



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2023

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: June 2023 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person for their [June 2023 meeting](#) June 22-27, 2023 at the Hilton Vancouver Hotel, 301 W sixth Street, in Vancouver, Washington. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) each hold a one-day meeting online. The SAS will meet Wednesday, June 21 beginning at 8 a.m. and the STT will meet Friday June 23 beginning at 8 a.m. The Model Evaluation Workgroup will not meet but is welcome to attend the online meetings. All meetings are open to the public and an opportunity for public comment has been scheduled on the Advisory Body agendas.

The Council will consider one salmon agenda item and additional matters of interest at this meeting. The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for these items on the Council's June 2023 agenda. The following agenda items summarized below may be of particular interest to the STT and SAS. Please note that the Council will continue to encourage participants to obtain briefing book materials electronically via our website. Printed materials may not be available at the meeting.

The Council will discuss Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC) and Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) Conservation Objectives under Agenda Item I.1. A review of the conservation objectives was advised by the STT when the Rebuilding Plans for each of these stocks were adopted in 2019. A thorough review will require a stepwise and thoughtful process which will include multi-agency collaboration. Council and National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) staff will provide a scoping report that outlines potential pathways for Council consideration.

The Pacific Halibut Agenda Item (E.1) will address potential future topics related to halibut management policies that may affect the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and non-tribal commercial halibut fishery regulations. A staff report is provided to help define or clarify the issues raised and provide a sense of the magnitude of the issue so that the Council can develop a process and timeline to fully address the issues as needed. The main areas of focus are recommendations from the Enforcement Consultants in their [September 2022 report](#), and the

request from the Groundfish Advisory Panel reports in [November 2022](#) and [April 2023](#) to maximize opportunity for the California recreational fishery.

C.2 Council and Process Efficiencies: 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.

C.3 Marine Planning: The Council’s Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met May 18 and received an introductory briefing from Ms. Katie Westfall, NMFS Senior Advisor on Offshore Wind 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 the advanced Briefing Book materials. The MPC was also scheduled to convene June 6, 2023, to discuss the fisheries communications plans (FCPs), which are a requirement for offshore wind (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 6 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.

C.7 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures: 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.

F.1 Ecosystem Management: 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.

Please take the necessary time needed to review and familiarize yourself with briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council's management process.

RDE:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A – Council Agenda and Executive Director's Report
2. Agenda Item C – Council Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Item D – Habitat Issues
4. Agenda Item E – Pacific Halibut Management
5. Agenda Item I – Salmon Management
6. Informational Reports
7. Proposed SAS Agenda
8. Proposed STT Agenda
9. Proposed Habitat Committee Agenda

PFMC
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