West Coast Fisheries Management •

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## Coastal Pelagic Species

### Live Bait Bycatch Limits Weighed

The Council is considering an amendment to the coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan to address live bait harvest when CPS stocks are in an overfished condition. In September, the Council adopted a range of alternatives which includes maintaining the status quo or removing the prescribed live bait incidental landing restrictions

in the CPS fishery management plan. Final action is tentatively scheduled for the November 2018 Council meeting in San Diego, California.

The live bait fishery is centered in Central and Southern California, with some activity off Oregon and Washington. It is particularly important to the California charter and sport boat fleet, and some commercial fisheries such as the albacore fishery. Currently, the fishery management plan does not require a limited entry permit for live bait fishing, and all live bait landings are counted as harvest. The total annual live bait harvest is approximately 2,000 metric tons.

If a CPS stock becomes overfished, the live bait fishery is limited to 15 percent incidental landings. For example, if sardines were to become overfished, a CPS vessel could not land pure loads of sardine. It would have to target a different species, such as anchovy, that could have no more than 15 percent of sardines mixed in. Due to concerns that this incidental landing limit makes it very difficult to prosecute the live bait fishery, the Council is considering the amendment as a way to manage the harvest in the live bait fishery in overfished conditions. Total landings in all sectors would still be limited by annual catch limits.

The Council has a new way to submit written public comment! We'll be testing the system for the November meeting and switching over to it in March. You can use it now! For details, see our handy explainer at [tingurl.com/pfmc-portal](http://tingurl.com/pfmc-portal).



Live bait. Photo: Lynn Friedman, Flickr creative commons.

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## Salmon and Halibut

### Update on Salmon Rebuilding Plan Development

Three coho stocks (Queets River coho, Strait of Juan de Fuca coho, and Snohomish River coho) and two Chinook stocks (Sacramento River fall Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook) were declared overfished in June 2018. Under the Salmon Fishery Management Plan, the Salmon Technical Team is charged with producing rebuilding plan for each of these stocks which will likely be implemented through a regulatory amendment, including an environmental assessment. The plans will investigate the role of fishing, marine survival, and freshwater survival in the determination. Salmon Technical Team recommendations will focus on actions the Council can take to help rebuild the stocks.

**FINAL  
ACTION IN  
MARCH**

The Council will consider the draft plans in November, and they are scheduled for final adoption in March 2019.

### Halibut Catch Sharing Plan Adopted for Public Review

In September, the Council adopted for public review proposed changes to the 2019 halibut catch sharing plan and annual fishery regulations. Final action on 2019 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for November.

Proposed changes to the Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan and fishing regulations involve Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries. No changes were proposed for California.

**FINAL  
ACTION IN  
NOVEMBER**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposed three changes for public review. The first is to revise the description of the season opening date for the Columbia River sub-area so that it more closely aligns with the opening date in the other Washington subareas. Option 1 is to open the second Thursday in May; Option 2 is to open the second Friday in May; and Option 3 is to consult with stakeholders and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the season opening date before the November Council meeting.

The second change proposes revising the days of the week that the season is open in the Columbia River sub-area to Friday and Sunday (Option 2) or to maintain the status quo—Thursday, Friday, and Sunday (Option 1).

WDFW's third proposed change is to revise the catch sharing plan language to remove the set-aside of 10 percent or 2,000 pounds for the nearshore fishery in the South Coast sub-area and allow the nearshore fishery to be open after the primary (all-depth) fishery closes, if sufficient quota remains.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed one change for public review: revising the season opening date for the Columbia River sub-area so that it more closely aligns with the opening dates in other Washington or Oregon Subareas. The status quo is to open the first Thursday in May. Option 1 is to open the second Thursday in May; Option 2 is to open the second Friday in May; and Option 3 is to consult with stakeholders and WDFW before the November Council meeting to determine the season opening date for the following year.

The Council also discussed the non-tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery structure. The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) continues to work with the Council and stakeholders to develop [an alternative structure of the non-tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery](#). IPHC plans to consider a change to the length of the fishing periods for 2019 from 10 hours to five or 10 days. IPHC staff indicated these proposed changes will be submitted for review at the November 2018 IPHC interim meeting, and final action by the IPHC is expected in January 2019. IPHC staff plan on submitting any proposals to the IPHC commissioners in time for inclusion in the Council's November briefing book.

## **Methodology Review Removed from November Agenda**

In September, the Council received updates on three candidate items for the 2018 Salmon Methodology Review related to the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) and conducting a technical analysis needed to inform a change of the salmon management boundary line from 40°05' N. latitude (Horse Mt.) five miles north to 40°10' N. latitude. The Council agreed that none of the topics would be ready for a methodology review in time for the November 2018 Council meeting and removed them from the agenda.



*A copper rockfish in the murky waters of Hood Canal. Photo: Sue Langston.*

## **Groundfish**

### **Council Addresses Electronic Monitoring Tasks**

In September, the Council reviewed and submitted comments on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) draft Procedural Directive on Cost Allocations in Electronic Monitoring Programs for Federally Managed U.S Fisheries, which determines whether NMFS or industry pays for various aspects of such programs.

The Council also received an update from NMFS on the final rule for the midwater trawl whiting fishery and fixed gear fishery, the timeline for developing the electronic monitoring bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl environmental assessment with proposed and final rules, halibut discard mortality rate implementation, and the timeline for the draft NMFS data storage procedural directive.

The electronic monitoring exempted fishing permits for all four catch share fisheries expire at the end of 2018, so the Council considered extending the EFPs. The Council will take final action on this in November.

The Ad Hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) provided the Council with a list of electronic monitoring issues that need to be addressed, such as the transition plan for third party video review, reduction of video review from 100 percent, and shoreside catch monitor issues. The GEMPAC will continue developing this list in the coming year.

In April 2019 the Council is scheduled to discuss video review options and the draft NMFS data storage procedural directive. These items are subject to change based on NMFS' progress and Council workload.

## Catch Share Follow-On Alternatives Adopted

In September, the Council adopted preliminary preferred alternatives for several follow-on issues related to the catch share program. The range of alternatives for these issues was finalized in March; final action is scheduled for November for all items except blackgill vessel quota pound limits, which will be addressed when the Council reviews its Amendment 26 decision to split blackgill rockfish from the southern slope rockfish complex and reallocate between the trawl and nontrawl sectors.



*F/V Norska (Kodiak) in Newport, OR. Photo: Jennifer Gilden*

**FINAL  
ACTION IN  
NOVEMBER**

### **At-Sea Whiting Fishery Bycatch Needs and Set-Aside Management:**

The preliminary preferred alternative is to create set-asides for widow and canary (Alternative 4) and to remove the at-sea set-aside distribution formulas from the fishery management plan. By converting widow and canary from quota to set-aside management, the Council expects that the at-sea sectors will fish more flexibly and achieve their whiting allocation without adversely impacting conservation objectives or other sectors.

### **Blackgill Annual Vessel Quota Pound Limits:**

The preliminary preferred alternative is to set an annual vessel quota pound limit of 20 percent. This would go into effect when Amendment 26 is implemented, splitting blackgill rockfish from the remainder of the southern slope rockfish

complex. It would replace the nine percent limit that was included in Amendment 26. (Nine percent is the current limit for the southern slope rockfish complex, but analysis shows that maintaining that limit for blackgill rockfish would likely constrain vessel operations.) The Council also adopted the draft purpose and need statement and range of alternatives provided for consideration in the analytical document.

**Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota Sector Harvest Complex Needs:** The preliminary preferred alternative is to allow post-season trading for accounts in deficit (Alternative 2) with the sub-option to not limit vessels by the annual vessel quota pound limits in covering their previous year deficits and eliminate September 1st quota pound expiration (Alternative 3). The Council expects that these actions will make more quota pounds available to the fleet and encourage increased attainment of allocations by reducing a vessel's time off the water when it encounters high bycatch tows that exceed annual vessel quota pound limits.

**Catcher-Processor Accumulation Limits:** The Council selected preliminary preferred alternatives that would immediately implement an five catcher-processor permit ownership limit (Catcher-Processor Implementation Alternative 3 and Permit Limit Alternative 2; and Processing Limit Alternative 1). The same individual and collective rule used for quota share ownership and the mothership co-op program would be used to assess the number of permits an entity owns.

**New Data Collections:** The Council selected preliminary preferred alternatives that would collect detailed catcher-processor ownership data annually (Catcher Processor Alternative 2) and implement a system for collection of these quota share owners' data, leaving it to NMFS to identify the most efficient and effective way to conduct the collections (a new alternative, Alternative 4).

## **Year-Round Midwater Trawl, Other Exempted Fishing Permits Recommended**

In September, the Council recommended implementation of the year-round coastwide midwater trawl exempted fishing permit (EFP) for 2019 and took preliminary action to recommend the same EFP for 2020. Under current regulations, the only time of year a vessel can use midwater trawl gear north of 40° 10' N. latitude (inside and outside the trawl rockfish conservation areas) is during the Pacific whiting primary season. Midwater trawling is allowed seaward of the trawl rockfish conservation area year-round south of 40° 10' N. latitude. The EFP is designed to collect information about Chinook and coho bycatch levels and stock



*A rockfish dines on another fish. Photo: Ed Bierman, Flickr creative commons.*

composition from targeting nonwhiting species with midwater trawl gear during times and areas that are currently closed. At the same time, the EFP will include 2019 Chinook caps of 1,000 fish north of 42 degrees and 100 fish south.

While the trawl EFP approved by the Council is only for one year, at least two more years of data are required under the NMFS biological opinion for endangered salmon species. Therefore, to expedite the process for 2020, the Council took steps to recommend the EFP for 2020 on a preliminary basis. This will help meet the NMFS requirement and collect information that could be used to support an eventual Council decision on whether or not to expand non-whiting midwater trawling into times and areas that are not current fished.

Additionally, though nonwhiting midwater trawl opportunities are the primary focus of the EFP, it may also allow vessels to fish under some of the less restrictive gear provisions recommended by the Council in the spring of 2016. A gear rule largely implementing those

recommendations is in the final NMFS approval stages. The EFP will include any provisions that NMFS does not approve for the start of the 2019 fishery.

The Council also commented on salmon bycatch caps for three new EFPs that were recommended as part of the biennial specifications in June 2018. They include an EFP sponsored by the San Francisco Community Fishing Association, which seeks to investigate the effectiveness of vertical hook-and-line gear to selectively harvest midwater species such as yellowtail rockfish between Point San Pedro and the Oregon/California border; an EFP sponsored by Scott Cook, which seeks to investigate the effectiveness of commercial midwater hook-and-line gear to selectively harvest midwater rockfish species in the rockfish conservation area off the Oregon coast; and an EFP sponsored by Real Good Fish, which seeks to assess the feasibility of a trolled hook-and-line gear type, determine areas that are abundant with chilipepper rockfish, identify areas that correspond to low densities of overfished species using vertical hook-and-line gear, and test a new cost effective electronic monitoring and vessel monitoring system. The Council recommended Chinook caps of 10 fish for San Francisco Community Fishing Association EFP, 50 fish for the Scott Cook EFP, and 50 fish for the Real Good Fish EFP.

## **Groundfish Inseason Adjustments**

In September, the Council reviewed the status of groundfish fisheries and recommended inseason action for the commercial and recreational groundfish fishery.

The commercial fishery action was based on the [Groundfish Management Team Report](#) and



Astoria fishing boats.  
Photo: Joseph Novak,  
Flickr creative commons.

increased sablefish, bocaccio, and Pacific halibut trip limits and released a portion of the darkblotched rockfish and Pacific Ocean perch from incidental open access into the buffer. The actions described below are intended to increase the potential for fisheries to attain their annual catch limits.

For the **limited entry north sablefish fishery**, increase to 1,400 lbs/wk, not to exceed 4,200 lb/2 mo; for the **open access north sablefish fishery**, increase to 300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,400 lbs, not to exceed 2,800 lbs/2 mo.; and for the **open access south sablefish fishery**, increase to 300 lb/day, or 1 landing per week of up to 1,600 lbs, not to exceed 4,800 lbs/2 mo.

The **limited entry bocaccio** trip limit for the area between 34°27' - 40°10' was increased to 1,500 lbs/2 months.

The ratio of incidental halibut allowed in the **primary sablefish fishery** north of Point Chehalis was increased to 200 net lbs. halibut per 1,000 lbs. sablefish (plus two halibut).

In addition, 9.7 mt of **Pacific Ocean perch** and 17.7 mt of **darkblotched** rockfish were moved from incidental open access sector into the buffer.

**Yelloweye rockfish** landings were projected to exceed the recreational harvest guideline in California, leading the Council to reduce depths open to California recreational anglers in the Northern, Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central recreational fishery management areas for the remainder of 2018.

In the northern sub-area, depths open to **recreational fishing** were reduced from 30 to 20 fathoms, and the all-depth fishery slated for November-December 2018 was canceled. For the Mendocino sub-area, the all-depth fishery slated for November-December 2018 was canceled. In the San Francisco sub-area, depths open to recreational fishing were reduced from 40 to 30 fathoms; and in the Central sub-area, depths open to recreational fishing were reduced from 50 to 40 fathoms.

### **Other Groundfish News**

The Council adopted the [draft Terms of Reference for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process in 2019-2020](#) with changes recommended by the [Scientific and Statistical Committee](#). The document outlines the roles and responsibilities of participants in 2019 and 2020 groundfish and coastal pelagic species stock assessment review processes.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee did not endorse any new methodology proposals for review next year.

### **Omnibus Workload Planning Process**

In September, the Council discussed the “omnibus” groundfish workload planning process, where the Council considers and prioritizes all groundfish issues to allow for a more holistic evaluation of groundfish priorities and workload. This helps to manage workload and allows the Council to express its views on the relative importance of competing responsibilities. In March 2019, the Groundfish Management Team will provide a proposal to modify this process and the Council will consider changes to Council Operating Procedures to reflect any changes that are adopted.

### **Eulachon Incidental Take Threshold Proposed**

NMFS has proposed, and the Council has concurred with, an incidental take threshold for the “southern distinct population segment” of eulachon that accounts for variation in population abundance.

NMFS’ 2012 Biological Opinion on the groundfish fishery addressed a number of non-



*Eulachon in hand. Photo: Watershed\_Watch, Flickr creative commons.*

salmonid species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that could be adversely affected by the groundfish fishery, including this population of eulachon. Incidental take of the eulachon was not expected to exceed 1,004 fish per year. However, take in the groundfish fishery exceeded those levels in 2011, 2013, and 2014, so NMFS decided to take another look at eulachon bycatch and its effect on population status.

Based on this review, NMFS proposed a new way to calculate and track the take of this population of eulachon to better account for the high variability in bycatch amounts. NMFS plans to finalize the biological opinion, which evaluates the effects of the groundfish fishery on eulachon, in the near future. NMFS and the Council will continue to monitor eulachon bycatch through the Council's Groundfish Endangered Species Act Workgroup. The Workgroup can make

recommendations to the Council and NMFS on additional measures to take, if bycatch becomes a problem for the eulachon population.

## **Update on Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation Area Changes**

The Council adopted [draft Groundfish Fishery Management Plan](#) language in September for public review, reflecting final action on proposed changes to Pacific Coast groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH), trawl rockfish conservation areas, deepwater bottom contact gear closures, and other elements related to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 28.

Final approval of the FMP language, a revised Council Operating Procedure to guide EFH reviews, and other related products are tentatively scheduled for final approval at the March 2019 meeting in Vancouver, Washington.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the changes to EFH was published on September 28, and NMFS plans to complete the rulemaking process in 2019 with implementation by January 1, 2020. Although the final configuration won't go into effect until the FMP Amendment is approved and the regulations are final, Council and NMFS staff continue to work on implementation products such as maps, regulations, and FMP appendices.

## **Habitat and Ecosystem**

### **Fishery Ecosystem Plan Changes Considered**

The Council took an initial look at potential revisions to its Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP), which it adopted five years ago. It directed the Ecosystem Work Group (EWG) to consult with its four fishery management teams to identify recommended changes, emphasizing that any updates to the FEP should account for outcomes of the ongoing Climate and Communities Initiative. The Council also asked the EWG to identify potential revisions to the FEP, including goals and objectives. The EWG will report on its progress in March 2019.

## **Climate Scenarios Investigation Committee Formed**

In September, the Council formed the Ad Hoc Climate Scenarios Investigation Committee (CSI) composed of Council members Caren Braby, Rich Lincoln, and John Ugoretz. The CSI will coordinate with the Ecosystem Work Group on the development of climate change scenarios that would be the subject of a scenario planning exercise. The CSI has scheduled a [webinar on October 23](#) to preview its initial findings and seek input from Council advisory bodies and the public. It will then report on its progress in November.



*Bull Run (Oregon) salmon habitat Photo: NOAA*

## **Habitat Briefs**

*San Joaquin water:* The California State Water Resources Control Board's final vote on instream flow requirements for the San Joaquin River is scheduled for November 7. This process mandates baseline flow objectives with an adaptive management process, roughly doubling the amount of water in the San Joaquin River and increasing water in Sacramento River.

*Klamath dam removal:* The Klamath River Renewal Corporation has filed its "definite plan" for removal of four dams on the Klamath River with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the dams are slated for removal in 2021. The Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality issued a water quality certification for the removal of J.C. Boyle dam on September 7.

*California Offshore wind.* The [Bureau of Ocean Energy](#) Management will be seeking public comment on "call areas" for potential offshore floating wind projects in central and northern California. These areas may become lease areas. Floating offshore wind turbines may affect fishing and habitat.

*Columbia River Treaty.* Negotiations for revisions to the [U.S./Canada Columbia River Treaty](#) are starting to heat up, with implications for future flow and spill management in the Columbia River.

*Beaver Habitat.* Idaho is conducting a beaver habitat assessment in order to identify opportunities for beaver restoration for habitat, fish and wildlife benefits. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has [videos available](#) to help explain the benefits of beavers and their dams to fish and water quantity.

*Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia.* The Oregon Coordination Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia [presented their first recommendations](#) to the Oregon legislature on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Deep Sea Corals.* In November the HC will hear from the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program on a four-year deep-sea coral research initiative focused on the West Coast.





A scene from the Washington Tuna Classic 2017. Photo: "geekgiant," Flickr creative commons.

## Highly Migratory Species

### **Exempted Fishing Permit Forwarded to NMFS**

In September, the Council recommended that NMFS issue an exempted fishing permit (EFP) based on an application submitted by Dr. John Hall. If issued, the EFP will allow Dr. Hall to test the use of a 5-nautical mile section of deep-set pelagic longline fishing gear in Federal waters (3-200 miles) off California and Oregon, south of 46° 16' N. latitude. The use of pelagic longline gear is currently prohibited in West Coast Federal waters.

### **International Management Recommendations**

In September, the Council recommend Pacific bluefin tuna commercial management measures to comply with the U.S. catch limit set by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) for 2019 and 2020. NMFS is starting the regulatory process to get Pacific bluefin management measures in place by early next year. The regulatory process will include a public comment opportunity. For a description of the management measures, see the [September Council Meeting Decision Document](#). The Council also asked its highly migratory species (HMS) advisory bodies to begin developing a long-term management strategy for Pacific bluefin tuna.

In addition, the Council directed the HMS Management Team to update a [2007 analysis](#) of fishing effort in the West Coast North Pacific albacore fishery.

This will assist the U.S. in complying with fishing effort limits set for the North Pacific albacore fishery by the IATTC and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

### **Highly Migratory Species Status Determination Criteria To Be Reviewed**

September marked the first time the Council used a redesigned three-meeting process to manage HMS. As part of this process, the Council may provide recommendations on the criteria NMFS uses to determine if stocks are subject to overfishing or are overfished. NMFS provided the Council with a synopsis of these criteria; the Scientific and Statistical Committee will review them and report back in November. The criteria also will be included in the next Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document for highly migratory species, which the Council will review in November.

### **New System for Assessing Drift Gillnet Performance Adopted**

In September, the Council adopted a more statistically sound method for assessing bycatch in the drift gillnet fishery which better reflects trends in bycatch of protected marine mammals, sea turtles, and rarely-encountered finfish, such as protected sharks and billfish. The HMS Management Team reports drift gillnet fishery bycatch performance to the Council each year in June; in preparation for the 2019 report, it will brief the Council in March 2019 on how it will use this method.



Fresh seafood. Photo: Doran, Flickr creative commons.

## Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan Revised

In September the Council recommended that edits identified by the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Team be added to the Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan, which guides the Council in managing the West Coast swordfish fishery as a sort of “sub plan” to the HMS fishery management plan. The plan will remain in draft form. The edits update and reorganize the plan to focus on its purpose and proposed actions.

In the future, the Council will address development of a deep-set buoy gear fishery, review of proposed drift gillnet performance metrics and analyses, and scoping the development of a shallow-set longline fishery beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (outside of 200 miles).



New Council members Bob Dooley, Louis Zimm and Christa Svensson. Photo: Mike Burner.

## Administrative New Council Members Take Oath of Office

Three new Council members took the oath of office in September. Bob Dooley, Louis Zimm, and Christa Svensson are all serving on the Council for the first time. A representative to the Tribal seat will be appointed later this month. Council Chair Phil Anderson was also reappointed to his second term as an at-large member for Washington.

**Bob Dooley** started his commercial fishing career at the age of 11 in Half Moon Bay, California, where he still lives. He has owned and operated trawl and crab vessels on the West Coast and in Alaska for over 40 years, and helped to pioneer both the West Coast whiting fishery and the Alaskan pollock fishery in the early 1980s. He has worked on forming co-op structures in the whiting and pollock fisheries, contributed to bycatch reduction programs in both fisheries, and developed gear innovations to avoid bycatch.

Bob is a founding member of Seafood Harvesters of America, a principal in the Marine Resource Education Program for the west coast (MREPWest) and a current Board member of the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust. He was also a charter board member of United Catcher Boats Association and served as President from 2009 through 2013. In this capacity, He has advocated for managing the West Coast trawl fishery with catch shares for years

and has testified before United States Congress in support of the Catch Shares program and for reauthorization of the Magnuson/ Stevens Fisheries Act. Bob was named 2017 National Fisherman “Highliner” of the year for his lifetime of work in support of and giving back to the Fishing industry both locally and globally.

Bob and his wife, Sharon, have been married for over 36 years and have two children.

**Louis Zimm** of San Diego serves as a California at-large member. He is an experienced oceanographic ship operator and Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel captain. He operated research ships for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography for over 24 years. He has also owned and operated charter fishing vessels. Early in his career, while attending and later graduating from San Diego State University, he was involved in commercial fisheries including groundfish,

coastal pelagic and highly migratory species.

Captain Zimm has been active in fishery management in California for a number of years, and with the Pacific Fishery Management Council since 2012. He was appointed to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel in 2013.



Newport weights. Photo:  
Jennifer Gilden.

Captain Zimm was a member of the Fisheries Information Committee advising the California Marine Life Protection Act Regional Stakeholder Group, advisor to the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Working Group, and is presently an advisor to the Sport Fishing Association of California. He and his wife Gordie enjoy being at sea on their boat Shearwater assisting sailboat races and fishing offshore of San Diego.

**Christa Svensson** of Astoria serves as an obligatory member from Oregon. She joined Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company/Alber Seafoods in 2017 as the Fleet Manager. She serves as the Vice President of the Albacore Fisherman's Research Foundation, and on the Board of the REALOregon Resource Education and Agricultural Leadership Program. She is a 2006 graduate of the National Fisheries Institute's Future Leader program and a 2016 IntraFish media Top 40 under 40. Christa worked for twelve years at Bornstein Seafoods in International Sales, Sustainability and Marketing, and has also worked for National Seafood Educators. She fished professionally for salmon, halibut and sablefish in Alaska for seven years while paying for undergrad and graduate school. She received a Bachelors degree in anthropology from Oregon State University and a Masters of Arts in Museology from the University of Washington, with a focus on fundraising and development.

## **Research and Data Needs Document Adopted**

The Council adopted the [draft 2018 Research and Data Needs document](#) in September, with edits recommended by the [Scientific and Statistical Committee](#). The document outlines the Council's priority research and data needs through 2025 and will be distributed broadly to NMFS science centers, academic institutions, Sea Grant, and other entities that conduct research activities that can potentially inform Council decision-making.

**FINAL  
ACTION**

The Council recommended the document be used as a resource for researchers to cite in their research proposals on relevant topics. The Council also expressed a desire to change the format of the document and the process for identifying research and data needs in the future, as recommended by many of the Council's advisory bodies. This may be included on the Council's September 2019 agenda.

## **California Driftnet Gill Signed; Other Legislation Discussed**

At its September meeting the Legislative Committee discussed California Senate Bill 1017, which phases out the drift gillnet fishery in California. The bill passed the California assembly on August 31 and has been signed into law by Governor Brown. Under the bill, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife must develop a program by March 31, 2020 to voluntarily transition the holders of drift gillnet permits out of the fishery; those who participate would be exempted from the swordfish permit fee. Under the bill, drift gillnet permits could not be transferred after March 31, 2019, and all permits must be surrendered or revoked by January 31 of the fourth year after funding for the program is received by the state.

The Council also received a request from Congressman Kurt Schrader to comment on an

appropriation to address the unanticipated additional debt service that has accrued in the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery trawl buyback account as a result of the initial delay in 2003 in implementing a payment process for the program. The Council sent a letter in strong support of the appropriation on September 17.



*A lingcod at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Photo: Mike Burner.*

## **Appointments**

The Council is soliciting nominations for all of its Advisory Subpanels, the eight at-large seats on the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the non-agency and tribal representative seats on the Habitat Committee. Detailed information on how to submit nominations will be posted on the Council's Advisory Body Vacancy web page with nominations due to the Council office by October 5, 2018.

The Council reviewed and approved the following appointments: **Jon Carey** was appointed to the NMFS West Coast Region seats on the Salmon Technical Team and the Model Evaluation Workgroup formerly held by Larrie LaVoy. **Dr. James Hilger** was appointed to the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center seat on the CPS

Management Team formerly held by Dr. Emmanis Dorval. **Anthony Vuoso** was appointed to the Purse Seine seat on the HMSAS formerly held by August Felando for the remainder of the current three-year term which ends December 31, 2018. **Merit McCrea** was appointed to the California Charter South of Point Conception seat on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel formerly held by Louis Zimm for the remainder of the current three-year term. **Bob Dooley** was appointed to the California seat formerly held by Joanna Grebel, and **David Crabbe** to the industry advisor seat formerly held by Bob Dooley, on the ad hoc Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee. **Marc Gorelnik** and **Christa Svensson** were appointed to the Council's Legislative Committee, replacing outgoing Council members David Crabbe and Dorothy Lowman. **Brad Pettinger** was appointed to the Council's Budget Committee, replacing outgoing Council member Dorothy Lowman.

The Council formed the **ad hoc Climate Scenarios Investigation Workgroup** and appointed **Rich Lincoln, Caren Braby, and John Ugoretz**. (See article, page 8).

The Council replaced a "commercial at-large" seat on the **Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel** with an "at large" seat. The representation for this seat is intended to be flexible, giving the Council the ability to review the nominations and choose the representation that best fits the group's charge for the coming term.

The Council also recognized the achievements of **ad hoc Community Advisory Board** and the **ad hoc Sacramento River Winter Chinook Workgroup** and the completion of their respective charges, and decommissioned both groups. Additionally, the Council tasked staff with reviewing Council procedures and policies regarding advisory body alternates, advisory body consensus building and minority statements, and the Council rules of conduct.

## **Enforcement Corner**

### **Oregon State Police Nab Halibut Poacher**

A dory boat captain near Cape Kiwanda has been cited for exceeding the bag limit for halibut, possession of mutilated fish, and failing to validate a harvest card. His two crew members were each cited for aiding in a wildlife offense.

The Oregon State Police Tillamook office and members of the OSP's Marine Fishery Team had been working the Cape Kiwanda area for several weeks in response to a complaint about regular illegal fishing activity in the area. A Trooper located a pickup truck and boat trailer on the beach at Cape Kiwanda associated with a dory boat that had been allegedly poaching halibut. When the boat was contacted, three men were on board. Officers conducted a routine check of catch, license, and tags.

The men were asked about their catch, and all told the same story about catching one halibut and one lingcod on this trip, and how fishing had been slow. The Trooper told the captain that Oregon State Police had received a tip that there were occasionally extra fish hidden in this boat. The captain consented to a search, and casually said he had nothing to hide.

The Trooper checked the obvious coolers and compartments on the boat, then started searching the gas tank area in the stern, where he noticed one of the three red marine gas tanks was not plumbed with fuel lines to the outboard motor. At that point, he slid the top of the red steel tank off, revealing a stack of eight fresh halibut fillets on ice.

The gas tank and halibut fillets were seized, and the fillets were donated to the Tillamook County Justice Facility.

## November Council Meeting Agenda (San Diego)

### **Groundfish**

- ◆ Cost recovery report and regulations
- ◆ Catch share follow-on actions: final action
- ◆ Omnibus project prioritization
- ◆ Endangered Species Act mitigation for seabirds (scoping)
- ◆ Inseason adjustments
- ◆ Electronic monitoring exempted fishing permit review
- ◆ Endangered Species Act mitigation for salmon (scoping)

### **Highly Migratory Species**

- ◆ International management recommendations
- ◆ Biennial specifications and management measures—preliminary action
- ◆ Range of alternatives and limited entry criteria for deep-set buoy gear authorization

### **Halibut**

- ◆ Catch Sharing Plan—final regulations

### **Ecosystem**

- ◆ Climate and Communities Initiative update

### **Other**

- ◆ Legislative issues
- ◆ Habitat issues
- ◆ NMFS reports

### **Coastal Pelagic Species**

- ◆ Live bait fishery allowance (Amendment 17)  
—Final Action
- ◆ Methodology review topic selection
- ◆ Exempted fishing permits—prelim review
- ◆ Review of management categories
- ◆ Stock assessment prioritization process

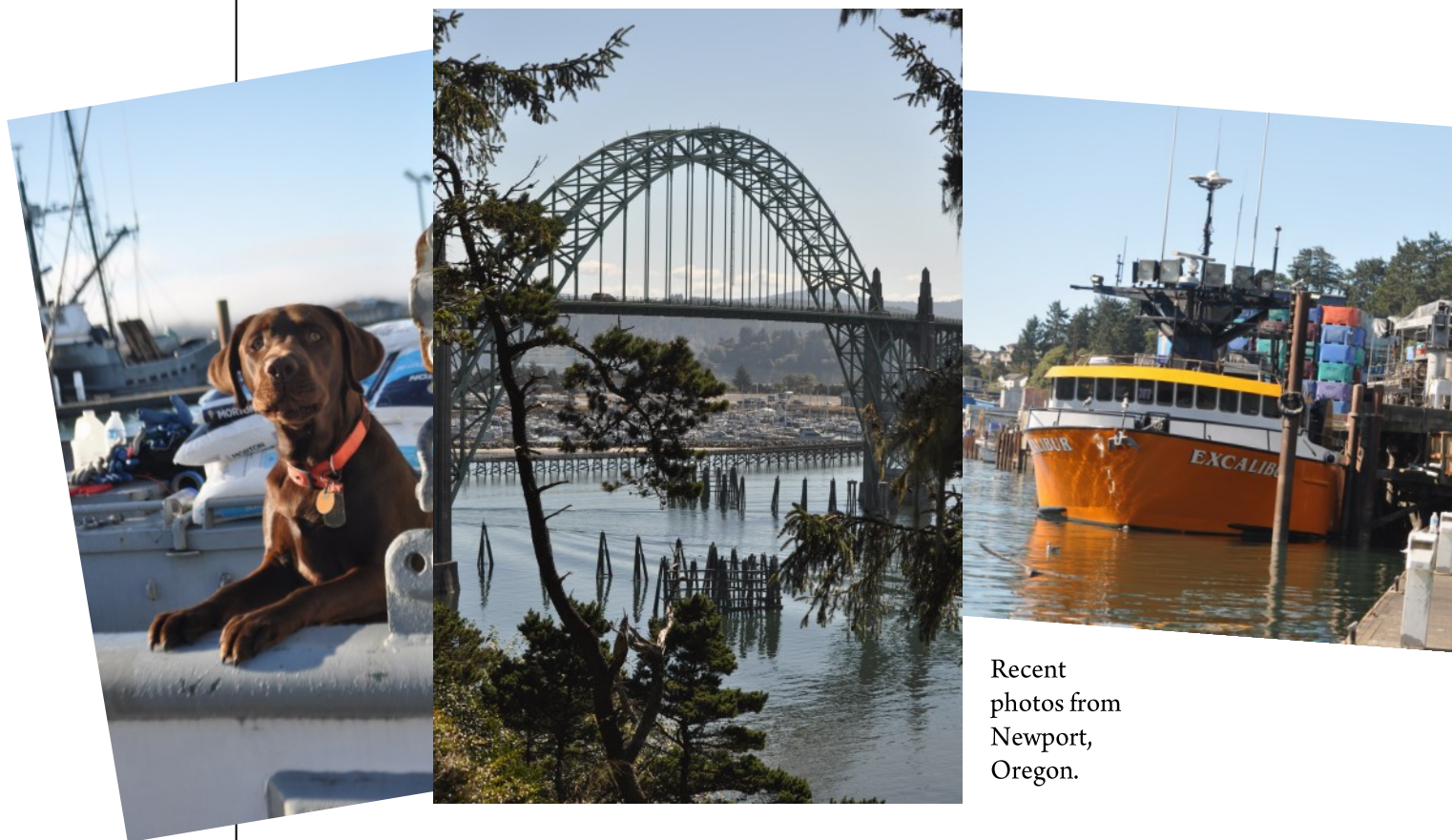
### **Salmon**

- ◆ Preliminary rebuilding plans
- ◆ 2019 Preseason management schedule

## Which PFD is best?

The old adage is “it’s the one you’re wearing,” but researchers with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, University of Washington and Oregon State University conducted a study with commercial fishermen from four gear groups to rate the comfort and acceptability of six modern personal flotation devices (PFDs). About 200 fishermen were asked to evaluate a PFD for one month while working on deck so that wearable PFDs could be identified. Find out which PFDs they recommend: [tinyurl.com/ydez8vS2](https://tinyurl.com/ydez8vS2).

Falling overboard is the second leading cause of death among commercial fishermen nationwide. Of the 182 fishermen who died from falls overboard between 2000 and 2011, none were wearing a PFD.



Recent photos from Newport, Oregon.

This newsletter reports on decisions made at the September 2018 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting held in SeaTac, Washington. The Pacific Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils in the U.S. and recommends commercial & recreational fishery management measures for Federal waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. All Council recommendations are subject to approval by National Marine Fisheries Service. The Council has five public meetings a year. The November 2018 Council meeting will be held in San Diego, California; the public comment deadline for the meeting is 5 p.m. on October 5, 2018. The supplemental public comment deadline is 5 p.m. on Oct. 23. Please email comments to [pfmt.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmt.comments@noaa.gov). [Sign up for other notices here.](#)

## Upcoming Meetings

### ***Ad hoc Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee***

Dates: October 11-12, 8:00 a.m.  
Purpose: To develop alternatives that address under-attainment of non-sablefish shorebased trawl allocations and unharvested sablefish quota pounds south of 36° N. latitude.  
Location: Hyatt Place Portland Airport  
Contact: Jim Seger ([jim.seger@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.seger@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: [tinyurl.com/yam2ay68](https://tinyurl.com/yam2ay68)

### ***Ad hoc Climate Scenarios Investigation Committee Webinar***

Dates: October 23, 3:00-5:30 p.m.  
Purpose: To present a draft report of their findings, explain their proposed activities, and gain feedback from the Pacific Council's Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, other Council committees, and the public.  
Contact: Kit Dahl ([kit.dahl@noaa.gov](mailto:kit.dahl@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: [tinyurl.com/ybljnb5y](https://tinyurl.com/ybljnb5y)

### ***Ad hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Webinar***

Dates: October 25, 1:30-5:30 p.m.  
Purpose: To discuss the contents of its report to the Council in response to preliminary recommendations from the Council's Ad Hoc Climate Scenarios Investigation Committee. The EWG will also plan tasks and work product in connection with the Fishery Ecosystem Plan five-year review and the Climate and Communities Initiative.  
Contact: Kit Dahl ([kit.dahl@noaa.gov](mailto:kit.dahl@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: [tinyurl.com/ycydq33y](https://tinyurl.com/ycydq33y)

### ***Groundfish Management Team Webinar***

Dates: October 30, 1:00-4:30 p.m.  
Purpose: To begin developing salmon rebuilding plans for Snohomish River natural coho.  
Contact: Todd Phillips ([todd.phillips@noaa.gov](mailto:todd.phillips@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: [tinyurl.com/yb4asx6x](https://tinyurl.com/yb4asx6x)

### ***Pacific Council Meeting***

Dates: November 1-8, 2018  
Location: San Diego Marriott Del Mar  
Contact: Chuck Tracy ([chuck.tracy@noaa.gov](mailto:chuck.tracy@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: [tinyurl.com/ycqjyd4g](https://tinyurl.com/ycqjyd4g)