

## OMNIBUS PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

As specified in [Council Operating Procedure 9](#) (excerpts provided here as Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1), new management measures are considered during the biennial specifications process (if they meet certain restrictive criteria) or are prioritized in June of even number years as part of what has become the omnibus groundfish prioritization exercise. This year, prioritization was delayed to allow for an evaluation of the process.

Following on preliminary discussions at the September 2018 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will take up omnibus workload planning at this meeting for the purpose of updating the new candidate management measures to be included on the omnibus list and identifying whether there are some items that might be scheduled for work over the winter. The Groundfish Management (GMT) has provided a summarization of the items it views as remaining from the previous omnibus list ([the 2016 list](#)), together with its reasoning on the items it eliminated from that list (Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report). Public comment pertinent to the consideration of items for inclusion on the omnibus list is provided as Agenda Item G.4.b, Public Comment. One of the criteria that has been used in the past for prioritizing omnibus items is the need to complete the trailing actions for the trawl catch share program. As part of the omnibus discussion, it may be useful to discuss what constitutes complete implementation of the catch share program.

Over the winter, working from the list coming out of this meeting, the GMT will conduct a preliminary cost/benefit and workload assessment of all of the items on the list. Then, at its March 2019 meeting, the Council will review the GMT's assessment and develop or refine priorities, as needed.

At that time, the Council will also review a GMT proposal for modifying the omnibus process and consider changes to Council Operating Procedure 9 as necessary to reflect any modifications. During the discussion of omnibus priorities at the September 2018 Council meeting, the [GMT proposed](#) modifying the current process to provide “a dedicated time at each March meeting for groundfish advisory bodies to review the prior year’s and upcoming years’ fishery status.” During that time accomplishments for the previous year would be reviewed, the list would be updated with deletions and additions, and priorities for the year would be set, taking into account staff availability. The GMT also suggested that “the process may be better served if the Council has check-ins on groundfish workload and priorities at every Council meeting” and that this check-in occur during “a dedicated time at each meeting to strictly look at the groundfish workload, determine what staff time is available, and deduce how current priorities align with new, emerging issues.”

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Finalize the omnibus list to be evaluated by the GMT and prioritized in March for the upcoming cycle.**
- 2. Identify items to work on over the winter, taking into account available staff time.**

**3. Provide preliminary guidance on possible revisions to Council Operating Procedure 9, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1: Council Operating Procedure 9 (Excerpts).
2. Agenda Item G.4.a, GMT Report 1: Groundfish Management Team Report on Groundfish Workload Prioritization.

Agenda Order:

- G.4 Omnibus Project Prioritization Jim Seger
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Review Revised List of Omnibus Projects and Identify Priority Projects for Future Work; Consider Revisions to the Process and Schedule in Council Operating Procedure 9

PFMC  
10/14/18