



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 17, 2024  
TO: Habitat Committee and Interested Persons  
FROM: Mr. Kerry Griffin, Habitat Staff Officer  
SUBJECT: June 2024 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet in person with live streaming June 7 – 13, 2024, Doubletree by Hilton San Diego - Mission Valley, 7450 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92108. The Habitat Committee (HC) will convene in person, in the Catalina 1 Room. Instructions for joining online meetings will be posted to the June Council meeting [webpage](#). The Council will consider several important habitat-related topics as well as other agenda items, including the following.

#### **Current Habitat Issues (D.1)**

The HC will consider habitat-related issues that may be of interest to the Council and will develop a supplemental HC Report for Council consideration. The supplemental HC report is designed to alert the Council of activities or issues they should be aware of, such as upcoming development projects that may affect fisheries habitat, or updates on issues previously considered by the Council. The HC may recommend a particular action such as writing a letter or other communication on relevant issues.

#### **Queets Spring/Summer Chinook Rebuilding Plan – Progress Report (E.2)**

Queets River natural spring/summer Chinook were declared overfished in November 2023, which necessitates development of a rebuilding plan. The Council's Salmon Technical Team (STT) is working with tribal, state, and Federal entities to develop the rebuilding plan and will provide a progress report in June. The Council is slated to select a Preliminary Preferred Alternative at the September 2024 Council meeting and adopt a final plan for recommendation to NMFS at the November 2024 Council meeting. The HC will receive a briefing, and to the extent that the rebuilding plan may include habitat improvements, the HC may wish to develop a supplemental report.

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### **Marine Planning (H.1)**

The Council's Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online April 18, 2024, to consider current issues, activities, and impacts related to offshore wind (OSW) energy development on the Pacific Coast. The meeting included presentations on the draft NMFS West Coast Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Science Plan and on NMFS's efforts to develop fisheries spatial layers for future OSW energy siting off the coast of California. The meeting also included updates from the three Pacific Coast States and from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The MPC will develop a draft comment letter on the BOEM Proposed Sale Notice for two lease sites off the Oregon Coast. The HC should review H.1.a, MPC Report 1 and consider developing a supplemental report if the Council would benefit from additional information or clarification of OSW-related issues.

### **Council Operations and Priorities (C.2)**

An [online briefing](#) for Advisory bodies will be held on May 21 to cover the Executive Director's recommended improvements to Council operations. A recording of the presentation will also be posted on the web.

At this meeting the Council is being asked to specify proposed recommendations it has for changing the nature of Council operations. To help inform these recommendations, Advisory Groups and the public are encouraged to focus their input on the areas of the Council process where they have the most relative expertise. For example, Advisory Subpanels and Management Teams are encouraged to provide the Council with input relative to their own operations, specify any recommendations they may have for improving these operations, and outline how any changes being considered could affect their ability to provide advice to the Council.

### **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Coral Research and Restoration Closures – Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment Final Action (F.2)**

Over the past year, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has presented the Council with options for closing certain areas to groundfish bottom contact gear, in order to promote deep-sea coral research and restoration activities. . The Council proposed moving forward two locations and three areas (Ascension Canyon, Año Nuevo Canyon, and Sur Ridge) for analysis that would be closed to all bottom contact gear. In March 2023, the Council adopted a range of alternatives that included the three areas- with some modifications to Ascension and Año Nuevo Canyons to address concerns raised by industry about closing off key sablefish grounds. The Council also confirmed that these areas would only be closed to commercial groundfish bottom contact gears.

### **Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures - 2025-27 Advisory Body Composition and Respectful Workplace Policies (C.6)**

During this agenda item, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considers administrative appointment issues regarding the Council Membership Roster, including Council members, Advisory Body members, and any relevant changes in the Council Operating Procedures (COP). Membership discussions include the current (2022-2024) and upcoming (2025-2027) Advisory Body terms. An update on the development of the respectful workplace policies is also provided.

Advisory Bodies may wish to focus their review on the process for establishing the term-limited positions for the upcoming term (2025-2027). At the June Council meeting, the Council is

scheduled to review the composition of all term-limited Advisory Body positions (SSC at-large positions; HC tribal, industry, conservation, and at-large positions; and all Advisory Subpanel positions) and adopt proposed changes for public review (see [COP 9, Schedule 6](#)). The current composition of all term-limited Advisory Subpanels can be found in Agenda Item C.6, Attachment 3 and the current roster can be found in the June Briefing Book. 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. Appointments are scheduled to be made in November 2024. Advisory Bodies should consider the form and function of the term-limited Advisory Bodies while taking into consideration the Council's financial status (see Agenda Item C.2 and C.4), when recommending the proposed changes for public review.

Staff has made progress implementing Council guidance from June 2023 to further develop respectful workplace policies (Attachment 4). Several of the items were recommended for development and consideration by the Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) and are expected to be discussed at their May 2024 meeting. The Executive Director will provide a summary of the discussions and next steps.

### **Other Topics**

The HC will also discuss The Columbia River Dredge Material Management Plan, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (C.7), and if time allows, the NMFS Regional Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Plan and EEJ Committee - Update (H.2).

KFG:rdd

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A– Council Meeting Agenda and Executive Director's Report
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Comments on Non-Agenda Items
3. Agenda Item C - Administrative
4. Agenda Item D – Habitat Issues
5. Agenda Item E.2 – Salmon
6. Agenda Item F.2 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Coral Research and Restoration Closures – Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment Final Action
7. Agenda Item H – Cross Fishery Management Plan
8. Informational Reports
9. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC

05/16/24