



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2016

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel, and Interested Persons

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2016 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet April 9-14, 2016 at the Hilton Vancouver Hotel in Vancouver, Washington. The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) will meet separately on April 9-10. The CPSAS will be meeting in the Discovery D Room, and the CPSMT will meet in the Discovery E Room. Note that we will move to the SSC meeting (Heritage F Room) at 9 a.m. on Saturday to listen to the presentation on the Pacific sardine stock assessment, before returning to our own meeting rooms. Major topics for discussion at this meeting include:

#### **Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications and Management Measures**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) completed an update stock assessment of the Pacific sardine biomass off the U.S., for use in setting harvest specifications and management measures for the 2016 – 2017 season. The assessment presents two biomass estimates, both of which are below the Cutoff value of 150,000 metric tons. The CPSMT and CPSAS are therefore primarily tasked with making recommendations on incidental harvest, while also considering live bait and Tribal harvest. The CPSMT is expected to develop a supplemental report containing recommendations on harvest specifications and management measures, to assist the Council in making decisions about that 2016-17 fishing year. The CPSAS should also submit a supplemental report.

The Quinault Indian Nation sent a letter proposing access to 800 mt of sardines. The letter is in your briefing book materials (Agenda Item H.1.b, Tribal Report).

#### **Stock Assessment and Methodology Review Process Terms of Reference**

The Briefing Book contains Terms of Reference (TOR) for methodology reviews and for stock assessments (Agenda Item F.7). The methodology review ToR contains only minor edits, while the stock assessment ToR contains substantial edits (in track changes mode). The CPSMT and CPSAS should review both and develop supplemental reports on the topic.

### **Electronic Technology Plan Update**

The Council will receive an update on activities related to electronic fish tickets for all Fishery Management Plan fisheries, electronic logbooks for some fisheries, and the use of electronic monitoring for some fisheries. The CPSAS and CPSMT may wish to develop a supplemental report on implementation of the plan.

### **Fishery Ecosystem Plan – Ecosystem Indicators and Climate Shift Initiatives**

At the June 2016 meeting, the Council is scheduled to select a preliminary preferred alternative for the Ecosystem Indicators Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiative. The CPSMT and CPSAS will be briefed on the issue, and should begin developing a report that would be submitted for the June 2016 advanced briefing book.

### **Future Agenda Planning**

Both the CPSMT and CPSAS should discuss upcoming meetings and tasks. In May, the Council and the NOAA SWFSC are co-hosting a workshop on best approaches to conducting assessments for data-limited CPS stocks. This workshop is intended to provide recommendations to the SWFSC, which plans to conduct a northern anchovy assessment in fall 2016. In addition, the CPSMT is expected to develop a white paper in September that describes potential alternative management scenarios for managing northern anchovy stocks.

Enclosed are April agenda materials for your review. Welcome, new members of the CPSAS and CPSMT, and thank you for your continued participation in the Council process.

KFG:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.2 – Comments on Bycatch Strategy and Bycatch Reduction Plans
3. Agenda Item C.5 – Electronic Technology Plan Update
4. Agenda Item C.7 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
5. Agenda Item D.1 – Annual U.S. Coast Guard Fishery Enforcement Report (*informational only*)
6. Agenda Item F.7 – Initial Stock Assessment Plans and Terms of Reference for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species
7. Agenda Item H.1 – Final Action on Sardine Assessment, Specifications, and Management Measures
8. CPSAS Agenda
9. CPSMT Agenda
10. SSC Agenda
11. Hotel Information
12. Roster