

BIENNIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2023-24

Under this agenda item, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to address the management measures for 2023-2024 groundfish fisheries, including adopting stock complex alternatives, preliminary off the top deductions from annual catch limits (ACL), set-asides from the trawl allocation, and two-year allocations to facilitate the analysis. Management measures are used to meet the goals of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), including attaining but not exceeding the ACL and correcting or mitigating overages of the ACL if they occur. Management measures applicable to this action are those that have been previously analyzed, are defined in regulation, or are necessary for ACL management or mitigating potential impacts on protected species and/or critical habitats.

As part of this action, the Council has the opportunity to recommend stock complex alternatives, based on the harvest specifications values adopted under Agenda Item E.3, for analysis, as necessary. The Council should consider adopting and/or modifying the ACL deductions under this agenda item. These amounts are generally referred to as “off-the-top” deductions and are made to account for groundfish mortality resulting from Pacific Coast treaty Tribal harvest, scientific research, non-groundfish fisheries, exempted fishing permits, and unforeseen catch events.

The Council should also identify specific set-aside amounts from the trawl allocations as part of this action. These amounts are deducted from the trawl allocation to accommodate bycatch in the at-sea whiting fishery. The ACL less the deductions is called the fishery harvest guideline (HG) or commercial HG (sablefish north of 36° N. latitude and Pacific whiting), which is the amount available for the sector-specific allocations. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) is expected to report on these yield set-asides as well as summarize the impacts from Council-recommended exempted fishing permit impacts.

This agenda item also provides the opportunity for the Council to review sector allocations. Sector allocations include formal long-term allocations specified in the FMP and short-term allocations implemented for the biennial management period. Under this agenda item, the Council should adopt preliminary biennial allocations, including a range of alternatives as necessary, for detailed analysis.

Further, the Council should consider adoption of a final range of management measures necessary to implement the harvest specifications for more detailed analyses and provide guidance, as necessary, on routine adjustments to management measures. At the September 2021 meeting, the Council adopted a preliminary range of new management measures described in [Agenda Item C.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, September 2021](#). Summarized descriptions of these potential management measures are described in the Action Item Checklist (Agenda Item E.5, Attachment 1).

The Council should carefully consider the list of potential new management measures proposed by management entities, advisory bodies, and the public when deciding which issues are the

highest priorities for more detailed analyses. Several new management measures, including repeal of the Cowcod Conservation Areas and shortbelly rockfish management, are under consideration for inclusion into this biennial cycle. National Marine Fisheries Service (Agenda Item E.5.a, NMFS Report 1, November 2021) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Agenda Item E5a, ODFW Report 1, November 2021) have offered reports for the Council to consider as it develops this action.

The Council is scheduled to develop a preliminary preferred suite of management measures at the April 2022 Council meeting. The analysis of management measures the Council adopts under this item will be provided at that meeting. After a public review period, the Council will take final action on biennial management measures at the June 2022 Council meeting with implementation scheduled for January 1, 2023.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt stock complex alternatives for analysis, as appropriate.**
2. **Adopt deductions from the ACLs and the trawl allocations for analysis, as appropriate.**
3. **Adopt preliminary two-year allocations for analysis, as necessary.**
4. **Adopt a range of new management measures for more detailed analysis.**
5. **Provide guidance on routine adjustments to management measures.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.5, Attachment 1: Action Item Checklist.
2. Agenda Item E.5.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on Biennial Management Measures For 2023-24 And Beyond.
3. Agenda Item E.5.a, ODFW Report 1: Oregon Department of Fish And Wildlife Report on 2023-2024 Groundfish Management Measures: Targeted Shortbelly Rockfish Fishing Prohibition.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.5 Biennial Management Measures for 2023-2024 Todd Phillips/John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Two-Year Allocations and a Range of Alternative Management Measures for Detailed Analysis

PFMC
10/28/21