



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2025

TO: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, and Interested Persons

FROM: Angela Forristall, Staff Officer

SUBJECT: March 2025 Council Meeting

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its Advisory Bodies will meet in person from [March 4 through March 11](#), 2025 at the Hilton Vancouver Washington 301 W Sixth Street, Vancouver, WA 98660. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will also meet in person. The STT will meet in the Heritage C room at 8 a.m. daily from March 5 through March 11. The SAS will meet in person in the Heritage E room at 8 a.m. daily from March 5 through March 10. 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. The briefing book materials identified at the end of this memorandum provide detailed information for these items on the Council's March 2025 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. Printed materials may not be available at the meeting.

The Council will discuss salmon agenda items each day of the March meeting. Other topics of interest on the Council agenda include Pacific Halibut, Marine Planning, and Ecosystem items.

### **SALMON MANAGEMENT**

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The Salmon agenda item (Agenda Item E) will begin on Thursday, March 6 (Day 1) with two topics for discussion. The first is a briefing from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to the Council on salmon-related topics and a report from the Science Centers on current research (Agenda Item E.1). Next, the Council will be briefed by the STT on the *Review of 2024 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* and *Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* (Agenda Item E.2). The *Review of 2024 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* is scheduled to be posted on the Council website by February 19. The *Preseason Report I* is being compiled by the STT the week of February 18 and should be posted to the Council website by February 28.

The main salmon issue before the Council will be developing alternatives for modeling 2025 ocean fisheries. On Friday, March 7, the SAS will present the Council with recommendations for three

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alternatives (Agenda Item E.3). SAS representatives should review the *Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment* (Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1) and clearly identify their fishery priorities and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among fishery sectors and areas to arrive at cohesive and coordinated options. This Agenda Item is on the Council floor the morning of Friday, March 7, so best practice would be to finalize the SAS report no later than mid-day Thursday, March 6 so that it can be processed and posted by the Secretariat prior to close of business.

After the SAS provides the preliminary 2025 management alternatives, the STT will then collate and analyze the alternatives as directed by the Council. The STT results will first be presented under Agenda Item E.4 on Saturday, March 8. Working throughout the week the SAS, STT, and Council will refine the alternatives (Agenda Items E.5 and E.6), which are scheduled to be adopted for public review on Tuesday, March 11 (Agenda Item E.7). The Council will adopt the hearing officers for the three public salmon hearings scheduled for late March under Agenda Item E.8.

## **PACIFIC HALIBUT MANAGEMENT**

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The Pacific halibut agenda items (Agenda Item C) are covered on Thursday, March 6. The Council will hear reports on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annual meeting (Agenda Item C.1). Under Agenda Item C.2, the Council will consider incidental halibut retention limits in salmon troll and fixed gear sablefish fisheries. The SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations regarding alternatives for halibut retention in salmon troll fisheries that begin May 16, 2025, and for the 2026 season occurring prior to May 16. In addition, the SAS should be prepared to offer recommendations for any inseason adjustments to the halibut retention regulations occurring prior to May 16, 2025. The Council will adopt for public review the incidental halibut retention alternatives in the commercial salmon fisheries and include them in the 2025 management alternatives package (Agenda Item E.7).

## **CROSS FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN – MARINE PLANNING**

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The Council is scheduled to receive a report from the Marine Planning Committee (MPC) on Friday, March 7 (Agenda Item D.2). The Marine Planning Committee met January 31, 2025, and submitted a report in the advanced March Briefing Book (Agenda Item D.2.a, MPC Report 1). The MPC received state and Tribal updates, a presentation from the California Energy Commission on suitable sea space for wave and tidal energy, and a presentation on the MPC's cumulative impacts framework. The meeting was recorded and available on the MPC [meeting webpage](#).

## **ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

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Ecosystem topics (Agenda Item F) are covered on Friday, March 7. There is one item on the Council's agenda, Agenda Item F.1, 2024-25 California Current Ecosystem Status Report [ESR] and 2025 Science Review Topics. The Council will receive a briefing from the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment [CCIEA] Team regarding the most recent California Current Ecosystem Status Report and appendices. This annual report highlights trends in physical, biological, and socioeconomic components of the ecosystem – taking into account the effects of fisheries and other human activities. There will be an [all advisory body briefing](#) on Tuesday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Since the ESR is informational, advisory bodies need not comment on it, although in previous years advisory bodies have made recommendations for improvements to the indicators or the addition of new ones to the report.

## **FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA & WORLOAD PLANNING**

The Council will discuss Future Council Meeting Agenda & Workload Planning (Agenda Item J.4) on Tuesday, March 11. 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:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A – Council Agenda and Executive Director's Report
2. Agenda Item C – Pacific Halibut Management
3. Agenda Item D – Cross Fishery Management Plan Items
4. Agenda Item E – Salmon Management
5. Agenda Item F – Ecosystem Management
6. Agenda Item J – Council Administrative Matters
7. Informational Reports
8. Proposed SAS Agenda
9. Proposed STT Agenda
10. Proposed SSC Agenda
11. General Information and Council Roster

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