



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2025  
TO: Habitat Committee and Interested Persons  
FROM: Kerry Griffin, Habitat Staff Officer  
SUBJECT: April 2025 Council Meeting Materials

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will meet April 9 – 15, in San Jose, California. The Habitat Committee (HC) will meet Thursday and Friday, April 10 – 11 in the San Simeon Room. The meetings are scheduled from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. each day, or until business for the meeting has been concluded. All meetings are open to the public and at least one opportunity for public comment has been scheduled for each meeting day.

The briefing book materials attached to this memorandum provide detailed information for items on the Council's April 2025 agenda. The following agenda items may be of particular interest to the HC and other interested stakeholders.

### **Cross Fishery Management Plan**

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#### **C.1 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Report**

The ONMS provides an annual update to the Council each year in March or April. Sarah Fangman, Director of the West Coast ONMS Office, will present information on activities and programs, as well as upcoming sanctuary condition reports, management plan reviews, or other actions of interest to the Council. See C.1.a ONMS Report 1 for details.

#### **C.2 Research and Data Needs**

The Council is required to review research and data (R&D) needs and provide a list of the Council's priorities to support the management of U.S. west coast fisheries. In November 2024 the Council adopted science and management challenges to guide the next steps (descriptions provided in Agenda Item D.3 Supplemental SSC Report 1, November 2024). These high-level challenges were an initial step to communicate prioritization of areas where research is needed to advance Council objectives.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) developed preliminary research and data need recommendations which could be pursued for potential solutions under each of these challenges (Agenda Item C.2 Scientific and Statistical Committee Report 1). The report format provides a concise and streamlined set of recommended research and data needs. At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to adopt a list of preliminary research and data needs, with final action scheduled for June 2025. At this meeting, the HC should consider the proposed R&D Needs and the HC's [November supplemental report](#) and provide input to the Council as appropriate.

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### **C.5 Council Operations and Priorities**

At this meeting, the Council will receive an update on the progress to date implementing the Council recommendations to improve Council operations. These recommendations are in response to the Council's long term budget prognosis, staff and Advisory Body workload, and the need to address these challenges while maintaining and enhancing the Council's decision-making process. The HC will receive a briefing but should only develop a supplemental report if needed.

## **Salmon**

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### **D.5 Pacific Salmon Review of Essential Fish Habitat – Scoping**

The Council's FMPs are required to include detailed descriptions of essential fish habitat (EFH) for each species in the FMP's fishery management unit. These include identification and description of EFH, fishing and non-fishing impacts, recommended conservation measures, habitat areas of particular concern, and other components. Council Operating Procedure 22 provides guidance on developing the process, scope, and personnel to carry out EFH periodic reviews.

At this meeting, the Council will consider a scoping document (D.5 Attachment 1) to accomplish the first phase of the EFH review for salmon. Should the Council choose to move to the second phase (consider revisions to EFH components), a new scoping document would be presented for Council adoption. The Council will also consider the draft Call for Information (CFI) (D.5 Attachment 2) to compile new and newly available reports, data, and other information that may inform the review. The HC should review the D.5 materials and develop a supplemental report, as appropriate.

## **Non-Agenda Items**

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The HC will also hold elections (in closed session) for Chair and Vice Chair and will continue the discussion on HC reports and tracking. Finally, the HC should consider Future Council Agenda and Workload materials under H.4 and may wish to develop a supplemental report for Council consideration.

Thank you for your commitment to the Council process.

KFG:slh

Enclosures include:

1. Agenda Item A.3 – Council Meeting Agenda
2. Agenda Item B.1 – Comments on Non-Agenda Items
3. Agenda Item C – Cross Fishery Management Plan
4. Agenda Item D.5 – Pacific Salmon Essential Fish Habitat Review
5. Enforcement Consultants Agenda
6. HC Agenda
7. Informational Reports
8. General and Hotel Information and Council Roster

PFMC  
3/25/2025