

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft agenda ([Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2](#)) for the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) November meeting and draft Year-at-a-Glance (YAG; [Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book and offer the following comments.

October GMT work session

The GMT will be focusing on the 2021-2022 harvest specifications and management measures during this work session. Unfortunately, GMT participation will be very limited at the October Ad Hoc Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) meeting, as it directly conflicts with this work session.

November Council meeting

At the November meeting, the GMT's priority will be the 2021-2022 biennial harvest specifications and management measures. The GMT requests Council guidance on how to prioritize the other agenda items, specifically the needs and expectations for the GMT on the scheduled Gear Switching & Sablefish Area Management Update item. As noted above, participation at the October SaMTAAC meeting will be limited, as the team's workload will largely be taken up by 2021-2022 harvest specifications and management measures.

January GMT work session

Depending on Council action on the 2021-2022 biennial harvest specifications and management measures in November and progress to date on analysis, the GMT may need a January work session. This work session will focus on the analysis and documentation for the biennial harvest specifications and management measures. The GMT requests that the work session be tentatively scheduled for January 21-24, in a city in California; Portland, Oregon; or Seattle, Washington.

Year-at-a-Glance

Under Agenda Item H.7, the Council moved to not proceed with discussion and action on phased-in approach to changing harvest limits, so this item does not need to be scheduled for the November 2019 and April 2020 meetings. Under Agenda Item H.5, all stock assessments were adopted and the GMT believes that no further action is needed; therefore the "remaining stock assessment and rebuilding analysis" shaded item does not need to be scheduled for the November meeting.

The March 2020 meeting includes item "Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) Modifications". The Council, Groundfish Advisory Sub-panel, and GMT all consider this a high priority item. **The GMT recommends this proposal be renamed "Non-trawl spatial management and mitigation measures"** and notes that this item will include analysis of changes to the Western Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA), non-trawl RCA modifications, and associated trip and salmon troll limits. It is important for the public to know that this joint package includes potential modifications to the seaward boundary of the Western CCA, as earlier indicated by the Council. As discussed in [Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, September 2019](#), the

new Salmon Advisory Sub-panel (SAS) proposal to allow salmon troll retention of mid-water rockfishes in the non-trawl RCA may be as addressed either as a stand-alone item or grouped with another action such as this one, which also pertains to the non-trawl RCA. The Council should indicate whether they support analyzing this SAS proposal as part of this package, given that salmon trollers are unfamiliar with the groundfish workload process.

The GMT notes that no Council staff have currently been identified to work on either these agenda items or the mothership utilization item scheduled on the YAG for April 2020. As mentioned under Agenda Item H.2. at this meeting, GMT staff will be highly engaged with the overwinter 2021-2022 harvest specifications and management measures analysis and will have little to no time to work on additional actions or provide support on additional analyses.

GMT Representation

The GMT notes that Dr. Kayleigh Somers will replace Ms. Jessi Doerpinghaus as our official representative on the Pacific Coast Fisheries Information Network committee.

PFMC
09/18/19