

2023-2024 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES PLANNING

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to adopt a detailed process and schedule governing the development of harvest specifications and related management measures for 2023-2024 groundfish fisheries (Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1). The process accommodates several important sequential decision-making steps, including scientific peer review of data and analyses used for management decision-making; preparation of an appropriate analytical document as required by applicable law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the opportunity for constituent meetings sponsored by state agencies to solicit public input on preferred management alternatives; and full notice and comment rulemaking to implement new biennial regulations. All of these steps need to be timed so that the new regulations can be implemented on January 1, 2023.

Three Council Operating Procedures (COPs) guide the schedule for developing 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures. [COP 9](#) details the overarching milestones by month and [COP 25](#) details the procedures for the review and Council approval of groundfish impact analyses and methodologies that inform stock assessments. Finally, [COP 19](#) details the process and schedule for exempted fishing permits. The Council should consider the overarching processes outlined in the COPs and anticipated workload when adopting the detailed schedule provided in Attachment 1.

Harvest Specifications Considerations

Amendment 24 established default harvest control rules (HCRs) that are applied to the best available scientific information to determine the 2023-2024 overfishing limits (OFLs), acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs). If the Council intends to implement the harvest specifications based on the default HCRs, no further analyses of HCRs would be required. In the event the Council would like to change the default HCR, the Council should adopt a range of ABCs based on their P* choice in September 2021 and any additional ACL HCRs in November 2021. Final preferred harvest specifications are scheduled to be adopted in April 2022.

Management Measures Considerations

As part of the biennial process, the Council will consider adjusting existing management measures that will allow the fishery to achieve, but not exceed ACLs. These routine adjustments are, in part, based on new fishery information (e.g., stock assessments, fishery performance, etc.). The Council may also consider new routine management measures that have not been previously analyzed for inclusion into the biennial analysis. However, the Council should carefully consider how inclusion and development of new routine management measure(s) into this process could impact implementation deadlines.

Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1 proposes that any new management measures be identified in September 2021, with a range of alternatives adopted in November 2021, selection of preliminary preferred alternatives in April 2022, and final preferred alternatives in June 2022.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt a schedule and process governing the development of 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measures.**
2. **Discuss and provide guidance on any biennial management issues that should be considered when the Council decides final alternatives for analysis in November.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1: Proposed Schedule for Developing the 2023-2024 Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures.
2. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#))

Agenda Order:

- G.6 2023-2024 Harvest Specifications and Management
Measures Planning Todd Phillips/John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Initial Scoping of Issues and Adoption of a Process for Developing Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2023-2024 Fisheries

PFMC
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