

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

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the draft agendas and Year-at-a-Glance (YAG), [Agenda Item H.10, Attachment 1](#) and November, [Agenda Item H.10, Attachment 2](#)) and offers the following for consideration by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council).

Fall GMT Meeting

Under the Initiative 4: Ecosystem and Climate Information – Progress Report agenda item ([Agenda Item F.1.a, EWG Report 1](#)), the Ecosystem Work Group requested to meet with the GMT before the November 2023 Council meeting. In its report on this item, the GMT asked that this meeting be held during the GMT’s fall meeting, scheduled for October 16 - 20, and include the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

November Agenda

The GMT appreciates that we are scheduled to start meeting on November 2, noting that there are seven groundfish items, one halibut, and two to three administrative items that the team will be tracking and potentially writing statements for in November. If the Council anticipates a particular need for GMT comment on any of the administrative items, the team requests that the Council clearly indicate the need(s) to help us balance them with our groundfish workload.

In November, the results of several groundfish agenda items are needed for subsequent agenda items. The following GMT requests are intended to ensure the scheduling is consistent with this need and provide sufficient time to complete necessary analyses and reports. Currently, the proposed November agenda ([Agenda Item H.10, Attachment 2](#)) schedules the Inseason Adjustments agenda item for one and a half hours on Monday, November 6. The GMT recommends scheduling more time for this item given the potential need to adjust trip limits to conserve quillback rockfish for the following year (2024) and the need to correct 2024 harvest specification values. Further, the GMT requests this agenda item be split into two sessions so that the team could give the Council an early indication of potential inseason action items, thereby giving the Council the opportunity to help the GMT narrow the scope of analysis necessary to take Council action. A two-part inseason item may also provide an additional avenue for requests under public comment to inform GMT analysis and/or recommendations. This may not be necessary for each Council meeting, but the GMT felt it would provide efficiencies in November 2023.

Similarly, the proposed November agenda currently schedules Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) and Biennial Management Measures on consecutive days (Monday, November 6 and Tuesday, November 7). To give the GMT adequate time to complete calculations, populate tables, and complete our report, we request EFPs be scheduled earlier than Monday. Allowing that time will facilitate the GMT being able to complete the necessary work and reduce the potential for errors, given that off-the-top deduction amounts impact allocations and shares in all other sectors.

Year-at-a-Glance

With several recently assessed stocks likely to be a significant constraint to fisheries in the near future (e.g., shortspine thornyhead, canary rockfish), as well as one stock likely to be declared overfished, it is likely that inseason will require more time in future Council meetings. The Council should weigh this consideration with other groundfish items when scheduling the YAG.

Additional Meetings

Members of the GMT will also be participating in a number of ancillary meetings and work sessions outside of Council meetings over the next several months, both as members of the GMT and as part of their other duties. A non-comprehensive list is found in Table 1. The GMT will be engaged at the September mop-up panel meeting, even if no assessments go to the mop-up panel, since a rebuilding analysis for quillback rockfish off California will be reviewed.

The GMT noted that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is hosting the Initiative 4: Ecosystem and Climate Information Workshop in early 2024. If the Council or TNC anticipates or wants GMT participation at this workshop, the GMT can only accommodate the alternate dates proposed, i.e., February 13-14, 2024.

Table 1. Non-comprehensive meetings and workshops the GMT expects to participate in outside of Council meetings for 2023 and 2024, along with expected GMT responsibilities.

Host	Meeting Purpose	Date(s)	Location	GMT Responsibilities
SSC	Groundfish mop-up panel	Sep. 25-29, 2023	Portland, OR/hybrid	Participate and advise on groundfish management/regulations, as needed
	Economics and Groundfish Subcommittees Sablefish Trip Limit Model Methodology Review	Oct. 12, 2023	Virtual	Report on updates to the model based on guidance and requests from the May review webinar
Council	Fall GMT Meeting	Oct. 16-20, 2023	Virtual	Start preliminary harvest specifications planning and analysis
	GMT Overwinter Meeting	Jan. 29-Feb 2, 2024	Portland, OR	Finish harvest specifications analysis and write up before the March advanced briefing book
PacFIN	Annual Meeting	Oct. 25-26, 2023	Virtual	Participate and provide information
RecFIN	Technical Committee Meeting	Nov. 14-15, 2023	San Diego, CA	Participate and provide information
IPHC ^{a/}	Interim/Annual Meeting	Nov. 30-Dec 1, 2023 / Jan. 22-26, 2024	Virtual / Anchorage AK	Participate as part of other job duties
SSC	Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation workshop	2024 (TBD)	TBD	Participate and provide information, data, and/or analysis, as needed
	Proposed workshop to develop alternative harvest control rules for Pacific spiny dogfish	2024 (TBD)	TBD	Participate and provide information, data, and/or analysis, as needed
TNC ^{b/}	Ecosystem and Climate Information Workshop with GMT & GAP	2024 GMT recommends Feb. 13-14	TBD	Participate and provide information, data, and/or analysis, as needed

^{a/} International Pacific Halibut Commission

^{b/} The Nature Conservancy