

COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
278th Session of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
September 18-23, 2024
Doubletree by Spokane
322 N Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99201

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains or identifies the various elements, documents, and sources comprising the complete and official record of Council meeting discussions and actions. In addition to the Meeting Summary, which follows this introductory section (see #7 below), it includes information or references that serve as the functional detailed minutes for this Council meeting as required by §302(i)(2)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The full record is maintained at the Council office, is available on the Council website (<http://www.pcouncil.org/>) or upon request from the Council office, and consists of the following:

1. **Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda** – These documents are available on the Council Website prior to and following each meeting at <http://www.pcouncil.org/>.
2. **Attendance Records** – These documents are available for the Council meeting and each advisory body meeting by request from the Council office.
3. **All Documents, Reports, and Presentations for Council Consideration** – These items include (1) all documents produced or received for the meeting briefing book, validated by a label assigned by the Council Secretariat and distributed to Council Members; (2) written public comments received at the Council meeting in accordance with agenda labeling requirements; and (3) electronic material or handout materials used in presentations to Council Members during the open session. They are available from links in the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
4. **Council Decisions Summary Document** – This document is distributed shortly after each Council meeting. It provides very brief descriptions of most key Council decisions and is available at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/> and also provided by agenda item in the Meeting Summary of this document.
5. **Draft or Final Decision Documents Finalized after the Council Meeting** – Documents such as Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments are available on the Council website as they are completed.
6. **Gavel-to-Gavel Audio Recordings and Summary Transcripts** – These recordings contain the testimony, presentations, discussions, and actions occurring at the meeting. For additional reference, verbatim transcripts of Council Actions are available on the Council website. The recordings and transcripts may be accessed from the links contained within the Meeting Summary of this document or at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
7. **Meeting Summary** (immediately follows this section) – The Meeting Summary lists, in agenda item order, the briefing book documents, reports, presentations, and Council motions and actions, including a brief summary from the Council Decisions Summary Document for each agenda item. It constitutes the meeting record formally approved by the Council. Links to the audio recordings may also be accessed at <https://www.pcouncil.org/council-meetings/previous-meetings/>.
8. **Voting Log** – The voting log lists, in Agenda order, the summarized Council motions and actions for each agenda item that took place during the meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Remarks – Brad Pettinger, Chair

Mr. Brad Pettinger, Council Chair, called the 278th meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 19, 2024. A closed session was held before this open session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

2. New Council Member Appointments – Janet Coit

Ms. Coit gave the oath of office to the new Council Members: Dr. Rebecca Lent, Mr. David Sones, and Ms. Aja Szumylo.

3. Roll Call – Merrick Burden

Council Members present during the meeting week:

National Marine Fisheries Service:	Ms. Jennifer Quan
	Mr. Frank Lockhart, designee
	Ms. Susan Bishop, designee
	Ms. Rachael Wadsworth, designee
	Ms. Keeley Kent, designee
	Ms. Maggie Sommer, designee
	Mr. Josh Lindsay, designee
Alaska State Official:	Ms. Dani Evenson, nonvoting designee
Washington State Official:	Mr. Kyle Adicks, designee
	Ms. Heather Hall, designee
	Mr. Corey Niles, designee
Washington Obligatory:	Mr. Butch Smith
Oregon State Official:	Mr. Mike Harrington, designee
	Mr. John North, designee
	Mr. Justin Ainsworth, designee
	Ms. Lynn Mattes, designee
	Mr. Troy Buell, designee
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Christa Svensson
California State Official:	Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee
	Mr. John Ugoretz, designee
	Ms. Caroline McKnight, designee
California Obligatory:	Ms. Corey Ridings
Idaho State Official:	Ms. Sharon Keifer, designee
Idaho Obligatory:	Mr. Pete Hassemer, Vice Chair
Tribal Official:	Mr. David Sones
At-Large:	Mr. Marc Gorelnik
	Dr. Rebecca Lent
	Mr. Brad Pettinger, Chair
	Ms. Aja Szumylo
U.S. Coast Guard:	CDR Brett Ettinger, nonvoting designee
	LT Skye Williamsz, nonvoting designee

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Mr. Mike Clark, nonvoting designee
Pacific States Marine Fisheries
Commission: Mr. Chris Oliver, Parliamentarian, nonvoting designee

Absent from the Meeting:

U.S. State Department: Mr. David Hogan, nonvoting designee

4. Agenda – Brad Pettinger

a. Council Action: Approve Agenda

Motion 1: Council approve the detailed agenda for the September 2024 Meeting.
Dani Evenson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

5. Executive Director’s Report – Merrick Burden

B. Open Comment Period

1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items - Merrick Burden

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

C. Cross Fishery Management Plan

1. Marine Planning - Kerry Griffin

- a. Report of the Marine Planning Committee**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Action: Consider Marine Planning Committee Report and Provide Guidance as Appropriate**

Motion 2: Council draft a response and submit it before 2 PM Pacific on October 3rd to the Department Of Energy for their Request for Information Regarding Interregional and Offshore Wind Transmission including the guidance contained in C.1, Supplemental Attachment 4 and applicable recommendations from our Advisory Bodies and Council discussion.

Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings (Motion 2 carried, Mr. Lockhart abstained)

Staff Summary: The Council considered [MPC Report 1](#), which summarized the [August 12 MPC meeting](#), including updates on offshore wind energy activities by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; a briefing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and updates on state, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and tribal activities. The Council directed staff to submit a comment letter in response to the U.S. Department of

Energy [Request for Information](#) on offshore wind energy transmission planning for the U.S. West Coast, and to continue monitoring offshore wind and aquaculture activities on the West Coast.

2. Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) – Gap Analysis Framework and Regional Implementation Plan - Angela Forristall

- a. National Marine Fisheries Service - Maggie Sommer**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Action: Adopt the Gap Analysis Framework and Provide Guidance on Next Steps; Discuss the Regional EEJ Plan, if Available**

Motion 11: Council adopt the Equity and Environmental Justice Gap Analysis Framework draft workplan as presented in Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2.

Sharon Kiefer/Christa Svensson (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council received a presentation from the NMFS West Coast Region on the West Coast Equity and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Implementation Plan ([Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1](#)). The Council also reviewed and adopted a draft Council EEJ Gap Analysis Framework Workplan ([Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2](#)). The initial request for a Gap Analysis came from the ad-hoc Equity and Environmental Justice Committee (EEJC) in September 2023 ([Agenda Item H.5.b, Supplemental EEJC Report 1](#)). This analysis will review Council process and products and identify modifications that could more effectively incorporate EEJ considerations. The Gap Analysis is scheduled to be presented to the Council in June 2025.

3. Inflation Reduction Act Projects – Check In - Gilly Lyons

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Discuss Workplans and Provide Guidance on Next Steps; Consider Role and Composition of the Ecosystem Workgroup and Advisory Subpanel**

Staff Summary: The Council received a [staff presentation](#) regarding the Council’s three [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)-funded projects](#) and related draft [project work plans](#) and draft [timelines](#). The Council then provided guidance on next steps in the development and implementation of the IRA projects, which included discussion of kick-off workshops for each project to further identify and describe outcomes, tasks, work products, information needs, and roles and responsibilities. The Council also discussed the value of leveraging the IRA projects to improve existing core work, such as data collection and fishery management decision processes, and to advance previous work around climate resilience where overlap exists, such as some of the priorities that emerged from the Climate and Communities Initiative. Finally, the Council considered the role and composition of the Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) and Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel. For the EWG in

particular, the Council expressed support for an IRA-focused charge over the next three years. This matter was further taken up under Agenda Item K.3 where a revised charge for the EWG was adopted.

D. Habitat Issues

1. Current Habitat Issues - Kerry Griffin

- a. Report of the Habitat Committee - Correigh Greene**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Report and Recommendations**

Staff Summary: The Council considered Habitat Committee (HC) [Report 1](#) that describes several current issues of interest, and HC [Report 2](#) that summarizes current activities in California related to water operations, water quality, habitat restoration, and other salmon habitat issues. The Council directed the HC and Council staff to draft three letters: 1) A letter to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in response to BOR's issuance of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for California Central Valley (CV) Water Operations; 2) a letter to the U.S. Corps of Engineers in response to the [issuance](#) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Columbia River Dredge Materials Management Plan; and 3) a letter to BOR and the California State Water Resources Control Board, describing Council concerns that have been conveyed in previous correspondence. All three letters will emphasize the agencies' obligation to respond in detail to recommendations provided by the Council, as described in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and essential fish habitat regulations.

E. Salmon Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Robin Ehlke/Angela Forristall

- a. Regulatory Activities - Susan Bishop**
- b. Fisheries Science Center Activities - Steve Lindley**
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- d. Public Comment**
- e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: None

2. Methodology Review - Final Topic Selection - Robin Ehlke/Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Identify Topics for Review in 2024

Motion 3: Council approve review of the first two of three Methodology Review topics proposed by the Sacramento River Work Group in Agenda Item E.2.a, SRWG Report 1, September 2024, as follows:

1. Derivation of proxy S_{MSY}/S_{MSP} ratio and F_{MSY} value suitable for use for SRFC.
2. Sacramento River Fall Chinook cohort reconstruction (CR) and comparison to the Sacramento Index (SI).

Marci Yaremko/Dani Evenson

Amendment 1: Add number three to the original motion:

3. Uncertainty metrics and buffering approaches for SRFC forecasts.

Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Amendment 1 failed, Ms. Ridings voted yes)

Motion 3 carried unanimously

Staff Summary: The Council identified two topics for the 2024 Salmon Methodology Review online meeting scheduled for October 4, 2024 of the three topics proposed by the Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup (SRWG) ([Agenda Item E.2.a, SRWG Report 1](#)). The topics selected are:

1. Derivation of proxy S_{MSY}/S_{MSP} ratio and F_{MSY} value suitable for use for Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC). Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and maximum sustainable productions (MSP) are terms used in salmon management that help measure the number of spawning (S) salmon needed to perpetuate the stock, or the number needed to sustain the amount of hatchery production. Because the SRFC stock consists of both natural and hatchery origin fish, a proxy-based ratio may help better inform data-based estimates for S_{MSY} . The current S_{MSY} value is linked to the conservation objective and is under review by a workgroup formed to evaluate the management aspects for this stock and see if they can be improved. The F_{MSY} proxy value has been in place for many years and cursory work indicates updated improved data is available from more representative stocks under current conditions. This methodology review will help inform the workgroup of potential paths forward.

2. SRFC cohort reconstruction and comparison to the Sacramento Index. Developing a cohort, or age-based, run reconstruction for this stock will likely improve the understanding of the age-structure for this stock and potentially improve the forecasts over time as more years of data are obtained.

The Council did not move the third proposed topic (uncertainty metrics and buffering approaches for SRFC forecasts) forward for review in 2024, but noted this topic may be suitable for Methodology Review in a future year.

3. Queets Spring/Summer Chinook Rebuilding – Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative - Robin Ehlke/Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Rebuilding Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative

Motion 4: Council adopt the Draft Rebuilding Plan Analysis for Queets River Spring/Summer Chinook as presented in Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1, with the addition of Appendix C as presented in Agenda Item E.3, Supplemental Attachment 2, and identify Alternative 1 as the preliminary preferred alternative for public review.

Kyle Adicks/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: Queets River natural spring/summer Chinook were declared overfished in November 2023. The Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan requires a rebuilding plan be proposed by the Salmon Technical Team (STT) for Council consideration within one year of an overfishing declaration and be implemented by NMFS within two years.

The STT has worked collaboratively with tribal, state, and Federal entities to develop a draft rebuilding plan. The Council reviewed the draft rebuilding plan and discussed the environmental factors that have led to the recent abundance levels and status of the stock. The overfished status was based on the number of salmon returning to spawn during 2019-2021. Poor ocean and freshwater conditions prevailed during most of the years between 2014-2019, which likely negatively impacted the stock. Since this is a natural stock with no hatchery influence, surrogate stocks from nearby coastal streams were used to estimate ocean harvest. Freshwater fisheries have essentially been closed for over twenty years. Ocean harvest data is very limited on this stock, but a cursory review using surrogate stocks indicated that harvest impacts appear to occur at lower levels in Council-area fisheries. Ocean impacts occur in British Columbia, Canada and Southeast Alaska ocean salmon fisheries, although the amount is small, but unknown, and the Council does not have jurisdiction over these fisheries. Modeled changes in harvest scenarios showed no improvement in potential rebuilding time, suggesting that a reduction in fisheries would not improve the status of the stock in the foreseeable future. This suggests that the poor environmental conditions played the largest role in the ‘overfished’ status.

The draft Rebuilding plan also included recommendations for habitat improvement, potential hatchery supplementation programs, and an investigation of the possibility of improving the data for this stock.

Because fishing activity does not appear to impact this stock, the Council adopted the draft rebuilding plan, and identified *Alternative 1, Status Quo* as their preliminary preferred alternative for public review. The Council is slated to adopt a final rebuilding plan for recommendation to NMFS at their November 2024 Council meeting.

F. Pacific Halibut Management

1. 2025 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations – Preliminary - Robin Ehlke/Angela Forristall

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt 2025 Preliminary Catch Sharing Plan and Regulation Changes for Public Review**

Motion 5: Council forward for public review the proposed change to the Catch Sharing Plan for the Oregon recreational fishery as shown in Agenda Item F.1.a, ODFW Report 1, September 2024.

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Council forward for public review the proposed change to the Catch Sharing Plan for the California recreational fishery as shown in Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2024.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 6 carried unanimously)

Motion 7: Council adopt the proposed season structure alternatives and changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for 2025 as described in Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1 for public review.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Motion 8: Council direct NMFS to explore options, in addition to status quo, for the directed commercial halibut fishery for public review that would include:

- Increasing the landing limits for the first two or three periods of the directed commercial halibut fishery.
- Announce the potential first three fishing periods prior to the start of the directed halibut fishery.
- Structure the first three fishing periods preferably with two weeks in between each opener.
- Move the permit deadlines later in the year per the recommendation in the SAS report.
- Consideration for a longer fishing period.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes

Amendment 1: Add: “adding up to 24 hours” to the last bulleted item.

Sharon Kiefer/Marci Yaremko (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 8, as amended, carried unanimously

Staff Summary: The Council adopted for public review the preliminary 2025 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and a number of options, in addition to status quo, for the structure of the non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery.

Directed Commercial Pacific Halibut Fishery

In response to requests from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), the Council directed NMFS to explore options, in addition to status quo, for the directed commercial halibut fishery for public review that would improve flexibility during the non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. These options are:

- Increasing the landing limits for the first two or three periods of the directed commercial halibut fishery.
- Announce the potential first three fishing periods prior to the start of the directed halibut fishery.
- Structure the first three fishing periods preferably with two weeks in between each opener.
- Move the permit deadlines later in the year per the recommendation in the [SAS report](#).
- Consideration for a longer fishing period adding up to 24 hours.

Sport Fishery

The adopted proposals for the sport fishery are consistent with those found in the reports from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

1. Washington Subareas (Supplemental WDFW Report 1)

a. Puget Sound Subarea (Marine Areas (MAs) 5-10)

- Status Quo:
 - If the 2025 2A fishery catch exploitable yield (FCEY) is at least 1.3 million pounds, the season may be open up to seven days per week in April, May, and June. Open April 3 through June 30, seven days per week.
 - If the 2025 2A FCEY is less than 1.3 million pounds the season may be open up to five days per week in April, May, and June. April 3 five days per week through June 30, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday.
 - If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

b. North Coast

- Status Quo:
 - If the 2025 2A FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds, the season may be open up to three days per week (Thursday through Saturday), except Memorial Day

weekend which may be open Friday and Sunday. Open May 1 through May 17, three days per week, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Friday, May 23 and Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend).

- If the 2025 2A FCEY is less than 1.3 million pounds, the season may be open two days per week in May (Thursday and Saturday) except Memorial Day weekend which may be open Friday and Sunday. Open May 1 through May 17 two days per week, Thursday and Saturday, and Friday, May 23 and Sunday May 25 (Memorial Day weekend). The season in June may be open up to four days per week (regardless of the 2A FCEY). May 29 through June 29, four days per week, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
- If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.
- Option 1:
 - Status Quo, except add Saturday, May 24 if the 2A FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds and if the 2A FCEY is less than 1.3 million pounds open three days per week (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) in June.

c. South Coast

- Status Quo:
 - During May the fishery may be open up to three days per week (Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday) and if sufficient quota remains, then open up to eight days in June. Open May 1 through May 22, three days per week, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday, and Tuesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 29, and June 12 through 29 three days per week, Thursday, Sunday and Tuesday (equals eight days).
 - If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

d. Columbia River

- Status Quo:
 - During May and June, the fishery may be open up to three days per week (Thursday, Sunday and Tuesday). Open May 1 through June 29, three days per week, Thursday, Sunday and Tuesday.
 - If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.
 - The nearshore fishery will be open Monday through Wednesday following the opening of the all-depth fishery, until the nearshore allocation is taken or September 30, whichever is earlier. On days when the

all-depth halibut fishery is closed, taking, retaining, possessing, or landing halibut on groundfish trips is only allowed in the nearshore area.

- Option 1:
 - If the 2025 2A FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds, open: May 1 through May 29, three days per week, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday and June 1 – 29, three days per week, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday as fixed dates, with two days per week, Monday and Tuesday, as back-up dates to be opened if a predetermined amount of the sub-area quota remains after a date that is also predetermined.
 - If the 2025 2A FCEY is less than 1.3 million pounds, open May 1 through May 29, three days per week, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday and June 1 – 29, three days per week, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday.
 - If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.
 - The nearshore fishery will be open Monday through Wednesday following the opening of the all-depth fishery, until the nearshore allocation is taken or September 30, whichever is earlier. On days when the all-depth halibut fishery is closed, taking, retaining, possessing, or landing halibut on groundfish trips is only allowed in the nearshore area.
- Option 2:
 - Same as Option 1, except the recreational fishery would not open on Monday, June 23 or Tuesday, June 24 (Back-up dates) to reduce interaction with the commercial directed halibut fishery which typically opens the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the last week of June. Under this option, both fisheries would be open on Thursday.

2. Oregon Subareas (F.1.a, ODFW Report 1)

a. Central Oregon Coast Subarea

- Option 1:
 - If Regulatory Area 2A FCEY is 1,200,000 lbs. or greater, allocate 10,000 pounds of sub-quota to the Central Oregon Coast nearshore fishery and shift the remaining sub-quota to the Central Oregon Coast subarea all-depth seasons.
- Option 2:
 - Remove language from the CSP limiting the Central Oregon Coast subarea all-depth seasons to a two or three-day opener per week.

- Option 3:
 - Start the Central Oregon Coast subarea summer all-depth fishery on August 1 instead of the first Thursday in August.
- Option 4:
 - If the entire Central Oregon Coast subarea quota is below 50,000 pounds prior to August 1, the summer all-depth season will be open every other week.
- Option 5:
 - If the entire Central Oregon Coast subarea quota is 30,000 pounds or greater following Labor Day Weekend, the summer all-depth season will be open every week.
 - Language clean-up: Under section 6.11.1.c., the intent is to take the entire Central Oregon Coast Subarea allocation by October 31, not September 30. The Central Oregon Coast and Southern Oregon subareas are open until October 31.

3. California subareas (F.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1)

a. Subarea Changes

- Proposed adding language to the CSP that would allow the transfer of any unused quota between the two California subareas, consistent with what is done in Washington and Oregon.
- Request for more information on the Area 2A Commercial Discard Mortality Estimate Calculation in 2023, and 2024 calculations may have differed from past years.

2. Commercial Fishery Regulation Changes: Vessel Monitoring Systems, Seabird Avoidance, and Catch Reporting - Range of Alternatives, Preliminary Preferred Alternative - Robin Ehlke/Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Commercial Fishery Regulation Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative

Motion 9: Council adopt the below range of alternatives for the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery, with a PPA for Action 2 only.

ACTION 1. Vessel Monitoring System

- No Action: Status Quo
- Alternative 1: Require VMS on vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery
 - Component 1. Applicable waters
 - A. EEZ
 - B. Convention waters of IPHC Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)
 - Component 2. VMS ping rate requirement
 - A. Four times per hour (i.e. once every 15 minutes)
 - B. Once per hour
 - Component 3: VMS status requirement (when VMS unit must be turned on and transmitting location)
 - A. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
 - B. When participating in the DC halibut fishery and fishing during an open period

ACTION 2. Seabird Avoidance Measures

- No Action: Status Quo
- **Alternative 1: Require vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery using bottom longline gear to deploy streamer lines when setting gear.**
 - **Component 1. Applicable waters**
 - **A. PPA- EEZ**
 - B. Convention waters of IPHC Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)

ACTION 3. Catch Reporting on Fish Tickets

- No Action: Status Quo
- Alternative 1: Require that fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery and only landing Pacific halibut include both weight (pounds) and number (count).
- New Alternative 2: Require fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from any vessels landing Pacific halibut to include both weight (pounds) and number (count) of Pacific halibut landed.

And, modify the problem statement to include: Closed areas are related to concerns with overfished species and essential fish habitat and effectiveness of maintaining those closed areas for groundfish species and habitat protections. Streamer lines are related to conservation of ESA-listed seabirds, particularly short-tailed albatross. Although data regarding seabird interactions with the Pacific halibut fishery are limited, this action is intended to reduce risk to seabirds as the vessels use similar gear, fish in similar areas, and at the same times as longline

groundfish fisheries, where documented seabird interactions occur. Accurate catch accounting of both pounds and number of fish landed helps managers better track sector catches and inseason management of halibut, as well as better understand how the fisheries are operating, and may ease future modifications of regulations as the fishery evolves.

Lynn Mattes/Sharon Kiefer

Amendment 1: amend the problem statement:

And, modify the problem statement to include: Closed areas are related to concerns with overfished species and essential fish habitat and effectiveness of maintaining those closed areas for groundfish species and habitat protections. Streamerlines are related to conservation of ESA listed seabirds, particularly short-tailed albatross. ~~Groundfish longline fisheries have been subject to biological opinions, however the halibut fishery was not. Although data regarding seabird interactions with the Pacific halibut fishery are limited, this action is intended to reduce risk to seabirds~~ proactive as the vessels use similar gear, fish in similar areas, and at the same times as longline groundfish fisheries, where documented seabird interactions occur. - Accurate catch accounting of both pounds and number of fish landed helps managers better track sector catches and inseason management of halibut, as well as better understand how the fisheries are operating, and may ease future modifications of regulations as the fishery evolves.

Frank Lockhart/Aja Szumylo (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)
Motion 9, as amended, carried unanimously

Staff Summary: The Council selected a range of alternatives (ROA) for three actions that would modify management measures for the non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut (DC halibut) fishery and provided clarifications to the problem statement. These actions were initially recommended by the Enforcement Consultants (EC) to improve monitoring and enforcement of regulations during the DC halibut fishery. The updated problem statement notes these actions would address monitoring of closed areas intended to rebuild overfished species, keep groundfish catch within annual catch limits, protect groundfish essential fish habitat, reduce the potential for gear interactions with seabirds, and provide additional information to fisheries managers on the catch of Pacific halibut in the DC halibut, salmon troll, and primary sablefish fishery which could improve accounting and management of Catch Sharing Plan.

The Council reviewed the staff analysis and reports from the EC, Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and public comments. A preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) was only selected for Action 2. The Council is scheduled to make a final decision on all three actions at their meeting in November 2024.

- ACTION 1. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)
 - No Action: Status Quo
 - Alternative 1: Require VMS on vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery
 - Component 1. Applicable waters
 - A. Exclusive Economic Zone
 - B. Convention waters of International Pacific Halibut Commission Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)

- Component 2: VMS ping rate requirement
 - A. Four times per hour (i.e., once every 15 minutes)
 - B. Once per hour
 - Component 3: VMS status requirement (when VMS unit must be turned on and transmitting location)
 - A. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
 - B. When participating in the DC halibut fishery and fishing during an open period
 - ACTION 2. Seabird Avoidance Measures
 - No Action: Status Quo
 - **Alternative 1 (PPA): Require vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery using bottom longline gear to deploy streamer lines when setting gear.**
 - **Component 1. Applicable waters**
 - A. **PPA – Exclusive Economic Zone**
 - B. Convention waters of International Pacific Halibut Commission Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)
 - ACTION 3. Catch Reporting on Fish Tickets
 - No Action: Status Quo
 - Alternative 1: Require that fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery and only landing Pacific halibut include both weight (pounds) and number (count).
 - Alternative 2: Require fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from any vessels landing Pacific halibut to include both weight (pounds) and number (count) of Pacific halibut landed.

G. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

1. **National Marine Fisheries Report - Jessi Doerpinghaus/Katrina Bernaus**
 - a. **Regulatory Activities - Josh Lindsay**
 - b. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - c. **Public Comment**
 - d. **Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: The National Marine Fisheries Service provided an update on the recent U.S. District Court Order affecting the Pacific sardine rebuilding plan and 2024-2025 harvest specifications. To meet the timeline of the Court Order, the Council will be considering changes to the Pacific sardine rebuilding plan in November 2024. Any changes made to the rebuilding plan will be done through a final Council action at that time.

H. Ecosystem Matters

1. **Fishery Ecosystem Plan Initiative 4: Groundfish and Salmon Risk Tables – Progress Review - Kit Dahl**
 - a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - b. **Public Comment**
 - c. **Council Action: Recommend Next Steps for Utilizing the Groundfish Risk Tables, Adopt a Work Plan for the Salmon Risk Tables**

Motion 10: Council:

1. Explore the use of the risk tables for Groundfish as described in [EWG Report 1](#) for the 2027-2028 cycle, without adopting a formal framework at this time.
 - a. Revisit the use of risk tables for groundfish after the 2027-2028 cycle to determine how they worked and if and how their use should be continued.
2. Request the CCIEA team to work with the EWG, SSC groundfish subcommittee, and SSC to explore the development of the setting of either/both sigma or P* in between new stock assessments (e.g., the time-varying penalty on sigma) as described by CCIEA Risk Table Report on FEP Initiative 4 ([Agenda Item H.1.a, CCIEA Team Report 1](#)).
3. Request that the sablefish risk table be updated for the 2025 stock assessment cycle, and other species on the 2025 assessment list that workload can accommodate be developed in parallel to the stock assessments, prioritizing a longer-lived species and/or a category 2 species if not enough capacity to develop for all species.
4. Endorse the EWG meet over winter to explore and help start discussions with appropriate advisory bodies to identify if, and how, risk tables might be incorporated into salmon management.
5. Task the EWG with drafting a summary report describing the FEP Initiative 4 process, results, and anticipated next steps for future easy reference.
6. Add a groundfish and salmon risk table update agenda item to the March 2025 meeting to inform the Council of progress made and recommendation on next steps.
 - a. *Will also be addressed under Agenda Item K.4 Future Agenda Planning later at this meeting.*

Lynn Mattes/Christa Svensson

Amendment 1: Edit the first bullet to read:

1. Explore the use of the risk tables for Groundfish as described in EWG Report 1 for the 2027-2028 cycle, without adopting a formal framework at this time,
 - a. Revisit the use of risk tables for groundfish after the 2027-2028 cycle to determine how they if they would have worked and if and how they should be used moving forward ~~their use should be continued~~.

John Ugoretz/Corey Ridings (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 10, as amended, carried unanimously

Staff Summary: The Council agreed to explore the use of the risk table methodology described in the [CCIEA Report](#) during the 2027-2028 groundfish harvest specifications setting process. This exploration will not result in use of the methodology for harvest specifications setting and instead

will be done in a parallel effort intended to evaluate the performance of the risk table methodology. The current approach would continue to be used to set 2027-2028 acceptable biological catch/ annual catch limits. The Council encouraged applying the risk table methodology to all stocks assessed in 2025, but if that is not feasible, then sablefish, longer-lived species, and Category 2 stocks should be prioritized for this trial. The Council also directed relevant advisory bodies to explore how the risk table methodology could be used to adjust harvest specifications in the time period between stock assessments. After the conclusion of the 2027-2028 harvest specifications decision process, the Council will evaluate the use of risk tables and decide next steps.

The Council directed the EWG to meet with appropriate salmon advisory bodies over winter to discuss comparable methodologies that could potentially be used for selected salmon stocks and asked it to report back in March 2025 on these discussions and provide any updates on ongoing work to apply risk tables to groundfish. The Council also asked the EWG to provide a report on the process, results, and anticipated next steps to-date under Initiative 4.

I. Groundfish Management

- 1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Including Sablefish Management Strategy Evaluation Update - Todd Phillips**
 - a. Regulatory Activities - Keeley Kent**
 - b. Fisheries Science Center Activities - Craig Russell**
 - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - d. Public Comment**
 - e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: None

- 2. Methodology Review: Preliminary Fishery Impact Model Topics - Marlene Bellman**
 - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - b. Public Comment**
 - c. Council Action: Identify Preliminary Priority Topics for Fishery Impact Model Reviews**

Motion 12: Council adopt the methodology review topics as described in Supplemental GMT Report 2, Agenda Item I.2.a, September 2024 and the guidance provided by the SSC in Supplemental SSC Report 1, Agenda Item I.2.a, September 2024 to consider minor changes to the non-nearshore sablefish model.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council considered fishery impact models used in groundfish management under this agenda item. The Council decided to adopt recommendations by the Groundfish Management Team ([Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2](#)) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee ([Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)). These actions will result in:

- discontinuing the use of the groundfish nearshore projection tool. This tool will be revisited once the Council has completed appropriate steps under the Phase 2 stock definition process for nearshore species,
- continuing to use the non-nearshore sablefish catch projection tool with the low, average, and high attainment scenarios utilized in the 2025-26 harvest specifications cycle, rather than assuming full attainment; see [Agenda Item I.2.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#) for more details on how this better characterizes the uncertainty in the projected incidental catch from this tool,
- developing a model to project discard mortality from non-sablefish, non-nearshore fishing activity in preparation for the 2027-28 harvest specifications cycle,
- an exploration of included depth-dependent discard mortality rates for use within fishery impact models.

The Council is scheduled to revisit this agenda item for final action in November.

3. Final Trawl Cost Project Report - Jessi Doerpinghaus

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt the Final Report**

Staff Summary: The Council received a presentation on Phase 2 of the Trawl Cost Project Report and adopted the final report. A final version of the report will be made available on the Council website in the future.

4. Stock Definitions for Species Assessed in 2025 & 2027 – Preliminary Preferred Alternative - Marlene Bellman

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Refine the Range of Alternatives, as Appropriate, Adopt Preliminary Preferred Stock Definitions for Species Scheduled for Assessment in 2025 and 2027**

Motion 13: Council amend the list of groundfish species to be assessed in 2025 that the Council previously adopted in June 2024 by removing redbanded rockfish from the list and

adding it to the preliminary list of species to be assessed in 2027 as recommended by the SSC, GMT, and GAP; and adding yellowtail rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. to the preliminary list to be assessed in 2027, as recommended by the GAP.

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the following preliminary preferred alternative stock definitions for species to be assessed in 2025 and several species preliminarily planned for assessment in 2027. Final action on these stock definitions is scheduled for November and will result in an additional Amendment to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, similar to the previous Amendment 31. This action is to ensure stocks are defined per the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act and its National Standards and provides the framework for 2025 assessment work. See Item I.8 for additional groundfish stock definition planning and guidance by the Council.

Priority Species	Preliminary Preferred Alternative	Stock Area Delineation
Chilipepper rockfish	1	Coastwide
English sole	1	Coastwide
Redbanded rockfish	1	Coastwide
Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish	1	Coastwide
Widow rockfish	1	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish	1	Coastwide
		N. of 40° 10' N. lat. stock
Yellowtail rockfish	3	S. of 40° 10' N. lat. stock

5. 2025 and 2027 Stock Assessment Plan and Schedule - Marlene Bellman

a. National Marine Fisheries Service Report (NMFS) - Jim Hastie

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Action: Consider NMFS Report and Adopt Revisions to the 2025 and 2027 Stock Assessment Plans, as Appropriate

Motion 15: the Council adopt the preliminary preferred alternative stock definitions for species bolded in Table 1 in Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, September 2024, and remove Alternative 2 for yelloweye rockfish from further consideration.

Caroline McKnight/Lynn Mattes (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council amended the list of groundfish species to be assessed in 2025 to remove redbanded rockfish from the list previously adopted in June 2024. In addition, they added redbanded rockfish and yellowtail rockfish south of 40° 10' N. latitude to the preliminary list of species to be assessed in 2027. Redbanded rockfish was moved to the preliminary 2027 list due to ageing capacity constraints during the 2025 stock assessment cycle. Yellowtail rockfish was requested for the preliminary 2027 list due to anticipated increases in landings with implementation of non-bottom contact gears and reopening of rockfish conservation areas.

Species for 2025 Assessments	Assessment Type	Anticipated Assessment Area
Chilipepper rockfish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Quillback rockfish off California	Benchmark	South of 42° N. lat.
Rougheye/ Blackspotted rockfish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Sablefish	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	Benchmark	North of 40° 10' N. lat.
Widow rockfish ^{1/}	Update	Coastwide
Yelloweye rockfish ^{1/}	Update	Coastwide

Black rockfish	Catch-only projection	Oregon
Bocaccio	Catch-only projection	Coastwide
Canary rockfish	Catch-only projection	Coastwide
Darkblotched rockfish	Catch-only projection	Coastwide
Petrале sole	Catch-only projection	Coastwide
Shortspine Thornyhead	Catch-only projection	Coastwide

^v If there is only capacity to do one update assessment, widow rockfish is the priority over yelloweye rockfish. Yelloweye rockfish would then be a priority for a benchmark assessment in 2027.

Preliminary Species for 2027	Assessment Type	Anticipated Assessment Area(s)
Cowcod	Benchmark	Coastwide
English sole	Benchmark	Coastwide
Lingcod	Benchmark	North and South of 40° 10' N. lat.
Pacific spiny dogfish shark	Benchmark	Coastwide
Petrале sole	Benchmark	Coastwide
Redbanded rockfish	Benchmark	Coastwide

Slope rockfish species (TBD)	TBD	Coastwide
Vermilion/sunset rockfish	TBD	Multiple Areas
Yelloweye rockfish (if not done in 2025)	Benchmark	Coastwide
Yellowtail rockfish	Benchmark	South of 40° 10' N. lat.

6. Inseason Adjustments for 2024 and Technical Corrections for 2025-2026 — Final Action - Todd Phillips

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt Final 2024 Inseason Adjustments and Technical Corrections to the 2025-2026 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures, as Appropriate**

Motion 14: Council adopt technical corrections to revise the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) contribution values for greenspotted rockfish in the 2025-2026 biennial specifications, as well as the shelf complex specifications and allocations, as described in Agenda Item I.6, Supplemental Revised Attachment 1.

Also adopt the proposed increase to 150 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for the rest of 2024 (2 + 150 lbs. per 1,000 lbs.), as described in Agenda Item I.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1.

As described in Agenda Item I.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, adopt the following changes:

1. Correct the trip limit for the “Other fish” complex from 0 lbs. per 2 months to unlimited for the LEFG fishery south of 40° 10' N. lat. (For the remainder of 2024).
2. Correct the OA sablefish between 40° 10' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. trip limit to 3,250 lbs. per week not to exceed 6,500 lbs. per 2 months. (For implementation in the final rule for the 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures action).
3. Correct the 2025-2026 HGs and ACTs for yelloweye rockfish as shown in Table 2.
4. For both 2024 and the 2025-2026 biennial specifications final rule:
Reestablish LEFG and OA trip limits for cabezon, shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish between 37° 07' N. latitude and 36° N. latitude, as follows:
LEFG and OA Minor Nearshore Rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
○ 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat. Shallow Nearshore: 0 lbs. / 2 months

- South of 37° 07' N. lat. Shallow Nearshore: 2,000 lbs. / 2 months
- 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat. Deeper Nearshore: 0 lbs. / 2 months
- South of 37° 07' N. lat. Deeper Nearshore: 2,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 75 lbs. of which may be copper rockfish

LEFG and OA Cabezon in California

- 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat.: 0 lbs. / 2 months
- South of 37° 07' N. lat.: Unlimited

Marci Yaremko/Butch Smith (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the inseason adjustments for 2024 and the technical corrections for the 2025-26 biennium as specified in [Agenda Item I.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#) as follows:

- Correct the trip limit for the “Other fish” complex from 0 lbs. per 2 months to unlimited for the limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) fishery south of 40° 10' N. lat. (for the remainder of 2024).
- Correct the open access (OA) sablefish between 40° 10' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. trip limit to 3,250 lbs. per week not to exceed 6,500 lbs. per 2 months. (For implementation in the final rule for the 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures action.)
- Correct the 2025-26 harvest guidelines and annual catch targets for yelloweye rockfish as shown in Table 2.

Reestablish LEFG and OA trip limits for cabezon, shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish between 37° 07' N. latitude and 36° N. latitude for both 2024 and the 2025-26 biennial specifications final rule, as follows:

LEFG and OA Minor Nearshore Rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

- Between 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat. Shallow Nearshore: 0 lbs. / 2 months
- South of 37° 07' N. lat. Shallow Nearshore: 2,000 lbs. / 2 months
- Between 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat. Deeper Nearshore: 0 lbs. / 2 months
- South of 37° 07' N. lat. Deeper Nearshore: 2,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 75 lbs. of which may be copper rockfish

LEFG and OA Cabezon in California

- Between 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat.: 0 lbs. / 2 months
- South of 37° 07' N. lat.: Unlimited

The Council adopted the GAP recommendation ([Agenda I.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)) to increase in the incidental halibut limit in the sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis for the remainder of 2024 from 130 pounds to 150 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for the rest of 2024 (2 + 150 lbs. per 1,000 lbs.).

The Council also adopted technical corrections to revise the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch, and annual catch limit contribution values for greenspotted rockfish (a contributor

to the Shelf Rockfish Complexes north and south of 40° 10' N. latitude) in the 2025-26 biennial specifications, as well as the shelf complex specifications and allocations, as described in [Agenda Item I.6, Supplemental Revised Attachment 1](#).

7. Trawl Catch Share Program and Intersector Allocation Reviews — Scoping - Jessi Doerpinghaus

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Provide guidance on Review Outline and Identify Primary Focus Areas; Provide guidance on hearing schedule; Appoint Hearing Officers; Adopt proposed changes to COP 27 for public review**

Staff Summary: The Council provided guidance relative to the scope and focus of the trawl catch share and intersector allocation reviews. For the trawl catch share review, the review document will look at the program performance of the trawl catch share program and provide a diagnosis of why the program does not appear to be meeting its economic goals and objectives. This would include factors related to program design and those outside of the Council process and would have a high priority focus on the non-whiting bottom trawl sector.

For the intersector allocation review, the Council broadened the scope from formal allocations to include those stocks allocated on a biennial basis through the harvest specifications process.

The Council also gave guidance to expand the potential hearing locations to two in each state as well as two virtual meetings. Those locations are Seattle and Westport, Washington; Astoria and Newport, Oregon; and Eureka and San Luis Obispo/Morro Bay, California. The Council will formalize the hearing locations and hearing officers in November 2024.

8. Phase 2 Stock Definitions – Scoping - Todd Phillips/Marlene Bellman

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt the Scope and Workplan; Provide Guidance on Next Steps**

Motion 16: Council adopt the following:

- 1. The Purpose and Needs Statement for Step 1 as described in Section 1.3 of the Phase 2 Scoping Document (Agenda Item I.8, Attachment 1).

2. As recommended by the GMT (I.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1), adopt the preliminary scope for Step 1 of Phase 2 as all remaining species of groundfish that have not previously been defined in other actions, to identify stocks in need of conservation and management.
3. Adopt the workplan shown in I.8, Revised Attachment 2, understanding the identified timelines will require adjustment to align with Council schedules and workload.

Marci Yaremko/Lynn Mattes (Motion 16 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the draft Purpose and Needs Statement for Step 1 as described in Section 1.3 of the Phase 2 Scoping Document ([Agenda Item I.8, Attachment 1, September 2024](#)). The Council also adopted the preliminary scope for Phase 2 as recommended by the Groundfish Management Team. In brief, the scope of Step 1 is to identify and define stocks of the remaining groundfish species in need of conservation and management per the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act and its National Standards that have not previously been defined in other actions. The Council adopted the proposed Phase 2 process workplan shown in [I.8, Revised Attachment 2, September 2024](#) with the understanding the identified timelines will require adjustment to align with Council schedules and workload. Additionally, the Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed and endorsed the literature review ([I.8, Attachment 3, September 2024](#)) as the best scientific information available to inform stock definitions for use in management. They offered several recommendations to improve the document ([Agenda I.8, Supplemental SSC Report 1, September 2024](#)). The SSC also reviewed the methods developed by NMFS ([Reports 1, Report 2, and Supplemental Report 3](#)) to establish predominance of groundfish catch in Federal waters and offered multiple suggestions for consideration in future iterations of these models.

J. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. National Marine Fishery Services Report - Kit Dahl

- a. Regulatory Activities - Rachael Wadsworth**
- b. Fisheries Science Center Activities - Annie Yau**
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- d. Public Comment**
- e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: None

2. International Management Activities - Kit Dahl

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**

c. Council Action: Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

Motion 18: Council request NMFS use the range of options found in Table 1 of Supplemental CDFW Report 1, Agenda Item J.2.a to develop regulatory alternatives for the 2025-2026 Pacific bluefin tuna trip limits.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: At its September 2-6 meeting the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission adopted a resolution setting the 2025-2026 Pacific bluefin tuna commercial fishery catch limits for the U.S. and Mexico. In consultation with the Council, NMFS will set trip limits to ensure the U.S. catch limit is fully utilized but not exceeded during the biennial period. The Council requested NMFS use the range of options found in [Agenda Item J.2.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, Table 1](#), to develop regulatory alternatives to help the Council make a final recommendation on management measures at its November meeting.

3. 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures—Preliminary - Kit Dahl

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Review Preliminary Reference Point Values and Make Recommendations on Their Use in Determining Stock Status; Consider the Need to Develop Annual Catch Limits or Other Harvest Objectives and/or Management Measures

Staff Summary: The Council had no comments on the reference points, resulting status determination criteria, and proposed status determinations presented in [Agenda Item J.3.a, NMFS Report 1](#). However, it directed its SSC to review reference points for shortfin mako shark, because they are new to the latest assessment. It agreed with the recommendations from the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel ([HMSAS](#)) and HMS Management Team ([HMSMT](#)) to consider an increase in the incidental HMS landing limit (excluding swordfish) for the small mesh drift gillnet fishery, which is not managed under the HMS Fishery Management Plan. Based on an analysis prepared by the HMSMT, the Council may take final action on this regulatory change at its November meeting.

K. Administrative Matters

1. Fiscal Matters - Patricia Hearing

a. Report of the Budget Committee - Pete Hassemer

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Action: Consider Budget Committee Report and Recommendations

Motion 17: Council adopt the recommendations of the Budget Committee presented in Agenda Item K.1.a, Supplemental Budget Committee Report 1, Report of the Budget Committee on Fiscal Matters.

Sharon Kiefer/Butch Smith (Motion 17 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council approved the No-Cost Extension Draft Proposal and Budget for submission, approved the 2023 Audit Result, and recommended the administrative updates to [Council Operating Procedures 9, Schedule 7](#).

2. Approve Council Meeting Record - Brad Pettinger

a. Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record

Motion: 19: Council approve the meeting record for June 2024.

John Ugoretz/Christa Svensson (Motion 19 carried, Dr. Lent abstained)

Staff Summary: None

3. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures – Including Final 2025-27 Advisory Body Composition - Kelly Ames

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies for 2024; Adopt Final Advisory Body Composition for 2025-27; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures, As Appropriate

Motion 20: Council recommends Dr. Rebecca Lent serve as the Council Representative to the National Marine Fisheries Service Take Reduction Team, and Mr. Brad Pettinger as the alternate representative.

John Ugoretz/Lynn Mattes (Motion 20 carried unanimously)

Motion 21: Council appoint the following individuals

- Dr. Nicholas Wegner to one of the National Marine Fisheries Service positions on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team
- Mr. Owyn Snodgrass to one of the Southwest Fishery Science Center positions on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team
- Mr. Karter Harmon to one of the West Coast Region positions on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team
- Dr. Brian Langseth to one of the Northwest Fishery Science Center positions on the Groundfish Management Team

Maggie Sommer/Rebecca Lent (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

Motion 22: Council adopt the term-limited advisory body composition as described in [Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 3](#), except do not accept the changes to the salmon advisory body

composition shown in strikeout, and the proposed changes to the composition of EAS as described in [Agenda Item K.3, Supplemental EAS Report 1](#).

Heather Hall/Butch Smith (Motion 22 carried, Ms. Ridings voting no, Ms. Sommers abstained)

Motion 23: Council adopt the charge for the ad-hoc ecosystem workgroup as described in Agenda Item K.3, Supplemental Attachment 6.

John Ugoretz/Corey Ridings (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Motion 24: Council adopt the changes to COP-1 as shown in [Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 4, September 2024](#), COP-9 as shown in [Agenda Item K.1, Supplemental Attachment 3, September 2024](#), and COP-27 as shown in [Agenda Item I.7, Attachment 4, September 2024](#) as final.

Lynn Mattes/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 24 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The following updates were made to the Council's roster:

- Mr. Hugh Morrison is the new the Pacific Region Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, replacing Ms. Robyn Thorson who has retired.
- LT Skye-Marie Williamsz was named a designee for Rear Admiral Charles Fosse, United States Coast Guard, replacing LT Devon Zych.
- Chair Pettinger appointed Ms. Aja Szumylo, Ms. Sharon Keifer, and Dr. Rebecca Lent to the Council's Legislative Committee, replacing Mr. Bob Dooley, Mr. Phil Anderson, and Mr. Virgil Moore.
- Chair Pettinger appointed Ms. Aja Szumylo to the Council's Ad hoc Equity and Environmental Justice Committee, replacing Ms. Heather Hall.

The Council adopted a revised charge for the Ad hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) as follows:

“The EWG will provide technical and policy advice in support of the Council's three Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-funded projects. IRA projects are focused on increasing the climate resilience of Council-managed resources and are anticipated to be completed by late 2027. The EWG may provide technical and policy advice to the Council on other Ecosystem issues and items as needed and/or requested by the Council.”

The Council tasked staff to send a nomination letter to the NMFS Office of Protected Resources, recommending Dr. Rebecca Lent as the primary Council representative and Chair Pettinger as the alternate to the Take Reduction Team. The Take Reduction Team will address 3 strategic marine mammal stocks (i.e., Central America/Southern Mexico humpback whales, Mainland Mexico humpback whales, and Eastern North Pacific blue whales) and 5 commercial fisheries, including Federal sablefish pot, CA Dungeness crab pot, OR Dungeness crab pot, WA Dungeness crab pot, and CA spot prawn pot. Additional fisheries and/or marine mammal stocks may be included in the notice formally establishing the team in 2025. The team is expected to meet in person for several meetings over a six-month period to develop consensus recommendations that achieve the Marine Mammal Protection Act goals.

Council Advisory Body Appointments

The Council made the following Advisory Body appointments

- Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Wegner to replace Dr. James Hilger in one of the NMFS positions on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team.
- Mr. Owyn Snodgrass to replace Dr. Matthew Craig in one of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center positions on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT).
- Mr. Karter Harmon to replace Ms. Celia Barroso in one of the West Coast Region positions on the HMSMT.
- Dr. Brian Langseth to replace Dr. Chantel Wetzel in one of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center positions on the Groundfish Management Team.
- Mr. Eric Morgan to be assigned as the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) OLE's alternate designee on the Council's Enforcement Consultants (EC), replacing Mr. Sean Stanley. Mr. Greg Busch will continue to serve on the EC as OLE's primary representative.

Council Advisory Body Appointments for the 2025-2027 Term

The Council's current three-year Advisory Body term-limited positions end December 31, 2024. The Council reviewed the current Advisory Body compositions and adopted the following changes for implementation in the 2025-27 term. The Council is currently soliciting nominations for the 2025-27 team with applications due by 5 PM November 7, 2024. For more information, please see the [Advisory Body Vacancies](#) website. The Council will make appointments at their November 13-18, 2024 meeting in Costa Mesa, California.

- **Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Advisory Subpanel:** Revise the description of the Washington commercial seat on the CPS advisory subpanel to be either Washington commercial or Washington processor (Washington commercial/processor).
- **Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel:** Revise three of the state-specific seats to be At-large.
- **Groundfish Advisory Subpanel:** Revise the current 3 Sport Fisheries At-large positions to be one Washington, one Oregon, and two California Sport Fishery positions.

Council Operating Procedures (COP)

The Council adopted the following changes to their Operating Procedures

- **COP 1 General Council Operations:** The public comment period will be five minutes for both individuals and groups starting at the November 2024 Council meeting.
- **COP 9, Schedule 7 Fiscal Management Cycle and Activities:** An administrative change that corrects the time frame covered under the PFMC administrative grant, consistent with the Department of Commerce grants process.
- **COP 27 Process for Initiating Allocation Reviews:** An administrative change that corrects the list of groundfish species with formal and biennial allocations to align with recent management actions.

4. **Future Council Meeting Agenda & Workload Planning - Merrick Burden**
 - a. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - b. **Public Comment**
 - c. **Council Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting and Workload Planning**

Staff Summary: None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

[Informational Report 1](#): HMS Roadmap Workshop

[Informational Report 2](#): Federal Fisheries Management – Efforts to Reduce and Monitor Unintentional Catch and Harm Need Better Tracking (*Electronic Only*)

[Informational Report 3](#): West Coast Geographic Strategic Plan 2024-2027

[Informational Report 4](#): RDN Proposed Framework

[Supplemental Informational Report 5](#): Floating Offshore Wind Energy Study Tour lessons from Scotland

VOTING LOG

Motion 1: Council approve the detailed agenda for the [September 2024 Meeting](#).
Dani Evenson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 2: Council draft a response and submit it before 2 PM Pacific on October 3rd to the Department Of Energy for their Request for Information Regarding Interregional and Offshore Wind Transmission including the guidance contained in [C.1, Supplemental Attachment 4](#) and applicable recommendations from our [Advisory Bodies](#) and Council discussion.
Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings (Motion 2 carried, Mr. Lockhart abstained)

Motion 3: Council approve review of the first two of three Methodology Review topics proposed by the Sacramento River Work Group in [Agenda Item E.2.a, SRWG Report 1, September 2024](#), as follows:

1. Derivation of proxy SMSY/SMSPP ratio and FMSY value suitable for use for SRFC.
2. Sacramento River Fall Chinook cohort reconstruction (CR) and comparison to the Sacramento Index (SI).

Marci Yaremko/Dani Evenson (Motion 3 carried unanimously)

Motion 4: Council adopt the Draft Rebuilding Plan Analysis for Queets River Spring/Summer Chinook as presented in [Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1](#), with the addition of Appendix C as presented in [Agenda Item E.3, Supplemental Attachment 2](#), and identify Alternative 1 as the preliminary preferred alternative for public review.

Kyle Adicks/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Motion 5: Council forward for public review the proposed change to the Catch Sharing Plan for the Oregon recreational fishery as shown in [Agenda Item F.1.a, ODFW Report 1, September 2024](#).

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Council forward for public review the proposed change to the Catch Sharing Plan for the California recreational fishery as shown in [Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2024](#).

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 6 carried unanimously)

Motion 7: Council adopt the proposed season structure alternatives and changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for 2025 as described in [Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1](#) for public review.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Motion 8: Council direct NMFS to explore options, in addition to status quo, for the directed commercial halibut fishery for public review that would include:

- Increasing the landing limits for the first two or three periods of the directed commercial halibut fishery.
- Announce the potential first three fishing periods prior to the start of the directed halibut fishery.
- Structure the first three fishing periods preferably with two weeks in between each opener.
- Move the permit deadlines later in the year per the recommendation in the SAS report.
- Consideration for a longer fishing period adding up to 24 hours.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 8, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 9: Council adopt the below range of alternatives for the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery, with a PPA for Action 2 (Bolded) only.

ACTION 1. Vessel Monitoring System

- No Action: Status Quo
- Alternative 1: Require VMS on vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery
 - Component 1. Applicable waters
 - A. EEZ
 - B. Convention waters of IPHC Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)
 - Component 2. VMS ping rate requirement
 - A. Four times per hour (i.e. once every 15 minutes)
 - B. Once per hour
 - Component 3: VMS status requirement (when VMS unit must be turned on and transmitting location)
 - A. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
 - B. When participating in the DC halibut fishery and fishing during an open period

ACTION 2. Seabird Avoidance Measures

- No Action: Status Quo
- **Alternative 1: Require vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery using bottom**

longline gear to deploy streamer lines when setting gear.

- **Component 1. Applicable waters**
 - **A. PPA- EEZ**
 - B. Convention waters of IPHC Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)

ACTION 3. Catch Reporting on Fish Tickets

- No Action: Status Quo
- Alternative 1: Require that fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery and only landing Pacific halibut include both weight (pounds) and number (count).
- New Alternative 2: Require fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from any vessels landing Pacific halibut to include both weight (pounds) and number (count) of Pacific halibut landed.
- And, modify the problem statement to include: Closed areas are related to concerns with overfished species and essential fish habitat and effectiveness of maintaining those closed areas for groundfish species and habitat protections. Streamer lines are related to conservation of ESA listed seabirds, particularly short tailed albatross. Although data regarding seabird interactions with the Pacific halibut fishery are limited, this action is intended to reduce risk to seabirds as the vessels use similar gear, fish in similar areas, and at the same times as longline groundfish fisheries, where documented seabird interactions occur. Accurate catch accounting of both pounds and number of fish landed helps managers better track sector catches and inseason management of halibut, as well as better understand how the fisheries are operating, and may ease future modifications of regulations as the fishery evolves.

Lynn Mattes/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 9, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 10: Council:

7. Explore the use of the risk tables for Groundfish as described in [EWG Report 1](#) for the 2027-2028 cycle, without adopting a formal framework at this time.
 - a. Revisit the use of risk tables for groundfish after the 2027-2028 cycle to determine if they would have worked and if and how they should be used moving forward.
8. Request the CCIEA team to work with the EWG, SSC groundfish subcommittee, and SSC to explore the development of the setting of either/both sigma or P* in between new stock assessments (e.g., the time-varying penalty on sigma) as described by CCIEA Risk Table Report on FEP Initiative 4 ([Agenda item H.1.a, CCIEA Team Report 1](#)).
9. Request that the sablefish risk table be updated for the 2025 stock assessment cycle, and other species on the 2025 assessment list that workload can accommodate be developed in parallel to the stock assessments, prioritizing a longer-lived species and/or a category 2 species if not enough capacity to develop for all species.
10. Endorse the EWG meet over winter to explore and help start discussions with appropriate advisory bodies to identify if, and how, risk tables might be incorporated into salmon management.
11. Task the EWG with drafting a summary report describing the FEP Initiative 4 process, results, and anticipated next steps for future easy reference.
12. Add a groundfish and salmon risk table update agenda item to the March 2025 meeting to inform the Council of progress made and recommendation on next steps.

- a. *Will also be addressed under Agenda Item K.4 Future Agenda Planning later at this meeting.*

Lynn Mattes/Christa Svensson (Motion 10, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 11: Council adopt the Equity and Environmental Justice Gap Analysis Framework draft workplan as presented in [Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2](#).

Sharon Kiefer/Christa Svensson (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

Motion 12: Council adopt the methodology review topics as described in [Supplemental GMT Report 2, Agenda Item I.2.a, September 2024](#) and the guidance provided by the SSC in [Supplemental SSC Report 1, Agenda Item I.2.a, September 2024](#) to consider minor changes to the non-nearshore sablefish model.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Motion 13: Council amend the list of groundfish species to be assessed in 2025 that the Council previously adopted in June 2024 by removing redbanded rockfish from the list and adding it to the preliminary list of species to be assessed in 2027 as recommended by the [SSC](#), [GMT](#), and [GAP](#); and adding yellowtail rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat. to the preliminary list to be assessed in 2027, as recommended by the [GAP](#).

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Motion 14: Council adopt technical corrections to revise the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) contribution values for greenspotted rockfish in the 2025-2026 biennial specifications, as well as the shelf complex specifications and allocations, as described in [Agenda Item I.6, Supplemental Revised Attachment 1](#).

Also adopt the proposed increase to 150 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for the rest of 2024 (2 + 150 lbs. per 1,000 lbs.), as described in [Agenda Item I.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#).

As described in [Agenda Item I.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#), adopt the following changes:

1. Correct the trip limit for the “Other fish” complex from 0 lbs. per 2 months to unlimited for the LEFG fishery south of 40° 10' N. lat. (For the remainder of 2024)
2. Correct the OA sablefish between 40° 10' N. lat. and 36° N. lat. trip limit to 3,250 lbs. per week not to exceed 6,500 lbs. per 2 months. (For implementation in the final rule for the 2025-26 harvest specifications and management measures action).
3. Correct the 2025-2026 HGs and ACTs for yelloweye rockfish as shown in Table 2.
4. For both 2024 and the 2025-2026 biennial specifications final rule:
Reestablish LEFG and OA trip limits for cabezon, shallow and deeper nearshore rockfish between 37° 07' N. latitude and 36° N. latitude, as follows:
LEFG and OA Minor Nearshore Rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.
 - 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat. Shallow Nearshore: 0 lbs. / 2 months
 - South of 37° 07' N. lat. Shallow Nearshore: 2,000 lbs. / 2 months
 - 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat. Deeper Nearshore: 0 lbs. / 2 months
 - South of 37° 07' N. lat. Deeper Nearshore: 2,000 lbs. / 2 months, of which no more than 75 lbs. of which may be copper rockfish

LEFG and OA Cabezon in California

- 40° 10' N. lat. – 37° 07' N. lat.: 0 lbs. / 2 months
- South of 37° 07' N. lat.: Unlimited

Marci Yaremko/Butch Smith (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Motion 15: Council adopt the preliminary preferred alternative stock definitions for species bolded in Table 1. in [Agenda Item I.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, September 2024](#), and remove Alternative 2 for yelloweye rockfish from further consideration.

Caroline McKnight/Lynn Mattes (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council adopt the following:

1. The Purpose and Needs Statement for Step 1 as described in Section 1.3 of the Phase 2 Scoping Document ([Agenda Item I.8, Attachment 1](#)).
2. As recommended by the GMT ([I.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)), adopt the preliminary scope for Step 1 of Phase 2 as all remaining species of groundfish that have not previously been defined in other actions, to identify stocks in need of conservation and management.
3. Adopt the workplan shown in [I.8, Revised Attachment 2](#), understanding the identified timelines will require adjustment to align with Council schedules and workload.

Marci Yaremko/Lynn Mattes (Motion 16 carried unanimously)

Motion 17: Council adopt the recommendations of the Budget Committee presented in [Agenda Item K.1.a, Supplemental Budget Committee Report 1](#), Report of the Budget Committee on Fiscal Matters.

Sharon Kiefer/Butch Smith (Motion 17 carried unanimously)

Motion 18: Council request NMFS use the range of options found in Table 1 of [Supplemental CDFW Report 1 Agenda Item J.2.a](#) 2024 to develop regulatory alternatives for the 2025-2026 Pacific bluefin tuna trip limits.

John Ugoretz/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

Motion: 19: Council approve the meeting record for [June 2024](#).

John Ugoretz/Christa Svensson (Motion 19 carried, Dr. Lent abstained)

Motion 20: Council recommends Dr. Rebecca Lent serve as the Council Representative to the National Marine Fisheries Service Take Reduction Team, and Mr. Brad Pettinger as the alternate representative.

John Ugoretz/Lynn Mattes (Motion 20 carried unanimously)

Motion 21: Council appoint the following individuals

- Dr. Nicholas Wegner to one of the National Marine Fisheries Service positions on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team
- Mr. Owyn Snodgrass to one of the Southwest Fishery Science Center positions on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team
- Mr. Karter Harmon to one of the West Coast Region positions on the Highly Migratory Species Management Team

- Dr. Brian Langseth to one of the Northwest Fishery Science Center positions on the Groundfish Management Team

Maggie Sommer/Rebecca Lent (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

Motion 22: Council adopt the term limited advisory body composition as described in [Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 3](#), except do not accept the changes to the salmon advisory body composition shown in ~~strikeout~~, and the proposed changes to the composition of EAS as described in [Agenda Item K.3, Supplemental EAS Report 1](#).

Heather Hall/Butch Smith (Motion 22 carried, Ms. Ridings voting no, Ms. Sommers abstained)

Motion 23: Council adopt the charge for the ad-hoc ecosystem workgroup as described in [Agenda Item K.3, Supplemental Attachment 6](#).

John Ugoretz/Corey Ridings (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Motion 24: Council adopt the changes to COP-1 as shown in [Agenda Item K.3, Attachment 4, September 2024](#), COP-9 as shown in [Agenda Item K.1, Supplemental Attachment 3, September 2024](#) and COP-27 as shown in [Agenda Item I.7, Attachment 4, September 2024](#) as final.

Lynn Mattes/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 24 carried unanimously)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 2:35 p.m.



March 28, 2025

Brad Pettinger
Council Chair

Date