

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 13, 2023

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Pacific Fishery Management Council to Hold a Meeting April 1-7, 2023 to Adopt Management Measures for Ocean Fisheries, Including Final Measures for 2023 Ocean Salmon Fisheries

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC or Council) and its advisory bodies will meet April 1-7, 2023 in Foster City, California and via webinar. The Council meeting will be live streamed with the opportunity to provide public comment remotely. The following groups will meet in person in Foster City: Legislative Committee, Salmon Model Evaluation Workgroup, Salmon Technical Team, Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel. These meetings will be held in person only and no remote access will be provided due to resource constraints. The Habitat Committee, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Enforcement Consultants, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel will meet by webinar only with the opportunity for public comment. Instructions for joining online meetings will be posted to the <u>April 2023 Meeting webpage</u>.

The Council is scheduled to address issues related to salmon, Pacific halibut, groundfish, coastal pelagic species (CPS), habitat, and administrative matters. Key actions for consideration at the meeting include:

- Adopt Final Management Measures for 2023 Ocean Salmon Fisheries
- Adopt Final Incidental Pacific Halibut Catch Recommendations for 2023 and Early 2024 Non-Indian Salmon Troll Fisheries
- Adopt Final CPS Exempted Fishing Permit Recommendations for 2023-2024 Fisheries
- Adopt Final Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for the 2023-2024 Pacific Sardine Fishery
- Adopt a Range of Alternatives, Preliminary Preferred Alternative (if possible), for CPS Essential Fish Habitat
- Adopt Final CPS Fishery Management Plan Housekeeping Updates
- Report on the Trawl Catch Share Program Cost Recovery Program and an Update on the Trawl Cost Project
- Check in and Refine the Range of Alternatives for Sablefish Gear Switching in the Trawl Catch Share Program
- Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2023 Groundfish Fisheries
- Considerations for Council and Process Efficiencies
- Implementing a Regional Equity and Environmental Justice Plan

A schedule of advisory body meetings is provided on the last pages of the attached proposed agenda. Copies of briefing materials prepared for the meeting can be found on our <u>April 2023</u> <u>Meeting webpage</u> no later than Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Meeting Arrangements

The Council recommends that participants follow the guidelines of <u>local</u>, <u>State</u>, and <u>Federal</u> health authorities with regard to COVID-19 protocols. Council Leadership will continue to track the status of the pandemic and plans to provide COVID tests.

All meetings are open to the public and there will be an opportunity to participate and provide oral testimony remotely for the Council session. For more information on the meetings, refer to the attached proposed detailed agenda. Information is also available on the <u>April 2023 Meeting</u> <u>webpage</u> or by calling the Council office at 503-820-2280 or 866-806-7204 (toll-free).

The meeting of the Council general session will be live streamed on the internet. The broadcast will begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, 2023. The meeting will continue daily at 8 a.m. through Friday, April 7. Broadcasts end daily at 5 p.m. or when business for the day is complete. Only the audio portion and presentations displayed on the screen will be broadcast. The audio portion for the public is listen-only except that an opportunity for oral public comment will be provided prior to Council Action on each agenda item. To access the meeting online, please visit the <u>April 2023</u> <u>Meeting webpage</u>. It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting.

Some advisory body meetings will be conducted in-person and some online according to the schedules in the attached agenda. There will be an opportunity for public comment daily in each of the meetings. Instructions for how to connect to meetings being held via webinar will be posted on the Council's <u>April 2023 Meeting webpage</u> prior to the first day of the meeting.

Public Comment Guidelines

The public is encouraged to comment on Council agenda items in writing prior to the meeting through our <u>Public Comment Electronic Portal</u> (see below). Additionally, there will be an opportunity for oral public comment prior to Council Action on each agenda item for those attending the webinar. Timing of agenda items may change as the meeting progresses, and items not completed on the scheduled day will be carried over to later in the meeting, usually the next day.

Oral Public Comments

Oral public comments will be accepted during the meeting prior to Council action on each agenda item. Instructions for oral public comments will be available on the <u>April 2023 Meeting webpage</u>.

Written Public Comments

Written public comments must be submitted to our Public Comment Electronic Portal. To access the <u>E-Portal</u>, visit the Council website (<u>www.pcouncil.org</u>). You will see "Upcoming Council Meeting" on the home page, with a button titled "E-Portal for Public Comment". Click the E-Portal button and you will be taken to the E-Portal page for that meeting. Select the agenda item you are interested in commenting on and either enter your comments in the text box or upload a file

containing your comments in Adobe pdf. You will be limited to one comment per agenda item before Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:00 PM (Advanced Briefing Book Deadline) and one comment after that until the E-Portal closes on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 5:00 PM (Supplemental Briefing Book Deadline). Supplemental materials will be posted as they are received and reviewed, but no later than the start of the Council meeting.

Written Comments After the Public Comment Deadline 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 30, 2023:

Written comments after the Council meeting starts will only be accepted if they are in support
of oral public comment and are submitted via the <u>E-Portal</u> prior to Council Action on the
agenda item.

To receive this notice in the future via email, sign up for the "PFMC E-Mail Notification List."

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