

**DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING RECORD**  
**275<sup>th</sup> Session of the**  
**Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
**March 5-11, 2024**  
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Fresno Convention Center  
2233 Ventura Street, Fresno, CA 93721

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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 275<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 6, 2024. 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:	Mr. Frank Lockhart, designee
	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. Justin Ainsworth, designee
	Mr. John North, designee
	Ms. Lynn Mattes, designee
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Christa Svensson
California State Official:	Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee
	Mr. John Ugoretz, designee
	Ms. Caroline McKnight, designee
California Obligatory:	Ms. Corey Ridings
Idaho State Official:	Ms. Sharon Keifer, 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
	Mr. Chris German, nonvoting designee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	Mr. Mike Clark, nonvoting designee
U.S. State Department:	Mr. David Hogan, nonvoting designee

### **3. Agenda – Brad Pettinger**

#### **a. Council Action: Approve Agenda**

**Motion 1:** Council adopt the Agenda as shown in Agenda Item A.3, March 5-11, 2024 Council Meeting Agenda.

Dani Evenson/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. Salmon Management**

### **1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Robin Ehlke**

#### **a. Regulatory Activities - Susan Bishop**

#### **b. Fisheries Science Center Activities - Steve Lindley**

#### **c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**

#### **d. Public Comment**

#### **e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

**Staff Summary:** None

### **2. Review of 2023 Fisheries and Summary of 2024 Stock Forecasts - Robin Ehlke**

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

#### **b. Public Comment**

#### **c. Council Action: Review and Discuss Relevant Fishery Information, Adopt 2024 Abundance Forecasts and Annual Catch Limits, and Act on Relevant Conservation Objectives or Status Determinations, as Necessary**

**Motion 2:** Council adopt the 2024 stock abundance forecasts, acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs) as presented in Agenda Item C.2, Supplemental Attachment 3, Preseason Report I.

Kyle Adicks/John North (Motion 2 carried unanimously)



**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted the stock abundances, overfishing limits, acceptable biological catches, and annual catch limits as presented in the 2024 Preseason Report I, for use in 2024 salmon management. The Council also received an update on salmon stock status and noted changes based on information reported in the Review of 2023 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. For Chinook stock status Klamath River fall Chinook and Queets spring/summer Chinook continue to meet the criteria for overfished status. Based on spawner escapement estimates for 2020-2022, Queets natural coho and Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho now meet the criteria for rebuilt status (declared overfished in 2028).

<b>Chinook</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>3-yr Geo mean</b>	<b>MSST</b>	<b>SMSY</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Sacramento Fall	138,091	105,584	61,862	133,638	95,569	91,500	122,000	Rebuilt	No change, rebuilt in 2021.
Klamath River Fall	26,185	29,942	21,956	41,623	30,134	30,525	40,700	Overfished	No change, overfished since 2018.
Queets Sp/Su	342	280	434	NA	346	350	700	Overfished	No change, overfished since 2022.
<hr/>									
<b>Coho</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>3-yr Geo mean</b>	<b>MSST</b>	<b>SMSY</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Queets	4,181	5,752	12,083	NA	6,624	4,350	5,800	<b>Rebuilt</b>	<b>Change</b> to rebuilt in 2023, pending NMFS confirmation.
Juan de Fuca	8,548	20,837	16,977	NA	14,461	7,000	11,000	<b>Rebuilt</b>	<b>Change</b> to rebuilt in 2023, pending NMFS confirmation.
Snohomish	42,675	97,523	85,692	NA	70,915	31,000	50,000	Rebuilt	No change, rebuilt in 2022.

**3. Klamath Dam Removal Update - Robin Ehlke**

- a. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Jim Simondet**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

**Staff Summary:** None

4. **Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Report and 2024 Management Options – Final Guidance - Robin Ehlke**
  - a. **Workgroup Report - Mike O’Farrell**
  - b. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - c. **Public Comment**
  - d. **Council Action: Discuss the Workgroup Report and Adopt Management Options for 2024 Fisheries**

**Motion 3:** Council adopt a 20 percent precautionary buffer on the 2024 allowable Exploitation Rate for Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC). Applying this buffer has the effect of reducing the maximum allowable exploitation rate of 25 percent specified in the 2024 NMFS Guidance Letter (Agenda Item C.5.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 1 March 2024), down to a maximum allowable of 20 percent, which would be used for pre-season development of management alternatives for 2024.

Approve the Draft Klamath River Fall Chinook Ad Hoc Workgroup Terms of Reference as final.  
Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik

**Amendment 1:** Amend the motion submitted by California by modifying the buffer percentage from 20 percent to 15 percent.

John North/Christa Svensson (Amendment 1 failed; Mr. North voted no; Ms. Bishop abstained)  
Motion 3 carried; Ms. Bishop abstained

**Staff Summary:** The Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup provided a range of options for Council consideration that would affect the management measures for Klamath River fall Chinook. The options were designed to offer additional protection to these Chinook stocks in light of their current status as overfished and the impacts to the in-river environment caused by the dam removal project currently underway in the Klamath River.

Based on the 2024 forecast, the maximum exploitation rate allowed under the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan is 25 percent. The Council adopted a 20 percent buffer to that rate, which reduced the maximum exploitation rate to 20 percent. 2024 fisheries will be planned to manage Klamath River fall Chinook at an exploitation rate of no more than 20 percent.

5. **Identify Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2024 Management Alternatives - Robin Ehlke**
  - a. **Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission - P. Anderson, J. North, J. Oatman**
  - b. **NMFS Recommendations - Susan Bishop**
  - c. **Tribal Recommendations - Joe Oatman**
  - d. **State Agencies Recommendations - K. Adicks, J. North, M. Yaremko**
  - e. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - f. **Public Comment**

**g. Council Action: Adopt Council Recommendations for Initial Management Measure Alternatives for Salmon Technical Team Collation and Consider Inseason Adjustments to Fisheries Prior to May 16, 2024**

**Motion 5:** Council adopt for STT analysis the following initial Treaty Troll salmon management measures.

Alternative I: 45,000 Chinook and 47,500 coho

Alternative II: 40,000 Chinook and 37,500 coho

Alternative III: 35,000 Chinook and 27,500 coho

The alternatives consist of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and an all-species fishery starting on July 1 until the end of the season (TBD). Treaty troll tribes are engaging in discussions on this and attempting to reach agreement. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

Joeph Oatman/Kyle Adicks (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

**Motion 6:** Council adopt for Salmon Technical Team compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2024 non-Indian ocean fisheries as developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and described in Agenda Item C.5.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 7, 2024, with the following modification:

Page 3, third sentence in bottom section – replace “east of the Megler-Astoria bridge” with “east of Tongue Point, Oregon.”

Kyle Adicks/Phil Anderson (Motion 6 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** None

**6. Recommendations for 2024 Management Alternative Analysis - Robin Ehlke**

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

**b. Public Comment**

**c. Council Direction to the Salmon Technical Team and Salmon Advisory Subpanel on Alternative Development and Analysis**

**Staff Summary:** None

**7. Further Direction for 2024 Management Alternatives - Robin Ehlke**

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

**b. Public Comment**

**c. Further Council Guidance and Direction, as Necessary**

**Staff Summary:** None

**8. Further Direction for 2024 Management Alternatives - Robin Ehlke**

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

**b. Public Comment**

**c. Further Council Guidance and Direction, as Necessary**

**Staff Summary:** None

**9. Adopt 2024 Management Alternatives for Public Review - Robin Ehlke**

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

**b. Public Comment**

**c. Council Action: Adopt Ocean Salmon Management Alternatives for Public Review**

**Motion 20:** Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon as presented in Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 11, 2024.

Kyle Adicks/Phil Anderson (Motion 20 carried unanimously)

**Motion 21:** Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area from Cape Falcon south to the Oregon/California border as presented in Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 11, 2024.

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

**Motion 22:** to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries for the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented in Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 11, 2024, with the following amendments:

Table 1. 2024 Commercial troll alternatives in the Pt. Arena to Pigeon Point cell (San Francisco Area), in the subarea from Pt. Reyes to Pt. San Pedro (Fall Area Target Zone):

Alternative 1:

- Strike “Sept 1-30” and replace with Sept. 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, Sept 30.
- Add “or attainment of the 7500-Chinook harvest limit,” which would apply across the proposed September and October dates.
- Add “Landing and possession limit of 40 Chinook per vessel per landing week”.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

**Motion 23:** For tribal ocean fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon, Council to adopt for public review the alternatives as presented in Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, Table 3 (March 11, 2024).

Joe Oatman/Kyle Adicks (Motion 23 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted for public review three management measure alternatives for the 2024 ocean commercial and recreational salmon fisheries beginning May 16. The Council also adopted three alternatives proposed by the Tribes for 2024 treaty Indian ocean salmon fisheries. Details of the alternatives can be found on the PFMC 2024-2025 upcoming season management website. The Council is scheduled to adopt final 2024 ocean salmon regulations at its April 2024 Council meeting. The Oregon and California alternatives included inseason actions that were taken during the Council meeting to modify fisheries previously scheduled to occur prior to May 16, 2024.

In 2024, salmon ocean season north of Cape Falcon, Oregon may be structured similar to past years, but coho opportunity is likely to be reduced due to the lower forecasted abundance. Off the Oregon coast south of Cape Falcon, seasons will likely be a mixed bag when compared to last year, with lower coho abundance and slightly higher Chinook abundance. Ocean salmon seasons off the coast of California may offer some opportunity compared to the full closure last year, but any fisheries that occur will be managed with quotas and vessel limits to help assure conservation objectives are met for California salmon stocks.

## **10. Appoint Salmon Hearings Officers - Robin Ehlke**

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

### **b. Public Comment**

### **c. Council Action: Appoint Hearings Officers - Brad Pettinger**

**Staff Summary:** The Council appointed officers and reviewed plans for the 2024 public salmon hearings. The Washington and California hearings are scheduled in person for Monday, March 25, and the Oregon hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26 and will be held online. Public comment will be accepted in person at each hearing and can also be submitted electronically via the E-portal in advance of the April Council meeting.

## **D. Habitat Issues**

### **1. Current Habitat Issues - Kerry Griffin**

#### **a. Report of the Habitat Committee - Correigh Greene**

#### **b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**

#### **c. Public Comment**

#### **d. Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Report and Recommendations**

**Staff Summary:** None

## **E. Cross Fishery Management Plan (FMP)**

### **1. Council and Scientific and Statistical Committee Discussion - Merrick Burden**

#### **a. Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate**

**Staff Summary:** None

### **2. Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: Coral Restoration and Research Plan – Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative - Kerry Griffin/Jessi Doerpinghaus**

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

#### **b. Public Comment**

**c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Alternatives, including a Preliminary Preferred Alternative(s), if Possible**

**Motion 4:** Council adopt the range of alternatives described in Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1 with the modifications described in Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental EC Report 1.  
John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted a Range of Alternatives for the purposes of coral research and restoration, which includes three areas within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Ano Nuevo, Ascension Canyon, and Sur Ridge) that would be closed to groundfish commercial bottom contact gears. The alternatives are further described in [Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1](#), with the modifications described in [Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental EC Report 1](#). The Council directed staff to work with NMFS and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to confirm details of the modified areas (e.g., coordinates and depth), conduct any additional analysis, and provide the alternatives for final action at the June 2024 meeting.

**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 8:** Council adopt the E.3, Supplemental Attachment 1, Draft Comment Letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management with the inclusion of the Habitat Committee proposed edits from Supplemental HC Report 1; and direct the Marine Planning Committee to draft a quick response comment letter for Council consideration on the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525) Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development. And through Council discussion provide guidance on a potential coastwide, long term, cumulative effects analysis for the future of offshore wind on the Pacific Coast.  
Christa Svensson/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council approved sending a comment letter (E.3, Supplemental [Attachment 1](#)) on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) related to the issuance of wind energy leases off the Southern Oregon Coast. The Council also directed the Marine Planning Committee to draft a quick response comment letter for Council Consideration on the California Energy Commission's Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525) Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development, and directed Council Staff to reach out to partner agencies and organizations to explore who might partner and/or lead an effort to develop a coast-wide long-term cumulative effects analysis, as described in Supplemental [MPC Report 2](#).

## **F. Groundfish Management**

- 1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report and Electronic Monitoring Update -Todd Phillips**
  - a. Regulatory Activities - Keeley Kent**
  - b. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission - Caren Braby**
  - c. Fisheries Science Center Activities - Craig Russell**
  - d. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - e. Public Comment**
  - f. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

**Staff Summary:** None

- 2. Consideration of Additional California Quillback Rockfish Analyses and Adopt Rebuilding Analysis - Marlene Bellman**
  - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - b. Public Comment**
  - c. Council Action: Review Additional Analyses and Provide Guidance on Next Steps; Adopt California Quillback Rockfish Rebuilding Analysis**

**Motion 7:** Council adopt the 2023 rebuilding analysis for California quillback rockfish (Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1) with appendix B removed.

Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Mr. Gorelnik, Ms. McKnight, Mr. Dooley, and Mr. Smith abstained)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted the California quillback rockfish rebuilding analysis, as described in [Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1](#), with Appendix B removed. The rebuilding analysis specifies resulting scientific rebuilding parameters ( $T_{\min} = 2045$ ,  $T_{\max} = 2071$ , mean generation time = 26 years). Prior to adoption, the Council considered the additional review of November 2023 public comment by Dr. Ray Hilborn and Dr. Mark Maunder regarding the 2021 quillback rockfish stock assessment and rebuilding analyses conducted in 2023 based on the assessment.

- 3. Initial Stock Assessment Plan and Terms of Reference - Marlene Bellman**
  - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - b. Public Comment**

**c. Council Action: Adopt for Public Review a Preliminary List and Schedule of Stocks for Assessment in 2025 and 2027 and Draft Terms of Reference for Assessments, Methodology Reviews, and Rebuilding Analyses**

**Motion 9:** Council adopt for public review the species, assessment type, and anticipated assessment area(s) in Table 1 below as the preliminary list for 2025 assessments, and the species, assessment type, and anticipated assessment area(s) in Table 2 below as the preliminary list for 2027 assessments;

Table 1. Preliminary Species, Assessment Type, and Anticipated Assessment Area(s) for 2025 Stock Assessments

Species	Assessment Type	Anticipated Assessment Area(s)
Sablefish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Quillback rockfish off California	Benchmark	South of 42° N. Lat.
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	Benchmark (both) or Benchmark (south) and Update (north)	Coastwide, or North of 40° 10' N. lat. South of 40° 10' N. lat.
Chilipepper rockfish	Benchmark or Data moderate	Coastwide
Widow rockfish	Update	Coastwide
Petrale sole	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish	Benchmark or update	Coastwide
English sole	Data moderate	Coastwide
Canary rockfish	Catch-only update	Coastwide
Shortspine thornyhead	Catch-only update	Coastwide

Table 2. Preliminary Species, Assessment Type, and Anticipated Assessment Area(s) for 2027 Stock Assessments

Species	Assessment Type	Anticipated Assessment Area(s)
Pacific spiny dogfish shark	Benchmark	Coastwide
Vermilion/sunset rockfish	TBD	Multiple Areas
Petrale sole (if not done in 2025)	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish (if not done in 2025)	TBD	Coastwide
Slope rockfish species (TBD)	TBD	Coastwide

and the Council adopt for public review: (1) the draft Terms of Reference for groundfish stock assessments ([Attachment 5](#)) incorporating the recommendations of the GMT in [Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#); (2). The draft Terms of Reference for rebuilding analyses ([Attachment 6](#)); and (3) the draft Terms of Reference for Methodology ([Attachment 7](#)) reviews.



Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 9 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted the following preliminary list of species, assessment type, and anticipated assessment area(s) for 2025 groundfish stock assessments.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Assessment Type</b>	<b>Anticipated Assessment Area(s)</b>
Sablefish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Quillback rockfish off California	Benchmark	South of 42° N. Lat.
Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	Benchmark (both) or Benchmark (South) & Update (North)	Coastwide, or North of 40° 10' N. lat. South of 40° 10' N. lat.
Chilipepper rockfish	Benchmark or Data moderate	Coastwide
Widow rockfish	Update	Coastwide
Petrals sole	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish	Benchmark or Update	Coastwide
English sole	Data moderate	Coastwide
Canary rockfish	Catch-only update	Coastwide
Shortspine thornyhead	Catch-only update	Coastwide

The Council adopted the following preliminary list of species, assessment type, and anticipated assessment area(s) for potential 2027 groundfish stock assessments.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Assessment Type</b>	<b>Anticipated Assessment Area(s)</b>
Pacific spiny dogfish shark	Benchmark	Coastwide
Vermilion/Sunset rockfish	TBD	Multiple Areas
Petrals sole (if not done in 2025)	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish (if not done in 2025)	TBD	Coastwide
Slope rockfish species (TBD)	TBD	Coastwide

In addition, the Council adopted three draft 2025-2026 Terms of Reference (TOR) for public review: 1.) a TOR for the groundfish stock assessment review process ([Supplemental Attachment 5](#)), incorporating recommendations from the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) in [Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#), 2.) a TOR for developing groundfish rebuilding analysis ([Supplemental Attachment 6](#)), and 3.) a TOR for groundfish and coastal pelagic species methodology reviews ([Supplemental Attachment 7](#)). The Council is scheduled to further refine the proposed species for assessment when they finalize groundfish stock assessment planning and Terms of Reference at their June 2024 meeting.

4. **Trawl Cost Recovery Annual Report - Jessi Doerpinghaus**
  - a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - b. **Public Comment**
  - c. **Council Action: Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate**

**Staff Summary:** None

5. **Implementation of the 2024 Pacific Whiting Fishery under the U.S./Canada Agreement -Todd Phillips**
  - a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - b. **Public Comment**
  - c. **Council Action: Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2024 Pacific Whiting Fishery**

**Staff Summary:** Mr. Phil Anderson briefed the Council on the Pacific Hake/Whiting Agreement process's outcomes. The United States and Canada came to agreement on the coastwide Pacific hake/whiting total allowable catch (TAC) of 550,000 mt, of which, the United States TAC is 410,034 mt. No action was taken by the Council.

6. **Fixed Gear Marking and Entanglement Risk Reduction–Preliminary Preferred Alternative - Jessi Doerpinghaus**
  - a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - b. **Public Comment**
  - c. **Council Action: Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative**

**Motion 13:** Council revise the range of alternatives for temporary line marking as described in Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental REVISED NMFS Report 1, March 2024, and adopt the alternatives below as the preliminary preferred alternatives for fixed gear marking and entanglement risk reduction measures.

- **Gear Marking**
  - **Buoy Marking**
    - **Alternative 1, Suboption b, gear specific mark with cattle-ear tags as modified by the GAP in Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1**
  - **Line Marking**
  - **Alternative 1, gear specific marking**
  - **Portion of line marked: A.1, vertical line**
  - **Distance of mark: B.2 At least top 20 fm**
  - **Method of marking: C.1 Manufactured line**

- Transition period: D.1, No transition, manufactured line required upon implementation
- Entanglement Risk Reduction
  - Surface Gear Requirements
    - Alternative 1, surface gear required only at one end.
  - Surface Line Length Restrictions
    - Alternative 1.b, limit the amount of surface line length to 10 fm
- Administrative/Other Items
  - Alternative 1: clarify regulations to prohibit panel placement of the bottom of the pot, except slinky pots
- Guidance
  - Request Council staff revise the Purpose and Need to clarify that line marking can contribute to both positive and negative fishery attribution.
  - Request NMFS develop a Best Practices Guide and coordinate with GAP and EC.
  - Coordinate with West Coast Dungeness crab fishery managers to identify line and buoy that are unique to the federal fixed gear groundfish fishery.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes

**Amendment 1:** add the word “tag colors and shapes” after “buoy” in the motion in order to clarify what the motion is seeking clarification on.

Maggie Sommer/Sharon Keifer (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 13, as amended, carried unanimously

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted the following as Preliminary Preferred Alternative for fixed gear marking and entanglement risk reduction:

Buoy Marking- Alternative 1, Suboption 1b, gear-specific buoy marking with cattle ear tags, as modified by the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) ([Agenda Item F.6, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2024](#)) to have gear-specific tags on every buoy, including vessel identification information.

Line Marking- Alternative 1, gear-specific line marking with the following specifications:

Portion of line marked: A.1, vertical line

Distance of mark: B.2 At least top 20 fm

Method of marking: C.1 Manufactured line

Transition period: D.1, No transition, manufactured line required upon implementation

Surface Gear Limitation

Alternative 1: Fixed gear vessels are only required to use surface gear (buoys and flags) attached on one terminal end of the groundline.

Surface Line Length Restriction

Alternative 1, Suboption b: Limit the amount of surface line permitted for fixed gears to a maximum length of 10 fm

Escape Panel Regulations: Add clarification to escape panel regulations to prohibit panel placement at bottom of pot, with exception for slinky pots (which do not have a bottom).

The Council also continued to request that NMFS develop a Best Practices Guide and coordinate with GAP and Enforcement Consultants.

Additionally, the Council also gave guidance to staff to modify the purpose and need to consider the benefits of entanglements from other fisheries not being attributed to the groundfish fishery, modify the range of alternatives for temporary line markings as described in [Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental REVISED NMFS Report 1, March 2024](#), and direct staff to work with West Coast Dungeness crab fishery managers to identify line and buoy tag color and shapes that are unique to the Federal fixed gear groundfish fishery

**7. 2025-26 Fisheries Analysis Update and Adopt California Quillback Rockfish Harvest Specifications and Rebuilding Parameters - Marlene Bellman, Todd Phillips**

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

**b. Public Comment**

**c. Council Action: Review Analysis and Provide Guidance; Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Rebuilding Strategy and Associated Harvest Specifications for California Quillback Rockfish, Refine the Range of Alternatives, As Necessary**

**Motion 14:** Council adopt a range of 2025-2026 harvest specifications for Quillback rockfish off California recommended by the GMT in Table 1. From Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023, with the technical correction to the 2026 specification as provided by the SSC in Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, March 2024.

Caroline McKnight/Corey Ridings (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council gave guidance to the GMT regarding their questions to facilitate completion of their over-winter analyses of proposed management measures for the 2025-26 biennium. The Council's guidance directed the GMT to conduct no further analysis or develop management measures for petrale sole. They also noted the current range of allocation analyses for canary and widow rockfishes was sufficient. The Council instructed the GMT to prioritize further analysis of the shortspine thornyhead new management measure ([Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, March 2024](#)) as supported by the GAP in their statement ([Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2024](#)). Additionally, the Council directed the GMT to include their analyses of the new management measures for sorting requirements and continuous transit in the Exclusive Economic Zone in the 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures analytical document for the April Council meeting. The Council directed the GMT to not move forward with a sablefish discard mortality rate in the recreational fishery analysis in this process, but to add it to the Groundfish Workload and New Management Measures process for future consideration. Additionally, the Council directed staff to make corrections to tables of discard mortality rates for canary, yelloweye, and cowcod in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document as detailed in [Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 4, March 2024](#).

The Council adopted a range of 2025-2026 harvest specifications for quillback rockfish off of California, as recommended by the GMT in Table 1, as described in [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#), with the technical correction to the 2026 specification as noted in [Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#). These rebuilding strategies include F=0, which represents no fishing mortality, and the acceptable biological catch (ABC) rule where the ABC is set equal to management risk tolerance (P\*) and the scientific uncertainty (sigma) reduction is applied to the overfishing limit. The range of harvest specifications associated with these rebuilding strategies will be included in analysis for the April Council meeting.

Table 1. Quillback rockfish off California rebuilding strategies adopted in March 2024, with the associated range of 2025-2026 harvest specifications for analysis.

	F=0	ABC Rule
2021 assumed removals (mt)	15.58	
2022 assumed removals (mt)	18.11	
2023 assumed removals (mt)	11.12	
2024 assumed removals (mt)	10.62	
2025 OFL/ACL	1.52/0	1.52/1.3
2026 OFL/ACL	1.81/0	1.77/1.5
SPR	1	n/a-
T <sub>target</sub>	2045	2060
T <sub>max</sub>	2071	2071
Probability of recovery by T <sub>max</sub>	0.999	0.736

## 8. Inseason Adjustments – Final Action - Todd Phillips

### a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

### b. Public Comment

### c. Council Action: Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2024

**Motion 15:** Council adopt the inseason changes for the California Recreational Fishery under Option 2, with a 2-fish vermilion sub-bag limit from Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2024 except for the months where the fishery operates shallower than 20 fathoms. During those times Federal waters will be closed, and

from Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2024 Option 1 for the commercial Non-Trawl RCA Boundary Change and revised trip limits as follows:

LEFG/OA Lingcod

LEFG/OA Other flatfish

LEFG/OA Minor shelf rock fish

Sub option:

LEFG/OA Minor deeper nearshore rockfish: status quo

LEFG/OA Minor shallow nearshore rockfish: status quo

LEFG/OA Cabezon: status quo

Caroline McKnight/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted a suite of inseason changes at this meeting, addressing the California recreational fishery and a management line adjustment. In Federal waters off of California, the Council recommended Option 2, with a 2-fish vermilion rockfish sub-bag limit south of 40° 10' N. lat. as recommended by the GAP in [Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#), March 2024 and detailed in [Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 2](#), March 2024.

The Council acknowledged that there was an error in minor shelf rockfish complex Limited Entry Fixed Gear south of 40° 10' N. lat. and Open Access south trip limits of 40° 10' N. lat. as shown on pages 1 and 2 of [F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2024](#). NMFS will correct these errors.

The Council also recommended adjusting the Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area boundary from as detailed in [F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2024](#) as 'Option 1.' In brief, this modification will move the shoreward boundary of the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area between 37° 07' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. to 50 fm. As a result, the trip limits for the following stocks and stock complexes will revert to what they were prior to the September and November 2023 inseason actions. The revised trip limits for Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access sectors are detailed in [F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2024](#) pages 7 and 8, noting the Council adopted the status quo option for cabezon, minor shallow, and minor deeper rockfish.

## **G. Pacific Halibut Management**

- 1. International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Report - Robin Ehlke**
  - a. Report of the IPHC - Basia Hutnikzac**
  - b. Council IPHC Representative Report - Phil Anderson**
  - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - d. Public Comment**
  - e. Council Action: Discuss IPHC Meeting Reports and Provide Guidance, as Appropriate**

**Staff Summary:** None

- 2. Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Action for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries - Robin Ehlke**
  - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
  - b. Public Comment**

**c. Council Action: Recommend Inseason Changes to April/May 2024 Retention Limits in the Salmon Troll Fishery, as Necessary; Adopt Options for Public Review on Retention in 2024 and April/May 2025 Salmon Troll Fishery; Adopt Final Retention Limits for 2024 Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery**

**Motion 10:** Council adopt for public review the alternatives presented in Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 2024 for halibut landing restrictions in the salmon troll fishery in 2024 beginning May 16 through the end of the salmon troll fishery and beginning April 1, 2025, unless modified through inseason action.

Heather Hall/Butch Smith

**Amendment 1:** that SAS alternative 2 be modified to a maximum per trip limit of 30 fish.

Marci Yaremko/Bob Dooley (Amendment 1 carried, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Hall, Ms. Mattes, Ms. Svensson voted no, Mr. Lindsay abstained)

Motion 10, as amended, carried unanimously

**Motion 11:** Council adopt a final trip limit ratio of 130 pounds of Pacific halibut per 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional Pacific halibut for the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, as recommended in Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2024.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted three alternatives for incidental halibut retention in the 2024 and early 2025 salmon troll fishery after hearing from the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and the public. Each alternative included a landing and possession limit of one halibut for every two Chinook, plus one additional halibut in excess of the possession/landing ratio. The possession/landing limit per trip ranged from 25 to 35 halibut among the three options. The Council is scheduled to adopt a final alternative at its April meeting.

The Council's final recommendation for the 2024 incidental halibut catch restrictions in the fixed gear fishery north of Point Chehalis beginning April 1 is 130 pounds of dressed weight halibut for every 1,000 pounds dressed weight of sablefish, plus 2 additional halibut in excess of the ratio, which was consistent with the GAP recommendations.

## **H. Ecosystem Management**

### **1. California Current Ecosystem Status Report - Kit Dahl**

**a. California Current Ecosystem Status Report - Mary Hunsicker, Andrew Leising**

**b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**

**c. Public Comment**

**d. Council Action: Review the California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Consider Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2024**

**Staff Summary:** The Council endorsed the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) review of ecosystem science topics requested by the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

Team. This entails a meeting of the SSC’s Ecosystem Subcommittee later in 2024. Topics to be reviewed are new prey indicators and development of risk tables and their applications in support of Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4. The latter review would include the development of risk tables for selected salmon stocks based on salmon stoplight charts currently presented in the Annual Ecosystem Status Report. The Council also noted potential improvements to the Report enumerated in advisory body reports and encouraged the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team to take these into consideration when producing future Reports.

## **2. Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4 – Progress Review - Kit Dahl**

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

### **b. Public Comment**

### **c. Council Action: Identify On-Ramps for Climate and Ecosystem Information including Harvest Policies and Specific Management Actions; Council Discussion and Direction on Next Steps**

#### **Motion 12:** Council:

- Task the EWG to work with NMFS ecosystem, groundfish, and other science center staff to further explore development of a methodological framework for risk tables and apply it to groundfish, as described in the Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 2, item 1.
  - Include in this a retrospective analysis of how risk tables would have impacted decision making in past groundfish assessments if they had been used in the manner currently envisioned.
  - If sablefish and Petrale sole are prioritized for assessment in 2025 or the risk tables are approved for use without a new assessment; update, finalize, and include their risk tables to be considered as a part of those stock assessments and the 2027-2028 harvest specifications process.
- Task the EWG to work with NMFS and the appropriate advisory bodies to broaden the application of risk tables to the Salmon FMP as described in Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental HC Report 1.
- Delay Council development of risk tables for data-limited species or groups or other FMP species until a later date.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 12 carried, Mr. Pettinger abstained)

**Staff Summary:** The Council directed its Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) to work with NMFS Science Center staff to further develop the methodological framework for risk tables and apply it to groundfish (see [Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 2](#), request #1). This work should include a retrospective analysis of how risk tables would have impacted decision-making based on past groundfish stock assessments. Depending on the outcome of this work, the Council could consider using risk tables for sablefish and petrale sole as part of 2027-2028 groundfish harvest specifications decision-making, based on the most recent stock assessments for those stocks. If development of risk tables for additional groundfish stocks is considered, they should not be developed for data-limited species or groups at this time. As part of developing the risk table methodology, their application should be broadened to include selected salmon stocks as described in [Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental HC Report 1](#). The results of this work will be



reviewed by the SSC Ecosystem Subcommittee over the summer so that results can be reported at the September Council meeting.

**3. Climate and Communities Initiative Review and Prioritize Tasks - Kit Dahl**

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Review Climate and Communities Initiative Outcomes and Prioritize Future Actions**

**Staff Summary:** The Council noted links between ideas generated from the Climate and Communities Initiative scenario planning process (summarized by the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) in [Agenda Item H.3.a, EWG Report 1](#)) and projects for which the Council has requested Inflation Reduction Act funding to conduct, which were flagged in several advisory body reports. It recommended that these priorities be revisited once Inflation Reduction Act funding has been secured and endorsed the EWG's proposal to convene a meeting among Council advisory bodies, relevant Science Center staff, relevant Regional Center staff, and Council staff for this purpose.

**I. Highly Migratory Species Management**

**1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Kit Dahl**

- a. Regulatory Activities - Ryan Wulff**
- 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. International Management Activities - Kit Dahl**

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions for Upcoming Regional Fishery Management Organization Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate**

**Staff Summary:** None

### 3. Highly Migratory Species Roadmap Workshop – Final Planning - Kit Dahl

#### a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

#### b. Public Comment

#### c. Council Action: Adopt Final Workshop Goals and Objectives, Provide Guidance on Next Steps, as Appropriate

**Motion 16:** Council adopt the following goals for the HMS Roadmap, as edited (strikeout/underline as part of the motion) from Agenda Item I.3.a, HMSMT Report 1:

- A. Support innovation and development of multi-species HMS fishing methods ~~for West Coast based vessels~~ to increase the domestic supply of and meet the demand for swordfish and other marketable species.
- B. Support and test fishing practices that have the potential to be economically viable while also minimizing unmarketable, prohibited, and protected species bycatch.
- C. Support the economic viability of West Coast ~~HMS~~ commercial fisheries for swordfish and ~~other~~ associated marketable species ~~for~~ through a diverse range of HMS fishing methods.
- D. Promote Climate-Ready Fisheries and fisheries resilience by ~~supporting~~ developing flexibility in management and other tools to account for changes in HMS distributions, ecosystems structure and function, and the communities dependent on HMS fisheries.
- E. Engage ~~traditional~~ fishery participants to preserve knowledge and help bolster resilience in future fisheries.
- F. Support recreational HMS fishing opportunities.

John Ugoretz/Corey Ridings

Amendment 1: modify (remove language in strikeout and add the underline) for B. Support and test fishing practices that have the potential to be economically viable ~~while also minimizing unmarketable, prohibited, and protected species bycatch.~~ and consistent with national standard 9 guidelines.

Pete Hassemer/Christa Svensson (Amendment 1 failed, Mr. Hassemer, Mr. Dooley, and Mr. Wulff voted yes)

Motion 16 carried unanimously

**Motion 17:** Council host an HMS Workshop June 6-7<sup>th</sup> at the same location as the June 8-13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in San Diego; with the workshop goal of developing a streamlined and flexible (Council) EFP strategy to support innovation in fishing practices for HMS fisheries.

With the following guidance:

In developing this program, consider the goals of the roadmap and the action items and definitions proposed by the HMSMT.

Not consider outstanding Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan action items A.3 and E.1-3 for the Roadmap and remove HMSMT Action Items 1a-c found in Agenda Item I.3.a, HMSMT Report 1 from the HMS Roadmap draft list of action items.

Use the HMSMT definitions 1-12 as drafted in Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 2, March 2024 and definitions 13 and 14 from Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1, March 2024 to facilitate discussion at the Roadmap workshop.

Include in the notification of workshop the Council is encouraging all interested stakeholders to participate.

Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings

**Amendment 1:** edit the first paragraph to read: “Council host an HMS Workshop June 6-7<sup>th</sup> at the same location as the June 8-13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in San Diego; with the workshop goal of developing a streamlined and flexible (Council) EFP strategy to support innovation in fishing practices for HMS fisheries using the following Council direction ~~With the following guidance:~~”  
John Ugoretz/Bob Dooley (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

**Amendment 2:** add the definition of Climate-Ready Fishery: A fishery that incorporates available climate and ecosystem environmental data to support management decisions and the resilience of communities and ecosystems that depend on it. This definition is to be added after “Use the HMSMT definitions 1-12 as drafted in Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 2, March 2024 and definitions 13 and 14 from Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1, March 2024 to facilitate discussion at the Roadmap workshop as amended by this new definition.”

Corey Ridings/Marc Gorelnik (Amendment 2 withdrawn with consent of the second)  
Motion 17, as amended, carried unanimously

**Staff Summary:** The Council adopted final highly migratory species (HMS) Roadmap goals and provided direction on the HMS Roadmap workshop. The workshop will be held June 6-7, 2024, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Mission Valley, San Diego, California. This is the same location as the June 8-13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Council set the goal of the workshop as developing a streamlined and flexible Council exempted fishing permit strategy to support innovation in fishing practices for HMS fisheries.

## **J. Administrative Matters**

### **1. Approval of Council Meeting Record - Brad Pettinger**

#### **a. Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record**

**Motion 18:** Council to approve the previous Council meeting record.  
Phil Anderson/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

### **2. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures - Kelly Ames**

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

#### **b. Public Comment**

#### **c. Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures, As Appropriate**

**Motion 19:** Council direct the Executive Director to appoint alternates rather than soliciting for nominations to fill Advisory Body vacancies through the 2022-2024 term.  
Sharon Kiefer/Bob Dooley (Motion 19 carried unanimously)

**Staff Summary:** The Council instructed the Executive Director, in consultation with the Council Chair, to establish interim appointments rather than solicit nominations to fill vacant seats for the rest of the 2022-2024 term. This approach will allow interested individuals to gain experience in the process before applying for the upcoming term.

In June 2024, the Council is scheduled to review the composition of all 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) and adopt proposed changes for public review (see [Council Operating Procedure 9, Schedule 6](#)). In September 2024, the Council is scheduled to adopt the final compositions of term-limited Advisory Body positions and request nominations to fill the next three-year term (2025-2027). Appointments are scheduled to be made in November 2024.

### **3. 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

## **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

[Informational Report 1](#) – FY 2024 Implementation Plan

[Informational Report 2](#) – NWFSC: Background Information Relevant to Data Moderate Assessments and to Comments or Questions Raised During the September and November 2023 Council Meetings Regarding the 2021 Assessment for Quillback Rockfish

[Informational Report 3](#) – Federal Register Notice

[Informational Report 4](#) – A Proposal to Study Costs Associated with Elements of the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program (Phase 2)

[Informational Report 5](#) – Prey Increase Program for Southern Resident Killer Whales

[Informational Report 6](#) – Disaster Declaration – Quan

[Supplemental Informational Report 7](#) – DRAFT National Aquaculture Development Plan

[Supplemental Informational Report 8](#) – Analysis of Triggers for the Preliminary Preferred Trawl Individual Fishing Quote (IFQ) Gear-Switching Alternative

## **VOTING LOG**

**Motion 1:** Council adopt the agenda as shown in Agenda Item A.3, March 5-11, 2024 Council Meeting Agenda.

Dani Evenson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

**Motion 2:** Council adopt the 2024 stock abundance forecasts, acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs) as presented in Agenda Item C.2, Supplemental Attachment 3, Preseason Report I.

Kyle Adicks/John North (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

**Motion 3:** Council adopt a 20 percent precautionary buffer on the 2024 allowable Exploitation Rate for Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC). Applying this buffer has the effect of reducing the maximum allowable exploitation rate of 25 percent specified in the 2024 NMFS Guidance Letter (Agenda Item C.5.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 1, March 2024), down to a maximum allowable of 20 percent, which would be used for pre-season development of management alternatives for 2024.

Approve the Draft Klamath River Fall Chinook Ad Hoc Workgroup Terms of Reference as final.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 3 carried, Ms. Bishop abstained)

**Motion 4:** Council adopt the range of alternatives described in Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1 with the modifications described in Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental EC Report 1.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

**Motion 5:** Council adopt for STT analysis the following initial Treaty Troll salmon management measures.

Alternative I: 45,000 Chinook and 47,500 coho

Alternative II: 40,000 Chinook and 37,500 coho

Alternative III: 35,000 Chinook and 27,500 coho

The alternatives consist of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and an all-species fishery starting on July 1 until the end of the season (TBD). Treaty troll tribes are engaging in discussions on this and attempting to reach agreement. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

Joseph Oatman/Kyle Adicks (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

**Motion 6:** Council adopt for Salmon Technical Team compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2024 non-Indian ocean fisheries as developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and described in Agenda Item C.5.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 7, 2024, with the following modification:

Page 3, third sentence in bottom section – replace “east of the Megler-Astoria bridge” with “east of Tongue Point, Oregon.”

Kyle Adicks/Phil Anderson (Motion 6 carried unanimously)

**Motion 7:** Council adopt the 2023 rebuilding analysis for California quillback rockfish (Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1) with appendix B removed.

Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Mr. Gorelnik, Ms. McKnight, Mr. Dooley, and Mr. Smith abstained)

**Motion 8:** Council adopt the E.3, Supplemental Attachment 1, Draft Comment Letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management with the inclusion of the Habitat Committee proposed edits from Supplemental HC Report 1; and direct the Marine Planning Committee to draft a quick response comment letter for Council Consideration on the California Energy

Commission’s (CEC) Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525) Draft Strategic Plan for Offshore Wind Development. And through Council discussion provide guidance on a potential coastwide, long term, cumulative effects analysis for the future of offshore wind on the Pacific Coast.  
Christa Svensson/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

**Motion 9:** Council adopt for public review the species, assessment type, and anticipated assessment area(s) in Table 1 below as the preliminary list for 2025 assessments, and the species, assessment type, and anticipated assessment area(s) in Table 2 below as the preliminary list for 2027 assessments;

Table 1. Preliminary Species, Assessment Type, and Anticipated Assessment Area(s) for 2025 Stock Assessments

Species	Assessment Type	Anticipated Assessment Area(s)
Sablefish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Quillback rockfish off California	Benchmark	South of 42° N. Lat.
Rougheye/blackspotted rockfish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	Benchmark (both) or Benchmark (south) and Update (north)	Coastwide, or North of 40° 10’ N. lat. South of 40° 10’ N. lat.
Chilipepper rockfish	Benchmark or Data moderate	Coastwide
Widow rockfish	Update	Coastwide
Petrale sole	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish	Benchmark or update	Coastwide
English sole	Data moderate	Coastwide
Canary rockfish	Catch-only update	Coastwide
Shortspine thornyhead	Catch-only update	Coastwide

Table 2. Preliminary Species, Assessment Type, and Anticipated Assessment Area(s) for 2027 Stock Assessments

Species	Assessment Type	Anticipated Assessment Area(s)
Pacific spiny dogfish shark	Benchmark	Coastwide
Vermilion/sunset rockfish	TBD	Multiple Areas
Petrale sole (if not done in 2025)	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish (if not done in 2025)	TBD	Coastwide
Slope rockfish species (TBD)	TBD	Coastwide

and Council adopt for public review: (1) the draft Terms of Reference for groundfish stock assessments ([Attachment 5](#)) incorporating the recommendations of the GMT in [Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#); (2). The draft Terms of Reference for rebuilding analyses

([Attachment 6](#)); and (3) the draft Terms of Reference for Methodology ([Attachment 7](#)) reviews.

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 9 carried unanimously)

**Motion 10:** Council adopt for public review the alternatives presented in [Agenda Item G.2.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 2024](#), and modify Alternative 2 to a maximum per trip limit of 30 fish, for halibut landing restrictions in the salmon troll fishery in 2024 beginning May 16 through the end of the salmon troll fishery and beginning April 1, 2025, unless modified through inseason action.

Heather Hall/Butch Smith (Motion 10, as amended, carried unanimously)

**Motion 11:** Council adopt a final trip limit ratio of 130 pounds of Pacific halibut per 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional Pacific halibut for the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, as recommended in [Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2024](#).

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

**Motion 12:** Council:

- Task the EWG to work with NMFS ecosystem, groundfish, and other science center staff to further explore development of a methodological framework for risk tables and apply it to groundfish, as described in the [Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental EWG Report 2](#), item 1.
  - Include in this a retrospective analysis of how risk tables would have impacted decision making in past groundfish assessments if they had been used in the manner currently envisioned.
  - If sablefish and Petrale sole are prioritized for assessment in 2025 or the risk tables are approved for use without a new assessment; update, finalize, and include their risk tables to be considered as a part of those stock assessments and the 2027-2028 harvest specifications process.
- Task the EWG to work with NMFS and the appropriate advisory bodies to broaden the application of risk tables to the Salmon FMP as described in [Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental HC Report 1](#).
- Delay Council development of risk tables for data-limited species or groups or other FMP species until a later date.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 12 carried, Mr. Pettinger abstained)

**Motion 13:** Council revise the range of alternatives for temporary line marking as described in [Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental REVISED NMFS Report 1, March 2024](#), and adopt the alternatives below as the preliminary preferred alternatives for fixed gear marking and entanglement risk reduction measures.

- Gear Marking
  - Buoy Marking
    - Alternative 1, Suboption b, gear specific mark with cattle-ear tags as modified by the GAP in [Agenda Item F.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)
  - Line Marking
  - Alternative 1, gear specific marking
  - Portion of line marked: A.1, vertical line

- Distance of mark: B.2 At least top 20 fm
- Method of marking: C.1 Manufactured line
- Transition period: D.1, No transition, manufactured line required upon implementation
- Entanglement Risk Reduction
  - Surface Gear Requirements
    - Alternative 1, surface gear required only at one end.
  - Surface Line Length Restrictions
    - Alternative 1.b, limit the amount of surface line length to 10 fm
- Administrative/Other Items
  - Alternative 1: clarify regulations to prohibit panel placement of the bottom of the pot, except slinky pots
- Guidance
  - Request Council staff revise the Purpose and Need to clarify that line marking can contribute to both positive and negative fishery attribution.
  - Request NMFS develop a Best Practices Guide and coordinate with GAP and EC.
  - Coordinate with West Coast Dungeness crab fishery managers to identify line and buoy tag colors and shapes that are unique to the federal fixed gear groundfish fishery.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 13, as amended, carried unanimously)

**Motion 14:** Council adopt a range of 2025-2026 harvest specifications for Quillback rockfish off CA recommended by the GMT in Table 1. From [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, November 2023](#), with the technical correction to the 2026 specification as provided by the SSC in [Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, March 2024](#).

Caroline McKnight/Corey Ridings (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

**Motion 15:** Council adopt the inseason changes for the California Recreational Fishery under Option 2, with a 2-fish vermilion sub-bag limit from [Agenda Item F.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2024](#) except for the months where the fishery operates shallower than 20 fathoms. During those times Federal waters will be closed, and

from Agenda Item [F.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2024](#) Option 1 for the commercial Non-Trawl RCA Boundary Change and revised trip limits as follows:

- LEFG/OA Lingcod
- LEFG/OA Other flatfish
- LEFG/OA Minor shelf rock fish

Sub option:

- LEFG/OA Minor deeper nearshore rockfish: status quo
- LEFG/OA Minor shallow nearshore rockfish: status quo
- LEFG/OA Cabezon: status quo

Caroline McKnight/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

**Motion 16:** Council adopt the following goals for the HMS Roadmap, as edited from [Agenda Item I.3.a, HMSMT Report 1](#):

- A. Support innovation and development of multi-species HMS fishing methods to increase the domestic supply of and meet the demand for swordfish and other marketable species.



- B. Support and test fishing practices that have the potential to be economically viable while also minimizing unmarketable, prohibited, and protected species bycatch.
- C. Support the economic viability of West Coast commercial fisheries for swordfish and associated marketable species through a diverse range of HMS fishing methods.
- D. Promote Climate-Ready Fisheries and fisheries resilience by developing flexibility in management and other tools to account for changes in HMS distributions, ecosystem's structure and function, and the communities dependent on HMS fisheries.
- E. Engage fishery participants to preserve knowledge and help bolster resilience in future fisheries.
- F. Support recreational HMS fishing opportunities.

John Ugoretz/Corey Ridings (Motion 16 carried unanimously)

**Motion 17:** Council host an HMS Workshop June 6-7<sup>th</sup> at the same location as the June 8-13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in San Diego; with the workshop goal of developing a streamlined and flexible (Council) EFP strategy to support innovation in fishing practices for HMS fisheries using the following Council direction:

In developing this program, consider the goals of the roadmap and the action items and definitions proposed by the HMSMT.

Not consider outstanding Swordfish Management and Monitoring Plan action items A.3 and E.1-3 for the Roadmap and remove HMSMT Action Items 1a-c found in [Agenda Item I.3.a, HMSMT Report 1](#) from the HMS Roadmap draft list of action items.

Use the HMSMT definitions 1-12 as drafted in [Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSMT Report 2, March 2024](#) and definitions 13 and 14 from [Agenda Item I.3.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1, March 2024](#) to facilitate discussion at the Roadmap workshop.

Include in the notification of workshop the Council is encouraging all interested stakeholders to participate.

Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings (Motion 17, as amended, carried unanimously)

**Motion 18:** Council to approve the previous [Council meeting record](#).

Phil Anderson/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

**Motion 19:** Council direct the Executive Director to appoint alternates rather than soliciting for nominations to fill Advisory Body vacancies through the 2022-2024 term.

Sharon Kiefer/Bob Dooley (Motion 19 carried unanimously)

**Motion 20:** Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon as presented in [Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 11, 2024](#).

Kyle Adicks/Phil Anderson (Motion 20 carried unanimously)

**Motion 21:** Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area from Cape Falcon south to the Oregon/California border as presented in [Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 11, 2024](#).

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

**Motion 22:** to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries for the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented

in [Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 11, 2024](#), with the following amendments:

Table 1. 2024 Commercial troll alternatives in the Pt. Arena to Pigeon Point cell (San Francisco Area), in the subarea from Pt. Reyes to Pt. San Pedro (Fall Area Target Zone):

Alternative 1:

- Strike “Sept 1-30” and replace with Sept. 2-6, 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, Sept 30.
- Add “or attainment of the 7500-Chinook harvest limit,” which would apply across the proposed September and October dates.
- Add “Landing and possession limit of 40 Chinook per vessel per landing week”.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

**Motion 23:** For tribal ocean fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon, Council to adopt for public review the alternatives as presented in [Agenda Item C.9.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, Table 3 \(March 11, 2024\)](#).

Joe Oatman/Kyle Adicks (Motion 23 carried unanimously)

## ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 11:11 a.m.

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Brad Pettinger  
Council Chair

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Date