



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Agenda Item C.2.b
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1
November 2020

West Coast Region Update FY2021 Priorities

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**NMFS Report, 11/13/2020
Pacific Fishery Management Council
November 2020 Meeting**

Overview

- **A challenging year**
- **West Coast Region Priorities**
- **Council-related workload**



2020 Key Accomplishments

- Re-opened historic groundfish fishing grounds
- Flexibility for industry facing new public health measures
- Rule to move electronic monitoring to 2022 giving industry more time
- Assisted states with conservation plans to reduce whale entanglements
- Southern Resident Killer Whales
 - ESA consultation on 2020-2021 ocean salmon fisheries
 - Council Workgroup Process



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For 2021: How can we best handle the challenges together?

- We are experiencing some very real workload challenges
 - Must be mindful about number and timing of actions
- Early and frequent engagement is essential
 - Moving forward with new actions without NMFS staff being able to engage will make the process inefficient and frustrating for everyone.
 - When NMFS can only engage late in the discussions, the issues raised can require the Council to revisit past determinations, revisit actions, and delay implementation.

How can we best handle the challenges together? ...

- We recognize this creates challenging prioritization issues for the Council, these are challenging times.
- When we work together, the process and implementation is more efficient.
- We can continually revisit workload priorities. When our capacity changes, we can contemplate new actions.



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2021 West Coast Region Priorities

- ➡ Advance buoy-gear fishery authorization
- ➡ All fisheries specs rules
- ➡ Support Pacific tropical and temperate tuna management and rebuilding by working with RFMOs
- ➡ Salmon FMP
- Southern California offshore aquaculture opportunity area
- Salmonid reintroductions: Klamath Basin, Upper Columbia, Willamette Valley, Central Valley
- Hatchery & Genetic Management Plans
- Conservation Partnerships
- Organizational Excellence



We are adapting to 2020's impacts by focusing on top priorities...

- How we're prioritizing workload:
 - Required by litigation, statute, regulation, mission critical, or necessary to keep fisheries operating
 - Other high priority actions, without regulatory deadlines
 - Less urgent, but still required projects



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Council-related Priority Actions

- Annual and biennial management measures
 - Salmon, Sardine, Groundfish, Mackerel, HMS, and Halibut
- Observer waivers
- DSBG authorization
- IATTC tropical and temperate tuna measures and rulemaking
- Sardine Rebuilding Plan
- Whiting Treaty, specifications, and reapportionment
- EM bottom trawl/Clean-up rule package
- Existing EFPs



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Litigation

- Drift Gillnet Hard Caps
- Southern Resident Killer Whales
 - Salmon FMP Amendment and Biological Opinion
- SONCC Coho harvest control rule
- Longline EFP
- Anchovy



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Required by Statute / Regulations

- Salmon bycatch minimization measures rulemaking
- Non-trawl logbooks development, rulemaking
- Inseason actions
- HMS Observer Program
- EM manual, guidelines and 3rd party provider applications
- DSBG, GF, HMS, Halibut permitting and renewal actions
- Other: PRA renewals, Sablefish catch share review, implementation of BiOps, related NEPA and ESA, etc.

Summary and Moving Forward

- Leaner to-do list, focus on essentials.
- No resources for new Council actions likely until fall 2021.
- Delays on rulemakings for prior Council actions & limited to no engagement on Council priority actions in near-term.
 - Gear Switching, MS Utilization, Emley-Platt, Non-trawl RCA, Swordfish Monitoring and Management Plan, etc.
- We must work closely together. Early and frequent engagement. Continually revisit workload priorities.



Thank you



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