



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4th, 2022

TO: Pacific Council Members, Advisory Bodies, and stakeholders

FROM: Marc Gorelnik, Chairman

SUBJECT: March 2022 Council Meeting

Dear Fellow Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Members, Advisory Body Members, and West Coast Fishery Stakeholders,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this difficult time and work to assemble meetings and processes that can support effective fisheries management during the COVID pandemic. Like many of you, my hope is that there is a light at the end of the latest surge that will have us beginning a return to a world where we work together in person to conserve and manage our West Coast fishery resources.

As many of you know, over the past couple of months we have been deliberating on how to best assemble our Council meetings to foster good decision-making while effectively navigating the risks that COVID presents to us. As outlined in prior correspondence, we have been closely evaluating COVID trends, and soliciting input and perspective from many of you regarding the appropriate course of action as our pandemic ebbs and flows. Weighing these issues and attempting to see a pathway through it is not something we have taken lightly.

Over the past couple of weeks we have watched closely as COVID infection rates around the nation began to fall. This led us to entertain forecasts which indicate that, by the time of our March 2022 Council meeting, COVID rates could be expected to be nearly as low as they have ever been throughout the course of our pandemic. This relatively promising forecast led us to consider meeting in person in some capacity. We recently solicited input from other members of the Pacific Council regarding their preferences for a partial in-person meeting or a fully remote meeting as we have done throughout the course of the pandemic. The result of that deliberation and consultation with the rest of the Council leads us to where we are today, and our plan for the March Council meeting.

Our March 2022 Council meeting (to be held in San Jose, California) will be conducted in a partial in-person format. This means that we are requesting, but not requiring, in-person attendance for:

- Members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Members of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS)
- Members of the Salmon Technical Team (STT)
- Tribal advisors
- Relevant Council staff

We expect all other participants and Advisory Bodies to meet remotely and to provide any input or Council testimony they may have accordingly. This includes members of the public, the Advisory Bodies not listed above, members of the Council that are unable to meet in person, and members of the STT and SAS that are not able to meet in person.

In the coming days, Council staff will be providing you with further information regarding guidelines, procedures, rules, and expectations for those of us that will be meeting in person, and guidance for connecting remotely. These will include guidelines and rules of the local ordinance and meeting venue, expectations for testing, and processes for handling circumstances of COVID exposure if they occur.

Should COVID infection rates not decline as forecasts suggests, we may choose to revert to a fully remote Council meeting in order to help ensure the health of the broader Council family. However, should infection rates continue to decline at the rapid rate that models suggest, we will continue with the partial in-person meeting as planned.

Thank you once again for your patience, understanding, and flexibility during this time. I look forward to seeing many of you in March.

Sincerely,



Marc Gorelnik
Chairman

MJB:rdd