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Agenda Item C.5
Supplemental NMFS/SWFSC/NWFSC Presentation 1
November 2022

West Coast FY2023 Priorities

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Pacific Fishery Management Council, November 7, 2022

Overview

- Aligning West Coast Priorities
- West Coast Region
- Northwest Fisheries Science Center
- Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- Closing Remarks



West Coast Aligned Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

- Strengthen data collection including surveys, bycatch monitoring
- Enhance fishery stock assessments
- Implement harvest specifications and management measures
- Support the NOAA Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative
- Understand impacts of offshore activities & support responsible development
- Support sustainable and responsible development of aquaculture

Protected Species Recovery

- Advance recovery of protected species
- Reduce fisheries bycatch and whale entanglement
- Research impacts of stormwater runoff and integrate best practices

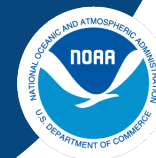
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

- Increasing DEIA within our workforce and workplace, and across west coast communities we serve
- Develop a west coast regional equity and environmental justice implementation plan



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West Coast Region



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West Coast Region FY22 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

- Completed all ocean fisheries specifications & management measures
- Completed proposed rule to improve whiting utilization
- Advancing proposed rule package for Deep-set Buoy Gear
- Supported tropical and temperate tuna management & rebuilding
- Co-hosted recreational fishing workshop and a habitat restoration/fishing event
- Supported Council's Regional Operating Agreement Revision

Recovery of Protected Species

- Assisted states with whale entanglement conservation plans
- Completed ESA 5-year status reviews for SRKW, salmon and steelhead
- Reduced backlog of Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans
- Released report on Rebuilding Interior Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead
- Completed Salish Sea Nearshore Programmatic Opinion

Supporting responsible development of offshore activities

- Published NOI to develop a Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Area Programmatic EIS
- Selected an Offshore Wind Energy Coordinator and formed a West Coast coordination team



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West Coast Region FY23 Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

- Annual and biennial harvest specifications and management measures
- Pacific whiting treaty implementation
- Support Council's development of proposals to create fishing area flexibility for groundfish non-trawl sector
- Support the Trawl Rationalization Program Catch Share Review
- Electronic Monitoring
- Advance deep-set buoy gear fishery authorization
- Transition management of Area 2A Pacific Halibut Fisheries from IPHC
- Lead development of U.S. proposals and work with IATTC to adopt conservation and management measures for highly migratory species
- SONCC Coho
- Implement and strengthen estuarine and marine habitat priority actions



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West Coast Region FY23 Priorities

Protected Species Recovery

- Continue assisting states on conservation plans for whale entanglements
- Complete ESA 5-year status reviews
- Advance reintroductions
- Support Klamath Dam removal
- Advance reintroduction and passage efforts for Central Valley Chinook salmon
- Execute and expand Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund grant program to the States and Tribes
- Evaluate multiple listing petitions under the ESA: salmonids, sea stars, sharks, and bull kelp
- Advance the Salish Sea Nearshore Programmatic
- Support a long-term solution for salmon and steelhead restoration in the Columbia River Basin



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West Coast Region

FY23 Priorities

Support Responsible Development of Offshore Activities

- Provide regulatory support for a draft Programmatic EIS to identify Southern California Offshore AOAs
- Provide coordination & technical assistance to support responsible development of offshore wind, with available funding

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

- Consider EEJ lens in all the work we do
- Expand internships targeting underrepresented communities
- Explore hiring authorities to improve diversity of NMFS staff

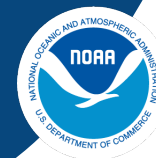
Working Together

- WCR Staffing
- Workload Priorities



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring)

- Completed the full slate of West Coast fisheries surveys supporting stock assessments
- Uninterrupted observer deployment and bycatch data collection

Stock Assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation

- Completed 2022 hake assessment and MSE analyses
- Conducted annual Economic Data Collection program
- Published 10th year of the California Current Ecosystem Status Report

Aquaculture

- Completed internal draft of NWFSC Aquaculture Science Strategic Plan

Protected Species Recovery

- Conducted Int'l Year of the Salmon Pan-Pacific Winter High Seas Expedition
- Completed internal draft of Salmon Recovery Science Strategy in July 2022
- Executed SRKW survey aboard the Shimada in Oct 2021
- Contributed to Rebuilding report and the one year stay to develop further



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Accomplishments

Protected Species Recovery (cont'd)

- Provided critical scientific expertise to listing petitions and status reviews (e.g., Biological Viability Assessment Update for Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Listed Under the Endangered Species Act: Pacific Northwest in Jan 2022)

Understanding Impacts of Offshore Activities

- Support for ongoing NMFS West Coast wind energy team
- Providing offshore wind energy development analysis focused on potential impacts of changes in future survey access in Oregon

Staffing Updates

- Dan Holland took on the chairpersonship of the SSC in Spring '22
- Completed internal nomination of a NWFSC scientist for the STT
- New ESSR program manager (Leif Anderson), new observer program supervisor (Christa Colway), and new aquaculture program manager (Ken Cain)



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY23 Priorities

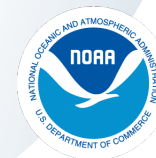
Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring):

- Continue fish and ecosystem surveys to support management
- Develop advances in stock monitoring methods to support climate-ready fisheries and ecosystem-based fishery management
- Participate in regional and national efforts to implement electronic reporting and electronic monitoring.
- Train fishery observers
- Observer deployments/sea days
- Annual groundfish mortality estimation
- Protected species bycatch estimation

Stock assessments and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs):

- Conduct groundfish stock assessments
- Develop, evaluate, and apply Management Strategy Evaluations methods
- Data collection and economic analysis of catch shares fisheries management, recreational and non-catch-share commercial fisheries



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Northwest Fisheries Science Center FY23 Priorities

Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM)

Regional NOAA Climate Ecosystem and Fisheries Initiatives (CEFI)

- Implement the CEFI plan on the West Coast
- Improve understanding of climate impacts across NMFS mission

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Assess and reduce risks of marine aquaculture operations to wild populations
- Data integration and modeling to support offshore renewable energy siting decisions and the evaluation of economic trade offs

Recovery of Protected Species

- Assess how our current salmon research portfolio aligns with the critical needs identified in the Center's salmon recovery science strategy
- Continue research and monitoring of Southern Resident killer whales
- Research on identifying emerging contaminants in West Coast salmon habitats

Facilities

- Work on moving the Montlake campus to a new, leased facility and selected science portfolios to Manchester and Sand Point facilities



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Accomplishments

Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring)

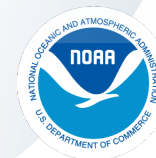
- California Current Ecosystem (CPS) and CalCOFI surveys
- 40th annual rockfish recruitment and ecosystem assessment surveys
- Participation in the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) winter survey

Stock Assessment and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs)

- Stock assessments - CPS, HMS, groundfish, salmon
 - Benchmark assessment on central subpopulation of Northern anchovy
 - Salmon stock abundance and fishing effort forecasts
- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)- North Pacific albacore
- 2022 Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) delivered to the PFMC

Aquaculture

- Research on finfish species (e.g. *Seriola* spp.) to assess aquaculture risk
- Completed the Hatchery Genetic Management Plan for Central Coast Coho salmon



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY22 Accomplishments

Protected Species Recovery

- Whale Entanglement Indicators Dashboard tool to mitigate entanglements
- Completed whale and turtle entanglement risk assessments in the CCLME
- Partnered with industry to evaluate Chinook salmon thiamine levels

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Provided subject matter expertise on offshore wind energy development
- Research of finfish species (e.g. *Seriola* spp.) to assess aquaculture risks.

Staffing updates

PFMC Council Committees:

- 12 positions filled, including Michael O'Farrell as STT Chair and Stephen Stohs as HMS MT Chair
- One retirement on the horizon: Dale Sweetnam



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Sustainable Fisheries

Data Collection (surveys and bycatch monitoring):

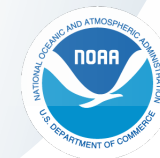
- California Current Ecosystem Surveys (Summer)
- CalCOFI surveys (Spring/Winter)
- Rockfish recruitment and Ecosystem Assessment survey
- Juvenile salmon and ecosystem survey
- Bycatch monitoring and identification in the CA Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME)

Stock assessments and Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs):

- Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)
 - Benchmark assessment for Pacific mackerel
 - Hosting workshops aimed at improving the FY24 benchmark assessment for Pacific sardine
- Highly Migratory Species (HMS)
 - Benchmark assessment for North Pacific albacore
 - Begin MSE for Pacific Bluefin tuna
- Groundfish
 - Copper and Black rockfish (in collaboration with NWFSC)
- Pacific salmon
 - Salmon stock abundance and fishing effort forecasts

Aquaculture

- Continue research of finfish species (e.g. *Seriola* spp.) to assess aquaculture risks.



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Southwest Fisheries Science Center FY23 Priorities

Protected Species Recovery

- Recovery Plan research actions for ESA-listed species
 - Pacific leatherback turtles & humpback whales
 - Salmon: Sacramento River winter run Chinook & Central CA Coast coho
 - White abalone
- Whale and sea turtle entanglement: CCLME risk assessments and stranding response

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

Annual Ecosystem Status Report to the Council

- California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment ESR

NOAA Climate and Fisheries Initiative

- West Coast Regional Action Plan 2.0 to Implement the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy
- Marine heatwave tracking and forecasting
- Dynamic Ocean Management applications

Understanding impacts of offshore activities

- Offshore wind energy development- effects on resources and protected species.

PFMC Council

- Continue Council committee commitments



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Summary and Moving Forward

- Workload and staffing
- West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan
- Continued collaboration and priority coordination with PFMC

