

DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
274th Session of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
November 1-8, 2023
Hyatt Regency Orange County
11999 Harbor Blvd., Orange County, CA 92840

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains or identifies the various elements, documents, and sources comprising the complete and official record of Council meeting discussions and actions. In addition to the Meeting Summary, which follows this introductory section (see #7 below), it includes information or references that serve as the functional detailed minutes for this Council meeting as required by §302(i)(2)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The full record is maintained at the Council office, is available on the Council website (<http://www.pcouncil.org/>) or upon request from the Council office, and consists of the following:

1. **Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda** – These documents are available on the Council Website prior to and following each meeting at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.
2. **Attendance Records** – These documents are available for the Council meeting and each advisory body meeting by request from the Council office.
3. **All Documents, Reports, and Presentations for Council Consideration** – These items include (1) all documents produced or received for the meeting briefing book, validated by a label assigned by the Council Secretariat and distributed to Council Members; (2) written public comments received at the Council meeting in accordance with agenda labeling requirements; and (3) electronic material or handout materials used in presentations to Council Members during the open session. They are available from links in the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
4. **Council Decisions Summary Document** – This document is distributed shortly after each Council meeting. It provides very brief descriptions of most key Council decisions and is available at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/> and also provided by agenda item in the Meeting Summary of this document.
5. **Draft or Final Decision Documents Finalized after the Council Meeting** – Documents such as Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments are available on the Council website as they are completed.
6. **Gavel-to-Gavel Audio Recordings and Summary Transcripts** – These recordings contain the testimony, presentations, discussions, and actions occurring at the meeting. For additional reference, verbatim transcripts of Council Actions are available on the Council website. The recordings and transcripts may be accessed from the links contained within the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
7. **Meeting Summary** (immediately follows this section) – The Meeting Summary lists, in agenda item order, the briefing book documents, reports, presentations, and Council motions and actions, including a brief summary from the Council Decisions Summary Document for each agenda item. It constitutes the meeting record formally approved by the Council. Links to the audio recordings may also be accessed at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
8. **Voting Log** – The voting log lists, in Agenda order, the summarized Council motions and actions for each agenda item that took place during the meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks – Brad Pettinger, Chair

Mr. Brad Pettinger, Council Chair, called the 274th meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:00 a.m. on November 3, 2023. A closed session was held before this open session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

2. Roll Call – Merrick Burden

Council Members present during the meeting week:

National Marine Fisheries Service: Ms. Jennifer Quan
Mr. Ryan Wulff, designee
Ms. Keeley Kent, designee
Ms. Susan Bishop, designee
Ms. Maggie Sommer, designee
Mr. Josh Lindsay, designee
Alaska State Official: Ms. Dani Evenson, nonvoting designee
Washington State Official: Mr. Kyle Adicks, designee
Ms. Heather Hall, designee
Mr. Corey Niles, designee
Washington Obligatory: Mr. Butch Smith
Oregon State Official: Mr. Mike Harrington, designee
Mr. John North, designee
Ms. Lynn Mattes, designee
Oregon Obligatory: Ms. Christa Svensson
California State Official: Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee
Ms. Briana Braby, designee
Ms. Caroline McKnight, designee
California Obligatory: Ms. Corey Ridings
Idaho State Official: Ms. Sharon Keifer, designee
Mr. Virgil Moore, designee
Idaho Obligatory: Mr. Pete Hassemer
Tribal Official: Mr. Joseph Oatman
At-Large: Mr. Phil Anderson
Mr. Robert Dooley
Mr. Brad Pettinger, Vice-Chair
Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific States Marine Fisheries
Commission: Mr. Chris Oliver, Parliamentarian, nonvoting designee
U.S. Coast Guard: LT Karrie Jeffries, nonvoting designee
LT Devon Zych, nonvoting designee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Mr. Mike Clark, nonvoting designee
Dr. Kyle Hanson, nonvoting designee

Absent from the Meeting:

U.S. State Department: Mr. David Hogan, nonvoting designee

3. Agenda – Brad Pettinger

a. Council Action: Approve Agenda

Motion 1: Adopt [Agenda Item A.3, November 1-8, 2023 Council Meeting Agenda](#).
Phil Anderson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

4. Executive Director’s Report – Merrick Burden

B. Open Comment Period

1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items –Merrick Burden

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: None

C. Administrative Matters

1. Council Coordination Committee Report – Merrick Burden

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Consider Report on the Council Coordination Committee Meeting**

Staff Summary: None

2. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Priorities – Kelly Ames

- a. NMFS Report – Jennifer Quan, Nicolle Hill, and Kristen Koch**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Action: Consider 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Priorities and Provide Comments, As Necessary**

Staff Summary: None

3. Marine Planning – Kerry Griffin

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Consider Marine Planning Committee Report and Provide Guidance

Motion 16: Council adopt the [C.3, Supplemental Attachment 3, November 2023 draft letter](#) as written and send it to BOEM and the Governor of Oregon as quickly as practicable.

Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings (Motion 16 carried, Mr. Harrington abstained)

Staff Summary: The Council directed Council staff to send the Council [comment letter](#) on the Draft Oregon Wind Energy Areas to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and to Oregon Governor Tina Kotek. The Council also encouraged the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) to be alert for upcoming comment opportunities on offshore wind energy activities and NOAA Aquaculture Opportunity Areas, and to develop response letters as appropriate. The Council also asked that NMFS keep the Council informed on progress related to an evaluation of uncertainties and impacts to NOAA scientific surveys resulting from offshore wind energy development on the southern Oregon/northern California region. In relation to the Council's expressed desire for a long term, coast wide cumulative impacts evaluation, the Council supported the MPC's recommendation to generate key questions and bring those back at a future Council meeting.

4. Fiscal Matters – Patricia Hearing

a. Report of the Budget Committee – Pete Hassemer

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Action: Consider Budget Committee Report and Recommendations

Motion 18: Council adopt the report and recommendations of the Budget Committee as shown in [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental BC Report 1, November 2023](#).

Pete Hassemer/Sharon Kiefer

Amendment 1: After “.” Insert “and provide funding to support attendance of state and tribal representatives at the upcoming TNC FEP Initiative Workshop.”

Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Amendment 1 withdrawn with consent of the second)

Motion 18 carried unanimously.

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the following:

- Calendar Year 2024 Provisional Budget of \$6,180,145 for use beginning January 1.
- An initial set of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) proposals as identified in [Agenda Item C.4, Supplemental Attachment 1](#) with the following additions: 1) Halibut Catch Sharing Plan/Allocations, 2) Mackerel Harvest Framework and 3) explore the nexus between the Habitat and Marine Planning Committees for work that would be consistent with IRA objectives. These proposal topics will be further refined prior to January 31.

- Committee of the Whole agenda with the additional staff work products as identified in the Budget Committee Report and discussion of the IRA proposals.
- Schedule a Spring Budget Committee meeting to discuss budget changes that are a result of the funded IRA projects.

5. Legislative Matters – Merrick Burden

- Report of the Legislative Committee**
- Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- Public Comment**
- Council Action: Consider Legislative Committee Report and Recommendations**

Staff Summary: None

6. Approval of Council Meeting Record – Brad Pettinger

- Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record**

Motion 35: Council approve the Council meeting record as presented in [C.6, Attachment 1: Draft Council Meeting Record: 273rd Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, September 7-14, 2023](#).

Phil Anderson/Bob Dooley (Motion 35 carried unanimously)

7. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures – Kelly Ames

- Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- Public Comment**
- Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures; Consider National Marine Fisheries Service Take Reduction Team Membership, As Appropriate**

Motion 36: Council appoint Mr. Andy Martin to the Oregon Charter Boat Operator position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

Lynn Mattes/Corey Niles (Motion 36 carried unanimously)

Motion 37: Council appoint Mr. Calvin Frank to the Tribal position on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

Joe Oatman/Butch Smith (Motion 37 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council roster was updated as follows:

- Lieutenant Todd Van Epps replaced Lieutenant Scott Cohen as CDFW’s designee to the Council’s Enforcement Consultants.

The Council made the following Advisory Body appointments:

- Mr. Andy Martin to the Oregon Charter Boat Operator position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel
- Mr. Calvin Frank to the Tribal position on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel

The Council is [soliciting nominations](#) to fill the Advisory Body vacancies listed below for the 2022-2024 term. Applications should be submitted via JotForm by **5 PM on Monday, January 22, 2024**.

- Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel – Washington At-Large – 1 Position
- Salmon Advisory Subpanel – Oregon Troll – 1 Position

8. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning – Merrick Burden

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting and Workload Planning**

Staff Summary: None

D. Salmon Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report Including Stock Status Determinations – Robin Ehlke

- a. Regulatory Activities – Susan Bishop**
- b. Fisheries Science Center Activities**
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- d. Public Comment**
- e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: None

2. Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment 24: Southern Resident Killer Whale Threshold Clarifications – Final – Robin Ehlke

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final FMP Amendment

Motion 2: Council adopt for incorporation into the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan the text and citations concerning Southern Resident Killer Whale management measures contained in [Agenda Item D.2, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#).

Kyle Adicks/Phil Anderson (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted changes to the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) under Amendment 24, which is focused on Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Management Measures in Section 6.6.8. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify the technical process for reviewing updates to the models used to determine the Chinook abundance threshold and reporting to the Council any resulting change in the threshold. There are no proposed changes to policy, methodology, or analysis. Other minor edits are also included in the amendment language. The Council will transmit its recommendation to amend the FMP to NMFS for approval, along with the adopted changes described in [Supplemental \(Revised\) Attachment 2](#) under this agenda item.

3. Final Methodology Review – Robin Ehlke

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Methodology Changes for 2024 and Beyond, as Needed

Motion 3: Recognizing that both the Scientific and Statistical Committee ([Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)) and the Salmon Technical Team ([Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#)) found the Gaussian Process as an improvement to the current base model of the Sacramento River winter Chinook abundance forecast, adopt the Gaussian Process 1 model for use in harvest management beginning in 2024 due to its superior performance in predicting control rule outputs. As recommended by the SSC, periodically revisit the forecast methods for SRWC every 3-5 years to re-assess their performance and evaluate additional covariates (e.g., the Juvenile Production Index) as warranted.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 3 carried unanimously)

Motion 4: Council adopt the forecast methodology for Oregon Production Index Hatchery coho as presented on pages 28-51 of [Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1](#), with the corrections identified as erratum in [Agenda Item D.3, Supplemental Attachment 2](#) incorporated.

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: Three major topics were discussed that lead to Council action. Information supporting the Council decisions are found in [Attachment 1](#) and [Supplemental Attachment 3](#) under this agenda item.

1. Consider improvement to methods used to model south of Falcon fisheries in Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model. The Council approved the use of an updated approach used to develop inputs for fisheries south of Cape Falcon, Oregon. These updates are expected to provide improved performance when modeling south of Falcon fisheries in the Chinook Fishery Regulation Model.
2. Consider technical modifications to the Sacramento River winter Chinook abundance forecast by examining whether an egg-to-fry covariate can improve forecast performance. The Council adopted the use of a new model beginning in 2024 to forecast the abundance of Sacramento River winter Chinook. Multiple models were evaluated including an array of Gaussian Process (GP) models using various predictor variables. The Council adopted the recommendation in the [Scientific and Statistical Committee \(SSC\) report](#) to use model GP-1, which relies on parent spawners and river temperature as predictors. The Council also agreed with the SSC's recommendation to re-assess the performance of the model every 3-5 years.
3. Explore alternative forecast approaches for the Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) coho forecast. The Council adopted the use of a new model to forecast abundance of OPIH coho beginning in 2024. The [Salmon Technical Team report](#) and the [SSC report](#) also supported the use of this new model. This new modeling approach is a MAPE (mean absolute percent error)-weighted ARIMA-based (autoregressive integrated moving average) ensemble forecast. Jack returns, delayed smolt releases, and nine environmental covariates were considered for use in this multi-model approach to forecasting. The OPIH forecast is an aggregate forecast, and the Council agreed that evaluating the forecast performance of the individual components of this aggregate should also occur in the near future.
4. **Final 2024 Preseason Management Schedule and 2024 Management Framework for California Chinook Fisheries – Robin Ehlke**
 - a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - b. **Public Comment**
 - c. **Council Action: Adopt Final 2024 Preseason Management Schedule; Adopt Management Framework for California Coastal Chinook in California Chinook Fisheries for 2024 and beyond**

Motion 5: Council adopt the Framework to Achieve Conservation Objectives for California Stocks of Chinook Salmon as described beginning on p3 of [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1, November 2023](#), and in [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental NMFS/CDFW Presentation 1](#). Using the draft regulatory language for the framework shown in [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2, November 2023](#), request that Council staff work with NMFS to finalize the regulatory language for transmittal in Section 660.405 Prohibitions, including the additional language requested by NMFS regarding possession; and the additions proposed for Section 660.410 Conservation objectives, ACLs, and *de minimis* control rules.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion carried; Mr. Dooley and Ms. Ridings voted no, Ms. Kiefer abstained)

Staff Summary: The Council agreed to hold the Council-hosted 2024 salmon public hearings in person for Washington and California, and online for Oregon. The in-person hearings are tentatively scheduled for March 25 in Westport, Washington and Santa Rosa, California. The online hearing for Oregon is tentatively scheduled for March 26.

The Council adopted the management framework for California Coastal (CC) Chinook described in [D.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#). CC Chinook are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act, and the age-4 component of the Klamath River fall Chinook stock is the proxy to measure impacts on CC Chinook. The impact limit on CC Chinook is 16 percent, which has been exceeded in recent years despite management efforts to temper the impacts. The management framework is intended to assure the conservation objectives for CC Chinook are met by implementing management tools consistent with the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan. The management framework will inform the preseason process for ocean salmon fisheries annually beginning in 2024. The framework is focused on the commercial troll ocean salmon fisheries off the coast of California and will include management tools such as trip limits (landing and possession limit) defined fishing periods, quick reporting, and inseason action. The performance of the framework will be assessed post season, and relevant information will be incorporated into the management decisions the following year.

5. Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report – Robin Ehlke

a. Workgroup Report

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Action: Discuss the Workgroup Report; Provide Guidance as Needed

Staff Summary: None

E. Groundfish Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Todd Phillips

a. Regulatory Activities – Keeley Kent

b. Fisheries Science Center Activities – Craig Russell

c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

d. Public Comment

e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate

Staff Summary: The Council directed staff to respond to the [Federal Register Notice](#) regarding scoping for a marine mammal take reduction team (TRT) for humpback whale entanglement in the sablefish pot fishery. The TRT is being developed in response to a [stipulated settlement](#) outcome.

2. Adopt Quillback Rebuilding Analyses, Catch-Only Projections, and Revised Projections – Marlene Bellman

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Quillback Rebuilding Analyses, Catch-Only Projections, and Revised Projections for 2025 and Beyond

Motion 6: I move that the Council conduct a benchmark full assessment once the California quillback rockfish stock is defined. This assessment should be used to determine if consideration of a California quillback rebuilding plan is necessary.

Marc Gorelnik/Bob Dooley

Amendment 1: At the beginning of the motion add “Expecting the California quillback stock will be defined, and assessed as part of the benchmark full assessment scheduled for 2025 use that assessment” and strike “I move that the Council conduct a benchmark full assessment once the California quillback rockfish stock is defined. This assessment should be used.”

Marci Yaremko/Butch Smith (Amendment 1 carried, Ms. Kent abstained)

Amendment 2: Strike “plan” and replace with “analysis”.

Marc Gorelnik/Sharon Kiefer (Amendment 2 carried, Ms. Kent abstained)

Motion 6, as amended, was withdrawn with consent of the second.

Motion 7: Council approve the draft 2023 rebuilding analysis for quillback rockfish ([Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1](#)) using a 2024 estimated removal assumption of 10.62 mt as recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental GMT Reports 1 and 2](#)).

Corey Ridings/Keeley Kent (Motion 7 failed; Corey Ridings, Joe Oatman, Corey Niles, and Keeley Kent voted yes)

Motion 8: Council adopt the catch-only projections for chilipepper rockfish ([Attachment 2](#)), yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10’ N. lat. ([Attachment 3](#)), vermilion rockfish south of 42° N. lat. ([Supplemental REVISED Attachment 5](#)), and revised projections for Dover sole ([Attachment 4](#), Table 2), and rex sole ([Attachment 4](#), Table 4) and the GMT-recommended black rockfish projection ([Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)) for use in 2025 and beyond.

Lynn Mattes/Christa Svensson (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted catch-only projections for [chilipepper rockfish](#), [yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10’ N. latitude](#), [vermilion rockfish south of 42° N. latitude](#), and [revised projections](#) for Dover sole and rex sole for use in 2025 and beyond. They also adopted projections from the 2023 Oregon black rockfish stock assessment (see Agenda Item E.5, [Supplemental](#)

[Revised Attachment 1](#)), with GMT-recommended removal assumptions ([Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)).

The Council considered public comment on the 2021 quillback rockfish stock assessment and postponed adoption of the rebuilding analyses conducted in 2023 based on the assessment. The Council requested that the SSC review the comments submitted by Dr. Ray Hilborn and Dr. Mark Maunder regarding the 2021 stock assessment. The Council will consider the SSC recommendations of this special review at their March 2024 meeting in Fresno, California and will adopt harvest specifications at that time.

3. Final Inseason Adjustments for 2023 and 2024, Including 2024 Whiting Set-Asides (Part 1) – Todd Phillips

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2023 and 2024, as Necessary; Adopt Pacific Whiting Yield Set-Asides for 2024

Motion 9: Council adopt the GMT recommendations ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)) of 750 mt as the whiting yield set-aside for 2024, and to:

- Increase the commercial lingcod trip limits north of 42° N. lat., Option 2
 - LE north of 42° 11,000 lbs./2 months
 - OA north of 42° 5,500 lbs./month; and
- Decrease the Oregon recreational longleader (Holloway) gear fishery bag limit to 12 fish per angler per day

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 9 carried unanimously)

Motion 10: Council adopt the GMT recommendations ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)) to:

- Increase the commercial bocaccio trip limits under Option 1
- Decrease the commercial vermilion/sunset rockfish trip limits under Option 1
- Decrease the commercial canary rockfish trip limits under Option 1

Caroline McKnight/Corey Ridings (Motion 10 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council recommended multiple commercial inseason adjustments for 2024 fisheries, as shown below.

Lingcod north of 42° N. lat.

- Limited Entry Fixed Gear (LEFG) north of 42° N. lat.: 11,000 lbs./2 months
- Open Access (OA) north of 42° N. lat.: 5,500 lbs./month

Canary Rockfish

- LEFG north of 40° 10' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs./2 months
- OA north of 40° 10' N. lat.: 1,000 lbs./2 months
- LEFG south of 40° 10' N. lat.: 3,500 lbs./2 months
- OA south of 40° 10' N. lat.: 1,500 lbs./2 months

Bocaccio Rockfish South of 40° 10' N. lat.

- LEFG south of 40° 10' N. lat.: 8,000 lbs./2 months
- OA south of 40° 10' N. lat.: 6,000 lbs./2 months

Vermilion/Sunset Rockfish

- LEFG 40° 10' N. lat. to 34° 27' N. lat.: 500 lbs./2 months
- OA 40° 10' N. lat. to 34° 27' N. lat.: 300 lbs./2 months
- LEFG south of 34° 27' N. lat.: 3,000 lbs./2 months
- OA south of 34° 27' N. lat.: 900 lbs./2 months

Additionally, the Council recommended decreasing the recreational longleader “Holloway gear” bag limit to 12 fish per angler per day off of Oregon.

4. Sablefish Gear Switching – Preliminary Preferred Alternative – Jim Seger/Jessi Doerpinghaus

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative

Motion 17: Council identify Action Alternative 2 as its Preliminary Preferred Alternative, as identified in [Agenda Item E.4](#), with the following modifications and clarifications.

The provisions of Alternative Two will only be used if the sablefish north ACL is below 6,000 - 8,000 mt. The trawl QP will be distributed consistent with the provisions of Alternative Two until the sablefish north ACL is equal to or greater than 6,000 – 8,000 mt. (potential of adding a 29 percent three-year rolling average provision)

Description of Alternative 2

- Gear Switching Control: Trawl-Only and Any-Gear (Unrestricted) QP
 - Northern sablefish QP will be issued as trawl-only QP and any-gear QP (unrestricted QP).
- Procedure for Determining the Amount and Distribution of Any-Gear QP
 - Upon implementation, NMFS will identify legacy participants, their eligible QS, and the standard ratio which will apply to QP issued for all other QS, based on the qualification criteria listed in the following section.
 - **Legacy participants:** will receive any-gear QP for their eligible QS (eligible QS is any QS owned by a legacy participant that does not exceed

what the participant owned on the control date or the implementation date of this action, whichever is less).

- **For QS owned by non-legacy participants (and a legacy participant QS that is not eligible):** QP Distribution Option 1– Constant Proportion of Any-Gear QP (i.e., constant standard ratio). – At implementation, a standard any-gear and trawl-only QP ratio will be determined such that the total amount of any-gear QP will equal 29 percent (including that issued to legacy participants). As legacy participants divest of their eligible QS, the any-gear/trawl-only QP ratio for non-eligible QS will not change, such that the total amount of any-gear QP declines to less than 29 percent.
- Legacy Participants
 - Legacy participants are individuals that meet the qualifying criteria provided below. The designation as a legacy participant stays with the individual and is not transferable. As legacy participants divest themselves of QS, the total legacy participant holdings of eligible QS will decline.
- To qualify as a legacy participant
 - As of and since the control date, an individual must have some ownership interest in a permit (or permits) that landed northern sablefish QPs with non-trawl gear totaling at least 30,000 pounds per year in at least 3 years between January 1, 2011 and September 15, 2017 (the control date) and had some ownership interest in northern sablefish quota shares (any amount).
- Transferability and Accumulation Limits
 - As under status quo, all QS and QP would remain fully transferable and the existing QS control limit (3.0 percent) and annual vessel QP use limit (4.5 percent) will continue to be applied for northern sablefish quota as a whole (without distinction by gear type).
- After implementation
 - If a legacy status holder divests their QS holdings below the amount held when they qualified any new QS acquisition will be treated as non-legacy QS.
 - If a legacy participant divests all their QS their legacy status would expire.

Phil Anderson/Bob Dooley

Amendment 1: change QP Distribution Option 1 to QP Distribution Option 2

Maggie Sommer/Brad Pettinger (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Amendment 2: strike 6,000 and change to 5,000; strike 8,000 and change to 10,000

Christa Svensson/Brad Pettinger (Amendment 2 carried; Ms. Marci Yaremko voted no) (Motion 17, as amended, carried; Ms. Ridings and Ms. Yaremko voted no)

Staff Summary: The Council modified and selected as its preliminary preferred alternative (PPA), [Alternative 2](#), which would create gear-specific quota pounds for sablefish north (any-gear and trawl-only QP). The major modification to the alternative would be to create a trigger such that the gear-specific QP would only be issued for years in which it is more likely that sablefish gear-switching might constrain attainment of the trawl sector allocation. The trigger would be an annual catch limit for northern sablefish below a certain level. The trigger level is to be determined but would be between 5,000 and 10,000 mt. Additionally, the trigger might also require that the

average level of gear-switching in the previous three years be above 29 percent. The Council also selected QP Distribution Option 2 as a preliminary preferred alternative, which would result in a diminishment of the total amount of QP issued as any-gear QP, as those who qualify as legacy gear-switching participants divest themselves of QS. Finally, additional guidance was provided related to the process by which legacy participants would divest of QS and their legacy status eventually terminate. Left open was the question of whether QS accounts not owned by individuals (e.g. owned by non-profits) might or might not have their legacy status terminated over time.

5. Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2025-2026 (Part 1) – Todd Phillips/Marlene Bellman

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Overfishing Limits, Final P*/Acceptable Biological Catches, Preliminary Preferred Annual Catch Limits for Stocks and Stock Complexes, if possible, and Rebuilding Specifications for Quillback Rockfish in California

Motion 13: Council adopt default HCRs for all species in the Groundfish FMP, except for the three species listed below, as recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2; Table 1](#)):

Rex sole: Alt 1, $ACL = ABC P^*0.45$

Shortspine thornyhead: $ACL < ABC P^* 0.45$, 40-10 adjustment applied

Dover sole: Alt 1: $ACL = ABC P^* 0.45$

And adopt the GMT recommended shortspine thornyhead apportionment method (5-year rolling average) for north and south of 34° 27' N. lat. ([Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#))

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Motion 14: Council adopt the final 2025-2026 OFLs, ABCs, as shown in Tables 1-1 and 1-2 in [Agenda Item E.5, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1](#) except for the OFLs and ABCs for nearshore rockfish complex north and south of 40° 10' N. latitude.

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted final 2025-2026 overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs), as provided in Table 1-1 (2025) and Table 1-2 (2026) in Agenda Item E.5, [Supplemental Revised Attachment 1](#), except for the nearshore rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. latitude. The nearshore rockfish complex values are a summary of component species, and because quillback rockfish in California did not have adopted OFLs and ABCs, the complex level totals remained incomplete and thus were not adopted under this agenda item. However, the nearshore rockfish complexes OFL, ABC, and annual catch limits (ACLs) for species except quillback rockfish, were later adopted under Agenda Item E.7.

The Council also adopted default harvest control rules for the ABC/ACLs, except for the three species listed below, as recommended by the GMT (Table 1; [Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)).

- Rex sole: Alternative 1, ACL = ABC with P* = 0.45
- Shortspine thornyhead: Alternative 1, ACL < ABC with P* = 0.45 and 40-10 adjustment applied
- Dover sole: Alternative 1, ACL = ABC with P* = 0.45.

Stock	Default HCR	Alternative 1
Rex Sole	ACL = ABC P* 0.40	ACL = ABC P* 0.45
Shortspine thornyhead	ACL < ABC P* 0.40, 40 10 HCR applied	ACL < ABC P* 0.45 , 40 10 HRC applied
Dover Sole	ACL = 50,000 mt	ACL = ABC P*0.45

The Council adopted a method for apportionment of the shortspine thornyhead ACLs to the areas north and south of 34° 27' N. latitude using a 5-year rolling average of biomass observed by the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center's (NWFS) West Coast Groundfish Bottom Trawl (WCGBT) survey (see Option 1, [Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)).

The Council did not adopt a range of rebuilding specifications for quillback rockfish off California under this agenda item, but further discussed the topic under Agenda Item E.7 and adopted a range of values to be used for overwinter analysis of groundfish harvest specifications.

6. Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permits for 2025-2026 – Jim Seger

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permits and Proposed Set-Asides for Public Review and Provide Other Guidance, as Necessary

Motion 15: Council adopt for public review the Exempted Fishing Permits as recommended by the GMT in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#), including removal of the 100 Chinook salmon allowance for non-trawl EFP activity.

Caroline McKnight/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council approved for public review two EFPs proposed for 2025-2026, both of which would be renewals of 2023-2024 EFPs. The first is a [CDFW proposal](#) for collecting fishery-dependent biological data for cowcod caught in the recreational fishery. For the 2025-2026 biennium, this EFP would add collection of quillback and yelloweye rockfishes. The second EFP is a [West Coast Seafood Processors and Oregon Trawl Commission proposal](#) that would collect information on the nature and extent of bycatch of salmon and other species of concern while conducting a midwater trawl fishery targeting widow, yellowtail, chilipepper, and other rockfish species without existing gear/time/area restrictions. It also provides exemptions to requirements for the use of selective flatfish trawl gear and the prohibition on the use of small footrope trawl gear other than selective flatfish trawl gear in certain areas between 42° N. lat. and 40° 10' N. lat. In addition, the Council received [notification](#) that the 2023-2024 yellowtail rockfish jig fishing EFP will not be continued for 2024.

7. Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2025-2026 (Part 2) – Todd Phillips/Marlene Bellman

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Remaining Harvest Specifications, as Necessary; Adopt Preliminary Two-Year Allocations and a Range of Alternative Management Measures for Detailed Analysis

Motion 26: Council adopt the 2025-2026 OFL, ABC, ACL values in Table 1-1 and Table 1-2 in [Agenda Item E.5, Supplemental Revised Attachment 1, November 2023](#) for the minor nearshore rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. except for quillback rockfish. For quillback rockfish the following range of 2025-2026 OFL, ABC, ACL values would be used for over winter GMT analysis:

OFL 8.41 mt, ABC:ACL 5.06 mt

OFL 1.52 mt, ABC Rule 1.3 mt

Caroline McKnight/Bob Dooley (Motion 26 carried; Oatman, Ridings and Kent voted no)

Motion 27: Alternative 1, P* of 0.40, ABC=ACL for sablefish be removed from the range of alternatives adopted under Agenda Item E.5.

Caroline McKnight/Lynn Mattes (Motion 27 carried unanimously)

Motion 28: Council adopt the preliminary 2025 and 2026 tribal management measures and set-asides as outlined in [Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2023](#).

Joe Oatman/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 28 carried unanimously)

Motion 29: Council adopt the following alternatives for inclusion in the range considered for groundfish management measures in 2025-2026: (Numbers from [Agenda Item E.7, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, November 2023](#), the Action Item Checklist)

- Action Item #3 Off-the-top Deductions

Adopt the following preliminary set-asides for 2025 and 2026, as shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2023](#) :

- Research: use the rolling 10-year maximum of research mortality to set research set-asides in 2025-26, except for:

Stock or Management Unit	2025-2026 Research Set-Aside (in mt)
Canary rockfish	10.08
Cowcod	10.00
California quillback rockfish	0.10
Yelloweye rockfish	2.92

- Incidental Open Access: use the rolling 10-year maximum methodology to set IOA set-asides in 2025-26 listed in Table 3 in [GMT Report 2](#); except those species listed as the GMT recommendation in Table 4 in [GMT Report 2](#)

Stock or Management Unit	2025-2026 IOA Set-Aside (in mt)
Bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat.	2.18
Canary rockfish	2.83
Darkblotched rockfish	10.71
Longspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat.	1.26
Petrable sole	4.38
Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.	25.00
Widow rockfish	1.00
Nearshore rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	1.10
Slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.	0.93
Yelloweye rockfish	3.86

- Exempted Fishing Permits: no set-asides for 2025-2026

- Recreational Sablefish:

- sablefish north of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 30 mt
- create a sablefish south of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 10 mt

- Action Item #5 Two Year Allocations

Adopt status quo for two year allocations for all stocks, except:

- Canary rockfish – have the GMT develop any alternative options for Council consideration in March and/or April
- Petrable sole – have the GMT develop any alternative options for Council consideration in March and/or April
- Widow rockfish – 200 mt non-trawl, remainder to trawl

- Action Item #6 Rebuilding/Overfished Species Allocations

Adopt the status quo yelloweye rockfish proportions for trawl/non-trawl allocations (8 and 92 percent, respectively).

- Action Item # 7 Amendment-21 Allocation Changes

Maintain current Amendment-21 trawl/non-trawl allocations, and reconsider allocations during inter-sector allocation review.

- Action Item #8 HGs / State Shares for Stocks in a Complex

Adopt status quo HG for Blackgill rockfish (within the Slope Rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. complex)

No species specific HGs for:

- Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish Complex
- OR and WA cabezon/kelp greenling complexes

- Action Item #17 Oregon Recreational Fishery

ODFW and the GMT, as needed, will analyze routine measures such as bag limits, season structures, depth limits, and length limits, etc., including an increased bag limit for sablefish, that keep catch from exceeding harvest targets for the Oregon recreational fishery.

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 29 carried unanimously)

Motion 30: Council adopt the following alternatives in the range considered in the 2025-2026 groundfish harvest specifications and management measure process.

- Action Item #9 At-Sea Set-Asides

Analyze the range of at-sea set-asides listed in Table 12 of the GMT report ([Agenda Item E.7, Supplemental GMT Report 3, November 2023](#)), in addition to all status quo at-sea set-asides.

- Action Item #10 Within non-trawl HG/Shares

Adopt status quo 2-year within non-trawl HGs, ACTs, or shares for:

- Cowcod south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- Bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.
- Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.
- Yelloweye rockfish

Analyze all allocation and management schemes for canary rockfish including alternatives for the commercial non-nearshore and nearshore shares.

Analyze a copper rockfish ACT for the recreational fishery south of Pt. Conception.

- Action Item #16 – WA Recreational

Analyze routine changes to Washington recreational fisheries; specific measures may consider revisions to season dates, bag limits, or depth restrictions that keep catch from exceeding harvest targets.

- Action Item #19 – New Management Measures

- 19a. Develop open access permit or registration.

- 19b. Develop requirement for recreational anglers to possess a descending device aboard a vessel when fishing for groundfish in Federal waters.

- Other: Electronic monitoring (EM) discard list: align the discard species list in regulation with the list that was in the vessel monitoring plan (VMP) for the exempted fishing permit, evaluate whether it's feasible to move the discard species list from regulation to the VMP to add flexibility.

- Other: WDFW Sorting Requirement: consider revisions to Federal sorting requirements to require all rockfish be sorted to species.

- 19c. Remove updates to discard mortality rates (DMR).

- 19d. Remove analysis of a Recreational YRCA at Rittenburg Bank.
Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 30 carried unanimously)

Motion 31: Council adopt the following alternatives in the range considered in the 2025-2026 Groundfish Harvest Specification and Management Measure Process. Following the Action Item Checklist numbering from [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 5](#) and [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#).

- Action Item #2 Area Management
Evaluate minor revisions to Rockfish Conservation Area Adjustments waypoints to better align with bathymetry lines as described in [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2023](#).
- Action Item #4 ACT
 - Copper Rockfish – Evaluate removing statewide California copper rockfish ACT and establish an ACT south of Pt. Conception for the California stock
 - Quillback rockfish off California
 - Yelloweye rockfish – Do not analyze removing – status quo
 - Sablefish ACT north of 36°- Do not analyze
- Action Item #11
Shorebased IFQ – Status quo IFQ allocations, RCA configurations, trip limits for non-IFQ species.
- Action Item #12-15
Evaluate routine adjustments to the non-trawl RCA configuration, as appropriate. Analyze trip limits, size limits, etc. for managed species as appropriate as indicated by [GMT Report 5](#) and [GAP Report 1](#) recommendations.
 - OA north of 40° 10 N. lat.
 - OA south of 40° 10 N. lat.
 - LEFG north of 40° 10 N. lat.
 - LEFG south of 40° 10 N. lat.
- Action Item #18
California Recreational - Analyze routine adjustments to bag limits, season structure, size limits, etc. as appropriate including 18a-18f from [GMT Report 5](#).
Caroline McKnight/Bob Dooley (Motion 31 carried unanimously)

Motion 32: Council adopt the following alternative for consideration in the 2025-2026 Groundfish Harvest Specification and Management Measure Process.

- Action Item #20
Remove quillback rockfish from the nearshore rockfish complexes.
Caroline McKnight/Heather Hall

Amendment 1: edit to add “off California” after quillback rockfish.
Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)
Motion 32, as amended, carried unanimously.

Staff Summary:

Specifications

Under this agenda item, the Council adopted final 2025-2026 overfishing limits (OFLs) and acceptable biological catches (ABCs), as provided in Table 1-1 (2025) and Table 1-2 (2026) in Agenda Item E.5, [Supplemental Revised Attachment 1](#), for the nearshore rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. latitude, except quillback rockfish. The nearshore rockfish complex values are a summary of component species, including quillback rockfish in California which did not have adopted OFLs and ABCs under Agenda Item E.5. Additionally, the Council removed quillback rockfish off California from the nearshore rockfish complexes. Thus, 2025-2026 harvest specifications for the remaining nearshore rockfish component species in the complexes were adopted under Agenda Item E.7.

A range of 2025-2026 OFL, ABC, and ACL values were adopted for quillback rockfish in California for overwinter analysis of groundfish harvest specifications by the GMT, from an OFL of 1.52 mt and ABC Rule 1.3 mt (Table 5 and 4, [Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1](#)) to an OFL of 8.41 mt and ABC=ACL 5.06 mt ([Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 2](#)). This would provide the lower and upper range of 2025 harvest specifications for analysis.

The Council also removed Alternative 1, P* 0.40, ABC=ACL for sablefish from consideration. The only harvest control rule to be considered during the overwinter analysis is the default P*0.45, ABC=ACL.

Management Measures

The Council adopted a range of management measures for over-winter analysis recommended by the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) in their [Supplemental Report 2](#), [Supplemental Report 3](#), and [Supplemental Report 4](#); the Tribes in [Tribal Report 1](#), and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) in [Supplemental Report 1](#). The range of management measures include, but are not limited to, time/area closures, bag and trip limits, and allocation considerations designed to achieve, but not exceed ACLs. The Council also reaffirmed inclusion of waypoint corrections as detailed in California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s [Supplemental Report 1, September 2023](#) for analysis.

The Council also included several new management measures for analysis:

- Development of an open access fishery registration or permit (see [NMFS Report 1](#)).
- Descending device possession requirement for recreational anglers when fishing for groundfish in Federal waters (see [GMT Report 4](#) under 19b).
- Aligning the electronic monitoring discard species list in regulation with the list that was in the vessel monitoring plan for the exempted fishing permit.

- Revisions to Federal sorting requirements to require that all rockfish be sorted to species (see [Supplemental WDFW Report 1](#)).

8. Phase 2 Stock Definitions – Planning – Todd Phillips/Marlene Bellman

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Workplan and Schedule

Motion 33: Council adopt the proposed schedule for developing the Phase 2 Stock Definition process in [Agenda Item E.8, Attachment 2 November 2023](#).

Caroline McKnight/Corey Ridings (Motion 33 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted a schedule and workplan, as shown in [Agenda Item E.8, Attachment 1](#), for Phase 2 Stock Definitions. Phase 2 will address three overarching aspects: 1) define stocks of the Council’s managed groundfish species not defined as part of Phase I; 2) revise stock complexes; and 3) consider delegating aspects of a stock’s management to states or removing the stock from the FMP. Work will initiate this winter on multiple preparatory items to inform the Council for scoping Phase 2 in September 2024.

9. Final Inseason Adjustments for 2023-2024 – Todd Phillips

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2023 and 2024, as Necessary

Motion 34: Council adopt the inseason recommendations contained in E.9.a, [Supplemental GMT Reports 1](#) and [2](#), November 2023.

Marci Yaremko/Lynn Mattes (Motion 34 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted inseason adjustment recommendations for 2024 as shown below (detailed in [E.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#)) for limited entry and open access groundfish fisheries.

The Council recommended adjusting the shoreward boundary of the RCA from 42° N. lat. to 36° N. lat. to the inner boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (i.e., the state waters seaward boundary of California).

Minor Shelf Rockfish LE/OA 42° N. lat. to 36° N. lat.

- LEFG north of 40° 10' N. lat.: 800 lbs./month

- OA north of 40° 10' N. lat.: 600 lbs./month
- LEFG 40° 10' – 36° N. lat.: 6,000 lbs./2 months
- OA 40° 10' – 36° N. lat.: 3,000 lbs./2 months

Lingcod LE/OA South of 42° N. lat. to 36° N. lat.

- LEFG Lingcod trip limit: 0 lbs./2 months between 42° – 36° N. lat. inside the Non-Trawl RCA.
- OA Lingcod trip limit: 0 lbs./month between 42° – 36° N. lat. shoreward of the Non-Trawl RCA.
- LEFG/OA Lingcod status quo trip limits seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA. LEFG 42° - 40° 10' N. lat.: 2,000 lbs./2 months
- OA 42° - 40° 10' N. lat.: 1,000 lbs./month
- LEFG 40° 10' – 36° N. lat.: 1,600 lbs./2 months
- OA 40° 10' – 36° N. lat.: 700 lbs./month

Other Flatfish LE/OA south of 42° N. lat. to 36° N. lat.

- LEFG/OA other flatfish trip limit: 0 lbs./month inside the Non-Trawl RCA.
- LEFG/OA other flatfish trip limit seaward of the Non-Trawl RCA.
- LEFG 42° - 40° 10' N. lat. 10,000 lbs./month
- OA 42° - 40° 10' N. lat.: 5,000 lbs./month
- LEFG 40° 10' – 36° N. lat.: 10,000 lbs./month
- OA 40° 10' – 36° N. lat.: 5,000 lbs./month

Minor Nearshore Rockfish LE/OA 42° N. lat. to 36° N. lat.

- LEFG 42° - 40° 10' N. lat.: 0 lbs./2 months
- OA 42° - 40° 10' N. lat.: 0 lbs./2 months
- LEFG 40° 10' to 36° N. lat.: 0 lbs./2 months
- OA 40° 10' to 36° N. lat.: 0 lbs./2 months

Cabazon LE/OA 42° N. lat. to 36° N. lat.: 0 lbs./ 2 months

Quillback Rockfish LE/OA south of 42° N. lat.: No Retention in Federal waters off California in all commercial groundfish fisheries for 2024

The Council also recommended implementation of the following bathymetry lines ([Agenda Item E.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2023](#))

- 100 and 150 fm lines for non-trawl commercial fisheries around Santa Barbara Island, San Nicolas Island, Tanner Bank, and Cortes Bank.
- 50 fm line for recreational fisheries around Santa Barbara Island, San Nicolas Island, Tanner Bank, and Cortes Bank.

F. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Kit Dahl

- a. Regulatory Activities – Ryan Wulff**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: None

2. Highly Migratory Species Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Amendment – Final – Kerry Griffin

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt Final EFH Revisions to the FMP**

Motion 11: Council adopt the proposed EFH modifications to the HMS FMP as contained in [Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2](#) and [Supplemental Revised Attachment 3](#).

Briana Brady/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the proposed EFH modifications contained in [F.2, Attachment 2](#) and [F.2, Supplemental Revised Attachment 3](#) as final. These include updated life history summaries, modified spatial extent of HMS EFH, updated Research and Information Needs, and other minor updates. Council staff will compile the documents into a transmittal package to NMFS for Secretarial approval.

3. Highly Migratory Species Roadmap Workshop – Kit Dahl

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Establish Scope and Objectives for the Workshop; Discuss Next Steps**

Motion 12: Council:

1. Adopt as draft the proposed HMS Roadmap goals as outlined in [Agenda Item F.3.a, HMSMT Report 1](#), for further refinement during the HMS Roadmap workshop,
2. Provide a facilitator for the workshop, and
3. Direct the HMSMT and HMSAS to work with Council staff to continue to develop the agenda and associated operational plans for the workshop, including a list of defined terms, and bring back for consideration at the March 2024 Council meeting.

Briana Brady/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the following goals for the HMS Roadmap:

1. Support innovation and development of multi-species fishing practices which catch swordfish along with a suite of other commercially valuable species (e.g., those in the DGN fishery) to meet the demand for a fresh high-quality product with locally-caught (within the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone) domestic production.
2. Limit unmarketable, prohibited, and protected species bycatch in HMS fisheries to a predefined acceptable level relative to market species production through mitigation, gear innovation, and accountability measures, where necessary.
3. Support the economic viability of domestic West Coast fisheries that harvest swordfish and other HMS by promoting a wide range of harvest methods, giving due consideration to traditional participants, and increasing future participation.
4. Promote climate-ready HMS fisheries by supporting resilience in fishery operations and fishing communities, flexibility in management approaches, and consideration of climate impacts of fishing operations.

The Council noted that these goals could be further refined based on input received at the November Council meeting and additional HMS Management Team (HMSMT) and HMS Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) discussion.

The Council directed the HMSMT and HMSAS to continue work on the design of a workshop to further Roadmap goals and report back in March 2024. As part of workshop design, it endorsed the recommendation that the Council should contract with a facilitator.

G. Pacific Halibut Management

1. **2024 Catch Sharing Plan and Regulations – Final – Robin Ehlke**
 - a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - b. **Public Comment**
 - c. **Council Action: Adopt Final Catch Sharing Plan and Regulation Changes for Implementation in 2024; Identify Process and Schedule for Remaining Items, as Needed**

Motion 19: Council adopt the season structure and changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for 2024 as recommended in [Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 2](#).

Heather Hall/Phil Anderson (Motion 19 carried unanimously)

Motion 20: Council adopt the changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for the Oregon recreational fishery as recommended in [Agenda Item G.1.a, ODFW Report 1](#).

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 20 carried unanimously)

Motion 21: For the California recreational subarea, I move the Council adopt changes to the 2024 CSP to:

- Establish two subareas for the California recreational fishery by creating a management line at Point Arena (38° 57.5' N. lat.). The area between the OR/CA border (42° N. lat.) and Pt. Arena would be called the Northern California subarea. The area south of Pt. Arena would be called the south of Pt. Arena subarea.
- Assign 500 pounds of the California quota to the south of Pt. Arena subarea.
- The south of Point Arena subarea will be open May 1 through December 31, or until the assigned pounds for that subarea have been reached, whichever is earlier. All other management objectives, landing restrictions, etc. would be consistent with those as described for the California recreational fishery in the current CSP.
- Request that Council staff work with NMFS and CDFW to finalize the CSP regulatory language for transmittal.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Motion 22: Council adopt the following season structure for the commercial non-tribal directed halibut fishery in 2024:

The 2024 season will consist of a series of three-day openings each beginning at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday ending at 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday of that week. The first opening would be on the fourth Tuesday in June, the second opening would be two weeks after the first opener, and the third opening would be no earlier than three weeks after the second opener. Subsequent openings would occur as soon as possible. Notice of the dates for the first three openers would be announced in the *Federal Register* prior to the start of the season.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes

Amendment 1: Council replace the word “three” with the word “two” in the last sentence of the main motion.

Lynn Mattes/Sharon Kiefer (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 22, as amended, carried unanimously.

Motion 23: Council adopt the proposed changes to the management objectives in the Catch Sharing Plan as described in [Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 3](#).

Heather Hall/Phil Anderson

Amendment 1: Add at the end of the motion “except for the proposed removal of the reference of ratio of halibut to Chinook in section 6 of Attachment 3”.

Marci Yaremko/Bob Dooley (Amendment 1 carried; Mr. Smith, Mr. Anderson, and Heather Hall voted no)

Motion 23, as amended, carried unanimously.

Motion 24: Regarding non-tribal allocations to Area 2A sport fisheries, I move the Council adopt Option 3 from [Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 4, November 2023](#): Move 0.6 percent of the OR sport allocation and 0.4 percent of the WA sport allocation to the CA sport allocation. Request

that Council staff work with NMFS to finalize the catch sharing plan regulatory language for transmittal.

Marci Yaremko/Corey Ridings

Amendment 1: strike “and 0.4 percent of the WA sport allocation” from the motion.

Heather Hall/Butch Smith (Motion carried; 7 yes, 4 no, Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Pettinger abstained)

Amendment 2: add the words “for 2024 only” after “to the CA sport allocation”.

Lynn Mattes/Christa Svensson (Amendment 1 carried; Ms. Yaremko, Mr. Gorelnik, and Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 24, as amended, failed under roll call vote (9 no, Ms. Ridings voted yes; Ms. Kiefer, Mr. Lindsay, and Mr. Anderson abstained).

Motion 25: At the earliest time possible a state can notify NMFS of the amount (in pounds of halibut) of their allocation that is projected to be unused after accounting for state management objectives. This projected amount could be made available to the other state(s) for the remainder of the calendar year. NMFS would reapportion the amount of net pounds available equally to each of the two states receiving the additional pounds. NMFS will announce any such reapportionment as soon as possible in the *Federal Register* and concurrent publication on the hotline, consistent with language described in Section 6.8 of the CSP.

On or around August 15, Council staff will facilitate a discussion between the three states and NMFS to share catch updates and inseason fishery information which could provide insight to any excess that could potentially be available for the remainder of current season. Request that Council staff work with the state agencies and NMFS to finalize the catch sharing plan language for transmittal.

Marci Yaremko/Heather Hall

Amendment 1: Modify the language as shown (Underline): At the earliest time possible a state can notify NMFS of the amount (in pounds of halibut) of their sport allocation that is projected to be unused after accounting for state management objectives. This projected amount could be made available to the other state(s) for the remainder of the calendar year. NMFS would reapportion the amount of net pounds available equally to each of the two states receiving the additional pounds. If the state eligible to receive the additional pounds declines all or part of the additional pounds, the remainder would go to the other state. NMFS will announce any such reapportionment as soon as possible in the *Federal Register* and concurrent publication on the hotline, consistent with language described in Section 6.8 of the CSP.

On or around August 15, Council staff will facilitate a discussion between the three states and NMFS to share catch updates and inseason fishery information which could provide insight to any excess that could potentially be available for the remainder of current season. Request that Council staff work with the state agencies and NMFS to finalize the catch sharing plan language for transmittal.

Heather Hall/Marci Yaremko (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 25, as amended, carried unanimously.

Staff Summary: In summary, the Council adopted the 2024 Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries season structures for Oregon, Washington, and California sport fisheries and the 2024 directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. Additional changes to the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) included minor updates and clarifications throughout the CSP, and the inclusion of an inseason process to provide more sharing on the Area 2A non-treaty sport allocation. The Council made no changes to the fixed allocations assigned to the sport fishery for each state. The Council did agree to continue work on the three regulatory items and on the inseason flexibility process as described below.

The Council adopted new language for the CSP that will provide for more flexibility for sharing sport quota between states inseason as described as follows:

At the earliest time possible, a state can notify NMFS of the amount (in pounds of halibut) of their (Area 2A non-tribal) sport allocation that is projected to be unused after accounting for state management objectives. This projected amount could be made available to the other state(s) for the remainder of the calendar year. NMFS would reapportion the amount of net pounds available equally to each of the two states receiving the additional pounds. If the state eligible to receive the additional pounds declines all or part of the additional pounds, the remainder would go to the other state. NMFS will announce any such reapportionment as soon as possible in the *Federal Register* and concurrent publication on the hotline, consistent with language described in Section 6.8 of the CSP.

On or around August 15, Council staff will facilitate a discussion between the three states and NMFS to share catch updates and inseason fishery information which could provide insight to any excess that could potentially be available for the remainder of current season. Request that Council staff work with the state agencies and NMFS to finalize the catch sharing plan language for transmittal.

The Council agreed also to continue work on the regulatory items that would require Vessel Monitoring Systems and seas bird avoidance gear for participants in the non-tribal directed fishery, and changes to fish ticket reporting as described in [G.1, Supplemental Attachment 6](#).

The Council decided to make no changes to the percentage of Area 2A non-tribal sport fishery allocation assigned to each state. The Council-adopted changes to the CSP for the 2024 sport season structures were generally consistent with those recommended by each state and are described in [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife \(ODFW\) Report 1](#), [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife \(WDFW\) Supplemental Report 2](#), and [California Department of Fish and Wildlife \(CDFW\) Supplemental Report 1](#).

WASHINGTON SPORT –the Council did not change the allocation assigned to this fishery. The Council-adopted changes include season structures in the Puget Sound and North Coast subareas that will be contingent on the 2024 Fishery Constant Exploitable Yield (FCEY) for Area 2A, and additional changes described below.

1. Puget Sound Subarea: If the 2024 FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds, then open in April seven days per week through June; if the 2024 FCEY is below 1.3 million pounds,

then open in April five days per week through June.

a. Proposed season dates for Puget Sound Subarea Marine Areas 5, 6 – 10:

FCEY \geq 1.3 million pounds: Open April 4 through June 30, seven days per week. If quota remains after June 30, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

FCEY $<$ 1.3 million pounds: Open April 4, five days per week, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, through June 30. If quota remains after June 30, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

b. Marine Areas 11-13 are closed.

c. Marine Areas 5: It is permissible for halibut anglers to retain lingcod and Pacific cod caught while fishing for halibut in waters deeper than 120 feet on days that halibut and lingcod is open.

d. Marine Areas 6 – 10: It is unlawful for halibut anglers to retain lingcod and Pacific cod caught while fishing for halibut in waters deeper than 120 feet on days that halibut fishing is open.

e. Marine Areas 1-10: Daily bag limit of one halibut per angler, with no minimum size limit. Annual limit (TBD). All catch must be recorded on WDFW catch record card. Possession limits remain the same.

2. North Coast Subarea: If the 2024 FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds then open in May three days per week, Thursday through Saturday and open in June four days per week, Thursday through Sunday, or if the 2024 FCEY is below 1.3 million pounds, then open in May two days per week, Thursday, and Saturday and in June up to four days per week, Thursday through Sunday.

a. Proposed season dates for North Coast Marine Areas 3 and 4:

FCEY \geq 1.3 million pounds: Open May 2 through May 18, three days per week, Thursday through Saturday. Memorial Day weekend: open Friday and Sunday, May 24 and 26. May 30 through June 30, open four days per week, Thursday through Sunday. If quota remains after June 30, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

FCEY $<$ 1.3 million pounds: Open May 2 through May 20, two days per week, Thursday, and Saturday. Memorial Day weekend, open Friday and Sunday, May 24 and 26. May 30 through June 30, open four days per week, Thursday through Sunday. If quota remains after June 30, then open up to seven days per week in August and September.

3. South Coast subarea: Open in May up to three days per week, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday, and if sufficient quota remains, open eight days in June.

a. Proposed season dates for South Coast Marine Area 2:

Open May 2 through May 30, three days per week, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday. Memorial Day weekend: open Thursday, May 23. If sufficient quota remains, open June 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30. If quota remains after June 30, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

4. Columbia River Subarea: Open in May and June up to three days per week, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday.

a. Proposed season dates for Columbia River Marine Area 1:

Open May 2 through May 21, three days per week, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday. Memorial Day weekend: open Thursday, May 23 and Sunday, May 26. May 30 through June 30, open three days per week, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday. If quota remains after June 30, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

The nearshore fishery will be open Monday through Wednesday following the opening of the all-depth fishery, until the nearshore allocation is taken or September 30, whichever is earlier. On days when the all-depth halibut fishery is closed, taking, retaining, possessing, or landing halibut on groundfish trips is only allowed in the nearshore area.

OREGON SPORT – the Council did not change the allocation assigned to this fishery. The Council-adopted changes for Oregon sport halibut fisheries included only one change in the Central Oregon subarea. ODFW voiced support for the Council-adopted changes to the Columbia River Subarea which is co-managed by WDFW and ODFW.

1. Oregon Central Coast Subarea: Oregon Central Coast Spring All-depth Back-up dates may be established every week, except week(s) may be skipped to avoid adverse tidal conditions. The potential Back-up dates will be identified preseason.

CALIFORNIA SPORT – the Council did not change the allocation assigned to this fishery. The Council-adopted changes for California sport halibut fisheries included establishing a new management line at Point Arena to create two subareas for California, along with criteria and management framework for the newly established subarea south of Point Arena.

1. Establish two subareas for the California recreational fishery by creating a management line at Point Arena (38° 57.5' N. lat.). The area between the OR/CA border (42° N. lat.) and Pt. Arena would be called the Northern California subarea. The area south of Pt. Arena would be called the South of Pt. Arena subarea.
2. The South of Point Arena subarea will be open May 1 through December 31, or until the assigned pounds for that subarea have been reached, whichever is earlier. All other management objectives, landing restrictions, etc. would be consistent with those as described for the California recreational fishery in the current CSP.

The season structure adopted for the 2024 directed commercial fishery is generally consistent with the recommendation in the [Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Supplemental Report 1](#)

The 2024 season will consist of a series of three-day openings, each beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesday ending at 6 p.m. on the Thursday of that week. The first opening would be on the fourth Tuesday in June, the second opening would be two weeks after the first opener, and the third opening would be no earlier than three weeks after the second opener. Subsequent openings would occur as soon as possible. Notice of the dates for the first two openers would be announced in the *Federal Register* prior to the start of the season.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

[Informational Report 1](#): NOAA Fisheries Recreational Fisheries Roundtable (Flyer for 11/04/2023 forum)

[Informational Report 2](#): September 27, 2023 White House Memorandum on Restoring Healthy and Abundant Salmon, Steelhead, and Other Native Fish Populations in the Columbia River Basin

[Informational Report 3](#): Recommendations from the Permanent Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission October 2-3, 2023

[Informational Report 4](#): CWPA Letter of Intent to Renew EFP to Allow Take of Pacific Sardine in Point Sets in 2024-25 in Support of the CPS-NSC Research Program

[Informational Report 5](#): CWPA Letter of Intent to Request Renewal of EFP to Allow Collection of Pacific Sardine Biological Samples in 2024-25

[Informational Report 6 \(Electronic Only\)](#): Tri-State Enforcement Report to Pacific Fisheries Management Council 2023

[Informational Report 7](#): E-Mail from Jennifer Quan to Merrick Burden Re: Determination from Secretary of Commerce That a Commercial Fishery Failure Due to a Fishery Resource Disaster Occurred Between 2017 and 2022 in Multiple West Coast and Alaska Fisheries

[Supplemental Informational Report 8](#): Council Staff Report Summarizing Relevant Council Record and Background Regarding Data-Moderate Stock Assessments within the Pacific Fishery Management Council Process

[Supplemental Informational Report 9](#): Summary of West Coast Groundfish Assessments Conducted in 2023

[Supplemental Informational Report 10](#): U.S. Coast Guard Memo “Covered Small Passenger Vessel” Fire Safety Interim Rule Implementation

VOTING LOG

Motion 1: Adopt [Agenda Item A.3, November 1-8, 2023 Council Meeting Agenda](#).

Phil Anderson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 2: Council adopt for incorporation into the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan the text and citations concerning Southern Resident Killer Whale management measures contained in [Agenda Item D.2, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#).

Kyle Adicks/Phil Anderson (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

Motion 3: Recognizing that both the Scientific and Statistical Committee ([Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)) and the Salmon Technical Team ([Agenda Item D.3.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#)) found the Gaussian Process as an improvement to the current base model of the Sacramento River winter Chinook abundance forecast, adopt the Gaussian Process 1 model for use in harvest management beginning in 2024 due to its superior performance in predicting control rule outputs. As recommended by the SSC, periodically revisit the forecast methods for SRWC every 3-5 years to re-assess their performance and evaluate additional covariates (e.g., the Juvenile Production Index) as warranted.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 3 carried unanimously)

Motion 4: Council adopt the forecast methodology for Oregon Production Index Hatchery coho as presented on pages 28-51 of [Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1](#), with the corrections identified as erratum in [Agenda Item D.3, Supplemental Attachment 2](#) incorporated.

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Motion 5: Council adopt the Framework to Achieve Conservation Objectives for California Stocks of Chinook Salmon as described beginning on p3 of [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1, November 2023](#), and in [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental NMFS/CDFW Presentation 1](#). Using the draft regulatory language for the framework shown [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 2, November 2023](#), request that Council staff work with NMFS to finalize the regulatory language for transmittal in Section 660.405 Prohibitions, including the additional language requested by NMFS regarding possession; and the additions proposed for Section 660.410 Conservation objectives, ACLs, and *de minimis* control rules.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion carried; Mr. Dooley and Ms. Ridings voted no, Ms. Kiefer abstained)

Motion 6: Expecting the California quillback stock will be defined and assessed as part of the benchmark full assessment scheduled for 2025 use that assessment to determine if consideration of a California quillback rebuilding analysis is necessary.

Marc Gorelnik/Bob Dooley (Motion 6, as amended, was withdrawn with consent of the second)

Motion 7: Council approve the draft 2023 rebuilding analysis for quillback rockfish (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1) using a 2024 estimated removal assumption of 10.62 mt as recommended by the GMT (Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental GMT Reports 1 and 2).

Corey Ridings/Keeley Kent (Motion 7 failed; Corey Ridings, Joe Oatman, Corey Niles, and Keeley voted yes)

Motion 8: Council adopt the catch-only projections for chilipepper rockfish ([Attachment 2](#)), yellowtail rockfish North of 40° 10' N. lat. ([Attachment 3](#)), vermilion rockfish South of 42° N. lat. ([Supplemental REVISED Attachment 5](#)), and revised projections for Dover sole ([Attachment 4](#), Table 2), and rex sole ([Attachment 4](#), Table 4) and the GMT-recommended black rockfish projection ([Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)) for use in 2025 and beyond.

Lynn Mattes/Christa Svensson (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Motion 9: Council adopt the GMT recommendations ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)) of 750 mt as the whiting yield set-aside for 2024, and to:

- Increase the commercial lingcod trip limits north of 42° N. lat., Option 2
 - LE north of 42° 11,000 lbs. / 2 months
 - OA north of 42° 5,500 lbs. / month; and
- Decrease the Oregon recreational longleader (Holloway) gear fishery bag limit to 12 fish per angler per day

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 9 carried unanimously)

Motion 10: Council adopt the GMT recommendations ([Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)) to:

- Increase the commercial bocaccio trip limits under Option 1
- Decrease the commercial vermilion/sunset rockfish trip limits under Option 1
- Decrease the commercial canary rockfish trip limits under Option 1

Caroline McKnight/Corey Ridings (Motion 10 carried unanimously)

Motion 11: Council adopt the proposed EFH modifications to the HMS FMP as contained in [Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2](#) and [Supplemental Revised Attachment 3](#).

Briana Brady/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

Motion 12: Council:

1. Adopt as draft the proposed HMS Roadmap goals as outlined in [Agenda Item F.3, HMSMT Report 1](#), for further refinement during the HMS Roadmap workshop,
2. Provide a facilitator for the workshop,
3. Direct the HMSMT and HMSAS to work with Council staff to continue to develop the agenda and associated operational plans for the workshop, including a list of defined terms, and bring back for consideration at the March 2024 Council meeting.

Briana Brady/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Motion 13: Council adopt default HCRs for all species in the Groundfish FMP, except for the three species listed below, as recommended by the GMT ([Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2; Table 1](#)):

Rex sole: Alt 1, $ACL = ABC P * 0.45$

Shortspine thornyhead: $ACL < ABC P * 0.45$, 40-10 adjustment applied

Dover sole: Alt 1: $ACL = ABC P * 0.45$

And adopt the GMT recommended shortspine thornyhead apportionment method (5-year rolling average) for north and south of 34° 27' N. lat. ([Agenda Item E.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#))

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Motion 14: Council adopt the final 2025-2026 OFLs, ABCs, as shown in Tables 1-1 and 1-2 in [Agenda Item E.5, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1](#) except for the OFLs and ABCs for nearshore rockfish complex north and south of 40° 10' N. latitude.

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Motion 15: Council adopt for public review the Exempted Fishing Permits as recommended by the GMT in [Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#), including removal of the 100 Chinook salmon allowance for non-trawl EFP activity.

Caroline McKnight/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council adopt the [C.3, Supplemental Attachment 3, November 2023](#) draft letter as written and send it to BOEM and the Governor of Oregon as quickly as practicable.

Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings (Motion 16 carried, Mr. Harrington abstained)

Motion 17: Council identify Action Alternative 2 as its Preliminary Preferred Alternative, as identified in [Agenda Item E.4](#), with the following modifications and clarifications.

The provisions of Alternative Two will only be used if the sablefish north ACL is below 5,000 - 10,000 mt. The trawl QP will be distributed consistent with the provisions of Alternative Two until the sablefish north ACL is equal to or greater than 5,000 - 10,000 mt. (potential of adding a 29 percent three-year rolling average provision)

Description of Alternative 2

- Gear Switching Control: Trawl-Only and Any-Gear (Unrestricted) QP
 - Northern sablefish QP will be issued as trawl-only QP and any-gear QP (unrestricted QP).
- Procedure for Determining the Amount and Distribution of Any-Gear QP
 - Upon implementation, NMFS will identify legacy participants, their eligible QS, and the standard ratio which will apply to QP issued for all other QS, based on the qualification criteria listed in the following section.
 - **Legacy participants:** will receive any-gear QP for their eligible QS (eligible QS is any QS owned by a legacy participant that does not exceed what the participant owned on the control date or the implementation date of this action, whichever is less).
 - **For QS owned by non-legacy participants (and a legacy participant QS that is not eligible):** QP Distribution Option 21– Constant Proportion of Any-Gear QP (i.e., constant standard ratio). – At implementation, a standard any-gear and trawl-only QP ratio will be determined such that the total amount of any-gear QP will equal 29 percent (including that issued to legacy participants). As legacy participants divest of their eligible QS, the any-gear/trawl-only QP ratio for non-eligible QS will not change, such that the total amount of any-gear QP declines to less than 29 percent.
- Legacy Participants
 - Legacy participants are individuals that meet the qualifying criteria provided below. The designation as a legacy participant stays with the individual and is not transferable. As legacy participants divest themselves of QS, the total legacy participant holdings of eligible QS will decline.
- To qualify as a legacy participant
 - As of and since the control date, an individual must have some ownership interest in a permit (or permits) that landed northern sablefish QPs with non-trawl gear totaling at least 30,000 pounds per year in at least 3 years between January 1, 2011 and September 15, 2017 (the control date) and had some ownership interest in northern sablefish quota shares (any amount).
- Transferability and Accumulation Limits
 - As under status quo, all QS and QP would remain fully transferable and the existing QS control limit (3.0 percent) and annual vessel QP use limit (4.5 percent) will

continue to be applied for northern sablefish quota as a whole (without distinction by gear type).

- After implementation
 - If a legacy status holder divests their QS holdings below the amount held when they qualified any new QS acquisition will be treated as non-legacy QS.
 - If a legacy participant divests all their QS their legacy status would expire.

Phil Anderson/Bob Dooley (Motion 17, as amended, carried; Ms. Ridings and Ms. Yaremko voted no)

Motion 18: Council adopt the report and recommendations of the Budget Committee as shown in [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental BC Report 1, November 2023](#).

Pete Hassemmer/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

Motion 19: Council adopt the season structure and changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for 2024 as recommended in [Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 2](#).

Heather Hall/Phil Anderson (Motion 19 carried unanimously)

Motion 20: Council adopt the changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for the Oregon recreational fishery as recommended in [Agenda Item G.1.a, ODFW Report 1](#).

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 20 carried unanimously)

Motion 21: Council adopt changes to the 2024 CSP for the California recreational subarea:

- Establish two subareas for the California recreational fishery by creating a management line at Point Arena (38° 57.5' N. lat.). The area between the OR/CA border (42° N. lat.) and Pt. Arena would be called the Northern California subarea. The area south of Pt. Arena would be called the South of Pt. Arena subarea.
- Assign 500 pounds of the California quota to the South of Pt. Arena subarea.
- The South of Point Arena subarea will be open May 1 through December 31, or until the assigned pounds for that subarea have been reached, whichever is earlier. All other management objectives, landing restrictions, etc. would be consistent with those as described for the California recreational fishery in the current CSP.
- Request that Council staff work with NMFS and CDFW to finalize the CSP regulatory language for transmittal.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Motion 22: Council adopt the following season structure for the commercial non-tribal directed halibut fishery in 2024:

The 2024 season will consist of a series of three-day openings each beginning at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday ending at 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday of that week. The first opening would be on the fourth Tuesday in June, the second opening would be two weeks after the first opener and the third opening would be no earlier than three weeks after the second opener. Subsequent openings would occur as soon as possible. Notice of the dates for the first two openers would be announced in the *Federal Register* prior to the start of the season.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 22, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 23: Council adopt the proposed changes to the management objectives in the Catch Sharing Plan as described in [Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 3](#) except for the proposed removal of the reference of ratio of halibut to chinook in section 6 of Attachment 3.

Heather Hall/Phil Anderson (Motion 23, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 24: Council adopt Option 3 (regarding non-tribal allocations to Area 2A sport fisheries, [Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 4, November 2023](#)): Move 0.6 percent of the OR sport allocation to the CA sport allocation for 2024 only. Request that Council staff work with NMFS to finalize the catch sharing plan regulatory language for transmittal.

Marci Yaremko/Corey Ridings (Motion 24, as amended, failed under roll call vote; 1 yes, 9 no, Ms. Kiefer, Mr. Lindsay, and Mr. Anderson abstained)

Motion 25: At the earliest time possible a state can notify NMFS of the amount (in pounds of halibut) of their sport allocation that is projected to be unused after accounting for state management objectives. This projected amount could be made available to the other state(s) for the remainder of the calendar year. NMFS would reapportion the amount of net pounds available equally to each of the two states receiving the additional pounds. If the state eligible to receive the additional pounds declines all or part of the additional pounds, the remainder would go to the other state. NMFS will announce any such reapportionment as soon as possible in the *Federal Register* and concurrent publication on the hotline, consistent with language described in Section 6.8 of the CSP.

On or around August 15, Council staff will facilitate a discussion between the three states and NMFS to share catch updates and inseason fishery information which could provide insight to any excess that could potentially be available for the remainder of current season. Request that Council staff work with the state agencies and NMFS to finalize the catch sharing plan language for transmittal.

Marci Yaremko/Heather Hall (Motion 25, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 26: Council adopt the 2025-2026 OFL, ABC, ACL values in Table 1-1 and Table 1-2 in [Agenda Item E.5, Supplemental Revised Attachment 1, November 2023](#) for the minor nearshore rockfish complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. lat. except for quillback rockfish. For quillback rockfish the following range of 2025-2026 OFL, ABC, ACL values would be used for over winter GMT analysis:

OFL 8.41 mt, ABC:ACL 5.06 mt

OFL 1.52 mt, ABC Rule 1.3 mt

Caroline McKnight/Bob Dooley (Motion 26 carried; Oatman, Ridings, and Kent voted no)

Motion 27: Alternative 1, P* of 0.40, ABC=ACL for sablefish be removed from the range of alternatives adopted under Agenda Item E.5.

Caroline McKnight/Lynn Mattes (Motion 27 carried unanimously)

Motion 28: Council adopt the preliminary 2025 and 2026 tribal management measures and set-asides as outlined in [Supplemental Tribal Report 1, November 2023](#).

Joe Oatman/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 28 carried unanimously)

Motion 29: Council adopt the following alternatives for inclusion in the range considered for groundfish management measures in 2025-2026: (Numbers from [Agenda Item E.7, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, November 2023](#), the Action Item Checklist)

- Action Item #3 Off-the-top Deductions

Adopt the following preliminary set-asides for 2025 and 2026, as shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, November 2023](#) :

- Research: use the rolling 10-year maximum of research mortality to set research set-asides in 2025-26, except for:

Stock or Management Unit	2025-2026 Research Set-Aside (in mt)
Canary rockfish	10.08
Cowcod	10.00
California quillback rockfish	0.10
Yelloweye rockfish	2.92

- Incidental Open Access: use the rolling 10-year maximum methodology to set IOA set-asides in 2025-26 listed in Table 3 in [GMT Report 2](#); except those species listed as the GMT recommendation in Table 4 in [GMT Report 2](#)

Stock or Management Unit	2025-2026 IOA Set-Aside (in mt)
Bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat.	2.18
Canary rockfish	2.83
Darkblotched rockfish	10.71
Longspine thornyhead north of 34° 27' N. lat.	1.26
Petrable sole	4.38
Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.	25.00
Widow rockfish	1.00
Nearshore rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	1.10
Slope rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.	0.93
Yelloweye rockfish	3.86

- Exempted Fishing Permits: no set-asides for 2025-2026

- Recreational Sablefish:

- sablefish north of 36° N. lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 30 mt
- create a sablefish south of 36° N lat. recreational off-the-top set-aside of 10 mt

- Action Item #5 Two Year Allocations

Adopt status quo for two year allocations for all stocks, except:

- Canary rockfish - have the GMT develop any alternative options for Council consideration in March and/or April
- Petrable sole – have the GMT develop any alternative options for Council consideration in March and/or April
- Widow rockfish - 200 mt non-trawl, remainder to trawl

- Action Item #6 Rebuilding/Overfished Species Allocations

Adopt the status quo yelloweye rockfish proportions for trawl/non-trawl allocations (8 and 92 percent, respectively).

- Action Item # 7 Amendment-21 Allocation Changes
Maintain current Amendment-21 trawl/non-trawl allocations, and reconsider allocations during inter-sector allocation review.

- Action Item #8 HGs / State Shares for Stocks in a Complex

Adopt status quo HG for

- Blackgill rockfish (within the Slope Rockfish south of 40°10' N. lat. complex)

No species specific HGs for:

- Oregon Black/Blue/Deacon Rockfish Complex
- OR and WA cabezon/kelp greenling complexes

- Action Item #17 Oregon Recreational Fishery

ODFW and the GMT, as needed, will analyze routine measures such as bag limits, season structures, depth limits, and length limits, etc., including an increased bag limit for sablefish, that keep catch from exceeding harvest targets for the Oregon recreational fishery.

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 29 carried unanimously)

Motion 30: Council adopt the following alternatives in the range considered in the 2025-2026 groundfish harvest specifications and management measure process.

- Action Item #9 At-Sea Set-Asides

Analyze the range of at-sea set-asides listed in Table 12 of the GMT report ([Agenda Item E.7, Supp GMT Report 3, November 2023](#)), in addition to all status quo at-sea set-asides.

- Action Item #10 Within non-trawl HG/Shares

Adopt status quo 2-year within non-trawl HG's, ACTs or shares for:

- Cowcod south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- Bocaccio south of 40° 10' N. lat.
- Sablefish south of 36° N. lat.
- Nearshore Rockfish Complex north of 40° 10' N. lat.
- Yelloweye rockfish

Analyze all allocation and management schemes for canary rockfish including alternatives for the commercial non-nearshore and nearshore shares.

Analyze a copper rockfish ACT for the recreational fishery south of Pt. Conception.

- Action Item #16 – WA Recreational

Analyze routine changes to Washington recreational fisheries; specific measures may consider revisions to season dates, bag limits, or depth restrictions that keep catch from exceeding harvest targets.

- Action Item #19 – New Management Measures

- 19a. Develop open access permit or registration.

- 19b. Develop requirement for recreational anglers to possess a descending device aboard a vessel when fishing for groundfish in federal waters.

- Other: Electronic monitoring (EM) discard list: align the discard species list in regulation with the list that was in the vessel monitoring plan (VMP) for the exempted fishing permit, evaluate whether it's feasible to move the discard species list from regulation to the VMP to add flexibility.
- Other: WDFW Sorting Requirement: consider revisions to federal sorting requirements to require all rockfish be sorted to species.
- 19c. Remove updates to discard mortality rates (DMR).
- 19d. Remove analysis of a Recreational YRCA at Rittenburg Bank.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 30 carried unanimously)

Motion 31: Council adopt the following alternatives in the range considered in the 2025-2026 Groundfish Harvest Specification and Management Measure Process. Following the Action Item Checklist numbering from [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 5](#) and [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#).

- Action Item #2 Area Management

Evaluate minor revisions to Rockfish Conservation Area Adjustments waypoints to better align with bathymetry lines as described in [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2023](#).

- Action Item #4 ACT

- Copper Rockfish – Evaluate removing statewide California copper rockfish ACT and establish an ACT south of Pt. Conception for the California stock
- Quillback rockfish off California
- Yelloweye rockfish – Do not analyze removing – status quo
- Sablefish ACT north of 36° - Do not analyze

- Action Item #11

Shorebased IFQ – Status quo IFQ allocations, RCA configurations, trip limits for non-IFQ species

- Action Item #12-15

Evaluate routine adjustments to the non-trawl RCA configuration, as appropriate. Analyze trip limits, size limits, etc. for managed species as appropriate as indicated by [GMT Report 5](#) and [GAP Report 1](#) recommendations.

- OA north of 40° 10 N. lat.
- OA south of 40° 10 N. lat.
- LEFG north of 40° 10 N. lat.
- LEFG south of 40° 10 N. lat.

- Action Item #18

California Recreational - Analyze routine adjustments to bag limits, season structure, size limits, etc. as appropriate including 18a-18f from [GMT Report 5](#).

Caroline McKnight/Bob Dooley (Motion 31 carried unanimously)

Motion 32: Council adopt the following alternative for consideration in the 2025-2026 Groundfish Harvest Specification and Management Measure Process.

- Action Item #20

Remove quillback rockfish off California from the nearshore rockfish complexes.

Caroline McKnight/Heather Hall (Motion 32, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 34: Council adopt the inseason recommendations contained in E.9.a, [Supplemental GMT Reports 1](#) and [2](#), November 2023.

Marci Yaremko/Lynn Mattes (Motion 34 carried unanimously)

Motion 35: Council approve the Council meeting record as presented in [C.6, Attachment 1: Draft Council Meeting Record: 273rd Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, September 7-14, 2023](#).

Phil Anderson/Bob Dooley (Motion 35 carried unanimously)

Motion 36: Council appoint Mr. Andy Martin to the Oregon Charter Boat Operator position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

Lynn Mattes/Corey Niles (Motion 36 carried unanimously)

Motion 37: Council appoint Mr. Calvin Frank to the Tribal position on the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

Joe Oatman/Butch Smith (Motion 37 carried unanimously)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 9:53 a.m.

Brad Pettinger
Council Chair

Date