

COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE

Management and Activity Cycles

Approved by Council: 07/10/85

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PURPOSE

To establish management and activity cycles conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), its advisory entities, staff for the groundfish, salmon, coastal pelagic species, halibut, and highly migratory species fisheries, and administrative matters.

MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITY CYCLES

Schedule 1 Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.

Groundfish harvest specifications and management measure process are on a biennial cycle. Schedule 1 describes this cycle sequentially. This cycle contains three overlapping and interrelated processes: 1) stock assessment process, 2) harvest specifications and management measure biennial process, and 3) adoption of new and/or revised groundfish stock definitions. The following table shows the complete cycle, starting in June as Year 1 and concluding in June of Year 3, which starts the next biennial cycle.

SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish management.

Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
Year 1 <i>Odd Numbered Years</i>	June	<p><u>The <i>Council staff</i> provide biennial groundfish harvest specifications and management measure schedule and process to the Council.</u></p> <p><u>The <i>Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)</i> endorses stock assessments completed in Year 1 and recommends appropriate harvest specifications¹ to begin development of specifications for the next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4), as appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>The <i>Groundfish Management Team (GMT)</i> and <i>Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP)</i> meet to provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.</u></p> <p><u>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet review current fishery status, consider/analyze new and/or routine inseason management and provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action, as necessary, for Year 1. <i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments as necessary.</u></p>
	September	<p><u>The <i>SSC</i> endorses stock assessments completed in Year 1 and recommends appropriate harvest specifications² to begin development of specifications for the next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4), as appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>To begin development of specifications for the next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4), <i>The GMT and Scientific and Statistical Committee the SSC</i> review and incorporate new impact assessment methodologies, including new observer data from January through December of the previous year, approve stock assessments completed in Year 1, and recommend appropriate harvest</u></p>

¹ Stock assessments could be adopted as early as June in the Odd Year depending on the assessment schedule. Council action could be postponed from September to November for any stock assessments recommended for further review by the SSC.

² *Id.*

**SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish.
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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
<p>Year 1</p> <p><u>Odd</u> <u>Numbered</u> <u>Years</u></p>	<p>September (cont.)</p>	<p><u>specifications to begin development of specifications for the next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4).</u></p> <p>The GMT and GAP meet to provide recommendations to inform Council action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p>The Council adopts final modeling methodologies, stock assessments for the next biennial period for Years 3 and 4, final preferred overfishing limits (OFLs) and sigmas, as recommended by the SSC. The Council also adopts a range of P*/acceptable biological catches (ABCs), if applicable, including preliminary preferred values.</p> <p>The Council will provides initial fishery management guidance, including a preliminary range of management measures necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification or to address a habitat or protected resources concerns for analysis and implementation in Years 3 and 4.</p> <p>The GMT and GAP meet to review current fishery status to inform Council action on routine inseason management³ recommendations, as necessary, for Year 1. The <u>Council recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as appropriate.</u></p>
	<p>October</p>	<p>The SSC Groundfish Subcommittee meets, as appropriate, to review overfished species rebuilding analyses as well as any stock assessments approved for further review by the Council at the “mop-up” stock assessment review panel for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p>The GMT meets to review new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses. The GMT drafts a recommended range of <u>annual catch limits (ACLs)</u> and preliminary management measures for consideration at the November Council meeting for Years 3 and 4.</p>
	<p>November</p>	<p>Coastal treaty tribes initiate allocations and/or regulations specific to the tribes by written request to the Council and NOAA’s Regional administrator prior to the November Council meeting for Years 3 and 4.</p>

³ Routine management measures have been previously analyzed and are defined in regulation and include adjustments to rockfish conservation area boundaries and most trip limits, bag limits and size limits. Routine measures may be changed after a single Council meeting.

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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
<p>Year 1</p> <p><u>Odd Numbered Years</u></p>	<p>November (cont.)</p>	<p><i>The Council</i> adopts rebuilding analyses and any assessments sent to the <i>SSC Groundfish Subcommittee</i> for “mop-up” panel review and any recommended by the SSC, as appropriate.</p> <p>The <i>Council</i> adopts final preferred P*/ABCs; preliminary preferred non-overfished species ACLs, and, if necessary; a range of overfished species ACLs and preliminary preferred ACLs for overfished species for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p>The <i>Council</i> selects a range of 2-year allocations, final range of management measures for detailed analysis necessary to keep catch within or attain a specification or to address a habitat or protected resources concerns, and preliminary exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status to inform <i>Council</i> action on routine inseason management, as necessary, for Years 1 and 2. <u>Council recommends routine inseason management adjustments as appropriate.</u></p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Commerce</i> makes status determinations for stocks of managed groundfish species.</p>
<p>Year 2</p> <p><u>Even Numbered Years</u></p>	<p>January</p>	<p>The <i>GMT</i> meets to review and analyze <i>Council</i> actions relative to harvest specifications and management measures provided in Year 1, as necessary, for Years 3 and 4.</p>
	<p>March</p>	<p>The <i>Council</i> receives an informational briefing <u>from GMT/Council Staff</u> on selected results of the harvest specifications and management measures analysis for Years 3 and 4, if requested. The <i>Council</i> may be asked to provide guidance or take action on emerging issues, as necessary.</p> <p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action on harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4, if necessary.</p> <p><u>The Council adopts, for public review, 1) a preliminary list and schedule of stocks for assessment in next two groundfish biennial harvest specification and management measure cycles and 2) Groundfish Stock Assessment Terms of Reference (TOR) for assessments, methodology reviews, and rebuilding analyses.</u></p>

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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
<p>Year 2</p> <p><u>Even Numbered Years</u></p>	<p>March (cont.)</p>	<p><u>The <i>SSC</i>, <i>GMT</i>, and <i>GAP</i> meet to consider/review new information related to defining groundfish stocks and provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action on stock definitions, as appropriate. The <i>Council</i> scopes revisions to groundfish stock definitions and adopts, for public review, a Range of Alternatives (ROA) for defining and/or revising groundfish stock(s) definitions for the next biennial period, as applicable.</u></p> <p><u>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review proposed management measures and recommend prioritization of new management measures for analysis, as appropriate. <i>Council</i> adopts a list of proposed new management measures⁴ and may prioritize measure(s) from the list for analysis, as appropriate. This process occurs annually.</u></p> <p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status to inform <i>Council</i> action on routine inseason management, as necessary, for Year 2. <u><i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as necessary.</u></p> <p><u>The members of the <i>Joint Management Committee (JMC)</i>, established under the U.S./Canada Agreement, inform the <i>Council</i> on the annual total allowable catch (TAC) for Pacific whiting recommended by the JMC and the outcomes of the treaty process.^{5,6} Consistent with the U.S./Canada agreement, the <i>Council</i> considers the harvest specifications recommended by the JMC and confirms or recommends a lower U.S. TAC.</u></p> <p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures as well as current fishery status and routine inseason management recommendations for Year 2. <u>The <i>Council</i> recommends may consider recommending set-asides and adjustments to management measures for the Pacific Whiting fishery in Year 2, as appropriate.</u></p>
	<p>April</p>	<p><i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures as well as current fishery status and routine inseason management recommendations for Year 2.</p>

⁴ New Management measures are those not previously analyzed and implemented in regulation.

⁵ The Pacific whiting process is subject to the JMC's schedule, this item could be postponed, as appropriate.

⁶ NMFS, under the delegation of authority of the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, will accept or reject the recommendation of the JMC.

**SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish.
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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
<p>Year 2</p> <p><u>Even</u> <u>Numbered</u> <u>Years</u></p>	<p>April (cont.)</p>	<p>Consistent with the U.S./Canada agreement, the Council considers the harvest specifications recommended by the Joint Management Committee and confirms or recommends a lower U.S. TAC. The Council recommends set-asides and any adjustments to management measures for the Pacific Whiting fishery in Year 2.</p> <p>The GMT and GAP meet to provide recommendations to inform Council action on remaining harvest specifications and management measures for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p>Council adopts preliminary management measures for public review and final harvest specifications for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p><u>The Council adopts its final preferred alternative (FPA) for harvest specifications. The Council adopts its preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) for management measures for public review and for Years 3 and 4.</u></p> <p>The GMT and GAP meet to review current fishery status to inform Council action on routine inseason management, as necessary for Year 2. <u>Council recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as necessary.</u></p>
	<p>June</p>	<p>The Coastal treaty tribes refine requests for allocations and/or regulations specific to the tribes by written notice to the Council and NOAA’s Regional Administrator prior to the June Council meeting for Years 3 and 4.</p> <p>The Council <u>adopts FPA and recommends implementation by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for EFP applications and biennial management measures, as well as any corrections to harvest specifications for Years 3 and 4.</u></p> <p>The Council adopts: 1) FPA list and schedule of stocks for assessment in the next two groundfish biennial harvest specification and management measure cycles and 2) Groundfish Stock Assessment TOR for assessments, methodology reviews, and rebuilding analyses</p> <p>The SSC, GMT, and GAP meet to consider/review scoping material to define groundfish stocks and provide recommendations to inform the Council PPA decisions for stock definitions, as appropriate.</p>

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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
<p>Year 2 <u>Even</u> <u>Numbered</u> <u>Years</u></p>		<p><i>Council</i> adopts a PPA for revisions to groundfish stock definitions, as appropriate.</p> <p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status to inform <i>Council</i> action on routine inseason management, as necessary for Year 2. <i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as necessary.</p> <p><i>Council</i> adopts a draft calendar and prioritized list of new management measures to be analyzed outside of the harvest</p>
	July	<p>The <i>Council</i> staff, <i>NMFS</i> staff, and <i>GMT</i> (<i>as appropriate</i>) complete analyses and <u>National Environmental Policy Act</u> (NEPA) documents, as necessary, for biennial management specifications and submit them to <u>NOAA NMFS</u> for Years 3 and 4.</p>
	September	<p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status to inform <i>Council</i> action on routine inseason management, as necessary for Year 2. <i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as necessary.</p> <p>The <i>GMT</i>, <i>GAP</i>, and <i>Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year-cycle management activities, as appropriate for Year 3.</p> <p>The <i>SSC</i>, <i>GMT</i>, and <i>GAP</i> meet to consider/review the Council’s groundfish stock definition PPA and provide recommendations to inform the <i>Council</i> FPA decisions for stock definitions, as appropriate. <i>Council</i> adopts a FPA for revisions to groundfish stock definitions, as appropriate.</p>
	November	<p>The <i>GMT</i>, <i>GAP</i>, and <i>Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year activities, as appropriate for Years 2 and 3</p> <p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review current fishery status to inform <i>Council</i> action on routine inseason management, as necessary, for Year 2. <i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as necessary.</p> <p>The <i>GMT</i>, <i>GAP</i>, and <i>Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year-cycle management activities, as appropriate for Year 3.</p>

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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
		<u>The U.S. Department of Commerce makes overfishing stock status determinations based on Year 1 mortality estimates.</u>
Year 3 <u>Odd Numbered Years</u>	January	<p>The <i>U.S. Department of Commerce</i> implements harvest level specifications and management measures for next biennial management period (Years 3 and 4).</p> <p><u>The U.S. Department of Commerce approves groundfish stock definitions for next biennial management period (Year 5 and 6).</u></p> <p><u>The GMT meets to review and analyze Council-directed tasks and management actions for Year 3.</u></p>
Year 3 <u>Odd Numbered Years</u>	March March (cont.)	<p><u>The JMC informs the Council on the annual recommendation of the Pacific whiting TAC and the outcomes of the treaty process.^{7,8} Consistent with the U.S./Canada agreement, the Council considers the harvest specifications recommended by the JMC and confirms or recommends a lower U.S. TAC.</u></p> <p>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet to review Pacific whiting harvest specifications and management measures as well as current fishery status and routine inseason management recommendations for Year 2. <u>The Council recommends may consider recommending set-asides and adjustments to management measures for the Pacific Whiting fishery in Year 3, as appropriate.</u></p> <p><u>The GMT and GAP meet to review proposed management measures and recommend prioritization of new management measures for analysis, as appropriate. Council adopts a list of proposed new management measures⁹ and may prioritize measure(s) from the list for analysis, as appropriate. This process occurs annually.</u></p> <p><u>The GMT and GAP meet to review current fishery status, consider/analyze new and/or routine inseason management and provide recommendations to inform Council action, as necessary, for Year 3. Council recommends routine inseason management adjustments, as necessary.</u></p>

⁷ The Pacific whiting process is subject to the JMC's schedule, this item could be postponed, as appropriate.

⁸ NMFS, under the delegation of authority of the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, will accept or reject the recommendation of the JMC.

⁹ New Management measures are those not previously analyzed and implemented in regulation.

**SCHEDULE 1. Biennial management cycle and activities related to groundfish.
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Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
<p>Year 3</p> <p><u>Odd</u> <u>Numbered</u> <u>Years</u></p>		<p><u>The <i>GMT, GAP,</i> and <i>Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year cycle management activities, as appropriate for Year 3.</u></p>
	April	<p><u>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet review current fishery status, consider/analyze new and/or routine inseason management and provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action, as necessary, for Year 3. <i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments as necessary.</u></p> <p><u>The <i>GMT, GAP,</i> and <i>Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year cycle management activities, as appropriate for Year 3.</u></p>
	June	<p><u>Repeat management activities of September June in Year 1 to begin development of next biennial cycle (e.g., Years 5 and 6).</u></p>
	June (cont.)	<p><u>The <i>GMT</i> and <i>GAP</i> meet review current fishery status, consider/analyze new and/or routine inseason management and provide recommendations to inform <i>Council</i> action, as necessary, for Year 3. The <i>Council</i> recommends routine inseason management adjustments as necessary.</u></p> <p><u>The <i>GMT, GAP,</i> and <i>Council</i> participate in routine inseason management activities and off-year cycle management activities, as appropriate for Year 3.</u></p>