



Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2022

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel

FROM: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2022 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in a hybrid online format March 9 – 14, 2022, with Council members, some staff, and salmon Advisory Bodies (ABs) meeting in person. Other ABs will meet online. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) are not scheduled to convene during the March Council meeting, and are instead meeting online in a [joint session](#) March 1, 2022, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Although there are no CPS-related agenda items in March, several topics are of interest to the CPSMT and CPSAS. Major topics for discussion at this meeting are below. For more detailed information, please refer to the situation summaries in the Briefing Book materials.

Instructions for how to connect to the Council and AB meetings will be posted on the Council's March 2022 [Meeting webpage](#) prior to the first day of the meeting. Upon entering the meeting, please modify your entry on the participant list to reflect your full identification (full name and affiliation). This additional information helps participants identify speakers in the webinar.

Report of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (C.1)

Once per year, representatives of the National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) present current and upcoming items that may be of interest to the Council. The purpose is to maintain a meaningful avenue of communication between NMS and the Council, especially with respect to any activities or regulations that may impact fishing activities.

Marine Planning (C.2)

The Council's Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met February 1, 2022 to discuss the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) planning activities in U.S. West Coast waters, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, and the development of proposed policy guidance documents related to offshore development

activities. The CPSMT and CPSAS should consider these issues in the context of potential effects to CPS fisheries and coastal communities.

Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review Update (H.1)

In September 2018, the Council initiated a review of the Council's Pacific Coast Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). In March 2020, the Council adopted revised Chapters 1 and 2, which include a vision statement, goals and objectives, and other reorganized elements in these chapters from the current FEP. In September 2020, the Council reviewed a revised draft of Chapter 3 and proposed revisions to Chapter 4 and 5. At this meeting the Council will review the Final Draft Revised FEP and provide guidance on its finalization.

California Current Ecosystem and IEA Annual Report (H.2)

The Council's FEP calls for an annual report to the Council on status and trends in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA), composed of staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers and West Coast Region, produced the 2021 Annual State of the California Current Ecosystem Report (Agenda Item H.2.a, CCIEA Team Report 1). Drs. Chris Harvey and Toby Garfield will present an overview of the report.

Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives (H.3)

Each year at the Council's March meeting, the Council and its ABs will review progress on any active ecosystem initiatives and determine which of the initiatives listed in Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix, if any, merit Council attention in the coming year. At this meeting the Council will review the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup's recommended revisions and provide guidance on any further updates to the Appendix. The Council also may wish to identify a new ecosystem initiative to begin work on.

Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference (E.8)

Based on a recommendation by the CPSMT, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is taking the lead on separating the current Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (ToR) into two separate documents, one for groundfish and one for CPS. The CPSMT should provide comments and a proposed schedule for developing and finalizing a CPS-only stock assessment ToR.

Informational Session for All Advisory Bodies

The Council is hosting an informational session for Advisory Body members on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 9 a.m. The purpose of the online meeting will be to orient new members and update returning members on various Council and AB practices and procedures. This will also be an opportunity to get to know our new Executive Director, Merrick Burden. We will be covering a lot of ground with plans to wrap up by noon. Please plan to attend.

KFG:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item C.1 – Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Update
4. Agenda Item C.2 – Marine Planning

5. Agenda Item E.8 – Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference
6. Agenda Item H.1 – Fishery Ecosystem Plan 5-Year Review
7. Agenda Item H.2 – California Current Ecosystem and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Annual Report
8. Agenda Item H.3 – Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives
9. Agenda Item C.7 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
10. Informational Reports
11. General Information and Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2022
TO: Enforcement Consultants
FROM: Jim Seger Staff Officer
SUBJECT: February 24 Advisory Body Webinar and March 2022 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is hosting an informational session for Advisory Body members on Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. The purpose of the online meeting will be to orient new members and update returning members on various Council and Advisory Body practices and procedures. This will also be an opportunity to get to know our new Executive Director, Merrick Burden. We will be covering a lot of ground, so please plan to attend. Meeting details are to be posted on the Council website.

The Council together with its Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet March 8-14 at the Doubletree by Hilton in San Jose, California. Other Council advisory bodies will be meeting March 8-14 via webinar. All meetings are open to the public and there will be an opportunity each day for public comment.

The main meeting for the Enforcement Consultants (EC) will be held Tuesday, March 8, at 9 a.m. and the EC will have additional sessions as needed on an ad hoc basis Wednesday, March 9 through Sunday, March 13. Ad hoc sessions scheduled during that period, and the times for those sessions, will be posted on the EC webinar screen and/or the Council's March meeting website.

Instructions for how to connect to Advisory Body webinars will be posted on the Council's [March 2022 Meeting](#) webpage prior to the first day of the meeting. ***Upon entering the meeting, please modify your entry on the participant list to reflect your full identification (full name and agency acronym).*** This additional information helps participants identify speakers in the webinar. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting. The audio portion may be attended using a telephone by following the connect to audio instructions on your screen, shown after joining the webinar.

Enclosed are materials for items on the EC Agenda and additional items that might be of interest to you.

JLS:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4, Proposed Council Meeting Agenda
2. EC Agenda
3. BC Agenda
4. EAS Agenda
5. GAP Agenda
6. GMT Agenda
7. HC Agenda
8. HMSAS Agenda
9. HMSMT Agenda
10. LC Agenda
11. SAS Agenda
12. SSC Agenda
13. STT Agenda

Administrative Matters

14. C.2 Marine Planning
15. C.7 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Salmon Management

16. D.3 Identify Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2022 Management Alternatives
17. D.4 Recommendations for 2022 Management Alternative Analysis
18. D.5 Further Direction for 2022 Management Alternatives
19. D.6 Further Direction for 2022 Management Alternatives
20. D.7 Adopt 2022 Management Alternatives for Public Review

Groundfish Management

21. E.2 Pacific Whiting Utilization - Final Action
22. E.4 Limited Entry Fixed Gear Catch Share Program Review
23. E.5 Fixed Gear Logbooks – Final Action
24. E.6 Workload and New Management Measure Priorities
25. E.7 Inseason Adjustments
26. E.9 Update on 2023-2024 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

Pacific Halibut Management

27. F.1 Annual International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Meeting Report
28. F.2 Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Action on Recommendations for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

Ecosystem Management

29. H.1 Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Five-Year Review – Final Action

Other Information

30. Informational Report 1 William “Bill” James

31. Informational Report 2 Draft Trawl Catch Share, Gear Switching Alternatives Available For Review
32. Informational Report 3 NOAA Fisheries Comment Letter on Humboldt Wind Energy Area Draft Environmental Assessment, February 9, 2022
33. Informational Report 4 NOAA Fisheries Comment Letter on Scoping on Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Environmental Assessment, January 10, 2022
34. Informational Report 5 Announcing 2022 Marine Resource Education Program (MREP)
35. General Information

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2022

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2022 Council meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 8-14 in San Jose, California. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) will meet by webinar Tuesday through Thursday, March 8-10. The Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) will meet by webinar Tuesday and Wednesday, March 8-9. Ecosystem topics are on the Council agenda on Friday, March 11 and Sunday, March 13. Instructions for how to connect to advisory body webinars will be posted on the Council's [March 2022 Meeting webpage](#) prior to the first day of the meeting. Upon entering the meeting, please modify your entry on the participant list to reflect your full identification (full name and affiliation). This additional information helps participants identify speakers in the webinar.

In advance of March meeting the Council is hosting an informational session for Advisory Body members on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 9 a.m. The purpose of the online meeting is to orient new members and update returning members on various Council and Advisory Body practices and procedures. This also will be an opportunity to get to know our new Executive Director, Merrick Burden. We will be covering a lot of ground with plans to wrap up by noon. Please plan to attend.

Summaries of three Ecosystem topics and other items of interest on the Council agenda are listed below.

H.1 Fishery Ecosystem Plan 5-Year Review – Final Action

A complete draft of the revised Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) was provided for review in September 2021. Based on comments from the Council, advisory bodies, and the public, the EWG produced a final draft, which was [posted on the Council website](#) in November (and is also Attachment 1 in the briefing materials). At this meeting the Council is expected to approve the draft, taking into account comments from advisory bodies and the public. The EAS may wish to consider whether their previous comments on the document have been adequately addressed.

H.2 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Science Review Topics

The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Team has produced the 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and appendices. The Report presents information about the current status of the CCE in a succinct, straightforward format so that the Council may take into account ecosystem variability in its decisions. CCIEA Team leads Drs. Chris Harvey and Toby Garfield will provide an overview of the Report in a March 2 webinar. EAS and EWG members are encouraged to attend. The CCIEA Team also submits a candidate ecosystem research topics for Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) review in conjunction with the September Council meeting. The SSC may identify selected topics for review and report to the Council on its decision.

H.3 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

The Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) includes the [Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix](#), which provides examples of how the Council could address ecosystem-related issues. Each year at the Council's March meeting, the Council and its advisory bodies review progress on any active ecosystem initiatives and determine which of the initiatives listed in Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix, if any, merit Council attention in the coming year. Since the Council completed the Climate and Communities Initiative (CCI) in 2021, it may consider taking up a new initiative at this meeting. The Council also may also assess whether there are new initiatives that could be added to the Appendix. Under this agenda item the EWG submitted a report containing a revised draft of the Appendix presenting new candidate initiatives, revisions to some potential initiatives currently in the Appendix, and the elimination of others. The EWG also intends to submit a supplemental report addressing additional assignments given by the Council in September 2021, related to follow-on activities from the CCI. These are activities that may not be suitably packaged as FEP initiatives. The Council also asked the EWG prioritize these follow-on activities and assess the likely workload associated with each. The EAS may wish to comment on the proposed revisions to the Appendix and other proposed CCI follow-on activities and recommend which activities and/or initiatives the Council should take up in the coming year.

C.2 Marine Planning

The Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met on February 1 and will meet on March 4 to discuss marine planning topics of concern to the Council and will report on its deliberations. In addition, the MPC, in collaboration with the Habitat Committee, is submitting two policy documents on impacts of offshore development on fisheries and marine habitats. The Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) has also submitted a guidance document covering impacts of nonfishing activities in California Current Ecosystem under this agenda item. This guidance document was adapted from Chapter 5 in the FEP (which is removed from the current revised draft of the document).

In addition to the previous topics, you may wish to provide comments on scheduling HMS topics at future Council meetings under Agenda Item C.7, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.

In addition to the enclosed briefing materials, you may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's [e-portal](#). Visit the [March 2022 Meeting webpage](#) to access these materials.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:ael

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Items C: Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Items H: Ecosystem
4. EAS and EWG Meeting Agendas
5. Informational Reports
6. General Information and Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2022

TO: Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Interested Persons

FROM: Mr. Todd Phillips, Groundfish Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2022 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 8-14 in San Jose, California. The Council is scheduled to consider several important groundfish agenda items and related matters of interest. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) will convene online meetings starting Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 8:00 A.M. and adjourn on Saturday, March 12, 2022. All meetings are open to the public and at least one opportunity for public comment has been scheduled for each meeting day.

Instructions for how to connect to advisory body webinars will be posted on the Council's [March 2022 Meeting webpage](#) prior to the first day of the meeting. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting. The audio portion may be attended using a telephone by following the connect to audio instructions on your screen, shown after joining the webinar. Please enter your full name (including your Agency acronym or represented seat, if appropriate) when prompted on the webinar entry screen. This additional information helps Council identify speakers in the webinar.

The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for items on the Council's March 2022 agenda; however, the following agenda items, summarized below, may be of particular interest.

C.2 Marine Planning

The Council is scheduled to receive updates from Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on recent developments regarding offshore wind energy sites and from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the identification of Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in California. A new [Marine Planning](#) resource webpage is available on the Council website and provides information and updates regarding the process.

F.2 Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Action on Recommendations for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

The Council is scheduled to adopt final incidental harvest amounts of Pacific halibut recommendations in the salmon troll fishery and primary fixed gear fishery for sablefish north of Point Chehalis should remain consistent with those implemented in 2021 or be modified. This action is required to allow incidental harvest while assuring quotas are not exceeded.

E.2 Pacific Whiting Utilization – Final Action

The Council is scheduled to adopt the Final Preferred Alternatives at this meeting. In September 2021, the Council adopted the following as Preliminary Preferred Alternatives: 1. Primary whiting season start date north of 40°30' N. lat: Change from May 15th to May 1; 2. Mothership Catcher Vessel (MSCV) Processor Obligation: Remove the MSCV processor obligation from regulation; 3. Mothership (MS) Processor Cap: Remove 45 percent processing cap and have no limit; and 4. MS/CP Permit Transfer: Allow a vessel to operate as an MS and CP in the same year without any permit transfer limit. The GMT and GAP are encouraged to provide their recommendations on Final Preferred Alternatives to the Council.

E.3 Stock Definitions

Based on the results of the stock assessment, the Council also recommended quillback rockfish off California be removed from the northern and southern Nearshore Rockfish complexes and the stock be declared overfished. However, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has not made an overfished declaration since quillback off California had not been previously identified as a stock or management unit in need of conservation and management (Agenda Item E.3.a, NMFS Report 1). The Council should consider whether quillback rockfish off California is a stock in need of conservation and management. The Council may consider initiating a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment to define the stock boundaries of quillback rockfish and other stocks in the FMP that may benefit from increased specificity. The GMT and GAP are scheduled to review the matter and provide recommendations on ways forward.

E.4 Limited Entry Fixed Gear Catch Share Program Review

The Council will determine whether the Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) Permit Stacking Permit review (Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1) is ready to be adopted for public review and decide on the process for its finalization. The Council last discussed the [permit stacking program review](#) at its June 2021 meeting. Additionally, the Council may consider adding draft research and/or data needs to the review. The Council may also discuss if new management measures relating to this review should be developed.

E.5 Fixed Gear Logbooks – Final Action

NMFS provided a report in the advanced briefing book (Agenda Item E.5.a, NMFS Report 1, March 2022) that details items the Council may consider at this meeting. The Council is expected to make final recommendations to clarify the requirements for a logbook and provide additional guidance to NMFS regarding implementation. The GMT and GAP should consider this report and make recommendations to the Council, as appropriate.

E.6 Workload and New Management Measure Priorities

This agenda item provides an annual opportunity for the Council to consider future groundfish workload and revise its priorities. Interested stakeholders should attend the relevant advisory body discussions, as well as the Council session, to present new management measure proposals for consideration. The GMT and the GAP may revise and/or update the existing list of proposed

management measures for groundfish fisheries. The Council may adopt the updated list for future development and prioritize management measures for development in light of existing commitments.

E.7 Inseason Adjustments – Final Action

This agenda item will consider progress to date of the groundfish fisheries as well as routine inseason adjustments to the 2022 fisheries, as necessary, to achieve conservation objectives. It is expected the GMT will provide information related to 2021 fishery performance, including incidental salmon take in groundfish fisheries as well as mortality impacts of rebuilding groundfish species. Recommendations related to inseason adjustments may be made under this agenda item.

E.8 Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference

The Council will adopt a preliminary list of stocks to be assessed in 2023 and 2025 which will serve to inform harvest specifications and management decisions for groundfish fisheries in 2025 and beyond. Additionally, the Council will consider Terms of Reference for the stock assessment process. The GMT, GAP, and stakeholders should consider providing input to the Council on the preliminary list of stocks, the type of assessments, and terms of reference.

E.9 Update on 2022-2023 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

The Council is scheduled to receive a briefing from Council staff and the GMT on the 2023-2024 harvest specifications and management measure analyses. This agenda item provides the Council an opportunity to make recommendations to the GMT regarding their overwinter analytical work and related items. The GMT may provide additional information regarding harvest specifications and management measures uncovered during their overwinter work for the Council to consider regarding the 2023-2024 biennium.

H.1 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Five-Year Review – Final Action

At this meeting the Council is expected to approve Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) The Ecosystem Working Group (EWG) produced a final draft for Council review at the [November 2021](#) meeting, which integrated comments from the Council, advisory bodies, and the public. The EWG will host an “open house” on Wednesday, March 9 between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. to discuss all ecosystem agenda items with advisory body members and stakeholders. Join via the EWG’s webinar number.

H.2 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Science Review Topics

The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Team has produced the 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and appendices (Agenda Item H.2.a, CCIEA Team Report 1, March 2022). This annual report highlights trends in physical, biological, and socioeconomic components of the ecosystem – taking into account the effects of fisheries and other human activities.

H.3 Review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

The Council will consider new initiatives at this meeting. The Council will also review progress on any active ecosystem initiatives and determine if any of the initiatives listed in [Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix](#) merit Council attention in the coming year. Under this agenda item the EWG submitted a report containing a revised draft of the Appendix presenting new candidate initiatives, revisions. Advisory Bodies are scheduled to review the Appendix and provide recommendations regarding any future initiatives.

Other Items

The following are additional pre-Council meeting briefings that may be of interest:

- The GMT will host its pre-March Council meeting [webinar](#) on February 23, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Ad hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee will hold a [webinar](#) from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on February 23 and a [work session](#) on Friday March 4 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Council will host an [informational session](#) for Advisory Body members on February 24, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The purpose of the online meeting will be to orient new members and update returning members on various Council and Advisory Body practices and procedures. This will also be an opportunity to get to know the new Executive Director, Merrick Burden.
- CCIEA Team leads Drs. Chris Harvey and Toby Garfield will host a webinar briefing on the CCI Report on [March 2, 2022](#),

This mailing includes the enclosures listed below. Please review these briefing materials in advance to facilitate an efficient meeting week. Briefing materials for this meeting can be accessed from the [March 2022 Meeting briefing book webpage](#).

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process and management of Pacific groundfish fisheries.

TMP:rdd

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment Items
3. Agenda Item C.2 – Marine Planning Update
4. Agenda Item E – Groundfish Management
5. Agenda Item F – Pacific Halibut
6. Agenda Item H – Ecosystem
7. Enforcement Consultants Agenda
8. GAP Agenda
9. GMT Agenda
10. Scientific and Statistical Committee Agenda and Draft Minutes
11. Informational Reports
12. Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2022

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: March 2022 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 8-14 in San Jose, California. The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) will meet **online** Thursday through Saturday, March 10-12. HMS topics are on the Council agenda on Sunday, March 13. Instructions for how to connect to advisory body webinars will be posted on the Council's [March 2022 Meeting webpage](#) prior to the first day of the meeting. Upon entering the meeting, please modify your entry on the participant list to reflect your full identification (full name and affiliation). This additional information helps participants identify speakers in the webinar.

In advance of March meeting, the Council is hosting an informational session for Advisory Body members on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 9 a.m. The purpose of the online meeting is to orient new members and update returning members on various Council and Advisory Body practices and procedures. This also will be an opportunity to get to know our new Executive Director, Merrick Burden. We will be covering a lot of ground with plans to wrap up by noon. Please plan to attend.

Summaries of two HMS topics and other items of interest on the Council agenda are listed below.

I.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will brief the Council on recent regulatory activities.

I.2 International Management Activities

Information will be presented on outcomes of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) 18th Regular Session held November 29-December 7, 2021. NMFS will report on any upcoming regional fishery management organization meetings of interest to the Council between March and the June Council meeting. NMFS also will report on plans to hold stakeholder meetings on harvest strategies for North Pacific albacore and Pacific bluefin tuna in

April. The HMSMT will report on the development of a tool to help stakeholders make recommendations on harvest strategy elements for North Pacific albacore based on management strategy evaluation results.

C.2 Marine Planning

The Council will consider marine planning issues under Agenda Item C.2. The Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met on February 1 and will meet on March 4 to discuss marine planning topics of concern to the Council and will report on its deliberations. In addition, the MPC, in collaboration with the Habitat Committee, is submitting two policy documents on impacts of offshore development on fisheries and marine habitats. The Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) has also submitted a guidance document covering impacts of nonfishing activities in California Current Ecosystem under this agenda item. This guidance document was adapted from Chapter 5 in the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (which is removed from the current revised draft of the document, see below).

H.1 Fishery Ecosystem Plan 5-Year Review – Final Action

A complete draft of the revised Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) was provided for review in September 2021. Based on comments from the Council, advisory bodies, and the public, the EWG produced a final draft, which was [posted on the Council website](#) in November (and is also Attachment 1 in the briefing materials). At this meeting the Council is expected to approve the draft, taking into account comments from advisory bodies and the public. The HMSAS and HMSMT may wish to consider whether their previous comments on the document have been adequately addressed.

H.2 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Science Review Topics

The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Team has produced the 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and appendices. The Report presents information about the current status of the CCE in a succinct, straightforward format so that the Council may take into account ecosystem variability in its decisions. CCIEA Team leads Drs. Chris Harvey and Toby Garfield will provide an overview of the Report in a March 2 webinar. HMSAS and HMSMT members are encouraged to attend.

H.3 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

The FEP includes the [Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix](#), which provides examples of how the Council could address ecosystem-related issues. Each year at the Council's March meeting, the Council and its advisory bodies will review progress on any active ecosystem initiatives and determine which of the initiatives listed in Ecosystem Initiatives Appendix, if any, merit Council attention in the coming year. Since the Council completed the Climate and Communities Initiative in 2021, it may consider taking up a new initiative at this meeting. The Council also may assess whether there are new initiatives that could be added to the Appendix. Under this agenda item the EWG submitted a report containing a revised draft of the Appendix presenting new candidate initiatives, revisions to some candidate initiatives currently in the Appendix, and the elimination

of others. The HMSAS and HMSMT may wish to comment on the proposed revisions to the Appendix and recommend which initiative the Council should take up in the coming year.

In addition to the previous topics, you may wish to provide comments on scheduling HMS topics at future Council meetings under Agenda Item C.7, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.

In addition to the enclosed briefing materials, you may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's [e-portal](#). Visit the [March 2022 Meeting webpage](#) to access these materials.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4: Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Items C: Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Item H: Ecosystem
4. Agenda Items I: Highly Migratory Species Management
5. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
6. Informational Reports
7. General Information and Council Roster

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2022

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March Council Meeting

In conjunction with the March Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet at the Doubletree by Hilton in San Jose, California. The STT will meet in the San Jose room starting at 8 a.m. March 8 and continue through March 14; the SAS will meet in the Santa Clara room starting at 8 a.m. March 8 and continue through March 13. The Council will begin the salmon agenda on March 9 and continue through March 14. Other topics of interest on the Council agenda include habitat, ecosystem, and Pacific halibut. There are also a few online meetings scheduled prior to the start of the March Council meetings to be aware of.

The Council is hosting an informational session for Advisory Body members on Thursday, February 24, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. The purpose of the online meeting will be to orient new members and update returning members on various Council and Advisory Body practices and procedures. This will also be an opportunity to get to know our new Executive Director, Merrick Burden. We will be covering a lot of ground, so please plan to attend. Meeting details are posted on the Council website.

An online briefing will be held Wednesday March 2, 2022, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. Drs. Chris Harvey and Toby Garfield of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will provide a briefing on the 2022 California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Ecosystem Status Report to interested Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) members, advisory body members, and the public. A presentation will be given followed by discussion. [Meeting details](#) are posted on the Council website. The CCIEA topic will be discussed by the Council under Agenda Item H.2 Scheduled for Sunday March 13.

The Marine Planning Committee is holding an online work session on March 4 to discuss the next steps in the authorization process for commercial offshore wind energy leasing, including a description of proposed offshore wind (OSW) planning Call Area(s) off the Oregon Coast and to solicit public comment. This meeting will include representatives from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), who will provide a presentation on the proposed Call Area(s), followed by discussion with the MPC and meeting participants. The meeting is open to all interested parties with a primary audience focus of fishery sector participants and stakeholders that operate in Oregon, particularly in

the Oregon offshore wind planning area. [Meeting details](#) are be posted on the Council website. The Marine Planning topic will be discussed by the Council under Agenda Item C.2. scheduled for Friday March 11.

The Salmon agenda item (Agenda Item D) will begin on March 9 with two topics for discussion. The first is a briefing from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the Council on salmon-related topics and a report from the Science Centers on current research (Agenda Item D.1). Next, the Council will be briefed by the STT on the *Review of 2021 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* and *Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 2022 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* (Agenda Item D.2). The *Review of 2021 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* is scheduled to be posted on the Council website by February 15. The *Preseason Report I* is being compiled by the STT the week of February 22 and should be posted to the Council website by March 4.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be developing alternatives for modeling 2022 ocean fisheries. On March 10, the SAS will present the Council with recommendations for three alternatives (Agenda Item D.3). SAS representatives should review the *Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment* (Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1) and clearly identify their fishery priorities and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among fishery sectors and areas to arrive at cohesive and coordinated options. This Agenda Item is on the Council floor first thing on Thursday, March 10, so best practice would be to finalize the SAS report by mid-day on Wednesday March 9 so that it can be processed and posted by the Secretariat prior to close of business.

After the SAS provides the preliminary 2022 management alternatives, the STT will then collate and analyze the alternatives as directed by the Council. The STT results will first be presented under Agenda Item D.4 on Friday, March 11. Working throughout the week the SAS, STT, and Council will refine the alternatives (Agenda Items D.5 and D.6), which are scheduled to be adopted for public review on Monday, March 14 (Agenda Item E.7). The Council will adopt the hearing officers for the three public salmon hearings scheduled for late March under Agenda Item D.8.

The Pacific halibut agenda items (Agenda Item F) are covered on Wednesday March 9. The Council will hear reports on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual meeting (Agenda Item F.1). Under Agenda Item F.2, the Council will consider incidental halibut retention limits in salmon troll and fixed gear sablefish fisheries. The SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations regarding alternatives for halibut retention in salmon troll fisheries that begin May 16, 2022 and for the 2023 season occurring prior to May 16. In addition, the SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations for any inseason adjustments to the halibut retention regulations for the 2022 season occurring prior to May 16. The Council will adopt for public review the incidental halibut retention alternatives in the commercial salmon fisheries and include them in the 2022 management alternatives package (Agenda Item D.7).

Habitat issues (Agenda Item D.1) will be discussed on Thursday March 10. The Habitat committee is meeting on Tuesday March 8 so please check their agenda for any salmon related items of interest. The Conservation representative from the SAS may want to attend to gather information and relay to the SAS.

On Friday March 11 and Sunday March 13, ecosystem topics will be on the Council agenda. On March 11 the Council will discuss the final draft of the 5-year review of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (Agenda Item H.1). The Council reviewed a revised FEP in September 2021, and a [final draft](#) is posted on the Council website. On March 13, the Council will discuss the CCIEA (Agenda Item H.2) and cover the

information provided in [the CCIEA 2021 Report](#). Also on March 13, the Council will discuss the Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives (Agenda Item H.3), which provide examples of how the Council could address ecosystem-related issues. Please take the time to read the material on these three ecosystem topics so everyone is prepared for a discussion and ready to draft a statement if desired.

Legislative Matters are covered under Agenda Item C.4 on Sunday, March 13. The Council will discuss membership appointments and Council Operating Procedures (Agenda Item C.6) and consider future Council meeting agendas and workload planning (Agenda Item C.7) on Monday March 14.

Please take the necessary time needed to review and familiarize yourself with briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your assistance in the Council's salmon management process.

RDE:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Items C.2, C.6, C.7 – Council Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Items D.1 through D.8 – Salmon Management
4. Agenda Items F.1 - F.2 – Pacific Halibut Management
5. Agenda Item G.1 – Habitat Issues
6. Agenda Items H.1 - H.3 – Ecosystem Management
7. Informational Reports
8. Proposed SAS Agenda
9. Proposed STT Agenda
10. Proposed SSC Agenda
11. Proposed Habitat Committee Agenda
12. Council Roster
13. Hotel information

PFMC
02/16/22



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Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2022

TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee

FROM: John DeVore, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2022 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet March 8-14 in San Jose, California. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet **online** on Tuesday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 9, starting at 8 a.m. each day. Your meeting materials are enclosed.

Instructions for how to connect to Council and Advisory Body meetings will be posted on the Council's March 2022 Meeting webpage prior to the first day of the meeting. Upon entering the meeting, please modify your entry on the participant list to reflect your full identification (full name and affiliation). This additional information helps participants identify speakers in the webinar. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting.

Council Administrative Matters

All members of Council advisory bodies are encouraged to attend a webinar on February 24 from 9 a.m. to noon, to orient new members and update returning members on various Council and advisory body practices and procedures. This informational session will also afford the opportunity to meet and get to know the Council's new Executive Director, Merrick Burden.

The SSC will review the nomination of Dr. Matthew Reimer, University of California at Davis, and Dr. Lauren Drakopoulos, post-doctoral fellow at Cornell University, for two of the vacant SSC seats. The SSC will review the nomination of Ms. Lisa Hillier, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), for the WDFW seat on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) vacated by Ms. Lorna Wargo, as well as the nomination of Ms. Wargo for the WDFW seat on the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) vacated Ms. Erica Wayland. The SSC will also review the nomination of Ms. Emily Shallow, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), for the ODFW seat on the Salmon Technical Team (STT) vacated by Mr. Craig Foster.

The SSC will discuss future workload planning matters and will report to the Council on their plans under Agenda Item C.7.

Salmon Management

The SSC will review the 2021 Fisheries and Summary of 2022 Stock Abundance Forecasts and recommend to the Council under Agenda Item D.2 whether this report is the best scientific information available and can be used in modeling 2022 ocean salmon fisheries, specifying acceptable biological catches, and setting annual catch limits. Note that the advanced version of the salmon review and stock abundance forecasts is a draft that will be updated shortly before the SSC convenes.

Groundfish Management

The SSC will review a NMFS recommendation on defining stocks in the fishery management plan (FMP) to determine status and for purposes of fisheries management and will report their recommendations to the Council under Agenda Item E.3.

The SSC will review a draft of the limited entry fixed gear fishery review document prepared by Council staff in consideration of new management strategies to increase efficiency and profits in that fishery. Specifically, the SSC will report whether their recommendations on the review document provided in their [June 2021 report](#) have been addressed and if the document is ready for public review. The SSC is also encouraged to further discuss research and data needs to add further insight into the limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery. The SSC will provide their comments on the review under Agenda Item E.4.

The Council is scheduled to take initial action at this meeting on proposed groundfish stock assessment priorities for the 2023 and 2025 assessment cycles. The SSC will receive a presentation from Drs. Jim Hastie and Chantel Wetzel on criteria and a process to decide future stock assessment priorities. The SSC will recommend their priorities for groundfish stock assessments, as well as changes to the three Terms of Reference that guide the process of conducting and reviewing assessments, rebuilding analyses, and proposed assessment methodologies under agenda item E.8.

Ecosystem Management

The SSC will review the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment State of the California Current report and provide their recommendations to the Council on the use and future content of this report. The SSC will also review a list of proposed topics for review by the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee and identify priority topics for discussion next September. The SSC will provide their comments and recommendations under Agenda Item H.2.

The Council will consider proposed revisions to Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Appendix A and will determine whether to begin work on an initiative in the coming year including process and schedule. Additionally, the Council will identify any other new activities flowing from the Climate and Communities Initiative. The SSC will provide their comments and recommendations on FEP initiatives under Agenda Item H.3.

Thank you all for your dedication to West Coast fishery management and the Council process.

JDD:rdd

Enclosures include:

Council and SSC Administrative Matters

1. Agenda Item A.4 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item C.6 – Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures
3. Agenda Item C.7 – Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Salmon Management

4. Agenda Item D.2 – Review of 2021 Fisheries and Summary of 2022 Stock Forecasts

Groundfish Management

5. Agenda Item E.3 – Stock Definitions
6. Agenda Item E.4 – Limited Entry Fixed Gear Catch Share Program Review
7. Agenda Item E.8 – Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference

Ecosystem Management

8. Agenda Item H.1 – Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Five-Year Review – Final Action
9. Agenda Item H.2 – 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Science Review Topics
10. Agenda Item H.3 – Review of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiatives

SSC Agenda, Draft SSC Minutes, Closed Session, Etc.

11. March 2022 SSC Agenda
12. Draft November 2021 SSC Minutes
13. Closed Session
14. Informational Reports
15. General Information and Council Roster