



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2024

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, Model Evaluation Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Angela Forristall, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: November 2024 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Advisory Bodies will meet in person and online for the [November meeting](#) November 13-18, 2024 at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet in person. The STT will meet on November 13 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or when business concludes. The SAS will meet on November 14 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or when business concludes. All meetings are open to the public and at least one opportunity for public comment has been scheduled for each meeting day.

The Council will consider several important salmon agenda items and related matters of interest at this meeting. Other topics of interest on the Council agenda include Pacific halibut, marine planning, research and data needs, and administrative matters.

The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for these items on the Council's November 2024 agenda. The following agenda items summarized below may be of particular interest to the STT and SAS. Please note that the Council will continue to encourage participants to obtain briefing book materials via our website.

Salmon Management

F.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will provide a briefing to the Council on salmon-related topics, which could include any updates to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing determinations or ESA petitions.

F.2 Final Methodology Review Results and Proposed Council Operating Procedure (COP) 15 Updates

The 2024 Salmon Methodology Review joint meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Salmon Subcommittee (SC) and STT occurred on October 4, 2024. Two topics were reviewed: (1) a cohort reconstruction for Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) salmon and

comparison to the Sacramento Index and (2) an updated F_{MSY} and S_{MSY}/S_{MP} ratio for SRFC salmon. The results of the review will be presented to the Council in November. In addition, under this agenda item Council staff are proposing edits to *Council Operating Procedure (COP) 15: Salmon Estimation Methodology Updates and Reviews* to better detail the current process and clarify the COP. The STT should provide a statement on the salmon methodology review and the proposed updates to COP 15.

F.3 Queets Spring/Summer Chinook Rebuilding Plan – Final

The Council will review a draft rebuilding plan for the Queets river spring/summer Chinook and adopt a final preferred alternative. Since the September meeting, the analysis of social-economic benefits has been expanded but no other significant changes have been made to the document.

F.4 Final 2025 Preseason Management Schedule

Under this agenda item, the Council will review a proposed schedule and process for developing 2025 ocean salmon fisheries management measures and the location and date of three salmon hearings to take place in March 2025. The SAS should submit a report outlining their feedback on the location and dates of the proposed hearings.

F.5 Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report and Recommendations

The Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup (KRWG) will provide the Council with an update on the development of interim alternative management strategies for Klamath River fall Chinook as they respond to changing conditions due to the removal of the Klamath River dams. The Council will also be expected to provide guidance on any interim management measures to be used during the development of 2025 ocean salmon fisheries management measures.

F.6 Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report and Recommendations

The Sacramento River fall Chinook Workgroup (SRWG) will provide the Council with an update on their evaluation of the conservation objective, harvest control rule, and reference points for Sacramento River fall Chinook and recommendations for any revisions. The Council will review the report, provide additional guidance, and adopt any recommendations, as appropriate.

Pacific Halibut Management

G.1 2025 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations – Final

Under this agenda item, the Council is expected to adopt proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and 2025 regulations for the non-tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut (DC halibut) and sport seasons. The September 2024 [Decision Document](#) summarizes the items under consideration by the Council at this meeting, which include options for the commercial and recreational fisheries for the 2025 season. The SAS should review the proposed changes to the CSP and season structures and comment as appropriate.

G.2 Commercial Fishery Regulation Changes: Vessel Monitoring Systems, Seabird Avoidance, and Catch Reporting – Final

At the September 2024 meeting, the Council adopted a range of alternatives for three actions that would modify management measures for the DC halibut fishery and landings of Pacific halibut in the DC halibut, salmon troll and provided clarifications to the problem statement. In brief, the action alternative for Action 1 would require DC halibut vessel participants to use vessel monitoring systems, for Action 2 would require DC halibut vessel participants to use seabird avoidance measures, and for Action 3 would modify catch reporting requirements for landings of Pacific halibut. The Council adopted a PPA for Action 2 in September and is expected to adopt final preferred alternatives (FPAs) for all three actions. The SAS should review the actions and make recommendations as appropriate.

Cross Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

D.2 Marine Planning

The Marine Planning Committee (MPC) met online October 9 to consider updates from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the states, NMFS, and a tribal update. The MPC also heard presentations from the NMFS WCR/NWFSC on Socioeconomic Characterization of West Coast Fisheries in Relation to Offshore Wind Energy Development as well as a presentation from the West Coast Ocean Alliance on cumulative impacts and data gaps. MPC Report 1 summarizes these topics. This agenda item will also include a CDFW report that provides information on the California Marine Protected Areas petition process to consider proposed changes to California's MPA system.

D.3 Research and Data Needs

Under this Agenda Item, the Council is scheduled to adopt top science and management challenges to guide the research and data needs prioritization process. These challenges can be thought of as a "high-level" challenge or category that may stretch across more than one FMP and for which multiple types of research activities could be pursued. This is the initial step in the framework to review and update the Council's research and data needs (Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 2). In April 2025, the Council is scheduled to adopt a list of preliminary research and data needs associated with the top science and management challenges identified at this meeting. The preliminary list would be considered, refined and a final list is scheduled to be adopted at the June 2025 Council meeting.

To initiate discussion on this matter, Council staff have compiled an initial draft of categorical topics and challenges that stretch across various FMPs and for which the Council has, at one time or another, expressed a collective interest (Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1). The Council is encouraged to keep the challenge categories to ten or less. Advisory bodies should review draft list and provide feedback and recommendations on top science and/or management challenges from their perspective.

D.4 Council Operations and Priorities

In June 2024, the Council provided guidance and set benchmarks to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, enhance public participation, and strengthen decision-making processes. At the November meeting, staff will present an update on the progress made in implementing these recommendations.

Administrative

C.5 Membership Appointments & Council Operating Procedures – Including Final 2025-27 Advisory Body Appointments

During this agenda item, the Council will discuss forming an ad hoc committee to help draft a comment letter on the expected proposed rule to revise National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9 which cover allocation, communities, and bycatch ([Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making, May 2023](#); [Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1, September 2023](#); [Council Comment Letter October 2023](#)). The proposed ad hoc committee would be comprised of members from existing Council Advisory Bodies, similar to the Marine Planning Committee. Advisory Bodies should review the proposed approach (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 2) and situation summary, provide feedback, and recommend individuals to serve on the proposed ad hoc committee.

C.6 Future Council Meeting Agenda & Workload Planning

The SAS and STT may submit reports relating to future meeting schedules and workload planning as appropriate.

Please take the necessary time needed to review and familiarize yourself with briefing materials thoroughly before the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council's salmon management process.

ARF:slh

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.3 – Council Agenda
2. Agenda Item C – Administrative
3. Agenda Item D – Cross Fishery Management Plan
4. Agenda Item F – Salmon Management
5. Agenda Item G – Pacific Halibut Management
6. Informational Reports
7. Proposed SAS Agenda
8. Proposed STT Agenda
9. Hotel information and Council Roster

PFMC
10/22/24