

# Pacific Council News

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• Reporting on West Coast Fisheries Management •

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## Highly Migratory Species

### Deep-Set Buoy Gear Fishery Moves Forward

The Council has finalized its range of alternatives for the management measures that would allow a deep-set buoy gear fishery to happen off the West Coast. Deep-set buoy gear is an innovative gear type for catching swordfish with little or no bycatch.



Deep-set buoy gear from above. Photo: Pew Charitable Trusts.

The proposed management measures cover the design of the gear, and where, when, and how it can be used. The most difficult part of designing the management system has been how to set up a limited entry permit system for Southern California, where almost all the experimental fishing with this gear type has taken place.

Fishermen would need a limited entry permit to fish in the Southern California Bight east of 120° 28' 18" W. longitude (a line extending south from Point Conception). Outside of that area, anybody with a general highly migratory species permit from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) could use the gear.

In November the Council identified for further analysis five different ways to distribute the 300 or fewer permits to fish southeast of Point Conception. The Council also identified its

This newsletter reports on decisions made at the November 2018 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting held in San Diego, California. 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 March 2019 Council meeting will be held in Vancouver, Washington; the public comment deadline for the meeting is 5 p.m. on February 7. The supplemental public comment deadline is 5 p.m. on February 26. [Sign up for notices here.](#)

## **Pacific Fishery Management Council**

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preliminary preferred alternative for distributing the permits. When the Council makes its final proposal, probably in June 2019, it will decide whether to propose a limited entry permit program for the deep-set buoy gear fishery along with the specifics of how these permits would get distributed. In making that decision the Council will consider public comment, advice from its advisory bodies, and a detailed analysis of the different proposals.

Under the preliminary preferred alternative for this limited entry permit program, 50 permits would be issued when the fishery begins. In each subsequent year, up to 25 permits additional permits would be issued up to some maximum amount. The Council set an absolute cap of 300 permits, but the final number could be lower if information from the developing fishery leads the Council or NMFS to decide that enough permits have been issued. Under all the alternatives the Council is considering, these limited entry permits would be issued according to a ranking system that accounts for applicants' experience in swordfish fisheries. No one person would be allowed to own more than one of these permits, and permits could not be transferred.

## **Yellowfin Tuna Subject to Overfishing; Other Highly Migratory Species Briefs**

The eastern Pacific stock of yellowfin tuna is subject to overfishing, though just barely, NMFS reported in November. The fishing rate is about one percent over the threshold used to decide whether overfishing is happening.

By law, the Council must recommend actions to end this overfishing. Since West Coast fisheries account for a tiny proportion of stock-wide catch, there's little reason to impose any new domestic regulations; the Council will focus on what can be done at the international level, through the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), to end overfishing. NMFS recommended the Council wait until June 2019 to develop these recommendations, since the IATTC will finish a new stock assessment by May and the picture could change. Given management measures the IATTC has put in place since the time period covered by the last stock assessment, overfishing may have already stopped.

*Overfishing Criteria:* In November, the Scientific and Statistical Committee reported on efforts to review the criteria NMFS uses to decide whether a highly migratory species stock is subject to overfishing or is overfished. They reported that NMFS' actions were consistent with the information provided in the stock assessments. These "status determination criteria" will be reported in the Highly Migratory Species Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document, as required by the fishery management plan.

*Albacore Management:* The Highly Migratory Species advisory bodies will work together to summarize historical North Pacific albacore catch and effort to support IATTC discussions. They will report back in March. Currently, the IATTC does not allow its member nations to increase fishing beyond current levels. NMFS will hold a stakeholder meeting in February to prepare for the North Pacific albacore management strategy evaluation workshop to be held by the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in Yokohama, Japan.

*Bluefin Tuna Management:* NMFS is working with the Council to develop regulations

for bluefin tuna trip limits. The goal is to prevent West Coast fisheries from exceeding the 2019-20 bluefin tuna commercial catch limit [established by the IATTC](#). The resolution rolls over the current biennial 600 metric ton (mt) limit and the annual sublimit of no more than 425 mt. Based on Council input, NMFS plans to implement a 300 mt annual limit for 2019, along with a 15 mt trip limit, until 250 mt is caught. At that point the trip limit would be reduced to 2 mt.

To prevent the 300 mt limit from being exceeded, vessels would have to notify NMFS before going out on a trip targeting Pacific bluefin. This would allow NMFS to better anticipate catch as it approaches the annual limit. NMFS has also put procedures in place to quickly close the fishery before the annual limit is exceeded. In November the Council made additional recommendations on the pre-trip notification requirements.



Loading a tuna in San Diego.  
Photo: Mike Burner.

## Coastal Pelagic Species

### **Live Bait Fishery Allowance Changed**

In November the Council approved Amendment 17 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan, which addresses live bait fishery catch limits when a stock is overfished. Previously, the live bait fishery would be limited to a 15 percent incidental catch limit for any coastal pelagic stock that becomes overfished (in other words, only 15 percent of any load could be comprised of the overfished species). This action removes that limit and requires the Council to make a determination about live bait fishing limits if a

stock becomes overfished. Live bait fishing will still be subject to annual catch limits and other management measures, and the Council may enact further restrictions as necessary.

The live bait fishery is particularly important to the California charter and sport boat fleet, which depends on the ability to capture “pure” loads, which were not previously allowed for overfished stocks. This action may allow the live bait fleet to capture pure loads even when a stock is overfished, subject to Council discretion. To date, no coastal pelagic species stocks have fallen below their overfished thresholds.

### **Two Exempted Fishing Permits Adopted**

In November the Council adopted two coastal pelagic species exempted fishing permit proposals for public review. The [California Wetfish Producers Association](#) and the [West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group](#) submitted notices of intent, with final approval slated for April 2019. Both are working cooperatively with Federal and state scientists to look at ways to count coastal pelagic species in nearshore waters that are too shallow for the large acoustic trawl survey vessels to reach.

## Halibut

### **Final Halibut Regulations Adopted**

The Council adopted final changes to the 2019 Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishing regulations in November.

For the Columbia River subarea, the Council recommended that the Columbia River season

opening date be determined in cooperation with the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife in time for final action at the Council's November meeting; that the season be open two days per week, based on a combination of Thursday, Friday, or Sunday; and that the following season dates be adopted: Thursday, May 2; Sunday, May 5; Thursday, May 9; Sunday, May 12; Friday, May 24; and Sunday, May 26. If quota remains after May 26, the Columbia River subarea would be open two days per week (Thursday and Sunday) until the remaining quota is achieved.



F/V Azalea, Newport.  
Photo: Jennifer Gilden

For the South Coast subarea, the Council recommended removing the set-aside of 10 percent or 2,000 pounds for the nearshore fishery and allowing that fishery to be open after the primary (all-depth) fishery closes, if sufficient quota remains; and adopting the following season dates: Thursday, May 2; Sunday, May 5; Thursday, May 9; Sunday, May 12; and Friday, May 24.

For the North Coast and Puget Sound, the Council recommended the following season dates for 2019: Thursday, May 2; Saturday, May 4; Thursday, May 9; Saturday, May 11; Saturday, May 18; Friday, May 24; Sunday, May 26; Thursday, June 6; Saturday, June 8; Thursday, June 20; and

Saturday, June 22.

If enough quota remains for the North Coast, Puget Sound, or South Coast, more dates may be scheduled.

The Council also drafted a letter to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) regarding a proposal to change the structure of the non-treaty directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery in Area 2A by lengthening the fishing period. IPHC Commissioners will hear the proposal at their interim meeting in November 2019. The Council has several concerns regarding the potential change.

## Groundfish

### **Council Sets Future Groundfish Priorities, Makes Process Changes**

In November the Council adopted a list of possible new groundfish management measures that it will prioritize at its March 2019 meeting (see table, page 5). The Council conducts this process every two years in order to determine which new management measures it will focus on during "off" years when it is not working on biennial groundfish specifications.

#### *Changes to the new management measure prioritization process*

In March 2019, the Council will consider revising this prioritization process. One suggestion by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) is 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 check-ins on groundfish workload and priorities at every Council meeting to review groundfish workload, staff availability, and prioritization.

## **Trawl Catch Shared Cost Recovery Discussed**

National Marine Fisheries Service provided its 2018 catch share program cost recovery report and explained planned clarifications to cost recovery regulations in November. As required by Federal law, the catch share program includes fees to cover management, data collection and analysis, and enforcement programs that are related to the catch share program.

Constituents have asked for more detail in the NMFS cost recovery reports. In 2017 and 2018 NMFS staff, Council staff, and industry representatives discussed ways to make the process more transparent. The Council found that the 2018 report was much improved but encouraged NMFS and members of the public to continue to work together to address concerns about determinations of whether a cost is recoverable and taking into account cost savings.

## **Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits Extended**

The Council recommended extending the exempted fishing permits for electronic monitoring through 2019, since final regulations for the midwater trawl whiting fishery and fixed gear fishery are delayed, and a proposed rule for the non-whiting midwater trawl and bottom trawl fisheries will not be ready until early 2019. NMFS intends to implement the electronic monitoring program for these fisheries by 2020. The plan to transition catch share fisheries to electronic monitoring will be discussed in April.

### **Possible Groundfish Management Priorities (see story, page 4)**

Amend the FMP to clarify catch accounting rules for Amendment 21.

Remove the selective flatfish trawl requirement between 40° 10' and 42° N. lat.

Require permit price reporting for transfers of limited entry fixed gear sablefish permits.

Create 60-mile bank Rockfish Conservation Area lines to improve enforceability.

Update dressed-to-round conversion factors for sablefish based on new data.

Reduce the seaward extent of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area by moving the seaward boundary closer to shore for pot vessels.

Remove certain time and area restrictions for midwater trawl gear used in the nonwhiting fishery.

Clarify the mechanisms for implementing carryover when fish stock management units change from one year to the next.

Allow retention of halibut in the sablefish fishery south of Pt. Chehalis.

Update discard mortality rates for the recreational fisheries and consider expanding the species to which discard mortality rates are applied.

Increase individual fishing quota carryover to more than 10 percent.

Modify aggregate non-whiting quota share control limits and individual species weightings used to determine a person's aggregate holdings.

Modify trawl/non-trawl Amendment 21 allocations.

Modify the outside boundary of the western Cowcod Conservation Area to provide access to the deep water species.

Modify the mothership co-op program to address barriers to full utilization of the sector allocation.

Within the Rockfish Conservation Area, allow the use of jig gear such as that tested by exempted fishing permits.

## **Trawl Catch Share Follow-On Actions Continue to Move Forward**

In November the Council adopted preliminary preferred alternatives for several trawl catch share program review follow-on actions. [The detailed alternatives are listed here](#) and described below.

### *At-Sea Whiting Fishery*

All of the original set-aside species for the at-sea whiting fishery (canary, darkblotched, Pacific ocean perch, and widow) will now be managed as set-asides instead of caps. The within-trawl allocation formulas for darkblotched, Pacific ocean perch, and widow rockfish are specified in the fishery management plan. The formulas for these species will be removed from the plan, but will still be the default allocation formulas in case the Council takes no other actions during the biennial specifications process. Management of these species as set-asides is expected to

increase the fleet's flexibility to attain its whiting allocation and avoid salmon. Removal of the formulas from the fishery management plan will also provide the Council with more flexibility to adjust allocations in response to conditions in the fishery and other factors.

### *Shoreside Individual Quota (IFQ) Fishery*

For the shoreside IFQ fishery, the Council recommended eliminating the September 1 expiration date for quota pounds that are not transferred from quota share accounts to vessel accounts; that post-season trading of quota pounds be allowed to cover previous year's deficits; and that after the season is over vessels be allowed to acquire quota pounds in excess of the annual vessel quota pound limit as needed to cover deficits. Under this last recommendation a vessel that catches amounts in excess of

the annual vessel quota pound limit will be able to acquire the quota pounds they need after the season ends, but will still be in violation of the program for having gone over the annual limit. Before this action, exceeding the quota pound limit could both result in a violation and require a vessel with a large overage to stop fishing. It could take several years for a vessel to cover its deficit before resuming fishing operations.

### *Catcher-Processors*

The Council adopted a five-permit accumulation limit for the catcher-processor sector which will only go into effect if the sector fails to form a co-op and the system converts to an IFQ program.

### *New Data Collections*

The Council also recommended new data collections to acquire ownership information from catcher-processors and other economic information from all owners of quota share permits.

In addition to these actions, the Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee continues to develop alternatives related to trawl allocation attainment and gear switching. This issue is slated to come back to the Council in April.



*A mixed bag of vessels in Newport. Photo: Jennifer Gilden.*

## **Streamer Lines Proposed for Longline Fishery**

The Council adopted preliminary alternatives in November for requiring the use of streamer lines for vessels between 26 and 55 feet long in the commercial longline groundfish fishery. Streamer lines deter seabirds from diving on baited hook when longlines are deployed. The alternatives also allow vessels to set at night instead of using streamer lines, because many seabird species are not active at that time. Regulations for vessels longer than 55 feet were put in place in 2015 in response to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requirements to protect the short-tailed albatross. The Council intends to take final action on this issue in June 2019.



*Shrimper docking in  
Newport. Photo:  
Jennifer Gildea*

## **Inseason Adjustments**

In November, the Council considered the most recent data on fishery performance and made the following adjustments:

### *Limited Entry and Open Access Fixed Gear Fisheries: Sablefish*

The Council recommended the following changes to limited entry and open access fixed gear trip limits for sablefish. For **limited entry fixed gear** fisheries north of 36° N. latitude: 1,300 lbs per week, not to exceed 3,900 lbs bimonthly; for **open access fixed gear** fisheries north of 36° N. latitude, 300 lbs per day or one landing per week of up to 1,200 lbs, not to exceed 2,400 lbs bimonthly.

### *Open Access Fixed-Gear Fisheries: Canary Rockfish*

The Council recommended the following changes to the open access fixed gear trip limits for canary rockfish. For fisheries **north of 40° 10' N.** latitude: 300 lbs per two months. For fisheries **south of 40° 10' N.** latitude: 300 lbs per two months except for period two (March & April), when canary rockfish shall be closed to open access in this area.

The Council also adopted yield set-asides to accommodate the incidental mortality of Pacific whiting in 2019 research activities and in the **pink shrimp fishery**. The Council recommended that NMFS establish the 2019 Pacific whiting set-aside total allowable catch at 1,500 mt.

The Council was briefed on an **error discovered** in the 2019/2020 harvest specifications for yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. latitude, which set the 2019 and 2020 acceptable biological catch/annual catch limits for this species at 282 mt and 270 mt lower, respectively, than they should have been. The Council recommended that NMFS correct these numbers.

The Emley/Platt exempted fishing permit applicants briefed the Council on their results to date using vertical jig gear to avoid yelloweye rockfish and cowcod. The Council noted the importance of moving this new fishing method into an implementation phase.

## **Council Discusses Endangered Species Act Salmon Mitigation**

In November the Council proposed the [new measures](#) to respond to the NMFS biological opinion analyzing the take of Chinook salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act in the groundfish fishery. The Council discussed inseason measures to limit the risk of exceeding Chinook salmon bycatch guidelines, and regulations to govern the 3,500 Chinook salmon “bycatch reserve.”

The bycatch reserve is used to address unexpected high bycatch levels, but is not to be used to allow groundfish fisheries to regularly exceed bycatch guidelines (11,000 Chinook for the whiting trawl fishery and 5,500 Chinook for all other groundfish sectors). The GMT was directed to develop a draft process for accessing this reserve, and to report back in April 2019.

## Habitat and Ecosystem

### Habitat Briefs

*Columbia River temperature standards for salmon:* A Federal district court ruled on October 17 that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must establish and enforce temperature standards in the Columbia River under the Clean Water Act in order to protect salmon and other aquatic life. Columbia Riverkeeper and other plaintiffs asked that the EPA develop a comprehensive plan to deal with high water temperatures and reduced salmon survival resulting from dam operations in the river system. Reservoirs in the hydropower system are a major cause of elevated water temperature in the basin.

*Raising Shasta Dam:* The Bureau of Reclamation and Central Valley Project water users are preparing to pursue the raising of Shasta Dam by 16 feet, which would allow the capture of all flows above the dam in most years. The measure could prevent spill that is not already required for the protection of listed species. In March, Congress appropriated \$20 million for pre-construction engineering studies, which are currently occurring. Earlier this year the Bureau ceased Lake Shasta winter-run Chinook salmon reintroduction activities and cancelled associated contracts.

*Ocean Energy:* The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is pursuing offshore wind energy development in Federal waters off of Morro Bay and Humboldt Bay. BOEM recently published a call for information and nominations; comments are due by January 28, 2019. The purpose of the call is for BOEM to further define the proposed areas for a potential offshore public lease auction, and to gather resource and use information and data. The Council will be sending comments on the call areas.

*Deep Sea Corals:* The NOAA Deepsea Coral Research and Technology Program will provide funds over the next three years to conduct research off the West Coast. The program held a workshop in April to

identify research priorities, which will include capitalizing on a rare opportunity to study changes in deep sea corals and sponges as a result of bottom trawl closures and reopenings. Researchers are looking at [where and how groundfish are associated with deep sea corals and sponges, abundance of fish abundance with and without corals](#), and the effect of area closures on habitat. An evening session at the November Council meeting brought together fishermen, representatives of environmental organizations, and agency scientists to help inform this research.

*Aquaculture:* Pacific Ocean Aquafarms is proposing an aquaculture project for California yellowtail in Federal waters off southern California. At this point the project is conceptual; no permits have been filed. A specific location hasn't been determined, but the developers are looking at an area off San Diego in coarse sand habitat. The project will be approximately 37 acres, yielding 1,000-5,000 metric tons of fish. Feed would be soy-based.

In addition, the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise is proposing an offshore mussel farm in the Santa



*Boy fishing on the Klamath River near Hornbrook, October 2018. CDFW photo by Lt. Steven McDonald.*



Barbara Channel that would have an approximately 2,000-acre footprint.

A recent court decision on aquaculture in the Eastern District Court of Louisiana determined that NOAA does not have authority to manage aquaculture under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This is one of several differing opinions on NOAA's jurisdiction over aquaculture, and NOAA is considering whether to appeal. The ruling does not prohibit marine aquaculture. The passage of the AQUAA Act (H.R. 6966) would allow NOAA to permit aquaculture projects. The bill will likely be reintroduced in the next Congress; see story below.



Coho salmon in Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Columbia River Photo: Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

## Salmon

### Salmon Rebuilding Plans

In November, the Council discussed draft salmon rebuilding plans for five stocks of west coast salmon. Those stocks included Sacramento River fall Chinook, Klamath River fall Chinook, Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho, Queets River natural coho, and Snohomish River natural coho, which were declared overfished in June 2018.

The draft plans for Sacramento and Klamath River fall Chinook were approved for public review, along with the Council's suggested revisions to these two plans. The Salmon Technical Team will continue to develop the plans, and incorporate the suggested revisions. Updated drafts will be posted on the Council website for public comment in early January. The three plans for the coho stocks are still being developed and will likely be ready for the March 2019 briefing book.

The Salmon Technical Team is required to provide a rebuilding plan for overfished stocks to the Council within one year, and NMFS must put the plan in place within two years.

See preseason schedule for salmon on next page.

## Administrative News

### Council Launches New Portal for Electronic Public Comments

In November the Council successfully tested a new "e-Portal" for submitting public comments electronically. The portal was designed to bring the process of submitting public comments into the future, streamlining how the public interacts with comments and how they are processed by Council staff.

Before the new system, the Council allowed submissions of public comments via email, fax, or standard mail. Staff had to compile, review, process, print, and post comments to the Council website. The new e-Portal streamlines this process by only allowing one way to submit comments electronically. (The Council will still accept mailed comments, but staff will manually enter them into the e-Portal). Comments are organized by topic; the appropriate staff members are automatically notified when comments are submitted, and once approved, comments are posted to the website on the appropriate date. Once posted, the comments are organized by

## 2019 Salmon Preseason Management Schedule

November 2018	Council meeting. Changes to salmon methodologies discussed.
Jan 22-25, 2019	Salmon Technical Team (STT) meets in Portland to draft 2018 Review of Ocean Salmon Fisheries. Available mid-February.
Feb 19-22	STT meets in Portland to complete Preseason I Stock Abundance Analysis. Provides abundance estimates for 2019. Available early March.
Feb. 25- March 4	State and tribal agencies hold meetings to review preseason forecast and range of options.
March 5-12	Council meeting in Vancouver, Washington. Council adopts alternatives for 2019 fisheries for public review. Also addresses Inseason issues for fisheries opening before May 1.
March 14-21	STT completes Preseason Report II (proposed alternatives). Available late March.
March 18-31	Agencies, tribes, and public develop final recommendations for alternatives. North of Cape Falcon forum meetings held.
March 21	Preseason Report II available.
March 25-26	Tentative sites and dates of public hearings: Westport, Washington (March 25), Coos Bay, Oregon (March 25), Ukiah, California (March 26).
April 9-16	Council meets to adopt final measures in Rohnert Park, California.
April 18-22	STT, Council staff complete Preseason Report III (analysis of adopted measures).
April 23	Preseason Report III available.
May 1	NMFS implements Federal ocean salmon fishing regulations.

agenda item and can be viewed with other submissions. After the next phase of the project is completed, comments will be downloadable.

The beta testing of the comment portal in November netted both positive feedback and a list of improvements that will be built into the next iteration. Users generally agreed that the portal was transparent and easy to use.

The Council's long-term goal is to continue to minimize its environmental footprint by limiting paper consumption, printing toner, and staff workload. The e-Portal will be fully implemented by the March 2019 Council Meeting.

### **Aquaculture, Western Water on Legislative Agenda**

*Aquaculture Legislation:* The Council received a request for comment on the AQUAA Act (H.R. 6966) from Senators Maria Cantwell (WA) and Kamala Harris (CA). The Council's response, which emphasizes the Council role in managing fisheries, is available on the Council website.

The Act would establish an Office of Aquaculture within NOAA Headquarters and regional NMFS offices. NOAA would serve as the lead permitting agency for aquaculture permitting in state and Federal waters, with initial permits lasting 25 years with the potential to renew for an additional 25 years in the future. NOAA would be required to initiate a programmatic environmental impact statement to locate areas in the ocean that are "highly favorable for

marine aquaculture and likely compatible with other uses.”

The bill states that when permitting projects, NOAA must “recognize the importance of fishery resources to communities,” and projects must not interfere with conservation measures

contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. States could oppose certain species and locations.



*Presidential Memorandum:* A Presidential Memorandum released on October 19 calls for the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce to streamline western water infrastructure regulatory processes and “remove unnecessary burdens” for Columbia Basin water infrastructure and California water projects, with deadlines starting within 30 days of the memo, by which time Commerce must identify any regulations that “unduly burden” certain major hydropower projects. NOAA is working on a response to the directive.

*The F/V FRAM. Photo: Mike Burner.*

## **Advisory Body Appointments**

The Council reviewed the nominations and appointed Advisory Body representatives for the 2019-2021 Advisory Body term.

### *Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel*

**David Crabbe, David Haworth, and Nick Jurlin** were appointed to California Commercial positions. **Ryan Kapp** was appointed to the Oregon Commercial seat; **Daniel Crome**, Washington Commercial; **Diane Pleschner-Steele**, California Processor; **Mike Okoniewski**, Oregon Processor; **Albert Carter**, Washington Processor; **Steve Crooke**, California Sport/Charter; and **Gillian Lyons**, Conservation.

### *Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel*

**Dr. Pete Adams, Corey Ridings, and Donald Maruska** were appointed to California at-large positions. **Scott McMullen, Gway Rogers-Kirchner, and Dr. Andrew Thurber** were appointed to Oregon at-large seats. **Paul Dye, Dr. Terrie Klinger, and Nate Stone** to Washington at-large seats.

### *Groundfish Advisory Subpanel*

**Bob Alverson, Michele Longo-Eder, and Gerry Richter** were appointed to Fixed Gear at-large seats. **Travis Hunter** was appointed to the Bottom Trawl seat; **Jeff Lackey** to Midwater Trawl; **Kevin Dunn** and **Sarah Nayani** to Trawl at-large; **Daniel Platt** to Open Access South of Cape Mendocino; **Jeffery Miles** to Open Access North of Cape Mendocino; **Susan Chambers** and **Tom Libby** to Processor at-large seats; **Daniel Waldeck** to At-Sea Processor; **Merit McCrea** to California Charter South of Point Conception; **Robert Ingles** to California Charter North of Point Conception; **Loren Goddard** to Oregon Charter; **Thomas Burlingame** to Washington Charter; **John Holloway, Tom Marking, and Dale Meyer** to Sport Fisheries at-large; **Shems Jud** to Conservation; and **Steve Joner** to Tribal Fisheries.

### *Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel*

**Wayne Heikkila** was appointed to the Commercial Troll seat; **Michael Conroy** to Commercial Purse Seine; **Gary Burke** to Commercial Gillnet; **Douglas Fricke** and **William Sutton** to Commercial Fisheries at-large; **Dave Rudie** to Processor South of Cape Mendocino; **Nancy Fitzpatrick** to Processor North of Cape Mendocino; **Mike Thompson** to California Charter Boat; **Linda Buell** to Washington/Oregon Charter Boat; **Bob Osborne** to Private Sport; **Melissa Mahoney** to Conservation; **Pamela Tom** to Public at-large; and **Austen Brown** to At-Large.



*A copper rockfish lurks among plumose anemones. Photo: Sue Langston.*

### *Salmon Advisory Subpanel*

**John Koeppen** was appointed to the California Troll seat; **Darus Peake** to Oregon Troll; **Greg Mueller** to Washington Troll; **Greg Johnson** to Commercial Gillnet; **Gerald Reinholdt** to Processor; **John Atkinson** to California Charter Boat; **Mike Sorensen** to Oregon Charter Boat; **Butch Smith** to Washington Charter Boat; **Jim Yarnall** and **James Stone** to California Sport; **Richard Heap** to Oregon Sport; **Dave Johnson** to Washington Sport; **Dr. Richard Scully** to Idaho Sport; **Dave Hillemeier** to California Tribal; and **Megan Mueller** to Conservation.

### *Habitat Committee*

**Noah Oppenheim** was appointed to the Commercial Fishing Industry seat; **Liz Hamilton** to Sport Fishing Industry; **Tom Rudolph** to Conservation; **Justin Alvarez** to California Tribal; and **Dr. Scott Heppell** and **Stephen Scheiblauber** to At-Large.

### *Scientific and Statistical Committee*

**Dr. Aaron Berger**, **Dr. Michael Harte**, **Dr. Dan Holland**, **Dr. André Punt**, **Dr. William Satterthwaite**, and **Dr. Rishi Sharma** were appointed to At-Large positions. Two vacancies remain.

### *Other Changes*

The Council increased the number of California Sport positions on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel from one to two and modified the Council Operating Procedures to require a 30-day advance notice for requests for alternates for advisory body attendance and to clarify the process for review of such requests.

The Council will solicit nominations for most of the remaining vacancies for consideration in March.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### ***Pacific Council/National Marine Fisheries Service Webinar***

Dates: December 14, 10:00 a.m.  
Purpose: To review available data and solicit knowledge from participants to inform cabezon assessment scheduled for next year.  
Contact: John DeVore ([john.devore@noaa.gov](mailto:john.devore@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/ybuafcg>

## March 2019 Council Meeting Agenda (Vancouver)

### Groundfish

- ◆ Amendment 28 essential fish habitat/ Rockfish Conservation Area final implementation and fishery management plan language approval
- ◆ Omnibus process planning and project prioritization
- ◆ Adopt new sigma (uncertainty) values
- ◆ Inseason adjustments
- ◆ Whiting treaty implementation
- ◆ Vessel movement monitoring update

### Highly Migratory Species

- ◆ International management recommendations
- ◆ Drift gillnet performance metrics

### Ecosystem

- ◆ California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment annual report
- ◆ Fishery Ecosystem Plan five-year review
- ◆ Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative

### Other

- ◆ Council Coordinating Committee meeting update
- ◆ Marine planning update (tentative)
- ◆ National Marine Sanctuary Coordination Report (tentative)
- ◆ Habitat issues
- ◆ Legislative issues
- ◆ NMFS reports
- ◆ Annual Coast Guard report

### Salmon and Halibut

- ◆ Review rebuilding plans
- ◆ Review of 2018 fisheries and summary of 2019 stock forecasts
- ◆ 2019 management alternatives
- ◆ Annual International Pacific Halibut Commission report
- ◆ Incidental halibut limits for salmon troll and fixed-gear sablefish fisheries
- ◆

### Ad hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Webinar

Dates: December 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Purpose: To hear presentations on climate change scenario planning exercises and discuss application of these methods as part of the Pacific Council's Climate and Communities Initiative.

Contact: Kit Dahl ([kit.dahl@noaa.gov](mailto:kit.dahl@noaa.gov))

For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y9b5abve>

### Groundfish Management Team Work Session

Dates: January 14-18, 2019

Location: Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, Oregon

Purpose: The primary purpose of this week-long work session is for the Groundfish Management Team to prepare for 2019 Council meetings. Specific agenda items will include: a detailed review of 2019/2020 harvest specifications and management measure process, planning for the 2021/2022 harvest specifications and management measure process, meeting with representatives from the Pacific Council's Ecosystem Workgroup; consideration of the groundfish workload prioritization process and Council Operating Procedure 9, Endangered Species Act salmon mitigation measures, and GMT chair/vice chair elections.

Contact: Todd Phillips ([todd.phillips@noaa.gov](mailto:todd.phillips@noaa.gov))

For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/ydabo9ea>

## **Pacific Council Meeting**

Dates: March 5-12, 2019  
Location: Hilton Vancouver Washington  
Contact: Chuck Tracy ([chuck.tracy@noaa.gov](mailto:chuck.tracy@noaa.gov))  
For More Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y9psf2xc>



*Upper left: surfer with dory boat in Pacific City; hagfish traps (above), California sea lions, seagull. Photos: Jennifer Gilden*

