



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

February 24, 2023

RE: A.4 Executive Director's Report

Dear Council Members:

Beginning with the March 2023 meeting, I intend to provide you with a written Executive Director's Report for your consideration ahead of each Council meeting. In these reports I will summarize matters of general interest, changes to Council membership, Advisory Body and Committee alternates that are in place for the current meeting, activities of staff and Council members that have occurred since the last meeting, and other updates not announced elsewhere that may warrant summarization.

General Information

As part of this Council meeting, we are continuing to provide COVID protocols. These are included as part of the "General Information" packet of materials in your Briefing Book. At the time of drafting this report, the King County COVID risk level is "Low".

During the March Council Meeting, we will be visited by members of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) leadership, including several staff from Silver Spring and Assistant Regional Administrators from other regions. I understand that NMFS leadership plans to visit various Councils to observe the practices of the various Councils for purposes of learning and cross-region sharing.

Several Informational Reports are included in your Briefing Book. These include:

- Marine Mammal stock assessments
- Proposed Rule to implement Amendment 6 to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan
- National Nature Assessment
- Solicitations for Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
- Range of alternatives for gear switching
- National Seafood Strategy
- U.S. Pacific Coast Federal Fisheries Scenario Planning Summary Report
- United States Coast Guard bulletin on reporting sexual misconduct

On the topic of gear switching, the range of alternatives are being made available to you at this meeting to help facilitate discussion and consideration of this topic ahead of the April and June meetings. We have also scheduled the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) to consider gear

switching at this meeting¹ even though the topic is not on your agenda. This is to help ensure adequate GAP consideration ahead of the April meeting (when the GAP will be meeting remotely) and to take advantage of the face time that exists at this meeting.

A Chair’s Reception is planned for Sunday, March 5th from 6-8 pm. A flyer is included within the General Information section of your Briefing Book.

Council Roster

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has a new Director, Jim Fredericks. Fredericks has been a deputy director for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game since 2021 and is a former fisheries bureau chief.

Curt Melcher (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) has named Lynn Mattes as a Council designee, replacing Jessica Watson.

Rear Admiral Melvin Bouboulis (United States Coast Guard) has named Lieutenant Devon Zych as a Council designee, replacing Lelea Lingo.

Advisory Body Alternates

We have a relatively large number of alternates at this meeting as indicated in the table below.

ADVISORY BODY	SEAT	MEMBER NAME	ALTERNATE NAME
STT	CDFW	Kandice Morgenstern	Grace Easterbrook
STT	WDFW	Vacant	Kyle Vandegraff
STT	Tribal	Vacant	Stephanie Thurner
STT/MEW	ODFW	Vacant	Cassandra Leeman
HMAS	Processor North of Cape Mendocino	Lyf Gildersleeve	Mike Domeyer
GAP	Charter boat operator	Steve Westrick	Paul Mirante
SSC	ODFW	Vacant	Cheryl Barnes
HMSAS	Comm Troll	Wayne Heikkila	Clayton Wraith
GMT	ODFW	Vacant	Christian Heath
GAP	Conservation	Shems Jud	Seth Atkinson
GMT	NWFSC	Kate Richardson	Vanessa Tuttle
SAS	OR Troll	Darus Peake	Mark Newell
CPSAS	Processor	Vacant	Mark Fina
EAS	WA	Vacant	Laura Nelson

¹ The GAP is scheduled to discuss gear switching on Saturday, March 4th at 12:30 pm.

Ad-Hoc Committees

Per Council Operating Procedure 8, the Chairman is authorized to replace members of Ad Hoc committees if members appointed by the Council are no longer able to serve. New Ad Hoc Committee members include:

- Marine Planning Committee: Lilah Ise has replaced Yvonne deReynier (NMFS)
- Marine Planning Committee: Crystal D'Souza has replaced Chris Potter (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Recent Activities

In November the Council Executive Directors met to discuss a variety of topics ranging from budget management in the face of inflation, staff management and hiring, and other organizational management topics.

Also in November, the first Council Member Ongoing Development (CMOD) session occurred. This session focused on the topic of ecosystem-based fishery management, with Council members and staff sharing their experiences and perspectives on ecosystem-based fisheries management and attempting to learn from one another. The facilitators of CMOD were former staff of the Fisheries Sustainability and Leadership Forum. Pacific Council members Bob Dooley, Corey Ridings, Jessica Watson, and Corey Niles attended.

The Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) held a session in Vancouver, Washington in January. This session was focused on management and built from a fall session on science. This most recent session added material on Tribal fisheries management and the North of Falcon salmon process. The next session is planned for September 25th - 29th in Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,



Merrick J. Burden
Executive Director

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