



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2021

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2021 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in online format April 6 – 9 and April 12 – 15. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will convene April 6 - 9. The Council will consider CPS agenda items on April 9 and it is assumed that the majority of the CPSMT and CPSAS will attend the main Council session. As time allows, both advisory bodies may reconvene after the Council has completed those agenda items. Major topics for discussion at this meeting are below. For more detailed information, please refer to the situation summaries in the Briefing Book materials.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report (E.1)

NMFS will provide a regulatory update and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) will provide an update on science center activities.

Final Exempted Fishing Permits for 2021 (E.2)

There were three proposals for exempted fishing permit activities submitted at the November 2020 meeting, all three designed to support stock survey work. If approved by the Council, the proponents will submit their applications to NMFS.

Review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) (E.3)

Council and NMFS are required to periodically review EFH provisions contained in fishery management plans and appendices. At this meeting, CPS Advisory Bodies (ABs) and the Council will consider a Phase 1 report developed by the SWFSC and determine whether new information warrants moving forward with considering changes to CPS EFH provisions, i.e., whether to move forward with Phase 2. CPS ABs should be prepared to make recommendations on the scope of Phase 2, should the Council move forward.

Pacific Sardine Harvest Specifications and Management Measures (E.4)

The NMFS SWFSC completed a catch-only projection update of the Pacific sardine resources off the United States West Coast. The stock biomass estimate fell below the 50,000 Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST) in 2019, requiring the development of a rebuilding plan. The rebuilding plan was approved by the Council in September 2020 and awaits approval by the Secretary of Commerce. The CPS fishery management plan allows limited harvest in the live bait and small-scale fishing sectors while the stock is overfished. The CPSAS and CPSMT should be prepared to make recommendations on incidental and live bait harvest for the 2021 – 2022 fishing year.

Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (COP) (H.4)

At the November 2020 meeting, the CPSMT proposed modest procedural revisions to COP 26 which guides the CPS methodology review process. The Council asked to consider changes at the April 2021 meeting. The CPSMT and CPSAS should consider the underline/strikethrough changes and be prepared to make recommendations to the Council.

There are two other items for your consideration. First, the CPSMT has requested a joint meeting time with the CPSAS to discuss the central subpopulation of northern anchovy flowchart and management framework. That meeting time is scheduled for Thursday, April 8. And last, there will be an update on Executive Order 13921, which includes the Aquaculture Opportunity Areas requirements discussed in detail at the March 2021 meeting, as well as a directive to reduce burdens and increase domestic fishery production. The CPS ABs may wish to allocate some agenda time for discussion and a possible supplemental report.

KFG:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item E.1 – National Marine Fisheries Service Report
4. Agenda Item E.2 – Final Exempted Fishing Permits for 2021
5. Agenda item E.3 – Review of Essential Fish Habitat
6. Agenda Item E.4 – Final Sardine Assessment and Management Measures
7. Agenda Item H.2 – Update on Executive Order 13921
8. Agenda Item H.4 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
9. Agenda Item H.5 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
10. CPSMT Agenda
11. CPSAS Agenda
12. Informational Reports
13. General Information

PFMC

03/23/21



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2021
TO: Enforcement Consultants
FROM: Jim Seger Staff Officer
SUBJECT: April 2021 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet April 6-9 and 12-15, 2021, via webinar. All meetings are open to the public and there will be one daily opportunity for public comment.

Instructions for how to connect to Advisory Body webinars will be posted on the Council's [April 2021 Meeting](#) webpage prior to the first day of the meeting. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting. The audio portion may be attended using a telephone by following the connect to audio instructions on your screen, shown after joining the webinar.

The main meeting for the Enforcement Consultants (EC) will be held Wednesday April 7, at 8 a.m. and the EC will have additional sessions as needed on an ad hoc basis Thursday April 8, Friday April 9, and Monday April 12 through Wednesday April 14. Ad hoc sessions scheduled during that period and the times for those sessions will be posted on the EC webinar screen and/or the Council's April meeting website.

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:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda
 2. EC Agenda
 3. CPSAS Agenda
 4. CPSMT Agenda
 5. EAS Agenda
-

6. GAP Agenda
7. GMT Agenda
8. HC Agenda
9. LC Agenda
10. HMSAS Agenda
11. HMSMT Agenda
12. SAS Agenda
13. STT Agenda

Salmon Management

14. D.1 Tentative Adoption of 2021 Management Measures for Analysis
15. D.3 Clarify Council Direction on 2021 Management Measures
16. D.5 Further Direction for 2021 Management Alternatives
17. D.6 2021 Management Measures – Final Action

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

18. E.2 Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) for 2021-22 – Final Action
19. E.4 Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action

Groundfish Management

20. F.2 Humpback Whale Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation
21. F.3 Scoping of Prioritized Non-trawl Sector Area Management Measures
22. F.6 Inseason Adjustments for 2021 – Final Action

Pacific Halibut Management

23. G.1 Incidental Catch Limits for the 2021 Salmon Troll Fishery – Final Action

Administrative Matters

24. H.2 Update on Executive Order 13921
25. H.5 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Other Information

26. Informational Report 1... Annual Report of the United States Coast Guard
27. Informational Report 2... United States Coast Guard: Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Strategic Outlook
28. Informational Report 3... National Marine Fisheries Service: 2020 Whale Entanglement Summary
29. General Information



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2021

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

FROM: Mr. Todd Phillips, Groundfish Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2021 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet via webinar April 6-9 & 12-15, 2021. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) will convene their sessions starting Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. All meetings are open to the public. Advisory bodies will have once-daily opportunity for public comment scheduled on their agendas.

Instructions for how to connect to advisory body webinars will be posted on the Council's [April 2021 Meeting webpage](#) prior to the first day of the meeting. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting. The audio portion may be attended using a telephone by following the connect to audio instructions on your screen, shown after joining the webinar. Please remember to enter your full name (including your Agency acronym, if appropriate) when prompted on the webinar entry screen. This additional information helps Council identify speakers in the webinar.

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 April 2021 agenda; however, the following agenda items, summarized below, may be of particular interest.

F.2 Humpback Whale Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will update the Council on findings of the Humpback Whale ESA consultation and describe the Terms and Conditions of the Incidental Take Statement in the Biological Opinion (BiOp). Several of the Terms and Conditions specify a role for the Council. This agenda item provides the opportunity for the Council to engage in the conservation measures required by the BiOp.

F.3 Scoping of Prioritized Non-trawl Sector Area Management Measures

The Council will initiate scoping for potential modifications to management of the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA). The Council could explore measures like adjusting shoreward/seaward boundaries, gear allowances, etc. but may consider other proposals germane to the Non-Trawl RCA.

F.4 Sablefish Gear Switching – Identify the Gear Switching Level to Use in Developing Alternatives

The Council is scheduled to identify a level of gear switching that will be used to guide further development of the action alternatives. Further development of the action alternatives is tentatively scheduled for the June 2021 Council meeting.

F.5 Cost Recovery Report and Final Regulations

Each year the Council receives a report from NMFS on cost recovery for the trawl catch share program. The report covers costs and fee collections from the previous year along with fee rates for the current year. This agenda provides the Council an opportunity to review the cost recovery levels established by NMFS. This year, under this agenda item, the Council will also make a final recommendation on a regulatory proposal to adjust cost recovery regulation language to state that the value of “Pacific whiting” instead of “all groundfish” will be used in the annual cost recovery fee calculations for the at-sea sectors to reflect the current practice and available data.

F.6 Inseason Adjustments for 2021 – Final Action

This agenda item will consider progress to date of the groundfish fisheries as well as routine inseason adjustments to the 2021 fisheries, as necessary, to achieve conservation objectives. Recommendations related to inseason adjustments may be made under this agenda item.

F.7 Implementation of the 2021 Pacific Whiting Fishery Under the U.S./Canada Agreement

A new [Pacific whiting stock assessment](#) has been conducted and [reviewed](#) by the Scientific Review Group in the U.S./Canada Pacific Whiting Treaty Process. Members of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) will brief the Council on the JMC’s recommendations for the total allowable catch in 2021. The Council will consider if additional action is necessary for implementation of the 2021 Pacific whiting fishery.

H.1 Research and Data Needs Update

Council staff and the Pacific Fishery Information Network (PacFIN) are in the process of designing a research and data needs database. Council staff will discuss the development of this database with the Council and advisory bodies. The Council is expected to provide guidance to the development team on the database structure and how/if they would like to use the database to capture future advisory body recommendations.

H.2 Update on Executive Order 13921

The Council is scheduled to review any progress on initiating the prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and increase production, including the review of aquaculture opportunity areas.

H.3 Legislative Matters

At its March meeting, the Council directed staff to draft two letters: the first letter (Supplemental Attachment 3) will be a draft letter to the Secretary of the Interior responding to Section 216(a) of Executive Order (EO) 14008, which is focused on steps the U.S. should take to conserve at least

30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, including proposing guidelines for determining whether lands and waters qualify for conservation. The EO has a deadline for the Department of Interior to submit its recommendations by April 20, 2021. The second letter will be to NOAA responding to Section 216(c) of the same EO, which focuses on collecting input on how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change. NMFS requested the Council provide its input and recommendations this spring.

Other Items

The GMT will host its pre-April Council meeting [webinar](#) on March 26, 2021 starting at 8:00 a.m. A [pre-assessment workshop](#) for lingcod and sunset/vermillion rockfish will be conducted on March 29, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend these meetings.

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week. Briefing materials for this meeting can be accessed from the [April 2021 Meeting briefing book webpage](#).

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

TMP:kma

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment Items
3. Agenda Item C.1 – Habitat Issues
4. Agenda Item F – Groundfish Management
5. Agenda Item H – Administrative
6. Enforcement Consultants Agenda
7. GAP Agenda
8. GMT Agenda
9. Scientific and Statistical Committee Agenda and Draft Minutes
10. Informational Reports
11. General Information

PFMC
03/23/21



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2021

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: April 2021 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet April 6-9 and 12-15, 2021 by webinar. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet Thursday, April 8. Instructions for how to connect to advisory body webinars will be posted on the Council's [April 2021 Meeting webpage](#) prior to the first day of the meeting. There are no HMS topics on the agenda but three Administrative items may be of interest.

H.1 Research and Data Needs Update

A Research and Data Needs Database is being developed to aid the Council in identifying and prioritizing future research and data needs as required by Section 302(h)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This would replace the prioritized research and data needs document by fishery management plan the Council has heretofore produced every five years. (The document also addresses ecosystem, marine protected areas, social science, and economic needs). See [Informational Report 3](#) from November 2020 for more information.

H.2 Update on Executive Order 13921

In September 2020, the Council was briefed on Executive Order (EO) 13921, Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. Section 4 of this EO requires each Council to submit a prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries. [The HMSAS submitted a report with its recommendations](#). The Council responded in an October 30, 2020, letter to Mr. Chris Oliver, then Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. At this meeting, the Council will review progress in addressing recommendations pursuant to the EO, including development of Aquaculture Opportunity areas.

H.3 Legislative Matters

At its March meeting the Council reviewed EO 14008. Section 216(a) of the EO calls on the Secretary of Interior, in consultation with other executive departments, to recommend steps to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030, working with a range of stakeholders. The Council directed staff to draft a letter to the Secretary of the Interior for the April Briefing Book with examples of how the Pacific Council conserves and protects fishery and other living marine resources.

In addition to the enclosed briefing materials, 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 [e-portal](#). Visit the [April 2021 Meeting webpage](#) to access these materials.

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 H: Administrative Matters
3. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
4. Informational Reports
5. General Information

PFMC
03/23/21



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2021

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, Ad-Hoc Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2021 Council Meeting

In conjunction with the April Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Salmon Technical Team (STT), the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will meet online. The STT will meet starting at 8 a.m. April 6 and continue through April 15; the SAS will meet starting at 8 a.m. April 6 and continue through April 14. The MEW will meet beginning at 1:00 p.m. on April 6. The Ad-Hoc Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho (SONCC) Workgroup is not scheduled to meet; however, the Chair of the Workgroup will attend to present a report on April 12. The April 2021 Council meeting will be held online, and will be in session Thursday and Friday (April 8-9), and Monday through Thursday (April 12-April 15). No meetings are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday (April 10-11).

The Council will start the salmon agenda (Agenda Item D) on Thursday, April 8 and continue through Wednesday, April 14. Incidental catch of Pacific halibut in the troll fishery will be finalized on Monday, April 12 (Agenda Item G).

The main salmon issue before the Council will be adopting final management measure recommendations for 2021 ocean fisheries (Agenda Items D.1, D.3, D.5, and D.6). The Methodology Review for preliminary topic selection will be covered under Agenda Item D.2. Under Agenda Item D.4, the Council will hear an update from the Ad Hoc Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Workgroup on the Endangered Species Act consultation process.

Pacific halibut is on the Council's agenda for Monday, April 12. Under Agenda Item G.1, the SAS will need to recommend landing restrictions for the 2021 troll salmon fisheries to allow for incidental halibut harvest.

The STT chair will join the SAS meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 6 and respond to technical questions regarding the 2021 fishery alternatives as presented in Preseason Report II. The SAS should have its preliminary management measures (Agenda Item D.1) completed as soon as possible, but no later than 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7. This will allow time for compilation and processing. Please work with the Council staff to coordinate your efforts.

Habitat (C.1) and Legislative topics (H.3) will be discussed on Thursday April 8 and Thursday April 15, respectively. On Monday April 12, an update on the Research and Data Needs will be discussed under Agenda Item H.1, and the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area will be discussed under Groundfish Agenda Item F.3. On Thursday, April 15 the Council will discuss Administrative issues including an update on Executive Order 13921 (Agenda Item H.2), Membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures (Agenda Item H.4), and future Council meeting agendas and workload (Agenda Item H.5).

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.

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

RDE:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.1 – Habitat Issues
3. Agenda Items D.1 through D.6 – Salmon Management
4. Agenda Item F.3 – Groundfish Management
5. Agenda Items G.1 – Pacific Halibut Management
6. Agenda Item H.1 through H.5 – Council Administrative Matters
7. Informational Reports
8. Proposed SAS Agenda
9. Proposed STT Agenda
10. Proposed SSC Agenda
11. Proposed MEW Agenda
12. Proposed HC Agenda
13. General Information

PFMC
03/23/21



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 26, 2021
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee
FROM: John DeVore, Staff Officer
SUBJECT: April 2021 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies will meet April 6-9, 12-15, 2021 via webinar. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet on Tuesday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 7, starting at 8 a.m. each day. Your meeting materials are enclosed.

Instructions for how to connect to Advisory Body webinars will be posted on the Council's April 2021 Meeting webpage prior to the first day of the meeting. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting.

Council Administrative Matters

The SSC will review any nominations for vacant management or technical team seats that may come in before the April Council meeting.

The SSC will review progress made in developing the research and data needs database and will offer comments and recommendations to the Council on the database structure and the future process for soliciting research priorities under Agenda Item H.1.

The SSC will review and comment on proposed changes to Council Operating Procedure 26 concerning the methodology review process for coastal pelagic species under Agenda Item H.4.

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

Salmon Management

The SSC will review a list of potential salmon methodology topics to be reviewed later this year. The SSC will receive input from the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) and will provide recommendations for methodologies to be reviewed in 2021.

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

The SSC will review a catch-only projection for Pacific sardine and will recommend if rebuilding progress is adequate for Pacific sardine. The SSC will also recommend an overfishing limit for the 2021-2022 fishery.

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

JDD:ael

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item H.1 – Research and Data Needs Update
3. Agenda Item H.4 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
4. Agenda Item H.5 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Salmon Management

5. Agenda Item D.2 – Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection

Coastal Pelagic Species Management

6. Agenda Item E.4 – Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action

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

7. April 2021 SSC Agenda
8. Draft March 2021 SSC Minutes
9. Closed Session
10. Informational Reports
11. General Information and Council Roster