



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 17, 2024

TO: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel, Highly Migratory Species Management Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for Highly Migratory Species

SUBJECT: June 2024 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet June 7-13, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Diego – Mission Valley in San Diego, California. Both the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) and the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) are scheduled to meet **in person**. Both the HMSAS and HMSMT will meet Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9. In addition, both advisory bodies are authorized to participate in the [June 6-7 HMS Roadmap Workshop](#) at the same location. HMS topics are on the Council agenda on Sunday, June 9. Additional meeting information can be found on the Council's [June 2024 Meeting webpage](#).

Summaries of HMS topics and other items of interest on the Council agenda are listed below.

#### G.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will brief the Council on recent regulatory activities.

#### G.2 International Management Activities

Several international meetings will be held between June and September whose outcomes are of interest to the Council. Specifically, modifications to Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Resolutions affecting Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore are likely to occur at its annual meeting. Changes to bluefin tuna management will likely follow recommendations from the Joint Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna Management, which meets over the summer before the IATTC annual meeting. According to the IATTC Resolution for the North Pacific Albacore Harvest Strategy, in 2024 the International Scientific Committee has been tasked with developing “criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances” (paragraph 1.e) and “how fishing intensity should be interpreted to actual management under this harvest strategy” (paragraph 1.j). These updates to the Harvest Strategy also could be adopted by the IATTC.

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The HMSMT and HMSAS should consider recommendations the Council could make for U.S. positions at regional fishery management organization meetings over the summer. The attached NMFS Report lists these meetings.

### G.3 Exempted Fishing Permits

The Council received two exempted fishing permit applications to test night-set buoy gear. The standard procedure is for exempted fishing permits to be considered at the June and September Council meetings. However, the Council has the option to make a final recommendation at the June meeting, if appropriate.

The HMSAS and HMSMT should review the applications and provide input on any Council recommendation to NMFS on issuing the requested permits.

### G.4 Drift Gillnet Bycatch Performance Report

Since June 2017 the Council has been receiving an annual report from the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) comparing estimated bycatch in the large mesh drift gillnet fishery for selected species/species groups against performance metrics. The HMSMT will provide a supplemental report with updated estimates of drift gillnet bycatch performance for the 2021 and 2022 calendar years.

The HMSAS may wish to provide additional comments on bycatch performance in the fishery.

### C.2 Council Operations and Priorities

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. The HMSAS and HMSMT may wish to comment on the Executive Director's recommended changes to Council operations.

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.

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

During this agenda item, the 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 (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 [COP 9, Schedule 6](#)). The current composition of all term-limited Advisory Bodies 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 Coordination Committee and are expected to be discussed at their May 2024 meeting. The Executive Director will provide a summary of the discussions and next steps.

#### H.1 Marine Planning

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 HMSAS and MT may wish to review H.1.a, MPC Report 1, and consider developing supplemental reports if the Council would benefit from additional information or clarification of OSW-related issues.

#### H.2 NMFS Regional Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Plan and EEJ Committee – Update

The EEJ Committee will meet on June 7th to discuss the NMFS Regional Implementation Plan (RP) of the National [Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy](#) and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report *Assessing Equity in the Distribution of Fisheries Management Benefits: Data and Information Availability* (2024). The EEJC will also receive an update on the Council Coordination Committee's EEJ Workgroup. The RP was developed by a working group composed of NOAA Fisheries staff from the West Coast Region, Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers, Restoration Center, and Office of Law Enforcement. The RP will not be available for the Council meeting, but NMFS staff have indicated it may be available later in June. The NAS Report is the product of a consensus study conducted by the NAS, at the request of NMFS, and considers

the data and information needs for assessing equity in the distribution of fisheries management benefits.

This agenda item is primarily informational.



Finally, as usual, I have included Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning (Agenda Item C.7) in case you wish to comment on the scheduling of HMS items on future agendas.

In addition to the enclosed briefing materials, you may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website. We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advance briefing book. Public comment is available only in electronic form through the Council's [e-portal](#). Visit the [June 2024 Meeting webpage](#) to access these materials.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A: Council Meeting Agenda and Executive Director's Report
2. Agenda Items C: Administrative Matters
3. Agenda Items G: Highly Migratory Species Management
4. Agenda Items H: Cross Fishery Management Plan
5. HMSAS and HMSMT Meeting Agendas
6. Informational Reports
7. General Information and Council Roster

PFMC

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