

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.8, Attachment 1, September 2022](#)) and the draft November Council meeting agenda ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 2, September 2022](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book and discussed progress on ongoing groundfish items. Below are some thoughts for consideration.

November Agenda

The GMT requests that the Council schedule the GMT a day ahead of Council being in session, beginning on Wednesday, November 2. Currently, the GMT is scheduled to start meeting on November 3rd, the same day the Council begins meeting ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 2, September 2022](#)). The team finds it valuable to have a full day ahead of the Council convening to front-load work for the week, and to be able to engage with Council staff and Council members before the full session demands their attention. Once in session, it can be difficult for the team to have robust full-team discussions due to competing demands on team members, e.g., attending or presenting for specific agenda items.

Year-at-a-Glance

Table 1 below provides the GMT's recommendations for changes to groundfish items on the Council's draft YAG ([Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1, September 2022](#)). To address Council efficiencies (i.e., Agenda Item C.3 at this meeting) and optimize meeting time, the Council could consider combining the update/further scoping of the Trawl Catch Share Program Review and Cost Project in March or April due to interest to use at least some hearings for Cost Project input as well, but the scope would likely need to be explicitly limited to an update and planning of hearings.

Currently on the YAG, three of the next five meetings contain nine or more groundfish agenda items. We recognize that not all agenda items require the same level of team involvement, but even the "light" items need team time to track, read briefing materials, and potentially prepare statements. We are very concerned that the cumulative workload limits the team's ability to provide the Council with high quality work products. The GMT would appreciate clear direction from the Council regarding its expectations for the team regarding which upcoming items (e.g., in November) they would particularly want or welcome team input on and those that might be of less importance.

Lastly, the GMT is concerned that the numbers of days projected in the Council's draft YAG for June 2023 and September 2023 meetings underestimate the time needed to address all items listed.

Additional Meetings

Based on Council discussions at this meeting, the GMT anticipates needing a 1-2 day work session between the conclusion of this meeting and the November Council meeting to begin work on the

stock definitions item. The GMT also anticipates needing an over-winter (likely sometime in January) work session to continue work on stock definitions as well as other outstanding projects. At this time, the GMT would prefer the option for this meeting to be in person, at the Council office, with the recognition that planning early is critical and that preferences may change.

Members of the GMT will also be participating in a number of ancillary meetings outside of Council meetings and work sessions over the next several months, both as members of the GMT and as part of their other duties. A non-comprehensive list is below:

- PacFIN meeting (October 4, 2022)
- RecFIN Technical Committee (December 6-7, 2022)
- International Pacific Halibut Commission Interim (November 30-December 1) and Annual (January 23-27, 2023) Meetings
- Scientific and Statistical Committee proposed workshops ([Agenda Item C.8.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, September 2022](#)) that GMT members will likely be involved in:
 - A review of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed acoustic/visual survey methodology for semi-pelagic rockfish and a review of Washington's hook-and line surveys in a webinar to be held September 27-30, 2022.
 - A meeting to explore approaches to model large closed areas, catch estimation, and other regulation changes in stock assessments to be held as a webinar in December 2022 or January 2023.
 - A workshop on using remotely operated vehicle data in stock assessments as a webinar in January 2023 with an exact date to be determined with participation from Science Center Assessment Staff.

PFMC
09/12/22

Table 1. GMT recommendations for the YAG relative to groundfish items (i.e., GMT YAG).

	November 2022	March 2023	April 2023	June 2023	September 2023
1	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report
2	Inseason Management & Whiting Set Asides	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management
3	Workload & New Mgt. Measure Update	Workload & New Mgt. Measure Priorities	Trawl Cost Recovery Annual Rpt.	Workload & New Mgt. Measure Update	Workload & New Mgt. Measure Update
4	Impact Analysis Methodology Review Final Topic Selection	Whiting Treaty Implementation	<i>Trawl Catch Share Program Costs-Update</i>	Adopt Stock Assessments	Adopt Stock Assessments
5	<i>Electronic Monitoring ROA/PPA</i>	<i>Electronic Monitoring FPA</i>	<i>Sablefish Gear Switching FPA</i>	2025-2026 Harvest Specifications & Mgt. Measure Planning	Initial Actions for 2025-2026 Mgmt. Biennial Spex OFL/ABC- ROA
6	<i>Assessment Methodology Review - Approval</i>	Pot Gear Marking Feasibility Report		Endangered Species Workgroup Rpt.	Stock Assessment Methodology Review- Preliminary Topic Selection
7	<i>Sablefish Gear Switching PPA</i>	**Stock Definitions PPA (rest of Amendment 31)**		<i>Strategic Plan Review - Scoping</i>	
8	**Stock Definitions ROA/PPA (partial)**	Non-Trawl Area Mgt - FPA		**Stock Definitions FPA Amendment 31**	
9		Final Assessment Methodologies		<i>Trawl Catch Share Program & Inter-sector Allocation Review Draft</i>	
10		<i>Trawl Catch Share Prog. & Inter-Sector Allocation Rev. - Update</i>			

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. Items that have strikethrough indicate the GMT suggests taking off the YAG. **Asterisks and bolded items indicate addition to the YAG from the GMT. Red bolded items are items that were moved from the month they were shaded on.