

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT or Team) reviewed the draft Year-At-A-Glance (YAG) ([F.7, Attachment 1](#)) and the draft June agenda ([F.7, Attachment 2](#)) contained in the advanced briefing book, as well as the status of ongoing projects, and offers the following for consideration by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

June Agenda

The GMT notes that there are eight groundfish, one halibut, and three to four administrative items that the GMT will be tracking and potentially writing statements for in June. This meeting will be very busy for the Team, but we think that the agenda items are well placed, and we have no suggestions on moving items. The GMT appreciates that we are scheduled to start meeting on June 21 and **recommends the Council schedule the GMT for a day-long pre-meeting webinar to frontload items ahead of the meeting.**

Upcoming Meetings

Regarding meetings the GMT anticipates attending outside of Council meetings, the GMT notes that little has changed from Table 1 in [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2023](#), except for the potential addition of a sablefish update assessment review meeting on August 28-29, 2023. This review is dependent on Council action under G.6 at this meeting. The GMT also may potentially schedule an October 2023 work session, depending on workload needs associated with harvest specifications and management measures.

Year-at-a-Glance

The GMT supports an in-person format for the Team at the September and November Council meetings as outlined in [Attachment 3](#). We typically provide a GMT YAG at each meeting to provide recommendations on whether to unshade or move certain items from the Council YAG (Table 1). The GMT's recommendations provided in Table 1 are based on the Council YAG in the briefing book at the time of writing this report and are not based on any assumptions about whether certain items will be moved based on Council action (e.g., sablefish gear switching). If final action changes the outlook of certain items, the GMT will provide an updated GMT YAG at the June Council meeting.

As noted in the [Situation Summary](#) for Agenda Item F.1 of this meeting, an additional agenda item for Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) may be scheduled for the latter part of this year or early next year. The GMT sees merit in scheduling this in order to move forward with developing a shared understanding of EEJ in the Council process, including the potential development of training materials and resources ([Agenda Item F.1.b, Supplemental GMT Report 1, April 2023](#)).

The GMT also seeks Council and/or Council staff guidance on what is expected of the GMT to support the various upcoming scoping items, namely:

- Limited Entry Fixed Gear Follow-on Package (June 2023),
- Trawl Catch Share Program and Inter-Sector Allocation Review (September 2023), and
- Phase 2 Stock Definitions - Complexes (November 2023).

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

	June 2023	September 2023	November 2023	March 2024	April 2024
1	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report	NMFS Report
2	Inseason Management	Inseason Management	Inseason Management & Whiting Set Asides	Inseason Management	Inseason Management
3	Stock Definitions - FPA	Workload & New Mgt. Measure Update	Adopt Stock Assessments	Workload & New Mgt. Measure Priorities	Trawl Cost Recovery Rpt
4	2025-2026 Harvest Specifications & Mgt. Measure Planning	Adopt Stock Assessments	Fisheries in 2025-26: Biennial Spex OFL/ABC, ACL-FPA Mgmt Measure ROA	Whiting Treaty Implementation	Fisheries in 2025-26: Biennial Spex OFL/ABC, ACL-FPA Mgmt Measure PPA
5	Endangered Species Workgroup Rpt.	Initial Actions for 2025-2026 Mgmt. Biennial Spex OFL/ABC- ROA	Preliminary EFP Approval	Update on 2025-2026 Harvest SPEX and Management Measures	
6	<i>Sablefish Gear Switching PPA</i>	Stock Assessment Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection	<i>Sablefish Gear Switching PPA</i>	Initial Stock Assessment Terms of Reference	
7	EM Implementation Update	Trawl Catch Share Program & Inter-Sector Allocation Review - Scoping	<i>Stock Definitions Complexes - Scoping</i>	Trawl Catch Share Program & Inter-sector Allocation Review - Update	
8	LEFG Follow On and FG Marking- Scoping	Trawl Catch Share Cost Project - Final Report		<i>LEFG Follow On and FG Marking - ROA/PPA</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. Shaded items on the Council YAG that the GMT recommends keeping shaded.

PFMC
04/05/23