

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA & WORKLOAD PLANNING

**September Meeting**

During the Groundfish Management Team's (GMT) discussion on C.2 Council Operations and Priorities, a proposal was brought forward to schedule a travel day mid-week during the September Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting to allow the GMT to travel home and listen to groundfish agenda items on the floor remotely. This would reduce travel costs while still allowing the full team to maintain continuity of knowledge of Council discussion on groundfish agenda items and support each other during presentations. **Therefore, the GMT recommends that all groundfish items currently scheduled for September 22 be moved to September 23, which would allow for a whole day of non-groundfish items on the day of travel.** To accomplish this, the Council could consider switching the groundfish agenda items with the highly migratory species agenda items currently scheduled for the 23rd. This switch may also assist the Council in discussing Stock Definitions for Species Assessed in 2025 & 2027 - PPA (H.4) and Phase 2: Stock Definitions - Scoping (H.5) by separating these similar yet discrete agenda items by a full day on the Council floor. The current proximity of these items on the agenda (i.e., H.4 on the 21<sup>st</sup> and H.5 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>) could create confusion and imply that they are tied to the same action.

The GMT appreciates being scheduled to meet at 8 a.m. on September 18th, as opposed to 1 p.m., as this would help maximize team effectiveness during their in-person hours at the September meeting and accommodate travel. Two commercial representatives on the GMT will be absent at the September meeting, which is expected to limit the team's ability to respond to inseason requests.

**Year-at-a-Glance (YAG)**

The GMT is comfortable with unshading the Trawl Catch Share Program and Intersector Allocation Review in September but defers to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel and the Council as to whether that is a preferred time to begin scoping of the allocation review. The GMT is also comfortable unshading the Cordell Bank agenda item currently on the November 2024 agenda as well as unshading the three shaded agenda items currently on the March 2025 schedule.

If the Council moves forward with removing groundfish agenda items from the April 2025 meeting to accommodate budget reduction goals, then both the National Marine Fisheries Service Report and Inseason agenda items should be removed from the YAG in April.