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Agenda Item B.1.a
Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1
November 2021

West Coast Update FY2022 Priorities

Barry A. Thom
Regional Administrator

Dr. Kevin Werner
NW Science Director

Kristen Koch
SW Science Director

Pacific Fishery Management Council, November 16, 2021

Overview

- Aligning West Coast Priorities
- West Coast Region
- Northwest Fisheries Science Center
- Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- Closing Remarks



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West Coast FY22 Aligned Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

- Data collection including surveys, bycatch monitoring
- Stock assessments
- Harvest specifications and management measures

Protected Species Recovery

- Recovery of Protected Species
- Reducing whale entanglement
- Stormwater science and implementation

Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM)

- NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiatives
- Understanding impacts of offshore activities & supporting responsible development

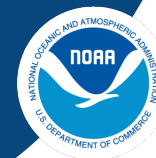
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

- Working towards defining equity and environmental justice goals for NOAA Fisheries



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West Coast Region



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West Coast Region FY21 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

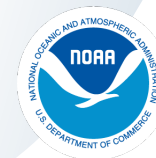
- All ocean fisheries specifications & management measures
- Ocean salmon harvest regulations & Amendment 20
- Completed DEIS to advance authorization of DSBG to harvest swordfish
- Supported tropical and temperate tuna management & rebuilding

Recovery of Protected Species

- Assisted states with whale entanglement conservation plans & hosted Whale Entanglement Dashboard webinar
- SRKW recovery (BiOp, Amendment 21)

Supporting responsible development of offshore activities

- Initiated process to develop Aquaculture Opportunity Area in Southern California



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West Coast Region FY22 Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

- Annual and biennial harvest specifications and management measures
 - Groundfish, whiting, sardine, salmon, and halibut
- At-sea whiting utilization
- Advance deep-set buoy gear fishery authorization
- Lead development of U.S. proposals and work with IATTC to adopt conservation and management measures for highly migratory species
- Implement and strengthen estuarine and marine habitat priority actions
- Co-host recreational fishing workshops



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West Coast Region FY22 Priorities

Protected Species Recovery

- Continue assisting states on conservation plans for whale entanglements
- 5-year status reviews and updated recovery planning
- Advancing reintroductions

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiatives

- Ensure the Western Regional Action Plan reflects the regional science needs to implement the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy

Supporting responsible development of offshore activities

- Identify Offshore AOA & provide regulatory support for PEIS
- Select Wind Energy Coordinator & stand up West Coast offshore wind energy team

Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness

- Support PFMC Regional Operating Agreement



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West Coast Region Council-Related Priority Actions

Council-Related Priority Actions

- Annual and biennial harvest specifications and management measure
- At-sea whiting utilization & whiting treaty implementation
- Limited Entry Fixed Gear Program Review
- DSBG authorization - initiate consultation & proposed rule
- IATTC tropical & temperate tuna measures & rulemaking
- Halibut Catch Sharing Plan
- SONCC Coho
- Ongoing Litigation

Working Together

- WCR Staffing
- Workload Priorities



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY21 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

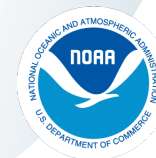
- Returning the full slate of West Coast fisheries surveys to sea supporting stock assessments
- Understanding Dungeness crab fishing industry's response to climate shock
- Uninterrupted observer deployment and bycatch data collection
- First length-based data moderate assessments
- Nation's first annual economic survey of catch shares quota owners

Protected Species Recovery

- Modeling how a warming ocean will challenge Snake River salmon survival

Understanding Impacts of Offshore Activities

- Aquaculture and other uses of the marine environment
- Initial NMFS West Coast wind energy team



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring):

- Continue fisheries and ecosystem surveys to support management
- Develop advances in stock monitoring methods to support sustainable, climate-ready fisheries and ecosystem-based fishery management
- Training Fishery Observers
- Observer Deployments/Sea Days
- Annual groundfish mortality estimation
- Protected species bycatch estimation

Stock assessments and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs):

- Conduct groundfish stock assessments
- Develop, evaluate, and apply Management Strategy Evaluations methods
- Data collection and economic analysis of catch shares fisheries management, recreational and non-catch-share commercial fisheries



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Priorities

Recovery of Protected Species

- Develop NWFSC Salmon Recovery Science Strategy
- Research on identifying emerging contaminants in west coast salmon habitats

Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM)

Regional NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiatives

- Implementation of the Climate and Fisheries Initiative plan on the West Coast
- Improve understanding of climate impacts across NMFS mission

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Reduce risks of marine aquaculture operations to wild populations
- Data integration and modeling to support offshore renewable energy siting decisions and the evaluation of economic trade offs

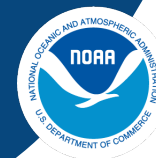
Facilities

- Work on moving the Montlake campus to a new, leased facility and selected science portfolios to Manchester and Sand Point facilities



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY21 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

- California Current Ecosystem and CalCOFI surveys
- Stock assessments - CPS, HMS, groundfish, salmon
- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)- North Pacific albacore

Protected Species Recovery

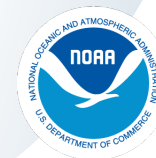
- Whale Entanglement Indicators Dashboard tool to mitigate entanglements
- Partnered with industry to evaluate Chinook salmon thiamine levels

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Provided subject matter expertise on offshore wind energy development
- Research of finfish species (e.g. *Seriola* spp.) to assess aquaculture risks.

PFMC Council Committees

- 12 positions filled, including 2 Management/Technical Team Chairs



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring):

- California Current Ecosystem Surveys (Spring/Summer)
- CalCOFI surveys (Spring/Summer)
- Rockfish recruitment and Ecosystem Assessment survey
- Bycatch monitoring and identification in the CA Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME)
- Life history research

Stock assessments and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs):

- Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)
- Highly Migratory Species (HMS)
- Groundfish
- Pacific salmon



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Priorities

Protected Species Recovery

- Recovery Plan research actions for ESA-listed species
- Whale entanglement: CCLME risk assessments and stranding response

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

Ecosystem Status Reports

- California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) and Status Reports

NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiatives

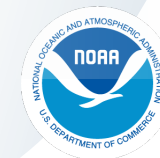
- Implementation of the Climate and Fisheries Initiative plan on the West Coast

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Offshore wind energy development- effects on resources and protected species.
- Continue research of finfish species (e.g. *Seriola* spp.) to assess aquaculture risks.

PFMC Council Committees

- Continue Council commitments



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Summary and Moving Forward

- Review of West Coast Priorities
- Workload and staffing
- Plans for continued collaboration and priority coordination with PFMC
- Closing Remarks



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