



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2023
TO: Habitat Committee and Interested Persons
FROM: Mr. Kerry Griffin, Habitat Staff Officer
SUBJECT: June 2023 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person with live streaming from June 21 - 27, 2023 at the Vancouver Hilton, 301 W 6th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660. The Habitat Committee (HC) will convene in person, in the Cedar Room. Other Ancillary meetings will be conducted via a combination of online and in-person formats as noted in the Schedule of Ancillary Meetings in the Detailed Agenda (A.3). Instructions for joining online meetings will be posted to the June Council meeting [webpage](#). The Council will consider several important habitat-related topics as well as other agenda items, including the following.

Current Habitat Issues (D.1)

The HC will consider habitat-related issues that may be of interest to the Council and will develop a supplemental HC Report for Council consideration. The supplemental HC report is designed to alert the Council of activities or issues they should be aware of, such as upcoming development projects that may affect fisheries habitat, or updates on issues previously considered by the Council. The HC may recommend a particular action such as writing a letter or other communication on relevant issues.

Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) 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.

Council Coordination Committee Update (C.1)

The spring 2023 meeting of the Council Coordination Committee (CCC) was held in Key West, Florida from May 22-25, 2023 and was hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The meeting agenda is shown in Agenda Item C.1, Attachment 1. The agenda included a report by the CCC's Area-Based Management Subcommittee on conservation areas in the United States, pursuant to the America the Beautiful Initiative. Briefing and presentation materials for the CCC meeting are available electronically on the [U.S. Regional Fishery Management Council's web page](#).

C.2 Council and Process Efficiencies

In the third of a series of white papers, 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 are 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.

Marine Planning (C.3)

The Marine Planning Committee met on May 18 and June 6, 2023, to prepare reports for the June Council meeting. Topics will include an update on offshore wind energy development, including an update on fisheries communications plans that OSW developers are required to provide, and an update on upcoming West Coast Oceans Alliance activities.

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.

Ecosystem Management (F.1)

The Ecosystem Workgroup (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 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 whose management processes 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.

Habitat Committee Administrative Matters

The HC will also discuss non-agenda items including the Dredge Material Management Plan, with an anticipated HC letter for the September 2023 Briefing Book; and an update on the Highly

Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat Review, scheduled for Council action in September and November 2023.

Other topics will be addressed as needed. Please refer to the HC Agenda in the April Briefing Book for further details on issues before the HC. Please familiarize yourselves with the above topics and be prepared to discuss them during the HC meeting. Thank you for your participation in the Pacific Coast fisheries management process.

KFG:rdd

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A– Council Meeting Agenda and Executive Director’s Report
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Comments on Non-Agenda Items
3. Agenda Item C – Administrative Matters
4. Agenda Item D – Habitat Issues
5. Agenda Item E - Ecosystem
6. Agenda Item G – Coastal Pelagic Species (focus on G.3, CPS EFH)
7. Informational Reports
8. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC
05/31/23