

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Philip Anderson, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2020

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested

Persons

FROM: Kit Dahl, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2020 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 3-9, 2020, at the Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma in Rohnert Park, California. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) will meet Wednesday through Friday, March 4-6. The EAS will be in the Bodega Room and the EWG will be in the Redwood Room.

There are three agenda topics under the Ecosystem heading. I have also included the briefing materials for Agenda Item C.5, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. Summaries of these topics follow.

Agenda Item G.1 California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Report and Science Review Topics

The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) team will present the 2020 Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. The purpose of the Report is to present ecosystem information for the California Current Ecosystem to the Council in a succinct, straightforward format so that the Council may take into account ecosystem variability in its decisions. The IEA Team has also submitted a list of candidate ecosystem research topics for Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) review. Any topics selected by the Council would then be reviewed by the SSC during the September 2020 meeting.

Agenda Item G.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Five-Year Review – Final Action

In September 2018 the Council initiated a review of the FEP. The initial focus of this update has been a revision of the FEP Vision (including purpose, goals, and objectives). The Council adopted proposed revisions to FEP Chapters 1 and 2 for public review at its September 2019 meeting. Considering any additional comments from advisory bodies, the Council will adopt the revised chapters at this meeting. The Council also directed the EWG to submit a proposed outline for the revision of the remaining chapters of the FEP for it to review at its March 2020 meeting.

Agenda Item G.3 Climate and Communities Initiative Workshop Report

In March 2019, the Council adopted shifting stock availability (including shifting distribution) across species, fishery management plans, and communities across the West Coast as the topic for a climate change scenario planning exercise under the Climate and Communities Initiative. This exercise will help the Council define the tools, products, and processes necessary to plan for potential future ecosystem states resulting from climate variability and climate change. Climate change scenarios were developed during a January 22-23, 2020, workshop. Jonathan Star, the workshop facilitator, submitted a report describing the outcomes. The Council will review the Workshop Report and provide guidance on the next steps for the scenario planning exercise for completion of the Initiative.

Agenda Item C.5 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings, I am including the materials for Agenda Item C.5, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. You may wish to provide comments on what topics are proposed and at what meetings.

The referenced briefing materials are enclosed. In addition, you may also obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website, as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's <u>e-portal</u>.

KRD:ael

Enclosures:

- 1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Agenda
- 2. Agenda Items G: Ecosystem Management
- 3. Agenda Item C.5: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
- 4. EAS and EWG Agendas
- 5. Informational Reports
- 6. Hotel-related Information
- 7. Council Roster

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Philip Anderson, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2020

TO: Enforcement Consultants

FROM: Jim Seger Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2020 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet March 3-9, 2019, at the Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928, telephone: 707-584-5466.

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) will meet in the Vintage Board Room (3rd Floor) on Wednesday, March 4 starting at 8 a.m. and as necessary thereafter, through Sunday, March 8.

Enclosed are materials for items on the EC Agenda and additional items that might be of interest to you. Your agenda allows you to add other items from the Council agenda, if you should decide there are other issues on which you would like to comment.

JLS:rdd

Enclosures:

- 1. Agenda Item A.4, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda
- 2. EC Agenda
- 3. EWG & EAS Agenda
- 4. GAP Agenda
- 5. GMT Agenda
- 6. HC Agenda
- 7. HMSAS Agenda
- 8. HMSMT Agenda
- 9. SAS Agenda
- 10. STT Agenda

(Pacific Halibut Management)

- 11. F.2 Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Recommendations for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries
- 12. F.3 Transition of Area 2A Fishery Management

(Salmon Management)

- 13. E.6 Recommendations for 2020 Management Alternative Analysis
- 14. E.7 Further Direction for 2020 Management Alternatives
- 15. E.8 Further Direction for 2020 Management Alternatives
- 16. E.9 Adopt 2020 Management Alternatives for Public Review

(Groundfish Management)

- 17. H.3 Update on Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for 2021-2022
- 18. H.4 Update on 2021-2022 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures
- 19. H.5 Inseason Adjustments Including Shorebased Carryover Final Action

(Highly Migratory Species Management)

- 20. I.3 International Management Activities
- 21. I.4 Drift Gillnet Fishery Hard Caps Update

(Administrative Matters)

22. C.5 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

(Informational Reports)

- 23. Informational Report 2: Staff Summary of Federal Legislation in the 116th U.S. Congress
- 24. Informational Report 3: Trawl Rationalization (Trat) Compliance Summary, 2019

(General Information)

- 25. Hotel-related Information
- 26. Council Roster

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Philip Anderson, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2020

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish

Interested Persons

FROM: Mr. Todd Phillips, Groundfish Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2020 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet March 3-9, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) meetings will begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 5 in the Sonoma and Chardonnay Rooms, respectively. Also note, the groundfish advisory bodies are invited to the Chair's Reception at 6 p.m. March 4 on the hotel's Upper Patio.

The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest. The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for these items on the Council's March Agenda; however, the following agenda items, summarized below, may be of particular interest to advisory bodies.

G.1 California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Report and Science Review Topics

The Report highlights trends in physical, biological, and socioeconomic components of the ecosystem – taking into account the effects of fisheries and other human activities. Interested members of the GMT and GAP are encouraged to attend the Council's presentation.

G.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan 5-year Review, Final Vision Statement

The Council is scheduled to review the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) and to adopt a final vision statement for the FEP. In September 2019, the Council adopted a <u>preliminary vision statement</u> for the FEP. The Council is expected to finalize revisions to <u>FEP Chapters 1 and 2</u>, including the vision statement and goals and objectives. The GMT and GAP will be able to provide input regarding Council adoption of the FEP's final vision statement.

G.3 Climate and Communities Initiative Workshop Report

The Council will hear from the Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT) regarding a workshop held in January. The objectives of this workshop were to: 1) explore climate-related shifting stock availability and other factors may affect West Coast fishing communities over the next 20 years and 2) define and develop tools, products and processes so that management and communities can navigate uncertainty and react to potential future states. The CCCT will provide

a report to the Council that explores multiple scenarios of the future state of West Coast fishing communities. The Ecosystem Work Group and the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel will hold a briefing session for all Council advisory bodies on Thursday, March 5 at 8:30 a.m. in the Redwood Room. The GMT and GAP are invited to this session to discuss any questions they may have regarding the findings of this report.

F.2 Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Recommendations for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

The Council will adopt final retention limits for 2020 Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery.

F.3 Transition of Area 2A Fishery Management

The Council will review a range of alternatives for transition of the Area 2A non-Indian Pacific halibut fisheries from the International Pacific Halibut Commission to the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service. The Council will also consider adopting the preliminary preferred alternatives (PPA). The GMT and GAP may provide their recommendations to the Council regarding the PPA selection.

H.2 Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference

The Council will adopt a preliminary list of stocks to be assessed in 2021 and 2023 which will serve to inform harvest specifications and management decisions for groundfish fisheries in 2023 and beyond. Additionally, the Council will consider Terms of Reference for the stock assessment process. The Council will consider input from the GMT, GAP, and stakeholders under this agenda item before adopting the preliminary list of stocks, the type of assessments, and terms of reference.

H.3 Update on Exempted Fishing Permit (EFPs) for 2021-2022

Under this agenda item, the Council will review progress on the EFPs adopted for public review and consider including the trawl sector electronic monitoring as part of the EFP biennial process for 2021. Applicants will have the opportunity to discuss their EFPs with the GMT and GAP in order to further refine their proposals.

H.4 Update on 2021-2022 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

The Council is scheduled to receive a briefing from Council staff and the GMT on the 2021-2022 harvest specifications and management measure analyses. Information presented at this meeting will offer the Council the opportunity to review the progress of the groundfish harvest specifications and management measures for the 2021-2022 biennial period to date. The GMT and GAP may provide both additional input and recommendations to the Council regarding the 2021-2022 biennial process management measures as part of this update.

Further, at their November 2019 meeting, the Council directed the GAP to examine the proposed non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area and mothership utilization management measures and develop action items, purpose and need statements, and other concepts germane to these measures. The GAP will hold a discussion on these two measures on Friday, March 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chardonnay Room. The GAP is scheduled to report to the Council on this item at the April Council meeting where the Council will next take up groundfish workload planning.

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week. As always, all briefing materials are also available on the web at http://www.pcouncil.org.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

TMP:ael

Enclosures include:

- 1. Agenda Item A.4 Council Meeting Agenda
- 2. Agenda Item B Open Comment Period
- 3. Agenda Item C.1 & C.2 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Report and Marine Planning Update
- 4. Agenda Item D Habitat
- 5. Agenda Item F Pacific Halibut Management
- 6. Agenda Item G Ecosystem
- 7. Agenda Item H Groundfish Management
- 8. Enforcement Consultants Agenda
- 9. GAP Agenda
- 10. GMT Agenda
- 11. Ecosystem Working Group Agenda
- 12. Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel Agenda
- 13. Scientific and Statistical Committee Agenda and Draft Minutes
- 14. Informational Reports
- 15. Hotel-related Information
- 16. Chair's Reception Information
- 17. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2020

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species

Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: March 2020 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 3-9, 2020, at the Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma in Rohnert Park, California. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8. The HMSAS will be in the Bodega Room and the HMSMT will be in the Redwood Room. The meetings begin at 8 a.m. each day. Four HMS topics are on the Council agenda. Summaries of these topics follow. I am also including briefing materials for two administrative items.

I.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region will report on recent regulatory activities. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center will report on HMS-related research activities.

I.2 Review of Essential Fish Habitat – Scoping

The HMS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) contains detailed descriptions of essential fish habitat (EFH) for each species in the FMP's fishery management unit, which should be reviewed and updated at least every five years. But these EFH descriptions have not been reviewed or revised since the HMS FMP was partially approved in 2004. Council Operating Procedure 22 provides guidance on developing the process, scope, and personnel to carry out EFH periodic reviews. At this meeting, the Council will consider a proposed action plan to accomplish the first phase of the EFH review for HMS species.

<u>I.3</u> <u>International Management Activities</u>

The current U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty Fishing Regime (Annex C) expired at the end of 2019 and a replacement regime must be agreed to before the start of the next Treaty fishing season beginning June 15, 2020. The Department of State representative on the Council, Mr. David Hogan, will attend this Council meeting to report on the status of Treaty negotiations and hear from stakeholders. The Council may develop recommendations for this negotiation. Outcomes of

the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission will be reported on.

I.4 Drift Gillnet Fishery Hard Caps Update

The Council took final action in September 2015 on a proposal that included "hard caps" for selected protected species taken in the California/Oregon thresher shark/swordfish large mesh drift gillnet fishery. NMFS published a proposed rule to implement the Council action on October 13, 2016, but on June 12, 2017, withdrew the proposed rule based on further analysis. Subsequent legal action compelled NMFS to publish the final rule on February 7, 2020. These hard cap regulations come into force on March 9. At this meeting the Council will review the final rule, revisit previous Council recommendations, and provide guidance on future Council consideration of the hard caps.

Ecosystem Agenda Items

There are three ecosystem topics on the Council's March agenda: G.1 California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Report and Science Review Topics; G.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Five-Year Review – Final Action; and G.3 Climate and Communities Initiative Workshop Report. The HMSAS and HMSMT will not be able to complete reports on these items, should you so desire, at your March meetings. However, report contents could be discussed on your February 26 webinar with the intention of finalizing reports in advance of the Council meeting. For this reason, I have included the briefing materials for the ecosystem agenda items.

C.5 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings and to help you plan future meetings of your respective groups, I am including the materials for Agenda Item C.5, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. You may wish to provide comments on what topics are proposed and at what meetings.

The referenced briefing materials are enclosed. You may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's <u>e-portal</u>.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:ael

Enclosures:

- 1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
- 2. Agenda Items G: Ecosystem Management
- 3. Agenda Items I: Highly Migratory Species Management
- 4. Agenda Item C.5: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
- 5. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
- 6. Informational Reports

Page 3

- 7. Hotel-related Information
- 8. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2020

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup,

and Interested Persons

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

In conjunction with the March Council meeting, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet at the Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma in Rohnert Park, California. The STT will meet in the Cotati Room, starting at 8 a.m. March 4 and continue through March 9; however, the chair of the STT will meet with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on March 3 to discuss the Willapa Bay coho forecast methodology (Agenda Item E.2). The SAS will meet in the Vineyard Room; starting at 1 p.m. March 3 and continue through March 8. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will begin the salmon agenda on March 4, and continue through Monday, March 9. Other topics of interest on the Council agenda include habitat, ecosystem, and Pacific halibut. Also note that you are invited to the Chair's Reception at 6 p.m. March 4.

The Salmon agenda item (Agenda Item E) will begin on March 4 with three consecutive topics for discussion. The first is a briefing from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the Council on salmon-related topics (Agenda Item E.1). This will be followed by the methodology review on Willapa Bay coho (Agenda Item E.2), which will focus on abundance forecasting methods. The next salmon topic (Agenda Item E.3) will be an update on the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Endangered Species Act Consultation. Look for the ad hoc SRKW Workgroup report and familiarize yourselves with the content so that we can have informed discussions. The STT and SSC will discuss salmon topics on March 4.

On March 5, The Council will be briefed by the STT on the *Review of 2019 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* and *Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 2020 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* (Agenda Item E.4). The *Review of 2019 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* is scheduled to be posted on the Council website by February 14. The *Preseason Report 1* is being compiled by the STT the week of February 17 and should be posted to the Council website by March 1.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be developing alternatives for modeling 2020 ocean fisheries. On March 5, the SAS will present the Council with recommendations for three alternatives (Agenda Item E.5). SAS representatives should review the *Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment* (Agenda Item E.5, Attachment 1) and clearly identify their fishery priorities and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among fishery sectors and areas to arrive at cohesive and

coordinated options. The SAS will need to have this report ready first thing on Day 2, which usually requires work to continue late into the evening of March 4.

After the SAS provides the preliminary 2020 management alternatives, the STT will then collate and analyze the alternatives as directed by the Council (Agenda Items E.6). The STT results will first be presented under Agenda Item E.6 on March 6. Working throughout the week the SAS, STT, and Council will refine the alternatives (Agenda Items E.7 and E.8), which are scheduled to be adopted for public review on March 9 (Agenda Item E.9). The Council will adopt the hearing officers for the three public salmon hearings scheduled for late March under Agenda Item E.10.

Although not on the Council's agenda in March, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) will be discussing the development of the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area action and mothership utilization. Salmon trollers may be interested in sitting in on this GAP discussion, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, March 6 in the Chardonnay meeting room. This topic is scheduled for Council consideration in April 2020, under the Groundfish agenda item 'Workload and New Management Measures.'

Habitat issues (Agenda Item D.1) will be discussed on March 4 prior to the salmon topics. On March 5 the Council agenda includes the reports covering the California Current Ecosystem (CCE) and the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (Agenda Item G.1). Each year at the March meeting, the Council receives the Annual State of the CCE Report to bring ecosystem information into the Council process in a succinct, straightforward format to assist decision-making through the consideration of ecosystem variability. Because these topics are early on the Council agenda, there will be little time at the meeting to contemplate the issues and draft any statements. Please take the time to read the enclosed material on both these topics (Agenda Items D.1 and G.1) so everyone is prepared for a discussion and ready to draft a statement if desired. The Legislative Committee will not meet, but has provided an update under Informational Reports.

The Pacific halibut agenda items (Agenda Item F) will begin on March 4. The Council will hear reports on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual meeting (Agenda Item F.1). Under Agenda Item F.2, the Council will consider incidental halibut retention limits in salmon troll and fixed gear sablefish fisheries. The SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations regarding alternatives for post-May 1, 2020 and April 2021 fisheries. In addition, the SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations for any inseason adjustments to the halibut retention regulations for the April 2020 commercial salmon fisheries too. The Council will adopt for public review the incidental halibut retention alternatives in the commercial salmon fisheries and include them in the 2020 management alternatives package (Agenda Item E.9). Halibut Agenda Item F.3 will cover the Area 2A fishery management transition range of alternatives. As you recall, work has been underway to transfer management of the directed commercial non-tribal fishery from the IPHC to the Council and NMFS. The Council will identify the steps needed for a seamless transfer, which may include alternatives for a new permit system administrated by NMFS, preseason and inseason process and schedule, and agency roles and responsibilities.

The Council will consider future Council meeting agendas and workload planning (Agenda Item C.5) on March 9.

Please take the necessary time needed to review and familiarize yourself with briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Page 3

Thank you for your assistance in the Council's salmon management process.

RDE:kma

Enclosures:

- 1. Agenda Item A.4 Council Agenda
- 2. Agenda Item C.4, C.5 Council Administrative Matters
- 3. Agenda Item D.1 Habitat Issues
- 4. Agenda Items E.1 through E.10 Salmon Management
- 5. Agenda Items F.1 F.3 Pacific Halibut Management
- 6. Agenda Items G.1 G.3 Ecosystem Management
- 7. Informational Reports
- 8. Proposed SAS Agenda
- 9. Proposed STT Agenda
- 10. Proposed SSC Agenda
- 11. Proposed GAP Agenda
- 12. Hotel-related Information
- 13. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2020

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: John DeVore, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2020 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet March 3-9, 2020 at the Doubletree by Hilton Sonoma Hotel, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet on Tuesday, March 3 and Wednesday March 4, starting at 8 a.m. each day in the Chardonnay Room. Your meeting materials are enclosed.

Council Administrative Matters

The SSC will review the credentials of three nominees for the vacant at-large seat on the SSC: 1) Dr. Lorenzo Ciannelli, Oregon State University, 2) Ms. Oriana Poindexter, Ocean Associates, Inc., and 3) Dr. Will White, Oregon State University. The SSC will also review the credentials of Ms. Whitney Roberts, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), to fill a vacant WDFW seat on the Groundfish Management Team.

The SSC will discuss future workload planning and may report to the Council on their plans under Agenda Item C.5.

The SSC will initiate planning and development of a new Research and Data Needs database.

Ecosystem Management

The SSC will review the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment State of the California Current report and provide their recommendations to the Council on the use and future content of this report. The SSC will also review a list of proposed topics for review by the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee and identify priority topics for discussion next September.

The Council is scheduled to adopt final updates to Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Chapters 1 and 2, including a vision statement, and a revised set of goals and objectives. The SSC will provide their comments and recommendations for the FEP to the Council.

The SSC will receive a briefing from Mr. Jonathan Star on the report of a January workshop to develop climate change planning scenarios in support of the Council's Climate and Communities Initiative. The SSC will provide their recommendations on the scenario planning exercise and the completion of the Initiative.

Salmon Management

The SSC will review documentation of a new forecasting methodology for Willapa Bay coho and a report of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and provide their comments and recommendations to the Council.

The SSC will review the 2019 Fisheries and Summary of 2020 Stock Abundance Forecasts and recommend to the Council whether this report is the best scientific information available and can be used in modeling 2020 ocean salmon fisheries, specifying acceptable biological catches, and setting annual catch limits.

Groundfish Management

The Council is scheduled to take initial action at this meeting on proposed groundfish stock assessment priorities for the 2021 and 2023 assessment cycles. The SSC will receive a presentation from Dr. Jim Hastie on criteria and a process to decide future stock assessment priorities. The SSC will recommend their priorities for groundfish stock assessments, as well as changes to the three Terms of Reference that guide the process of conducting and reviewing assessments, rebuilding analyses, and proposed assessment methodologies.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process. See you soon.

JDD:ael

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

- 1. Agenda Item A.4 Council Meeting Agenda
- 2. Agenda Item C.4 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
- 3. Agenda Item C.5 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Salmon Management

- 4. Agenda Item E.2 Willapa Bay Coho Forecast Methodology Review Final
- 5. Agenda Item E.4 Review of 2019 Fisheries and Summary of 2020 Stock Forecasts

Ecosystem Management

- 6. Agenda Item G.1 California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Report and Science Review Topics
- 7. Agenda Item G.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Five-Year Review Final Action
- 8. Agenda Item G.3 Climate and Communities Initiative Workshop Report

Groundfish Management

9. Agenda Item H.2 – Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference

SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, Etc.

- 10. March 2020 SSC Agenda
- 11. Draft November 2019 SSC Minutes
- 12. Administrative Closed Session
- 13. Informational Reports
- 14. Hotel-Related Information
- 15. Council Roster

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