



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Brad Pettinger, Chair | Merrick J. Burden, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2024

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

FROM: Robin Ehlke, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: April 2024 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person for their [April meeting](#) April 5-11, 2024 at the Westin Seattle hotel, 1900 5th Avenue, Seattle Washington, 98101. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet in person. The STT will meet in the Denny/Mercer room at 8 a.m. daily April 5-11. The SAS will meet in the Pine room at 8 a.m. daily April 5-10. All meetings are open to the public and at least one opportunity for public comment has been scheduled for each meeting day.

The Council will consider several important salmon agenda items and related matters of interest at this meeting. The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for these items on the Council's April 2024 agenda. The following agenda items summarized below may be of particular interest to the STT and SAS. Please note that the Council will continue to encourage participants to obtain briefing book materials via our website. Printed materials may not be available at the meeting.

The Council will discuss salmon agenda items nearly every day of the April meeting. Other topics of interest on the Council agenda include Pacific halibut and Administrative items.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be to adopt management measures for 2024 ocean salmon fisheries (Agenda Items E.2, E.3, E.5 and E.6). In addition, the first step in the Salmon methodology review (Agenda Item E.4) occurs in April and may warrant your attention.

The Salmon agenda item will begin on Sunday, April 1 (Day 1) with two topics for discussion. The first (Agenda Item E.1) is a briefing from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the Council on salmon-related topics and a report from the Science Centers on current research. Next (Agenda Item E.2), the Council will be briefed by the STT on any changes or new information available since the March 2024 meeting, and summarize information in *Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment for 2024 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations*, which should be posted to the Council website by March 22. In addition, the SAS will propose 2024 management measures for tentative adoption.

Pacific Halibut (Agenda Item (D.1) will also be covered on April 6 (Day 1). Under the halibut topic, the SAS will need to recommend landing restrictions for the 2024 troll salmon fisheries to allow for incidental halibut harvest.

As noted, on April 6 the SAS will present the Council with a recommendation for 2024 salmon management measures (Agenda Item E.2) and with a recommendation for landing restrictions for incidental halibut harvest in the salmon troll fishery (Agenda Item D.1). SAS representatives should finalize these SAS reports by mid-day on Saturday April 5 so that it can be processed and posted by the Secretariat prior to close of business.

The Salmon Methodology Review – preliminary topic selection (Agenda Item E.4), is scheduled for Sunday April 7 (Day 2). Under this agenda item the Council will look to the STT and Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to provide a preliminary list of candidate items for review in 2024. Consistent with Council Operating Procedure 15, the Council will revisit this list in September to see if any progress has been made on the candidate items and if so, will move those items forward for review in October with the results reported to the Council in November.

Under Administrative Matters, Agenda Item G.2 will cover ‘Council Operations and Priorities’. You will be provided with an [online briefing](#) on this item at 3:00 p.m. on Friday March 29. The Council’s Committee of the Whole (COTW) met in January 2024 to consider ways to discuss finances and workload. One recommendation from the COTW is that the Council’s Executive Director develop recommendations regarding restructuring and reorganizing the Council process to address concerns related to finances, workload, and effective decision making. If the Council concurs with the COTW recommendation, Council staff would plan to create a two-meeting process to consider the Executive Director recommendations, with initial consideration in June and final decisions in September or November. In the event the Council considers changes to the composition of term-limited Advisory Body positions (Scientific and Statistical Committee at-large positions; Habitat Committee tribal, industry, conservation, and at-large positions; and all Advisory Subpanel positions), such changes would be coordinated with the scheduled review for the 2025-2027 term (see Council Operating Procedure 9, Schedule 6) which begins in June 2024. The proposed timeline and process is recommended to facilitate focused review and comment on proposals by the Council, Advisory Bodies, and the public. The STT and SAS can further discuss this topic on April 4, and the Council will discuss the topic on April 10 (Day 5).

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

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

RDE:rdd

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C – Habitat Issues
3. Agenda Item D – Pacific Halibut Management
4. Agenda Item E – Salmon Management
5. Agenda Item G – Council Administrative Matters
6. Informational Reports

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7. Proposed SAS Agenda
8. Proposed STT Agenda
9. Hotel information and Council Roster

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