

**COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE (*EXCERPT*)****Management and Activity Cycles**

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Approved by Council: 07/10/85

Revised: 09/16/87, 04/06/95, 11/03/99, 03/11/05, 11/06/13, 04/10/14, 09/17/14, 6/28/16,  
11/21/16, **9/18/18****PURPOSE**

To establish management and activity cycles conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), its advisory entities, staff for the groundfish, salmon, coastal pelagic species, halibut, and highly migratory species fisheries, and administrative matters.

**MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITY CYCLES**

- Schedule 1 Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.
- Schedule 2 Annual management cycle and activities related to salmon management.
- Schedule 3 Annual management cycle and activities related to coastal pelagic species management.
- Schedule 4 Annual management cycle and activities related to halibut management.
- Schedule 5 Biennial management cycle and activities related to highly migratory species management.
- Schedule 6 Annual administrative management cycle and activities.
- Schedule 7 Fiscal management cycle and activities.

**SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.**

Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
Year 1	September	<p>To begin development of specifications for the next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4), the <i>Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)</i> review and incorporate new impact assessment methodologies, including new observer data from January through December of the previous year, approve stock assessments completed in Year 1, and recommend appropriate harvest specifications.</p> <p><i>GMT and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP)</i> meet to review current fishery status to inform <i>Council</i> action on routine inseason management recommendations<sup>2</sup>, as necessary for Year 1.</p>
Year 1 (cont)		<p><i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>Council</i> adopts final modeling methodologies, stock assessments for the next biennial period for Years 3 and 4, final preferred overfishing limits (OFLs) and sigmas, as recommended by the SSC.<sup>3</sup> The Council will also adopt a range of P*/acceptable biological catches (ABCs), if applicable, including preliminary preferred values.</p> <p><i>Council</i> will provide initial fishery management guidance, including a preliminary range of management measures necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification or to address a habitat or protected resources concern for analysis and implementation in Years 3 and 4.</p>
	October	<p><i>SSC Groundfish Subcommittee</i> meets to review overfished species rebuilding analyses as well as any stock assessments approved for further review by the Council at the “mop-up” stock assessment review panel for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>GMT</i> meets to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses. <i>GMT</i> drafts a recommended range of ACLs and preliminary management measures for consideration at the November Council meeting for Years 3 and 4.</p>
	November	<p><i>Coastal treaty tribes</i> initiate allocations and/or regulations specific to the tribes by written request to the Council and NOAA’s Regional</p>

<sup>2</sup> Routine management measures have been previously analyzed and are defined in regulation and include adjustments to rockfish conservation area boundaries and most trip limits, bag limits and size limits. Routine measures may be changed after a single Council meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Council action could be postponed from September to November for any stock assessments recommended for further review by the SSC.

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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
		<p>Administrator prior to the November Council meeting for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>GMT and GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status and develop routine inseason management recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action, as necessary for Years 1 and 2.</p> <p><i>GMT and GAP</i> provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.</p>
Year 1 (cont)		<p><i>Council</i> adopts rebuilding analyses and any assessments sent to the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee for review as recommended by the SSC. <i>Council</i> adopts final preferred P*/ABCs; preliminary preferred non-overfished species ACLs, and, if necessary; a range of overfished species ACLs and preliminary preferred ACLs for overfished species for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>Council</i> selects a range of 2-year allocations, final range of management measures for detailed analysis necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification or to address a habitat or protected resources concern, and preliminary exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for Years 3 and 4.</p>
Year 2	January	<p><i>GMT</i> meets to review and analyze Council actions relative to harvest specifications and management measures provided in Year 1, if necessary, for Years 3 and 4.</p>
	March	<p><i>GMT and GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status and routine inseason management recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action, as necessary for Year 2.</p> <p><i>GMT and GAP</i> provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4, if necessary.</p> <p><i>Council</i> receives an informational briefing on selected results of the harvest specifications and management measures analysis for Years 3 and 4, if requested. The <i>Council</i> may be asked to provide guidance or take action on emerging issues, as necessary.</p>

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**SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.**

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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
	April	<p><i>GMT and GAP</i> meet to review Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures as well as current fishery status and routine inseason management recommendations for Year 2.</p> <p><i>GMT and GAP</i> provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments as necessary for Year 2.</p>
Year 2 (cont)		<p>Consistent with the U.S./Canada agreement, the <i>Council</i> considers the harvest specifications recommended by the Joint Management Committee and confirms or recommends a lower U.S. TAC. The <i>Council</i> recommends set-asides and any adjustments to management measures for the Pacific Whiting fishery in Year 2.</p> <p><i>Council</i> adopts preliminary management measures for public review and final harvest specifications for Years 3 and 4.</p>
	June	<p><i>Coastal treaty tribes</i> refine requests for allocations and/or regulations specific to the tribes by written notice to the Council and NOAA’s Regional Administrator prior to the June Council meeting for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>GMT and GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status and routine inseason management recommendations, as necessary for Year 2.</p> <p><i>GMT and GAP</i> provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as necessary for Year 2.</p> <p><i>Council</i> adopts final EFP applications and management measures as well as any corrections to harvest specifications for implementation by NMFS for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>Council</i> adopts a draft calendar and prioritized list of new management measures<sup>4</sup> to be analyzed outside of the harvest</p>

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<sup>4</sup> New management measures are those not previously analyzed and implemented in regulation.

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**SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.**

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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
		specifications and management measures process. This process occurs biennially.
	July	Council staff and <i>GMT</i> complete analyses and NEPA documents, as necessary, for biennial management specifications and submit them to NOAA Years 3 and 4.
	September	<i>GMT, GAP, and Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate for Year 2.
	November	<i>GMT, GAP, and Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate for Years 2 and 3.
Year 3 <sup>1</sup>	January	<i>U.S. Department of Commerce</i> implements harvest level specifications and management measures for next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4).
	March	<i>GMT, GAP, and Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate for Year 3.
	April	<i>GMT and GAP</i> meet to review Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures as well as current fishery status and routine inseason management recommendations for <i>Council</i> action, as necessary for Year 3.
		Consistent with the U.S./Canada agreement, the <i>Council</i> considers the harvest specifications recommended by the Joint Management Committee and confirms or recommends a lower U.S. TAC. The <i>Council</i> recommends set-asides and any adjustments to management measures for the Pacific Whiting fishery in Year 3.
	June	<i>GMT, GAP, and Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate for Year 3.
	September	Repeat management activities of September in Year 1 to begin development of next biennial cycle.

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<sup>1</sup> GMT generally meets in January, July, and October to review and discuss groundfish management issues, including stock assessments and STAR Panel reviews.