

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft Year At A Glance ([YAG]; [Agenda Item C.10, Attachment 1, November 2021](#)) and the draft March ([Agenda Item C.10, Attachment 2, November 2021](#)) and April agendas ([Agenda Item C.10, Attachment 3, November 2021](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book, as well as the status of ongoing projects, and offer the following for consideration by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

March Council Meeting

The GMT notes that an update on the 2023-2024 biennial harvest specifications and management measures is in the “candidate agenda items” shaded box and not currently scheduled. **The GMT recommends that this item be added to the March agenda.** The March updates have proven useful in recent cycles by providing Council members an update on progress as well as an opportunity to provide any additional or clarifying guidance to the analysts.

Given the potential for stand-alone agenda items to be created through Council action during agenda items E.3 and E.5 at this meeting (e.g., shortbelly rockfish prohibition, cowcod conservation area, groundfish retention in the salmon troll fishery, primary tier sablefish season extension, stock complexes, etc.), the GMT believes that the prioritization exercise under Workload and New Management Measure Priorities should remain on the agenda for March 2022. This discussion will ensure that the GMT’s limited capacity, especially during the harvest specifications process, is used efficiently and reflects Council priorities. Once the Council prioritizes these items, the GMT will consider where they may best fit on the GMT YAG (Appendix 1).

April Council Meeting

The final preferred action (FPA) for 2023-24 harvest specifications is scheduled for mid-day on Sunday April 10th. The management measures agenda item is scheduled for mid-morning on Monday April 11th. The GMT report(s) for management measures would be due about the time the harvest specifications item is concluding on the Council floor. The GMT needs the results of the harvest specifications item to conclude our discussions, analysis, and report writing on the management measures agenda item, requiring a minimum of 24 hours between the conclusion of the harvest specifications agenda item and when our report(s) for management measures would be due. Therefore, we **recommend that either the harvest specifications agenda item be moved to earlier in the Council meeting or the management measures agenda item be moved to later in the meeting to provide the work time needed by the GMT.**

GMT Year at a Glance

The GMT reviewed the Council YAG and made recommendations on the March and April 2022 meetings (above and in Appendix 1: GMT YAG). The team held off on review of June through November in light of the potential new prioritization of the items above that may happen in March

2022. At the time of statement writing, a range of alternatives (ROA) for Non-trawl Sector Area Management Measures, including Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs), has not been selected. **The GMT recommends revising this agenda item scheduled for April 2022 (i.e., Non-trawl RCA) to reflect that April 2022 involves either a non-trawl management check-in/update on the analysis or preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) selection, depending on the state of the analysis and urgency to respond to fishery needs. The GMT recommends the Council move the Trawl Catch Share Review-Scoping and the Groundfish Strategic Review items until later in the year and anticipates scheduling those in coordination with the additional items prioritized in March.**

Transition Back to In-Person Meetings

As the Council and advisory bodies transition back to in-person meetings, the GMT reminds everyone to keep in mind days needed for travel. Over the last two years, travel days have not been needed nor of concern when scheduling virtual meetings. However, for most people involved in the Council process, traveling to and from meetings often requires a full day. Careful scheduling will be especially pertinent for pre-Council briefings or webinars that have wide interest across fishery management plans (e.g., marine planning, ecosystem), given the varying travel days for advisory body and Council members. The GMT realizes the increased efficiencies when we are all in person; however, the team would like to reiterate the desire to only be in person when the whole team is able to do so.

Winter Work Session

The GMT anticipates the potential need for a winter work session to facilitate our work on the biennial harvest specifications and management measures, depending on what the Council adopts under Agenda Item E.5. at this meeting. The work session has not been scheduled but typically occurs in mid-January to early February to avoid conflicting with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual meeting (January 24-28, 2022). At this time, the GMT is unsure if that meeting will take place virtually or in person and, if in person, the location.

Scientific and Statistical Committee Proposed Workshops

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) has proposed several meetings or workshops that are groundfish related ([Agenda Item C.10.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, November 2021](#)). The GMT anticipates participating in these workshops when scheduled.

Winter Meetings Outside of Council Meetings

Between the November and March Council meetings, members of the GMT will be involved in several meetings outside of Council meetings. Those include:

- RecFIN Technical Committee Meeting: Nov. 30 (virtual)
- IPHC Interim Meeting: Nov. 30-Dec. 1 (virtual)
- Stock Assessment “Post Mortem”: 3rd week in Jan. 2022, exact dates to be determined (TBD) (virtual)
- IPHC Annual Meeting: Jan. 24-28, 2022 (virtual or in person, TBD)
- GMT Winter Work Session: Jan. / Feb. 2022, exact dates TBD (virtual or in person, TBD)

Appendix 1. GMT YAG (March and April 2022 only)

March 2022	April 2022
Workload & New Mgt. Measures Prioritization	NMFS Report
NMFS Report	Inseason Management
Inseason Management	Fisheries in 2023-2024 - Spex FPA; Mgmt measures PPA
Initial 2023 Stock Assessment Plan & TOR	Strategic Plan Rev. Scoping
<i>Fisheries in 2023-2024- Check in</i>	<i>Non-Trawl RCA Check in or PPA</i>
At-sea Whiting Utilization FPA	Cost Recovery
Trawl Catch Share Review-scoping	<i>Whiting Treaty Implementation</i>
<i>Sablefish Gear Switching Update</i>	
<i>Fixed Gear Logbooks Update</i>	
LEFG Prog. Review - Scoping (Adoption of Public Review/ take up new MM)	
<i>Yet to be placed on Council YAG</i>	
Bolded/Strikethrough items = shaded on Council YAG and GMT recommends moving it to future meeting	
<i>Bolded/Italicized items = shaded on Council YAG but GMT recommends unshading</i>	

PFMC
11/21/21