

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON WORKLOAD AND NEW MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the materials in the briefing book, held a discussion with Ms. Keeley Kent (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] West Coast Region) about the [NMFS Report 1, March 2023](#), and received input from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel. There are no changes to the GMT's recommendations provided in [Agenda Item F.8.a, GMT Report 1, March 2023](#), and we provide some additional comments below.

Given some confusion around the background and context for some of the items currently on Table B, the GMT sees merit in gathering additional information on the items B14 (in any combination of its parts), B2, and B5 prior to being prioritized, which may take the form of Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff bringing information to the Council at the next meeting with workload planning on the agenda. This would allow the Council to examine the industry request(s) and how they might be accomplished in order to determine the best pathway forward (e.g., bundling or splitting items), as well as any additional information that may be important to determining that item's path forward. Specific to items B2 and B5, the Council could assess what information NMFS has and to find a pathway forward with those two Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs).

Additionally, the GMT recommends Council staff develop a best practices document detailing the process for submitting a new management measure request for consideration by the Council. This document should identify key items that would assist in understanding the proposed measure, such as a detailed description and rationale. The GMT notes this document should be included in the advanced briefing book whenever this item is scheduled on the Council's agenda. This document could help reduce the confusion the team has noted both internally and externally regarding this process.

Ms. Keeley Kent of NMFS briefed the GMT on the NMFS report ([Agenda Item F.8.a, NMFS Report 1, March 2023](#)) and informed the GMT of a preliminary analysis done by NMFS staff that will be used to produce estimates of how much catch and discards of each species occurs in federal waters versus state waters in commercial groundfish fisheries. The methodology would be used in Phase 2 of stock definitions to determine species in need of conservation and management. The GMT seeks Council guidance on our involvement in the methodology review and the timing of this review. The GMT continues to note that Phase 2 of stock definitions is likely to have a heavier workload than Amendment 31 for the GMT moving forward.

Regarding [Agenda Item F.8.a, NMFS Report 1, March 2023](#), the GMT notes that there may be efficiencies in combining the gear marking item with the current request to use slinky pots (B14c). Bundling these actions could ensure that a mitigation measure for protected species is in place in conjunction with an action item that might have impacts on protected species. Regarding NMFS' request to add an open access fishery registration item to Table B, the GMT notes that additional documentation of open access participation/effort could be beneficial to the GMT's open access model projections.

The GMT received an overview of [Agenda item F.8.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1](#) on Cordell Bank and Associated Conservation Area(s) Revisions from James Phillips of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The GMT also received public comment from Oceana regarding a potential new item for Table B. The GMT is generally supportive of the Council adding items with description and rationale to the workload prioritization list per the Council's discretion.

PFMC
03/07/23