



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

August 30, 2024

RE: A.5 Executive Director's Report

Dear Council Members:

The Executive Director's report to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, PFMC) typically provides information on Informational Reports, changes to Council membership, Advisory Body and Committee alternates that are in place for the current meeting, select activities that have occurred since the last meeting, and other updates not announced elsewhere that may warrant summarization.

Council Roster

- Ms. Aja Szumylo was appointed to the Council in an At Large position
- Dr. Rebecca Lent was appointed to the Council in an At Large position
- Mr. David Sones was appointed to the Council in the Tribal position
- Ms. Christa Svensson was reappointed to the Council in the Oregon Obligatory position
- Ms. Corey Ridings was reappointed to the Council in the California Obligatory position
- Mr. Hugh Morrison is now the USFWS Regional Director, replacing Ms. Robyn Thorson who has retired
- LT Skye-Marie Williamsz has been named a USCG designee

Informational Items

Informational Reports are included in your Briefing Book. These include:

- Informational Report 1: HMS Roadmap Workshop Report
- Informational Report 2: GAO Report on Bycatch in Federal Fisheries
- Informational Report 3: NOAA Fisheries West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan
- Informational Report 4: Proposed Modifications to Research and Data Needs Process

Council Coordination Committee Activities

Following the May meeting of the Council Coordination Committee (CCC), the Council Executive Directors have worked to advance issues of professionalism and anti-harassment within the Council process. Current efforts are looking into 1) training for Executive Directors in the form of how best to conduct investigations when issues of harassment or similar are reported, 2) an examination of Council policies, personnel rules, and similar and where shortcomings may exist within these policies, and 3) the next phase of Council member, staff, and stakeholder training and how to best tailor this training to the Council context. These matters will be discussed further at the October CCC meeting.

Advisory Body Alternates

At the time of drafting this memo, we will have a few alternates at this meeting as indicated in the table below.

Advisory Body	Seat	Member name	Alternate name
HC	PSMFC	Fran Recht	Stan Allen
CPSMT	NMFS	Taylor Debevec	Katie Davis
GAP	Trawl At large	Chris Cooper	Heather Mann
GMT	Tribal	William Jasper	Emily Fitting
GAP	Fixed Gear	Scott Hartzel	Georgon Lapham

Changes to Personnel

Ms. Katrina Bernaus began work at the Council office in July and will have the primary role of supporting the Council’s Coastal Pelagic Species efforts. She has also been supporting matters concerning equity and environmental justice. Please help me welcome Katrina to the PFMC! We are currently recruiting for a Staff Officer position in anticipation of Dr. Kit Dahl’s retirement in the coming months.

Select Activities Since the June Council Meeting

At the time of drafting this report, the [8th Scientific Coordination Subcommittee](#) (SCS) of the CCC is occurring in Boston. The theme of the workshop is “Applying Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rules in a Changing Environment”. Several members of our SSC are participating, in addition to Marlene Bellman from Council staff.

In July the CCC’s communications subcommittee met at the PFMC offices. Kris Kleinschmidt and Hayden York from PFMC staff participated in the meeting. The meeting focused on ongoing communication strategies and outreach efforts, as well as the upcoming 50 year anniversary of the Magnuson Act.

The Ninth Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG-09) and the Twentieth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC20) occurred this past July in Kushiro City, Japan.

The [twenty-fourth session of the International Scientific Committee](#) (ISC) occurred June 19th through June 24th on Vancouver Island, Canada.

The Pacific Hake Joint Management Committee met on August 21st. The purpose of the meeting was to plan future workload and research priorities for the Scientific Review Group and Joint Technical Committee and to prepare for the 2024 Pacific hake/whiting harvest specifications cycle.

Inflation Reduction Act Funding

At the date of drafting this report, NMFS has officially announced plans to distribute Inflation Reduction Act funding to the Councils. However, funding has not yet been received by any of the Regional Councils. Discussions are ongoing regarding A) the timing of receiving funding, and B) the date at which we can expense activities to that funding.

General Information

The declared COVID health emergency is over; however, we are continuing to provide illness protocols within the “General Information” materials in your Briefing Book. We encourage

everyone to bring masks and tests to the meeting in case they are needed. We will have a limited supply available within the ballroom and Secretariat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merrick J. Burden", is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Merrick J. Burden
Executive Director

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