



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2023

TO: Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel and Interested Persons

FROM: Jessi Doerpinghaus, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: June 2023 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person from June 22-27, 2023. The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) will meet in person on June 21 and 22. The Council is scheduled to take up CPS matters on June 22 and the majority of the CPSMT and CPSAS will likely attend those Council sessions. Major topics for discussion and other items of interest at this meeting are below. For more detailed information, please refer to the situation summaries in the Briefing Book materials.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Report (G.1)

Dr. Annie Yau from the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) will provide a report providing an update on CPS research activities. The NMFS West Coast Region may provide an update on regulatory activities as appropriate.

Pacific Mackerel Assessment and Management Measures (G.2)

The NMFS SWFSC completed a benchmark stock assessment for Pacific mackerel (Attachment 1), which will be used to set harvest specifications and management measures for the 2023-24 and the 2024-25 fishing years. A stock assessment review (STAR) panel reviewed the assessment in April 2023 (Attachment 2). The Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the assessment and STAR panel report and make recommendations on an overfishing limit, biomass, and sigma. The CPSMT and CPSAS should consider those recommendations and recommend a P*, annual catch limit and any management measures as appropriate.

Essential Fish Habitat- Final Preferred Alternative (G.3)

In April 2023, the Council adopted a range of alternatives and a preliminary preferred alternative for changes to CPS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Attachment 1 provides an updated EFH

alternatives document, and Attachment 2 is the CPS EFH Appendix. Attachment 3 is the proposed fishery management plan (FMP) amendment language. The primary changes proposed for CPS EFH are 1) separating market squid EFH from the finfish complex, 2) applying a species distribution model output to identify the spatial extent of market squid EFH and 3) incorporating U.S. waters of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea as EFH for krill and market squid species. At this meeting, the CPSMT and CPSAS should review the documents and provide recommendations on the final preferred alternative for CPS EFH.

Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 – Ecosystem Workgroup Update (F.1)

The Ecosystem Working Group (EWG) held a public meeting on May 15 and 17 to begin work on Initiative 4, through which the Council could identify ways to integrate ecosystem information more directly into its fishery management processes. The Council has requested the EWG provide a short report on the outcome of that meeting under this agenda item. The EWG will submit a supplemental report for that purpose. During its meeting, it explored the use of a risk assessment method modeled after work that has been carried out in the North Pacific since 2017, applying it to petrale sole and sablefish. Stoplight tables that summarize an array of climate and ecosystem indicators, which have been used in the annual salmon management process, were also explored. Finally, the EWG continued development of a framework to identify and prioritize the Council-managed species groups or species with management processes that should next be supported with ecosystem and climate information. As scheduled, the EWG will report on the results of this work at the September Council meeting.

Council Process and Efficiencies (C.2)

In the third of a series of white papers (Attachment 1), Council staff lay out a process and schedule for considering changes in Council procedures that would culminate in preparation of submission of the next funding request to NOAA for the 2025-2029 period. Of the many ideas that have been put forward so far under this topic, staff is seeking guidance on which ones it should further develop into concrete proposals. Those proposals would be initially vetted by the Budget Committee and then taken up by a “committee of the whole” of Council members in a strategic planning meeting. Development of the grant request begins later this year with a final submission deadline next summer; these Council efficiencies deliberations would have to align with that schedule.

Marine Planning (C.3)

The Council’s Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met May 18th and received an introductory briefing from Ms. Katie Westfall, NMFS Senior Advisor on Offshore Wind (OSW) energy issues, as well as updates on activities and issues for California, Oregon, and Washington, and a Tribal update. MPC Report 1 is included in advanced Briefing Book materials. The MPC was also scheduled to convene June 6, 2023, to discuss fisheries communications plans (FCPs), which are a requirement for OSW lease holders. The five California OSW lease holders were invited to discuss the timing, schedule, and content of the FCPs. Draft FCPs are expected to be available for public review and comment. The June 6th MPC meeting was originally scheduled to consider the draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) off the Oregon Coast. However, the MPC was notified that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will not be ready to present or discuss the draft Oregon WEAs.

Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (C.7)

In March 2023, the Council adopted a Harassment Reporting Procedures Policy (posted on the [Rules and Procedures](#) page) and discussed additional steps to promote a respectful and harassment-free work environment. Attachment 6 contains the staff-recommended measures, including COP updates, along with a summary of the Council, Advisory Body, and Tribal comments from [March 2023](#). Under this agenda item, the Council should identify the measures for implementation and next steps.

Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey Outreach Event

The NFMS SWFSC and Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) will be hosting an informal outreach event on June 21 from 6-8 pm in Heritage F regarding the Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey. The Integrated West Coast Pelagics Survey is an effort to combine the NWFSC survey for Pacific hake with the SWFSC's survey for CPS starting in 2025. This is the second of several public outreach events for all stakeholders. More details can be found in Informational Report 11.

JKD:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A – Council Meeting Agenda and Executive Director's Report
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Open Comment
3. Agenda Item C – Administrative
4. Agenda Item F – Ecosystem
5. Agenda Item G – Coastal Pelagic Species
6. CPSMT Agenda
7. CPSAS Agenda
8. Informational Reports
9. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC
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