

## 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.7, Attachment 1, March 2022](#)) and the draft April agenda ([Agenda Item C.7, Attachment 2, March 2022](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book, as well as the status of ongoing projects, and offers the following for consideration by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

### **Workload Prioritization Implications**

Based on Council action under Agenda Item E.3, Stock Definitions and Agenda Item E.6, Workload Prioritization and New Management Measures, the Council has prioritized working on an amendment to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan to define stocks and re-organize stock complexes. This is going to be a multistep process, requiring additional expertise outside of the GMT which may require additional facilitation and coordination. Therefore, the Council will want to carefully consider when to schedule actions on this item. It is worth noting that most, if not all, of the groundfish items listed in Appendix 2, Table A of the workload prioritization list ([Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, March 2022](#)), and currently prioritized, are expected to be completed and/or go into regulation by 2023, potentially freeing up GMT time for other emerging issues, including stock definitions and stock complex re-examination. That said, there are agenda items that have been worked on by others (e.g., Council staff or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)), and until directed by the Council to start looking into those items, the GMT cannot estimate what our workload might be (e.g., fixed gear logbooks). That said, there are agenda items that have been worked on by others (e.g., Council staff or NMFS), and until directed by the Council to start looking into those items, the GMT cannot estimate what our workload might be (e.g., fixed gear logbooks).

### **Transitioning Back to In person Meetings**

The GMT is ready to meet in person, provided that the whole team is able to do so, and sees immense benefit to meeting in person in April and/or June, as those are important meetings for the 2023-24 harvest specifications and management measures cycle, and the first time much of the team would be meeting each other. Regardless of when in person meetings resume, the GMT reminds everyone to take into account travel days when planning briefings or meetings that are covering topics of interest across multiple advisory bodies.

### **April Agenda**

Regardless of whether the GMT meets in person, the GMT suggests that it would be beneficial to meet for an extra day before the April meeting (meeting on Thursday, April 7th). This will help facilitate the many complex topics that the GMT will be presenting to the Council, most notably the harvest specifications and management measures analytical document.

### **GMT Year-at-a Glance**

The GMT was unable to discuss the Council's YAG after the Workload Prioritization & New Management Measures agenda item due to competing items on the Council floor and GMT scheduling. Therefore, the GMT chose not to provide a GMT YAG at this time and will revisit that exercise in April when we have an updated Council-prioritized list of groundfish items.

For the June Council meeting, at least, the GMT recommends the following items be scheduled, with formatting clarified below:

- NMFS Report
- Inseason Management
- Workload & New Management Measures
- Final Stock Assessment Plan & TOR
- Fisheries in 2023-2024 Management Measures FPA & Final EFP Approval
- ~~**Trawl Catch Share Review Scoping**~~
- ***Sablefish Gear Switching Update***
- ***LEFG Program Review - Final***

Bolded and italicized items are those that the GMT recommends unshading on the Council YAG. Bolded items with strikethrough reflect those that are shaded on the YAG but that the GMT recommends moving to a later date.

PFMC  
03/13/22