

FINAL ACTION ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS – INCLUDING FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS ON EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS FOR 2020

Under this agenda item, the Council will address inseason adjustments to the groundfish fishery and consider final recommendations for the extending of current midwater trawl and electronic monitoring (EM) exempted fishing permits (EFP) for 2020.

Inseason Adjustments

This agenda item will consider progress to date of the groundfish fisheries, including exempted fishing permits, as well as routine inseason adjustments to ongoing 2019 fisheries. Management measures for groundfish are set by the Council with the general understanding that these measures will likely need to be adjusted within the biennium to attain, but not exceed, the annual catch limits. Potential inseason adjustments include adjustments to rockfish conservation area boundaries and adjustments to commercial and recreational fishery catch limits. Adjustments are, in part, based on catch estimate updates and the latest information from the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program. Reports from the Groundfish Management Team and Groundfish Advisory Panel are expected to help inform the Council's decision making.

Midwater Trawl Gear and EM EFPs

Under this topic, the Council will consider final action on extending the year-round midwater trawl gear and EM EFPs through 2020. It is anticipated that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will provide a supplemental report on results of the 2019 EFPs to date.

This topic is being taken up because the current year-round midwater trawl gear EFPs are approved for one-year terms. The primary purpose of midwater trawl gear EFPs are to collect information that could be used to support future Council decisions on expansion of non-whiting midwater trawling in times and areas that are, at present, not fished due to current regulations, and to comply with Term and Condition (T&C) 4.b of the NMFS 2017 salmon biological opinion. T&C 4.b states that:

Prior to allowing additional non-whiting midwater trawling south of 42° N. lat. NMFS will implement one or more EFPs designed to collect information about Chinook and coho bycatch levels and stock composition from fishing in those areas or at those times for a minimum of three years.

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The Council is also scheduled to consider a recommendation to extend the use of all EM EFPs through 2020 for catch shares fisheries, including whiting and non-whiting midwater trawl, fixed gear, and bottom trawl. Extension of the EFPs is needed to provide vessels, EM providers, and NMFS time to transition out of an EFP and into EM program regulations that will become effective on January 1, 2021.

Council Action:

1. Consider projections for the 2019 fisheries and adopt inseason adjustments, as necessary to achieve but not exceed annual catch limits and other management objectives.
2. Review EFP progress reports.
3. Consider recommending extension of midwater trawl and other electronic monitoring EFPs into 2020.

Reference Materials:

1. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.9 Final Action on Inseason Adjustments – Including Final Recommendations on Exempted Fishing Permits for 2020 Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for as Necessary to Achieve but Not Exceed Annual Catch Limits and Other Management Objectives and Consider Recommending the Extension of Midwater Trawl and Electronic Monitoring EFPs into 2020

PFMC
08/21/19