

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the items under this agenda item and offers the following comments.

Recognizing the November groundfish workload will be significant, the GAP suggests Council staff work with the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and GAP to schedule virtual meetings ahead of the November Council session to review information and prepare preliminary comments regarding heavy workload issues. The GAP remains flexible and prepared to attend a half-day or one-day meeting prior to its regularly scheduled November meeting, if necessary.

November 2021 Council agenda

Referencing the [draft November Council meeting agenda](#), the GAP recommends:

1. Adding the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) sablefish tier fishery five-year program review to the November agenda. The GAP understands Council staff has already put this on the agenda; the GAP highlights this is an important issue to move forward. Moreover, we understand that additional topics, such as changing the season ending date, may be incorporated into this review.
2. Unshading the stock assessment adoption topic for November. The mop-up panel meets after the September meeting and the Council will need to adopt the stock assessments in November so the 2023-2024 biennial harvest specifications and management measures process can move forward.
3. Consider scheduling a placeholder for a marine planning committee item, since the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is convening an Oregon Intergovernmental Task Force meeting in October and the Grays Harbor Wind project may be open for public comments by November. Additionally, NOAA is expected to make its final determinations regarding Aquaculture Opportunity Areas before November.

Council meetings in 2022

Referencing the [preliminary Year-at-a-Glance calendar](#) under this agenda item, the GAP recommends the following:

1. Retain the LEFG sablefish tier fishery five-year review on the calendar because this is an important topic that should be addressed in a timely manner.
2. Retain action to adopt a range of alternatives for the Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) issue in November then subsequently scheduling it for final action sometime in early 2022.
3. Retain the At-sea Utilization final preferred alternative on the March 2022 agenda. It is important to maintain momentum on this important topic to ensure implementation by May 1, 2023.

4. Move the process forward for getting the Emley-Platt EFP into regulation. The GAP is unclear how the Council will proceed with moving the Emley-Platt Yellowtail Rockfish Jig exempted fishing permit into regulation or whether it is part of the Non-trawl RCA process. Regardless, the GAP would like to see this continue to move forward in 2022.
5. Shade the Workload and New Management Measures item for all months except March 2022. New groundfish items come up regularly and can be incorporated into either ongoing actions or by creating separate actions. This item can be unshaded and placed on the agenda if the need arises during future workload discussions.
6. Add fixed gear logbooks to the agenda in June or September. The GAP expects more information and workshops to be held so this program can be implemented at the start of 2022.
7. Move the Whiting Treaty Implementation agenda item from March to April, which should better align with the U.S.-Canada Hake Agreement decision making process and schedule.
8. Add the Gear-Switching agenda item to early 2022, assuming the Council chooses a range of alternatives at this meeting (at the time the GAP report was submitted, we did not know the outcome of the Council's discussion on gear-switching).

PFMC
09/15/21