

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

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft March ([Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 2](#)) and April ([Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 3](#)) Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) agendas and Year-At-A-Glance (YAG, [Agenda Item I.5, Attachment 1](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book and offers the following thoughts.

March Agenda

As discussed often during this meeting, the March 2020 agenda includes a tentatively-slated item that would consider potential reopenings of the non-trawl rockfish conservation area (RCA) and cowcod conservation area (CCA). The GMT recommends this only be for initial scoping in which Council staff, with assistance from the GMT, would provide a short summary paper which defines the issue and includes potential goals and objectives. This will facilitate group discussion between the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), and Council. As a reminder, the Council recommended in September 2019 that the SAS proposal to allow salmon trollers the ability to retain healthy mid-water stocks in the RCA coastwide, with a focus on south of 40° 10' N. Lat., should be moved to this item.

The GMT notes that the analysis to support the electronic monitoring (EM) exempted fishing permit (EFP) would not be expected to be included in the 2021-2022 Harvest Specifications and Biennial Management Measures. To avoid confusion, we suggest that this discussion occur either under a stand-alone EFP check-in in March or under the EM agenda item in April.

The GMT notes we are fully subscribed with other agenda items and the 2021-2022 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures overwinter analysis. We do not expect to be able to provide substantive feedback on the Gear Switching and Sablefish Area Management Range of Alternatives, unless the Council prioritizes this over our other workload. In a similar vein, we note that we will not have a representative at the January Ad Hoc Sablefish Management and Trawl Allocation Attainment Committee (SaMTAAC) meeting, which is discussed further below.

April Agenda

The GMT notes that in the YAG and draft April agenda, the mothership sector utilization item is shown as a shaded item and so could potentially be included. The GMT notes we are fully subscribed with other agenda items and the 2021-2022 harvest specifications and management measures overwinter analysis. We do not expect to be able to provide substantive feedback on the shaded mothership utilization item, unless the Council prioritizes this over our other workload.

The draft April agenda currently schedules the 2021-2022 biennial management measures agenda item late in the day on Wednesday, the day after the 2021-2022 biennial harvest specifications agenda item is on the Council floor (Tuesday). The GMT requests that, if possible, the

management measures agenda item be moved to late on Wednesday such that it extends into Thursday, or moved completely to Thursday. This would provide the GMT with additional time to finalize work on this item after the harvest specifications agenda item, especially if there are any delays, and to incorporate the results of that item into our discussions and statement(s). The GMT would then also be more likely to have at least some of our reports available to the Council in time for them to review the day prior to decisions being made on the Council floor (Thursday). Given the amount of information in our management measure reports, having this additional time for Council to review aids and digest the information will help to facilitate productive discussion on the Council floor.

January Work Session

The GMT may still need an in-person work session in January to facilitate our work on the biennial harvest specifications and management measures, but anticipates that this work will likely be accomplished via webinar(s) and/or conference call(s). The GMT Chair and Vice Chair will work with Council staff to determine which method (in person or webinar) would be most productive.

2021-2022 Biennial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Workload

At the conclusion of Agenda Item H.8 at this meeting, the workload associated with all of the items forwarded for the 2021-2022 biennial harvest specifications and management measures was discussed. The GMT and Council staff may not have the capacity to fully analyze all forwarded items in time for the Council to select their final preferred alternatives in June 2020.

The GMT suggests that the at-sea set aside analysis will create analytical complexities and significantly increase workload for running the model and presenting the individual fishing quota projected impacts.

If possible, the GMT requests additional guidance on this and prioritization of proposed management measures. The Council should identify any specific items that are of higher, or lower, priority at this time to ensure the most important measures are analyzed.

Proposed GMT Representation to Other Venues

- SaMTAAC: None at this time
- Recreational Fishery Information Network Technical Committee: Ms. Lynn Mattes
- Climate and Communities Workshop: Dr. Andrew Thompson

PFMC
11/20/19