

## 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; H.3, Attachment 1](#)) and the draft June agenda ([H.3, Attachment 2](#)) 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).

### **Special Session GMT Spring Meeting**

The GMT has planned a two-day virtual meeting in the Spring of 2022 on May 23 and May 24. The GMT will discuss and conduct analysis needed from the Council action taken under Agenda Items F.3. and F.4, and will also conduct a pre-council webinar. Meeting in May will allow the GMT to develop materials to facilitate Council discussions and allow for any needed analysis and the formulation of team recommendations to be presented at the June Council meeting.

### **Transitioning Back to In-Person Meetings**

All members of the GMT agree that it is important for the GMT and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to meet in person at the June Council meeting. At the June meeting the Council will take final action relating to the 2023-24 harvest specifications and management measures cycle. Efficiencies in communication between Council staff, Council members, the GAP, and GMT members could lead to a more robust discussion of decision points that will shape the groundfish fisheries for the 2023-2024 biennium. The draft June Agenda has several other substantial groundfish items that would also benefit from the in-person interactions and efficiencies.

The GMT reminds everyone to take into account travel days when planning briefings or meetings that may be held virtually and that are covering topics of interest across multiple advisory bodies, such as ecosystem and/or marine planning.

### **June Agenda**

The GMT agrees with the proposed Council meeting agenda that has the GMT meeting starting one day before the Council is scheduled to begin (Wednesday, June 8th). This would allow for two days of publicly noticed team meetings before the Council is scheduled for their first groundfish agenda item. This will help facilitate the many complex topics that the GMT will be presenting to the Council, most notably Agenda Item F.5 Final 2023-2024 Exempted Fishing Permits and Management Measures.

As they typically do, the GMT would like the Council to continue considering Council and advisory body schedules and do their best to allow for needed revisions to reports based on Council guidance and direction received during the June meeting. In previous bienniums the Council and advisory bodies have needed to adapt schedules in order to provide adequate time for advisory body discussions, public comment, and Council direction. The GMT anticipates that under the F.5 Final 2023-2024 Exempted Fishing Permits and Management Measures agenda item, constituents will be thoroughly engaged, leading to higher than usual public comment on that

agenda item. The GMT recommends the Council and Council staff consider the sensitivity of the groundfish items at the June Council meeting and carefully consider the length of time that may be needed for each groundfish agenda item.

### **GMT Year-At-a Glance**

The GMT reviewed the Council YAG and had some discussion about the items in Table 1 below, acknowledging that many factors and pieces can change between meetings, especially several meetings ahead. The GMT reminds the Council that the stock definitions item is a high priority for the National Marine Fisheries Service and critical to the success of future harvest specifications cycles. Therefore, the team encourages the Council and Council staff to consider scheduling the Range of Alternatives (ROA) and/or Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) for this item as early as possible after scoping, noting that only the scoping item is currently scheduled at the Council YAG. The GMT also reminds the Council that our groundfish workload in recent Council meetings has reached or exceeded the team's capacity, and our workload often includes tracking other non-groundfish items even if not submitting a report.

PFMC  
04/11/22

Table 1. GMT Year-at-a-Glance for June 2022 through April 2023.

No.	June 2022	September 2022	November 2022	March 2023	April 2023
1	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report
2	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management and Whiting set-asides	Inseason Management	Inseason Management
3	Workload & New Mgt. Measures Update	Workload & New Mgt. Measures Update	Workload & New Mgt. Measures Update	Workload & New Mgt. Measures Prioritization	Trawl Cost Recovery
4	Final Stock Assessment Plan & TOR	Impact Analysis Methodology Review- Preliminary Topic Selection	Impact Analysis Methodology Review- Final Topic Selection		Whiting Treaty Implementation
5	Fisheries in 2023-24 Mgmt Measures FPA & Final EFP Approval	<b><i>Strategic Plan Rev. - Scoping</i></b>	<b>Trawl Catch Share Prog. &amp; Inter-Sector Alloc. Rev. - Update</b>		<b>Trawl Catch Share Prog. &amp; Inter-Sector Alloc. Rev. Draft</b>
6	Sablefish Gear Switching Update	<b><i>Non-Trawl RCA ROA/PPA</i></b>	<b>Sablefish Gear Switching PPA</b>		<b>Sablefish Gear Switching FPA</b>
7	LEFG Prog. Final Review	<b><i>Trawl Catch Share Prog. &amp; Inter-Sector Alloc. Rev. - Scoping</i></b>	<b>Assessment Meth. Rev. Approval</b>		
8	Stock Definitions- Scoping				
9	<b><i>Electronic Monitoring Update</i></b>				

**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. Bolded items reflect those that are shaded on the Council YAG but given as so many things can change between now and then we will provide recommendations in the future.**