

DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
280th Session of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 4-11, 2025
Hilton Vancouver Washington
301 West Sixth Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

Contents

INTRODUCTION	6
MEETING SUMMARY	7
A. Call to Order	7
1. Opening Remarks – Brad Pettinger, Chair	7
2. Roll Call – Merrick Burden	7
3. Agenda – Brad Pettinger	7
a. Council Action: Approve Agenda	7
4. Executive Director’s Report – Merrick Burden.....	8
B. Open Comment Period.....	8
1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items - Merrick Burden.....	8
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	8
b. Public Comment.....	8
c. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate	8
C. Pacific Halibut Management.....	8
1. Annual Report of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) - Angela Forristall.....	8
a. IPHC Report - Basia Hutniczak.....	8
b. Area 2A Managers Report	8
c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	8
d. Public Comment.....	8
e. Council Action: Discuss IPHC Meeting Reports and Provide Guidance, as Appropriate	8
2. Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Action for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries - Angela Forristall.....	8
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	8
b. Public Comment.....	8
c. Council Action: Recommend Inseason Changes to April/May 2025 Retention Limits in the Salmon Troll Fishery, as Necessary; Adopt Options for Public Review on Retention in 2025 and April/May 2026 Salmon Troll Fishery; Adopt Final Retention Limits for 2025 Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery	8
D. Cross Fishery Management Plan	9
1. United States Coast Guard (USCG) Annual Report - CANCELLED.....	9
2. Marine Planning - Kerry Griffin	9

a.	Report of the Marine Planning Committee - Mike Conroy	9
b.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies	9
c.	Public Comment.....	9
d.	Council Action: Consider Marine Planning Committee Report and Provide Guidance	9
E.	Salmon Management	9
1.	National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Angela Forristall	9
a.	Regulatory Activities - Susan Bishop	9
b.	Fisheries Science Center Activities - Steve Lindley	10
c.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies	10
d.	Public Comment.....	10
e.	Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate	10
2.	Review of 2024 Fisheries and Summary of 2025 Stock Forecasts - Angela Forristall	10
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies	10
b.	Public Comment.....	10
c.	Council Action: Review and Discuss Relevant Fishery Information, Adopt 2025 Abundance Forecasts and Annual Catch Limits, and Act on Relevant Conservation Objectives or Status Determinations, as Necessary.....	10
3.	Identify Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2025 Management Alternatives - Angela Forristall	10
a.	Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission - P. Anderson, J. North, D. Sones	10
b.	NMFS Recommendations - Susan Bishop.....	10
c.	Tribal Recommendations - David Sones	10
d.	State Agencies Recommendations - K. Adicks, J. North, M. Yaremko	10
e.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	11
f.	Public Comment.....	11
g.	Council Action: Adopt Council Recommendations for Initial Management Measure Alternatives for Salmon Technical Team Collation and Consider Inseason Adjustments to Fisheries Prior to May 16, 2025	11
4.	Recommendations for 2025 Management Alternative Analysis - Angela Forristall.....	12
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies	12
b.	Public Comment.....	12
c.	Council Direction to the Salmon Technical Team and Salmon Advisory Subpanel on Alternative Development and Analysis	12
5.	Further Direction for 2025 Management Alternatives - Angela Forristall	12
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies	12
b.	Public Comment.....	12
c.	Further Council Guidance and Direction, as Necessary	12
6.	Further Direction for 2025 Management Alternatives - Angela Forristall (CANCELLED AT MEETING).....	13
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies	13
b.	Public Comment.....	13
c.	Further Council Guidance and Direction, as Necessary	13
7.	Adopt 2025 Management Alternatives for Public Review - Angela Forristall	13
a.	Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	13
b.	Public Comment.....	13

c. Council Action: Adopt Ocean Salmon Management Alternatives	13
8. Appoint Salmon Hearing Officers - Angela Forristall.....	16
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	16
b. Public Comment.....	16
c. Council Action: Appoint Hearings Officers	16
F. Ecosystem Management	16
1. 2024-25 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and 2025 Science Review Topics - Gilly Lyons	16
a. California Current Ecosystem Status Report - Mary Hunsicker, Andrew Leising	16
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	16
c. Public Comment.....	16
d. Council Action: Review the California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Consider Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2025.....	16
G. Habitat Issues	16
1. Current Habitat Issues - Kerry Griffin.....	16
a. Report of the Habitat Committee - Correigh Greene.....	16
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	16
c. Public Comment.....	16
d. Council Action: Consider Habitat Committee Report and Recommendations	16
H. Groundfish Management	17
1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Todd Phillips.....	17
a. Regulatory Activities - Keeley Kent.....	17
b. Fisheries Science Center Activities - Craig Russell	17
c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	17
d. Public Comment.....	17
e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate	17
2. Humpback Whale and Leatherback Sea Turtle Biological Opinion - Jessi Waller.....	17
a. NMFS Report - Dan Lawson	17
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	17
c. Public Comment.....	17
d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate	17
3. Implementation of the 2025 Pacific Whiting Fishery under the U.S./Canada Agreement and 2025 Fishery - Todd Phillips.....	17
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	17
b. Public Comment.....	17
c. Council Action: Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2025 Pacific Whiting Fishery, Discuss 2025 Fishery Expectations	17
4. Final Assessment Methodologies - Marlene Bellman	18
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	18
b. Public Comment.....	18
c. Council Action: Review and Approve Accepted Practices Guidelines, as Appropriate	18
5. Cordell Bank Conservation Area Revisions—Final - Jessi Waller	18
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	18
b. Public Comment.....	18

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Preferred Alternative.....	18
6. Phase 2 Stock Definitions - Todd Phillips	19
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	19
b. Public Comment.....	19
c. Council Action: Adopt Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative(s), Provide Guidance on Next Steps, as Appropriate	19
7. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Actions: Gear Endorsements, Cost Recovery, and Other Administrative Changes - Jessi Waller	26
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	26
b. Public Comment.....	26
c. Council Action: Revise Range of Alternatives, as Appropriate, Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternative, Provide Guidance on Next Steps.....	26
8. Workload and New Management Measures Priorities - Todd Phillips	27
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	27
b. Public Comment.....	27
c. Council Action: Adopt Priorities and Provide Guidance on Schedules	27
9. Inseason Adjustments – Final - Todd Phillips	29
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	29
b. Public Comment.....	29
c. Council Action: Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2025.....	29
I. Highly Migratory Species Management	29
1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Kerry Griffin	29
a. Regulatory Activities - Rachael Wadsworth.....	29
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	29
c. Public Comment.....	30
d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate	30
2. International Management Activities - Kerry Griffin.....	30
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	30
b. Public Comment.....	30
c. Council Action: Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions for Upcoming Regional Fishery Management Organization Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate	30
3. Highly Migratory Species Roadmap - Kerry Griffin, Gilly Lyons.....	30
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	30
b. Public Comment.....	30
c. Council Action: Consider the Draft Roadmap and Provide Guidance, as Appropriate	30
J. Administrative Matters	31
1. Legislative Matters - Merrick Burden.....	31
a. Report of the Legislative Committee - Chris Oliver.....	31
b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	31
c. Public Comment.....	31
d. Council Action: Consider Legislative Committee Report and Recommendations	31
2. Approve Council Meeting Record - Merrick Burden	31
a. Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record	31
3. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures - Kelly Ames.....	31

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	31
b. Public Comment.....	31
c. Council Action: Consider Appointments to Council Committees and Advisory Bodies; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures, As Appropriate	31
4. Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning - Merrick Burden.....	33
a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies.....	33
b. Public Comment.....	33
c. Council Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning	33
INFORMATIONAL REPORTS.....	33
VOTING LOG	34
ADJOURN	43

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 280th meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:15 a.m. on March 6, 2025. A closed session was held before this open session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

2. Roll Call – Merrick Burden

Council Members present during the meeting week:

National Marine Fisheries Service:	Ms. Jennifer Quan
	Mr. Ryan Wulff, designee
	Ms. Susan Bishop, designee
	Ms. Keeley Kent, 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
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Christa Svensson
California State Official:	Ms. Caroline McKnight, designee
California Obligatory:	Ms. Corey Ridings
Idaho State Official:	Mr. Virgil Moore, 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:	Mr. Chris German, 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
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3. Agenda – Brad Pettinger

a. Council Action: Approve Agenda

Motion 1: Adopt Agenda Item A.3, March 4-11, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda.
Dani Evenson/David Sones (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

4. 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. Pacific Halibut Management

1. Annual Report of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) - Angela Forristall

- a. IPHC Report - Basia Hutniczak**
- b. Area 2A Managers Report**
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- d. Public Comment**
- e. Council Action: Discuss IPHC Meeting Reports and Provide Guidance, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: None

2. Incidental Catch Recommendations: Options for Salmon Troll and Final Action for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries - Angela Forristall

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Recommend Inseason Changes to April/May 2025 Retention Limits in the Salmon Troll Fishery, as Necessary; Adopt Options for Public Review on Retention in 2025 and April/May 2026 Salmon Troll Fishery; Adopt Final Retention Limits for 2025 Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery**

Motion 3: Council adopt for public review, the alternatives presented in Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 2025 for halibut landing restrictions in the salmon troll fishery in 2025 beginning May 16 through the end of the 2025 salmon troll fishery, and beginning April 1, 2026, unless modified through inseason action or superseded by 2026 management measures.

Heather Hall/Butch Smith

Amendment 1: Amend Alternative 2 so that the number “40” is replaced with the number “25”.

Marci Yaremko/Corey Ridings (Amendment 1 failed; Ms. Svensson, Mr. Sones, Ms. Hall, Mr. Moore, Ms. Mattes, Ms. Szumylo, Mr. Smith, Mr. Pettinger voted no, Ms. Quan abstained)

Amendment 2: Add an alternative 2 replacing the number “40” with “25”.

Mark Gorelnik/Corey Ridings (Amendment 2 carried unanimously)

Motion 3, as amended, carried unanimously

Motion 4: Council adopt a final trip limit ratio of 75 pounds of Pacific halibut per 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional Pacific halibut for the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, as recommended in Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2025.

Corey Niles/Aja Szumylo (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted four alternatives for incidental Pacific halibut retention in the 2025 salmon troll fishery after hearing from the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and the public. Each alternative included a landing and possession limit of one Pacific halibut for every two Chinook, plus one additional Pacific halibut beyond this ratio. The possession/landing limit per trip ranged from 25 to 40 Pacific halibut among the four options. The Council is scheduled to adopt a final alternative at its upcoming April meeting.

The Council’s final recommendation for the 2025 incidental Pacific halibut catch limits in the fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, starting April 1, is 75 pounds of dressed weight Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds of dressed weight sablefish. Additionally, 2 extra Pacific halibut are allowed beyond this ratio. This aligns with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel’s recommendation.

D. Cross Fishery Management Plan

~~1. United States Coast Guard (USCG) Annual Report - CANCELLED~~

2. Marine Planning - Kerry Griffin

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

Staff Summary: None

E. Salmon Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - 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. Review of 2024 Fisheries and Summary of 2025 Stock Forecasts - Angela Forristall

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Review and Discuss Relevant Fishery Information, Adopt 2025 Abundance Forecasts and Annual Catch Limits, and Act on Relevant Conservation Objectives or Status Determinations, as Necessary**

Motion 2: Council adopt the 2025 stock abundance forecasts, acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs) as presented in Agenda Item E.2, Supplemental Attachment 3, Preseason Report I, with the following exception: For the Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast, adopt the abundance forecast of 493,640 recommended in Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental WDFW & ODFW Report 1.

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 2 carried, Ms. Ridings voted no)

Staff Summary: The Council received an update on salmon stock status and noted changes based on information reported in the Review of 2024 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. For salmon stock status, Klamath River fall Chinook continue to meet the criteria for overfished status and Queets spring/summer now meet the criteria for 'not overfished-rebuilding'. No coho stocks meet the criteria for overfished status. Based on the most recent data available, no Chinook or coho stocks are currently subject to overfishing.

The Council adopted the stock abundances, overfishing limits, acceptable biological catches, and annual catch limits as presented in the 2025 Preseason Report I, for use in 2025 salmon management, with exception of the forecast for the Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast. This forecast was adjusted from 312,551 coho to 493,640 coho due to concerns on the accuracy of the model that produces the forecast. The model details and concerns were outlined in the [Washington and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Joint Statement](#).

3. Identify Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2025 Management Alternatives - Angela Forristall

- a. Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission - P. Anderson, J. North, D. Sones**
- b. NMFS Recommendations - Susan Bishop**
- c. Tribal Recommendations - David Sones**
- d. State Agencies Recommendations - K. Adicks, J. North, M. Yaremko**

e. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

f. Public Comment

g. Council Action: Adopt Council Recommendations for Initial Management Measure Alternatives for Salmon Technical Team Collation and Consider Inseason Adjustments to Fisheries Prior to May 16, 2025

Motion 5: Council adopt for Salmon Technical Team compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2025 non-Indian ocean fisheries between Cape Falcon and the U.S./Canada border as developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and described in Agenda Item E.3.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 6, 2025, with the following modifications:

For the north of Falcon non-Indian fishery, add quotas of 130,000 marked coho in Alternative I, 115,000 marked coho in Alternative II, and 100,000 marked coho in Alternative III. Calculate all commercial/recreational and sub-area allocations consistent with Fishery Management Plan defined sharing throughout Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

Commercial troll management alternatives

- Page 2, Alternative III
 - Adjust non-Indian commercial troll TAC to 48,750
 - Adjust May 16 – June 29 catch limit to 24,375
- Page 4, Alternative III
 - Adjust July 1 – September 22 catch limit to 24,375

Table 2

Recreational management alternatives

- Page 15, Alternative I
 - Add to 4 – Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Alava (Neah Bay Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 30 season, 2 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to July 1, change daily limit to 2 salmon daily limit (delete ‘of which only one may be a Chinook’)

Cape Alava to Queets River (La Push Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 30 season, 2 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to July 1, change daily limit to 2 salmon daily limit (delete ‘of which only one may be a Chinook’)

Queets River to Leadbetter Point (Westport Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 27 season, 1 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to June 28

Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon (Columbia River Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 27 season, 1 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to June 28

Alternative III:

- Change daily limit to ‘All salmon, two salmon per day, no more than one of which may be a Chinook’

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Council adopt for Salmon Technical Team compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2025 non-Indian ocean fisheries between Cape Falcon, OR and the U.S.-Mexico border as developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and described in Agenda Item E.3.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 6, 2025, with the corrections as noted on the floor, and with direction to set the Sacramento River fall Chinook inriver recreational share to 15 percent of the total allowable harvest in each of the alternatives.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 6 carried unanimously)

Motion 7: Council adopt for STT analysis the following initial Treaty Troll salmon management measures:

Tribes

- Alternative I: 55,000 Chinook and 50,000 coho
- Alternative II: 45,000 Chinook and 37,500 coho
- Alternative III: 35,000 Chinook and 20,000 coho

The alternatives consist of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and a July 1 start date to the all-species fishery (Chinook and coho). Season structure with regard to the closing date is still under discussion among the tribes. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

David Sones/Virgil Moore (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

4. Recommendations for 2025 Management Alternative Analysis - Angela Forristall

- Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- Public Comment**
- Council Direction to the Salmon Technical Team and Salmon Advisory Subpanel on Alternative Development and Analysis**

Staff Summary: None

5. Further Direction for 2025 Management Alternatives - Angela Forristall

- Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- Public Comment**
- Further Council Guidance and Direction, as Necessary**

Staff Summary: None

**6. ~~Further Direction for 2025 Management Alternatives – Angela Forristall~~
(CANCELLED AT MEETING)**

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. Further Council Guidance and Direction, as Necessary

7. Adopt 2025 Management Alternatives for Public Review - Angela Forristall

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. Council Action: Adopt Ocean Salmon Management Alternatives

Motion 20: Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area from Cape Falcon south to the Oregon/California border as presented in Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 10, 2025 as amended with the following changes:

TABLE 1

ODFW Commercial Management Alternatives – beginning on page 4

Cape Falcon to the OR/CA Border

Alternative 2

- Replace April 15-May 31 with:

April 15-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31

In the last paragraph add, “All vessels fishing in the area must land their salmon in the State of Oregon.”

Cape Falcon to the Heceta Bank Line

Alternative 3

- Replace April 15-May 31 with:

April 15-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31 (C.9.a)

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

Alternative 1, 2, and 3

- Add, “Oregon State regulations require all fishers landing coho salmon into Oregon from any fishery between Cape Falcon, OR and Humbug Mountain to notify ODFW within one hour of delivery or prior to transport away from the port of landing by either calling 541-857-2546 or sending notification via e-mail to nfalcon.trollreport@odfw.oregon.gov (C.11.). Notification shall include vessel

name and number, number of salmon by species, port of landing and location of delivery, and estimated time of delivery” at the end of the regulatory language.

Alternative 1

- Replace April 10-May 31 with:
April 10-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31

In the last paragraph add, “All vessels fishing in the area must land their salmon in the State of Oregon.”

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border.

Alternative 1

- Add, “Closed. In 2026, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. Chinook minimum size limit of 28 inches total length (B, C.1). Gear restrictions (C.2, C.3) same as in 2025. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting (C.8).”

Alternative 3

- Add, “*See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.*” after the April 15-30 date.

TABLE 2

ODFW Recreational Management Alternatives – beginning on page 17

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

Alternative 1, 2, and 3

- Remove the paragraph beginning with “In 2026, the season will open...”

Alternative 1

- Replace March 15-May 31 with:
March 15-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31

Remove the paragraph beginning with “In 2026, the season will open...”

Alternative 2

- Add, “*See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.*” after the March 15-April 30 date range.

Cape Falcon to OR/CA Border.

Alternative 1, 2, and 3

- Add, “In 2026, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 24 inches total length (B, C.1); and the same gear restrictions as in 2025 (C.2, C.3). This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting.”

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border.

Alternative 1

- Replace “May 1-June 4” with “**May 16-June 4**”

Alternative 2

- Remove “**May 15-June 4; Same as Alternative 1**”

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 20 carried; Ms. Yaremko, Ms. Ridings, Dr. Lent voted no, Mr. Gorelnik abstained)

Motion 21: Council to adopt for STT collation, analysis and public review the salmon management measures for the 2025 non-Indian commercial and recreational ocean fisheries in the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented in Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report 1 dated March 10, 2025, including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Motion 22: Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon as presented in Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 10, 2025, with the following modifications:

For the north of Falcon non-Indian fishery: Adjust the quota in Alternative III to 85,000 marked coho. Calculate all commercial/recreational and sub-area allocations consistent with Fishery Management Plan defined sharing throughout Tables 1 and 2.

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

Motion 23: For tribal ocean fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon, the Council adopt for public review the alternatives as presented in Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, Table 3 (March 11, 2025).

David Sones/Corey Ridings (Motion 23 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted for public review three management measure alternatives for the 2025 non-tribal ocean commercial and recreational salmon fisheries beginning May 16. The Council also adopted three alternatives proposed by the Tribes for 2025 treaty Indian ocean salmon fisheries. Details of the alternatives can be found on the [PFMC 2025-2026 upcoming season management website](#). The Council is scheduled to adopt final 2025 ocean salmon regulations at its April 2025 Council meeting.

In 2025, north of Cape Falcon, Oregon, the range of Alternatives for the salmon ocean season is similar to past years. Off the Oregon coast south of Cape Falcon, the range of Alternatives is limited due to the low forecasts for key California Chinook stocks, although coho abundance is slightly better than last year. Off the coast of California, the range of Alternatives offer very limited opportunity, with the third Alternative proposed closed. Any California fisheries that may occur will be managed with quotas and vessel limits to help assure conservation objectives are met for California salmon stocks. The Council’s [March 2025 News Release](#) provides general information on the Alternatives adopted.

8. Appoint Salmon Hearing Officers - Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Appoint Hearings Officers

Staff Summary: The Council appointed officers and reviewed plans for the 2025 public salmon hearings. The [Washington](#) and [California](#) hearings are scheduled in-person for Monday, March 24, and the [Oregon](#) hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 and will be held online. Public comment will be accepted in person at each hearing and can also be submitted electronically via the [E-portal](#) in advance of the April Council meeting. It was noted that due to travel and other restrictions, Federal employees would not be able to attend or participate in these hearings.

F. Ecosystem Management

1. 2024-25 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and 2025 Science Review Topics - Gilly Lyons

a. California Current Ecosystem Status Report - Mary Hunsicker, Andrew Leising

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Action: Review the California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Consider Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2025

Staff Summary: The Council received a presentation from the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Team (CCIEA) on the 2024-2025 California Current Ecosystem Status Report and noted several newly-incorporated improvements to the Report (including some recommended by Council Advisory Bodies in previous years) which continue to make it more accessible and streamlined. The Council also endorsed the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) review of two ecosystem science topics, one of which was requested by the CCIEA Team and the other recommended by the SSC. This will entail a meeting between the SSC's Ecosystem Subcommittee and the CCIEA Team in Fall 2025. Topics to be reviewed are a) incorporation of new data types and indices from glider surveys along the U.S. West Coast; and b) a focused review of short reports on ecosystem status report indicators tailored to specific stocks that can support the development of new risk tables and updates to existing ones.

G. 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 heard updates on several topics summarized in Supplemental Habitat Committee [Report 1](#) and [Report 2](#), and directed the Habitat Committee to develop comments via the Council's Quick Response Procedure on the [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI) to develop a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on proposed revisions to the Columbia River System Operations. Habitat-related resources listed in the NOI that may be affected include river hydrology, water quality, aquatic habitat, vegetation, and wetlands. The NOI also includes fisheries, cultural resources, and tribal perspectives and interests as resources potentially affected. The comment period ends May 9, 2025. The final comment letter would be posted on the Council's [Correspondence page](#).

H. Groundfish Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - 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. Humpback Whale and Leatherback Sea Turtle Biological Opinion - Jessi Waller

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

Staff Summary: None

3. Implementation of the 2025 Pacific Whiting Fishery under the U.S./Canada Agreement and 2025 Fishery - Todd Phillips

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2025 Pacific Whiting Fishery, Discuss 2025 Fishery Expectations**

Staff Summary: The Pacific whiting total allowable catch (TAC) is determined in the Pacific Hake/Whiting Treaty process. At the time of the Council's March meeting, the U.S. and Canada had not yet adopted a coastwide TAC. In past years, this process has occurred prior to the March

meeting and the Council has been able to give guidance to the Secretary of Commerce regarding the recommended TAC. As such, the Council gave guidance to the Council's representative in the Pacific whiting treaty process to have the flexibility to negotiate on behalf of the Council for the best outcome for the fishery. Additionally, the Council recommended to NMFS that future Treaty meetings where the TAC is determined be scheduled before the March Council meeting so the Council can give guidance to the Secretary of Commerce.

The Council also discussed management of at-sea set-asides and expectations for the 2025 mothership at-sea whiting fishery. The Council's expectation of the at-sea sector mothership and catcher-processor cooperatives is to improve in-season intersector communication to better manage their shared at-sea set-asides. Further, the Council expects each sector to be cognizant of their Co-op's pro rata share of the at-sea set-asides, noting that exceedances could inadvertently occur as part of the normal operation of the fishery.

4. Final Assessment Methodologies - Marlene Bellman

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Review and Approve Accepted Practices Guidelines, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: The Council reviewed and approved the Accepted Practices Guidelines for Groundfish Stock Assessments in 2025 and 2026, as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. This document supplements the Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Stock Assessment Review Process adopted by the Council in June 2024. Both documents are posted and available for the upcoming stock assessment cycle on the Council's [groundfish stock assessment documents webpage](#).

5. Cordell Bank Conservation Area Revisions—Final - Jessi Waller

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

Motion 8: Council adopt the preliminary preferred alternative, Alternative 1, from Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1, March 2025 as the final preferred alternative; and include the coordinates defining the 100-fathom depth contour around the bank in the regulations at 50 CFR 660.73, as recommended in Agenda Item H.5.a, NMFS Report 1, March 2025.

Caroline McKnight/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted a final preferred alternative that would repeal the Cordell Bank Groundfish Conservation Area and implement a new groundfish exclusion area over the Cordell Bank 50-fm isobath Bottom Contact Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area (see [Section 2.2 of Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1](#)). Additionally, the Council recommended

moving the 100-fm depth contour around the bank into regulation to restrict large footrope gear as recommended by [Agenda Item H.5.a, NMFS Report 1](#).

6. Phase 2 Stock Definitions - Todd Phillips

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative(s), Provide Guidance on Next Steps, as Appropriate

Motion 9: Council adopt the 25 percent threshold framework for identifying species principally caught in Federal waters for this process, as outlined in [Agenda Item H.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, March 2025](#), and the Range of Alternatives (ROA) as outlined in [Agenda Item H.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, March 2025](#), and summarized below:

No Action

Alternative 1: identify species in need of conservation and management, which will be defined as one or more stocks and will remain in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP),

Alternative 2: identify species as not in need of conservation and management that could be removed from the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and

Alternative 3: identify species as ecosystem component (EC) species, for which stocks will not be defined, though the species will remain in the FMP.

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo (Motion 9 carried unanimously)

Motion 10: Council adopt as PPA, maintaining the following species, with already defined stocks, in the Groundfish FMP:

Species
Chilipepper
Canary rockfish
Dover sole
English sole
Lingcod
Pacific spiny dogfish
Petrable sole
Redbanded rockfish
Rex sole
Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish
Sablefish
Shortspine thornyhead
Squarespot rockfish
Vermilion rockfish (OR)
Vermilion/Sunset rockfish (CA)

Widow rockfish
Yelloweye rockfish
Yellowtail rockfish

And, maintain the following species in the Groundfish FMP, with the range of alternatives for stocks as shown in the table below, with the PPA stock definition bolded:

Species	Number of Stocks				Stock Delineations
	1	2	3	4	
Arrowtooth flounder	X				Coastwide
Aurora rockfish	X				Coastwide
Bank rockfish	X				Coastwide
Big skate	X				Coastwide
Blackgill rockfish	X				Coastwide
Bocaccio	X	X			Coastwide , or north and south of 40° 10' N lat.
California scorpionfish	X				Coastwide or CA only
Cowcod	X	X			Coastwide, California only , or California and Oregon
Darkblotched rockfish	X	X	X		Coastwide , or CA and WA/OR, or CA and OR and WA
Flathead sole	X				Coastwide
Greenspotted rockfish	X	X			Coastwide , or north and south of Pt. Conception
Greenstriped rockfish	X				Coastwide
Harlequin rockfish	X				Coastwide or OR/WA , or OR and WA
Longnose skate	X				Coastwide
Longspine thornyhead	X				Coastwide
Pacific cod	X				Coastwide
Pacific hake	X				Coastwide
Pacific ocean perch	X				Coastwide
Pacific sanddab	X				Coastwide
Pinkrose Rockfish	X				Coastwide
Redstripe rockfish	X				Coastwide
Rosethorn rockfish	X				Coastwide
Sharpchin rockfish	X				Coastwide
Shortraker rockfish	X				Coastwide
Silvergray rockfish	X				Coastwide
Splitnose rockfish	X				Coastwide
Starry rockfish	X				Coastwide or CA only

Stripetail rockfish	X				Coastwide
Yellowmouth rockfish	X				Coastwide

Lynn Mattes/Corey Niles (Motion 10 carried unanimously)

Motion 11: Council advance the following species forward for evaluation consistent with the full range of alternatives outlined in [Agenda Item H.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, March 2025](#), and request the analytical team bring back additional information to support choosing a PPA for these species at a later date:

Species
Black and Yellow rockfish
Bank Rockfish
Black Rockfish
Blue rockfish
Bronzespotted rockfish
Brown rockfish
Butter sole
Cabazon
Calico rockfish
Chameleon rockfish
China rockfish
Copper rockfish
Curlfin sole
Deacon rockfish
Dwarf-red rockfish
Flag rockfish
Freckled rockfish
Gopher rockfish
Grass rockfish
Greenblotched rockfish
Halfbanded rockfish
Honeycomb rockfish
Kelp greenling
Kelp rockfish
Leopard shark
Light dusky rockfish
Mexican rockfish
Olive rockfish
Pink rockfish
Pygmy rockfish

Quillback rockfish
Rock sole
Rosy rockfish
Sand sole
Speckled rockfish
Starry flounder
Swordspine rockfish
Tiger rockfish
Treefish

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo

Amendment 1: Strike Bank Rockfish from the table above. Add Pinkrose Rockfish to table above.
Christa Svensson/Corey Niles (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)
Motion 11, as amended, carried unanimously

Motion 12: Request to reconsider Motion 10.
Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Motion 10: Remove Pink Rockfish from the table in ODFW Motion 2.
Christa Svensson/Butch Smith (Reconsidered Motion 10 carried unanimously)

Motion 13: Council to include Groundfish species designated as Ecosystem Component Species as identified in the groundfish fishery management plan table 3-3 for analysis and consideration under the range of alternatives.
Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the range of alternatives as detailed in Attachment 1 with no modifications. Alternative 1 would designate the species as in need of conservation and management and would remain in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Stocks of these species would be defined. Alternative 2 would designate the species as not in need of conservation and management and would remove the species from the FMP. Alternative 3 would designate the species as an ecosystem component (EC). The species would remain in the FMP but would not have stocks defined and would not be actively managed by the Council.

The Council adopted Alternative 1 for 47 species only. These species, and stocks, will remain in the FMP and have their stocks defined. The Council range of alternatives included four options for stock definitions: Option 1 (single stock), Option 2 (two stocks), Option 3 (three stocks), and Option 4 (four stocks).

Of the species adopted only under Alternative 1, stocks of 19 species (Table 1) had previously been defined under Amendments 31 and 35 (in process). No further analysis is necessary for these species or stocks.

Table 1. Species which had their stocks defined under Amendment 31 or Amendment 35 (not in regulation yet) and will remain in the FMP.

Chilipepper	Petrable sole	Sunset rockfish
Canary rockfish	Redbanded rockfish	Vermilion rockfish
Blackspotted rockfish	Rex sole	Widow rockfish
Dover sole	Rougheye rockfish	Yelloweye rockfish
English sole	Sablefish	Yellowtail rockfish
Lingcod	Shortspine thornyhead	
Pacific spiny dogfish	Squarespot rockfish	

The Council adopted Option 1, single stock, as their preliminary preferred alternative for all species adopted under Alternative 1; however, some of these species will be analyzed under multiple stock delineation Options. Of the remaining 29 species adopted only under Alternative 1, 24 will be analyzed under Option 1 (Table 2), four will be analyzed under Options 1 and 2 (Table 3), and one species, darkblotched rockfish, will be analyzed under Options 1-3. The next step is to analyze the impacts of the Option 1 stock delineations as shown in Table 34 of [Attachment 1](#) per the A31 process for these species as a means to inform the Council's decision-making process at the June 2025 meeting.

Table 2. Species which will be analyzed under Option 1.

Arrowtooth flounder	Longnose skate	Rosethorn rockfish	Yellowmouth rockfish
Aurora rockfish	Longspine thornyhead	Sharpchin rockfish	California scorpionfish

Bank rockfish	Pacific cod	Shortraker rockfish	Starry rockfish
Big skate	Pacific hake	Silvergray rockfish	Yellowmouth rockfish
Blackgill rockfish	Pacific ocean perch	Splitnose rockfish	
Flathead sole	Pacific sanddab	Stripetail rockfish	
Greenstriped rockfish	Redstripe rockfish	Rosethorn rockfish	

Table 3. Species which will be analyzed under Options 1 and 2.

Bocaccio	Harlequin rockfish
Cowcod	Greenspotted rockfish

The Council adopted Alternatives 1-3 for 39 species (Table 4). As these species are to be analyzed under the full suite of alternatives, the next step is to identify potential stock delineations and complete the §600.305(c) 10 factor analysis in relation to Alternative 2 and Alternative 3. Stock delineations will be proposed based on the [literature review](#) for Council consideration. This section of the National Standards provides 10 non-exclusive factors to evaluate if a species is in need of conservation and management. Based on the outcomes of the analysis, the Council will contemplate if stocks of these species should remain in the FMP and have their stocks defined, removed from the FMP, or designated as an EC species.

Table 4. Species which will be analyzed under all Alternatives and applicable stock delineations.

Black and Yellow Rockfish	Flag rockfish	Pinkrose rockfish
Black rockfish	Freckled rockfish	Pygmy rockfish

Blue Rockfish	Gopher Rockfish	Quillback rockfish
Bronzespotted rockfish	Grass Rockfish	Rock sole
Brown Rockfish	Greenblotched rockfish	Rosy rockfish
Butter sole	Halfbanded rockfish	Sand sole
Cabazon	Honeycomb rockfish	Speckled rockfish
Calico Rockfish a/	Kelp greenling	Starry flounder
Chameleon Rockfish	Kelp rockfish	Swordspine rockfish
China Rockfish	Leopard shark	Tiger rockfish
Copper rockfish	Light Dusky Rockfish	Treefish
Curlfin sole	Mexican rockfish	
Deacon Rockfish	Olive rockfish	
Dwarf-Red Rockfish	Pink rockfish	

The Council also directed staff to analyze fishery mortality of the current list of 28 EC species in the FMP (Table 5) [since 2015](#), which was the year they were designated as EC species. This information will serve to inform the Council on whether these species' EC designation should be reconsidered.

Table 5. Expands on the FMP Table 3-3 to species for endemic grenadier and skates of the *Arhynchobatidae*.

Abyssal grenadier	Ghostly grenadier	Shoulderspot grenadier
Alaska skate	Giant grenadier	Smooth grenadier
Aleutian skate	Hybrid sole	Soft snout skate
Bering/sandpaper skate	Pacific flatnose	Softhead grenadier
Black skate	Pacific grenadier	Soupfin shark
California grenadier	Popeye grenadier	Spotted ratfish
California skate	Roughscale sole	Starry skate
Deepsea skate	Roughshoulder/broad skate	White skate
Filamented grenadier	Shortbelly rockfish	Yaquina grenadier

7. Limited Entry Fixed Gear Actions: Gear Endorsements, Cost Recovery, and Other Administrative Changes - Jessi Waller

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Revise Range of Alternatives, as Appropriate, Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternative, Provide Guidance on Next Steps

Motion 14: Council adopt the recommendations as presented in Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2025 for Limited Entry Fixed Gear Actions as preliminary preferred alternatives.

Heather Hall/Aza Szumylo (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council recommended the following as the preliminary preferred alternative based on [Agenda Item H.7, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#):

Gear Endorsements: Alternative 3, Create a single limited entry non-trawl endorsed permit. Vessels registered to a permit with this endorsement would be permitted to use any legal non-trawl groundfish gear to harvest their quota.

Base Permit Designation: Remove the base permit designation and associated regulations at 50 CFR 660.25(b)(3)(iii)(C).

Removal of Start/End Time: Remove the start and end times of the sablefish primary season dates (i.e., “noon”) in groundfish regulations.

Permit Price Reporting: Owners of all limited entry fixed gear permits (sablefish and non-sablefish endorsed) would be required to disclose the permit price upon sale to a new owner.

Cost Recovery: Alternative 1, suboption a: Develop a cost recovery program for the limited entry fixed gear tier program in which the vessel owner or authorized representative pays the cost recovery fee.

Additionally, the Council gave guidance to staff to bring back edits to the groundfish FMP that addressed outdated information related to Amendment 6, but maintains the Council policy of providing more opportunity to limited entry participants compared to open access participants.

8. Workload and New Management Measures Priorities - Todd Phillips

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Priorities and Provide Guidance on Schedules

Motion 15: Council make the following changes to the GMT Workload and New Management Measure list from Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025:

1. Remove the following items from the list in Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025:
 - o B1- Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21
 - o B5 – Carryover when Management Units Change
2. Add the following items to the A list, and prioritize, from Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025:
 - o B2 - Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl requirement between 40 10 and 42 N. latitude
 - o B4 - Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting
3. Add the following to the non-prioritized B list from Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, March 2025:
 - o C1- Rockfish Sorting Requirements

Carolyn McKnight/Butch Smith (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council:

- Prioritize (add to Table A) Items D1, D2, D3, and D4 in Table D in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report (Agenda Item H.8.a).
- Add Items D7 in Table D in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report (Agenda Item H.8.a) to Table B.

Aja Szumylo/Heather Hall (Motion 16 carried unanimously)

Motion 17: Council make the following changes to the GMT workload and New Management Measure list from Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025 as follows:

- Add to the A list and prioritize B8 – Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste, and Prioritize

Heather Hall/Butch Smith (Motion 17 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council considered the list of previously proposed management measures, as shown and described in [GMT Report 1](#) and [Report 2](#). They also considered newly proposed measures as described in [GAP Report 1](#) and [GMT Report 3](#).

The Council added two items to the list of new management measures for future consideration which were Rockfish Sorting Requirements ([Item C.1, GMT Report 1](#)) and Modifying the Season Start Date for the Primary Tier Fishery ([Item H.8, GAP Report 1](#)).

The Council prioritized the development of seven new management measures shown in the table below.

Prioritized Measure	Report
B2: Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl Requirements between 40° 10' N. lat and 42° N. lat.	GMT Report 1
B4: Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting	GMT Report 1
B8: Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste	GMT Report 1
D1: Mid-Biennium Harvest Specifications Change/Phase In-ABC Control Rule/Green Light	GAP Report 1

D2: Harvest Specifications Framework	<u>GAP Report 1</u>
D3: Big “C” Carryover	<u>GAP Report 1</u>
D4: Multi-Year Average Catch Policy	<u>GAP Report 1</u>

The Council directed staff to develop a report regarding items D1-D4, as shown in the table above, for the April 2025 meeting. It is expected that this report will inform future workload planning.

The Council approved the Best Practices Document ([Attachment 2](#)) and recommended it be a living document and to be updated as appropriate. Staff plans to develop a webpage for this process and will post this document to it.

9. Inseason Adjustments – Final - Todd Phillips

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2025

Motion 18: Council adopt the decrease in the sub-bag limit for canary rockfish from 5 fish to 1 fish in the Oregon longleader gear fishery as recommended by ODFW ([Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, March 2025](#)) and the GMT ([Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2025](#))

Lynn Mattes/Virgil Moore (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted an inseason adjustment that would reduce the sub-bag limit of canary rockfish from five (5) fish to one (1) fish in the Oregon longleader fishery as recommended by the [Groundfish Management Team](#) and the [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#).

I. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Kerry Griffin

a. Regulatory Activities - Rachael Wadsworth

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate

Staff Summary: None

2. International Management Activities - Kerry Griffin

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions for Upcoming Regional Fishery Management Organization Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

Staff Summary: The Council received an update on the late fall 2024 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) [meeting](#) as well as other international updates. The WCPFC adopted labor standards addressing safety and health, access to clean water, food, and medical care, and other standards described in [Attachment 1](#). The WCPFC also adopted Electronic Monitoring interim standards and conservation measures and catch limits for striped marlin for the first time.

The Council learned that the February 20 stakeholder meeting to discuss North Pacific albacore management was postponed and that negotiations among stakeholders are not occurring. The Council noted that these negotiations are crucial to the U.S. albacore fleet's ability to make business decisions and to continue operating throughout the season. The Council expressed hope that engagement among stakeholders will move forward while awaiting formal negotiations.

The Council also heard an update on the February 2025 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention – WCPFC Northern Committee Joint Working Group (JWG) [Intersessional Meeting](#), focused on the management strategy evaluation for Pacific bluefin tuna. The Council should anticipate providing recommendations on incorporating the management strategy evaluation results into the long-term management of Pacific bluefin tuna at the June Council meeting so that views can be considered ahead of the JWG negotiation in July 2025.

3. Highly Migratory Species Roadmap - Kerry Griffin, Gilly Lyons

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Consider the Draft Roadmap and Provide Guidance, as Appropriate

Staff Summary: The Council considered Highly Migratory Species Management Team Supplemental [Report 1](#), including the draft Highly Migratory Species Roadmap, and assigned the Ad Hoc Fisheries Innovation Workgroup with coordinating future updates to the Roadmap, including any proposed modifications. The Council also recommended that the Drift Gillnet

Bycatch Performance Report be included as an Informational Report in June meeting materials rather than a stand-alone agenda item. In addition, the Executive Director confirmed that the Council has sufficient resources to support the Workgroup's future work.

J. Administrative Matters

1. Legislative Matters - Merrick Burden

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

Staff Summary: None

2. Approve Council Meeting Record - Merrick Burden

- a. Council Action: Approve Previous Council Meeting Record**

Motion 19: Council approve the meeting record as specified in Agenda Item J.2, Approve Council Meeting Record.

Dani Evenson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 19 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

3. Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures - 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; Adopt Changes to Council Operating Procedures, As Appropriate**

Motion 24: Council make the following appointments to the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel:

Oregon At-Large: Mr. Scott McMullen

At-Large: Mr. Mark Alan Lovewell

Corey Ridings/David Sones (Motion 24 carried unanimously)

Motion 25: Council make the following appointments to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel:

At-Large Trawl Fisheries: Mr. Chris Cooper

Oregon Charter Boat: Mr. Andy Martin

Additionally, I request the Executive Director re-advertise for the Tribal seat.

Lynn Mattes/Butch Smith (Motion 25 carried unanimously)

Motion 26: Council make the following appointments to the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel:

Commercial south of Point Conception: Ms. Joshlyn Cardoza

Northern Charter Boat Operator: Mr. Jon Yokomizo

Christa Svensson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 26 carried unanimously)

Motion 27: Council dissolve the following Ad Hoc Committees

- Cost Recovery Committee
- Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee
- Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee
- Equity and Environmental Justice Committee
- National Standards 4, 8, and 9 Committee

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo (Motion 27 carried unanimously)

Motion 28: Council establish an Executive Committee; we adopt the draft charge language as the committee charge.

Virgil Moore/John Ugoretz (Motion 28 carried unanimously)

Motion 29: The membership of the Executive Committee include the following Council members:

One member of each of the four state agencies.

One member from the tribes.

One member from NOAA fisheries.

And the Chair, or Vice-Chair of the Council.

John Ugoretz/Lynn Mattes (Motion 29 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary:

Standing Committees

The Council created an Executive Committee with a limited mandate to provide guidance to the Executive Director for urgent and time-sensitive matters between Council meetings. The Executive Committee is composed of the following Council members:

One member from each of the four voting state agencies

The Council's Tribal member

One NOAA Fisheries representative

Chair or Vice Chair of the Council

Council Advisory Body Appointments

The Council appointed the following individuals to serve on advisory bodies through December 31, 2027.

Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel

Oregon At-large

Mr. Scott McMullen

At-Large

Mr. Mark Alan Lovewell

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel

At-Large Trawl Fisheries

Mr. Chris Cooper

Oregon Charter Boat
Mr. Andy Martin

The Council will re-advertise the Tribal seat.

Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel
Commercial south of Point Conception
Ms. Joshlyn Cardoza

Northern Charter Boat Operator
Mr. Jon Yokomizo

Additionally, the Council reassigned Dr. Dan Holland from the At-Large position on the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to the Northwest Fishery Science Center position on the SSC. The Council will re-advertise for the three vacant At-Large positions on the SSC.

Ad Hoc Committees

The Council dissolved the following Ad Hoc Committees:

Cost Recovery Committee
Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee
Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee
Equity and Environmental Justice Committee
National Standards 4, 8, and 9 Committee

- 4. Future Council Meeting Agenda and 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 Agenda and Workload Planning**

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

[Informational Report 1](#): Report to Congress Marine Recreational Information Program: Report on State Partnerships

[Informational Report 2](#): Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program 2025 Cost Recovery Annual Report

[Supplemental Informational Report 3](#): Whiting Mothership Cooperative

[Supplemental Informational Report 4](#): Shorebased Whiting Cooperative Salmon Mitigation Plan Postseason Report on the 2024 Pacific Whiting Fishery

[Supplemental Informational Report 5](#): Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative Amendment 20 Catcher/Processor Cooperative Annual Report 2024

VOTING LOG

Motion 1: Adopt [Agenda Item A.3, March 4-11, 2025 Council Meeting Agenda](#).
Dani Evenson/David Sones (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 2: Council adopt the 2025 stock abundance forecasts, acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs) as presented in [Agenda Item E.2, Supplemental Attachment 3, Preseason Report I](#), with the following exception: For the Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast, adopt the abundance forecast of 493,640 recommended in [Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental WDFW & ODFW Report 1](#).
John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 2 carried, Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 3: Council adopt for public review, the alternatives presented in [Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 2025](#) for halibut landing restrictions in the salmon troll fishery in 2025 beginning May 16 through the end of the 2025 salmon troll fishery, and beginning April 1, 2026, unless modified through inseason action or superseded by 2026 management measures, add an alternative 2 replacing the number 40 with 25.
Heather Hall/Butch Smith (Motion 3, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 4: Council adopt a final trip limit ratio of 75 pounds of Pacific halibut per 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional Pacific halibut for the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, as recommended in [Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2025](#).
Corey Niles/Aja Szumylo (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Motion 5: Council adopt for Salmon Technical Team compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2025 non-Indian ocean fisheries between Cape Falcon and the U.S./Canada border as developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and described in [Agenda Item E.3.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 6, 2025](#), with the following modifications:
For the north of Falcon non-Indian fishery, add quotas of 130,000 marked coho in Alternative I, 115,000 marked coho in Alternative II, and 100,000 marked coho in Alternative III. Calculate all commercial/recreational and sub-area allocations consistent with Fishery Management Plan defined sharing throughout Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

Commercial troll management alternatives

- Page 2, Alternative III
 - Adjust non-Indian commercial troll TAC to 48,750
 - Adjust May 16 – June 29 catch limit to 24,375
- Page 4, Alternative III
 - Adjust July 1 – September 22 catch limit to 24,375

Table 2

Recreational management alternatives

- Page 15, Alternative I
 - Add to 4. Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Alava (Neah Bay Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 30 season, 2 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to July 1, change daily limit to 2 salmon daily limit (delete ‘of which only one may be a Chinook’)

Cape Alava to Queets River (La Push Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 30 season, 2 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to July 1, change daily limit to 2 salmon daily limit (delete ‘of which only one may be a Chinook’)

Queets River to Leadbetter Point (Westport Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 27 season, 1 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to June 28

Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon (Columbia River Subarea)

Alternative I:

- Add June 21 – June 27 season, 1 salmon daily limit, only Chinook may be retained
- Adjust starting date for all-species season to June 28

Alternative III:

- Change daily limit to ‘All salmon, two salmon per day, no more than one of which may be a Chinook’

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Council adopt for Salmon Technical Team compilation and analysis the proposed initial salmon management alternatives for the 2025 non-Indian ocean fisheries between Cape Falcon, OR and the U.S.-Mexico border as developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel and described in [Agenda Item E.3.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, March 6, 2025](#), with the corrections as noted on the floor, and with direction to set the Sacramento River Fall Chinook inriver recreational share to 15 percent of the total allowable harvest in each of the alternatives.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 6 carried unanimously)

Motion 7: Council adopt for STT analysis the following initial Treaty Troll salmon management measures:

Tribes

- Alternative I: 55,000 Chinook and 50,000 coho
- Alternative II: 45,000 Chinook and 37,500 coho
- Alternative III: 35,000 Chinook and 20,000 coho

The alternatives consist of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and a July 1 start date to the all-species fishery (Chinook and coho). Season structure with regard to the closing date is still under discussion among the tribes. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

David Sones/Virgil Moore (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Motion 8: Council adopt the preliminary preferred alternative, Alternative 1, from [Agenda Item H.5, Attachment 1, March 2025](#) as the final preferred alternative; and include the coordinates

defining the 100-fathom depth contour around the bank in the regulations at 50 CFR 660.73, as recommended in [Agenda Item H.5.a, NMFS Report 1, March 2025](#).
Caroline McKnight/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Motion 9: Council adopt the 25 percent threshold framework for identifying species principally caught in Federal waters for this process, as outlined in [Agenda Item H.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, March 2025](#), and the Range of Alternatives (ROA) as outlined in [Agenda Item H.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1, March 2025](#), and summarized below:

No Action

Alternative 1: identify species in need of conservation and management, which will be defined as one or more stocks and will remain in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP),

Alternative 2: identify species as not in need of conservation and management that could be removed from the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and

Alternative 3: identify species as ecosystem component (EC) species, for which stocks will not be defined, though the species will remain in the FMP.

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo (Motion 9 carried unanimously)

Motion 10: Council adopt as PPA, maintaining the following species, with already defined stocks, in the Groundfish FMP:

Species
Chilipepper
Canary rockfish
Dover sole
English sole
Lingcod
Pacific spiny dogfish
Petrale sole
Redbanded rockfish
Rex sole
Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish
Sablefish
Shortspine thornyhead
Squarespot rockfish
Vermilion rockfish (OR)
Vermilion/Sunset rockfish (CA)
Widow rockfish
Yelloweye rockfish
Yellowtail rockfish

And, maintain the following species in the Groundfish FMP, with the range of alternatives for stocks as shown in the table below, with the PPA stock definition bolded:

Species	Number of Stocks				Stock Delineations
	1	2	3	4	
Arrowtooth flounder	X				Coastwide
Aurora rockfish	X				Coastwide
Bank rockfish	X				Coastwide
Big skate	X				Coastwide
Blackgill rockfish	X				Coastwide
Bocaccio	X	X			Coastwide , or north and south of 40° 10' N lat.
California scorpionfish	X				Coastwide or CA only
Cowcod	X	X			Coastwide, California only , or California and Oregon
Darkblotched rockfish	X	X	X		Coastwide , or CA and WA/OR, or CA and OR and WA
Flathead sole	X				Coastwide
Greenspotted rockfish	X	X			Coastwide , or north and south of Pt. Conception
Greenstriped rockfish	X				Coastwide
Harlequin rockfish	X				Coastwide or OR/WA , or OR and WA
Longnose skate	X				Coastwide
Longspine thornyhead	X				Coastwide
Pacific cod	X				Coastwide
Pacific hake	X				Coastwide
Pacific ocean perch	X				Coastwide
Pacific sanddab	X				Coastwide
Redstripe rockfish	X				Coastwide
Rosethorn rockfish	X				Coastwide
Sharpchin rockfish	X				Coastwide
Shortraker rockfish	X				Coastwide
Silvergray rockfish	X				Coastwide
Splitnose rockfish	X				Coastwide
Starry rockfish	X				Coastwide or CA only
Stripetail rockfish	X				Coastwide
Yellowmouth rockfish	X				Coastwide

Lynn Mattes/Corey Niles (Motion 10, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 11: Council advance the following species forward for evaluation consistent with the full range of alternatives outlined in [Agenda Item H.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1](#).

March 2025, and request the analytical team bring back additional information to support choosing a PPA for these species at a later date:

Species
Black and Yellow rockfish
Black Rockfish
Blue rockfish
Bronzespotted rockfish
Brown rockfish
Butter sole
Cabezon
Calico rockfish
Chameleon rockfish
China rockfish
Copper rockfish
Curlfin sole
Deacon rockfish
Dwarf-red rockfish
Flag rockfish
Freckled rockfish
Gopher rockfish
Grass rockfish
Greenblotched rockfish
Halfbanded rockfish
Honeycomb rockfish
Kelp greenling
Kelp rockfish
Leopard shark
Light dusky rockfish
Mexican rockfish
Olive rockfish
Pink rockfish
Pinkrose rockfish
Pygmy rockfish
Quillback rockfish
Rock sole
Rosy rockfish
Sand sole
Speckled rockfish
Starry flounder

Swordspine rockfish
Tiger rockfish
Treefish

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo (Motion 11, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 12: Request to reconsider Motion 10

Christa Svensson/Corey Ridings (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Motion 13: Council to include Groundfish species designated as Ecosystem Component Species as identified in the groundfish fishery management plan table 3-3 for analysis and consideration under the range of alternatives.

Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Motion 14: Council adopt the recommendations as presented in [Agenda Item H.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, March 2025](#) for Limited Entry Fixed Gear Actions as preliminary preferred alternatives.

Heather Hall/Aza Szumylo (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Motion 15: Council make the following changes to the GMT workload and New Management Measure list from [Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025](#):

4. Remove the following items from the list in [Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025](#):
 - o B1- Clarify Catch Accounting Rules for Amendment 21
 - o B5 – Carryover when Management Units Change
5. Add the following items to the A list, and prioritize, from [Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025](#):
 - o B2 - Removal of Selective Flatfish Trawl requirement between 40 10 and 42 N. latitude
 - o B4 - Remove Certain Time and Area-Management Restrictions for Midwater Trawl Gear Targeting Non-whiting
6. Add the following to the non-prioritized B list from [Agenda Item H.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 2, March 2025](#):
 - o C1- Rockfish Sorting Requirements

Carolyn McKnight/Butch Smith (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council:

- Prioritize (add to Table A) Items D1, D2, D3, and D4 in Table D in [the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report 1 \(Agenda Item H.8.a\)](#).
- Add Items D7 in Table D in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel Report 1 ([Agenda Item H.8.a](#)) to Table B.

Aja Szumylo/Heather Hall (Motion 16 carried unanimously)

Motion 17: Council make the following changes to the GMT workload and New Management Measure list from [Agenda Item H.8.a, GMT Supplemental Report 2, March 2025](#) as follows:

- o Add to the A list and prioritize B8 – Commercial Sale of Recreational Fish Waste, and Prioritize

Heather Hall/Butch Smith (Motion 17 carried unanimously)

Motion 18: Council adopt the decrease in the sub-bag limit for canary rockfish from 5 fish to 1 fish in the Oregon longleader gear fishery as recommended by ODFW ([Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, March 2025](#)) and the GMT ([Agenda Item H.9.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, March 2025](#)).

Lynn Mattes/Virgil Moore (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

Motion 19: Council approve the meeting record as Specified in [Agenda Item J.2, Approve Council Meeting Record](#).

Dani Evenson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 19 carried unanimously)

Motion 20: Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area from Cape Falcon south to the Oregon/California border as presented in [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 10, 2025](#) as amended with the following changes:

TABLE 1

ODFW Commercial Management Alternatives – beginning on page 4

Cape Falcon to the OR/CA Border

Alternative 2

- Replace April 15-May 31 with:

April 15-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31

In the last paragraph add, “All vessels fishing in the area must land their salmon in the State of Oregon.”

Cape Falcon to the Heceta Bank Line

Alternative 3

- Replace April 15-May 31 with:

April 15-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31 (C.9.a)

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

Alternative 1, 2, and 3

Add, “Oregon State regulations require all fishers landing coho salmon into Oregon from any fishery between Cape Falcon, OR and Humbug Mountain to notify ODFW within one hour of delivery or prior to transport away from the port of landing by either calling 541-857-2546 or sending notification via e-mail to nfalcon.trollreport@odfw.oregon.gov (C.11.). Notification shall include vessel name and number, number of salmon by species, port of landing and location of delivery, and estimated time of delivery” at the end of the regulatory language.

Alternative 1

- Replace April 10-May 31 with:

April 10-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31

In the last paragraph add, “All vessels fishing in the area must land their salmon in the State of Oregon.”

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border.

Alternative 1

- Add, “Closed. In 2026, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. Chinook minimum size limit of 28 inches total length (B, C.1). Gear restrictions (C.2, C.3) same as in 2025. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting (C.8).”

Alternative 3

- Add, “*See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.*” after the April 15-30 date.

TABLE 2

ODFW Recreational Management Alternatives – beginning on page 17

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

Alternative 1, 2, and 3

- Remove the paragraph beginning with “In 2026, the season will open...”

Alternative 1

- Replace March 15-May 31 with:

March 15-May 15. See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.

May 16-31

Remove the paragraph beginning with “In 2026, the season will open...”

Alternative 2

- Add, “*See 2024 management measures, and 2025 inseason actions. Dates may be subject to further inseason action.*” after the March 15-April 30 date range.

Cape Falcon to OR/CA Border.

Alternative 1, 2, and 3

- Add, “In 2026, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 24 inches total length (B, C.1); and the same gear restrictions as in 2025 (C.2, C.3). This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting.”

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border.

Alternative 1

- Replace “May 1-June 4” with “May 16-June 4”

Alternative 2

- Remove “May 15-June 4; Same as Alternative 1.”

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 20 carried; Ms. Yaremko, Ms. Ridings, Dr. Lent voted no, Mr. Gorelnik abstained)

Motion 21: Council to adopt for STT collation, analysis and public review the salmon management measures for the 2025 non-Indian commercial and recreational ocean fisheries in the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented in [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report, 1 dated March 10, 2025](#), including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Motion 22: Council to adopt for public review the alternatives for non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon as presented in [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated March 10, 2025](#), with the following modifications:

For the north of Falcon non-Indian fishery: Adjust the quota in Alternative III to 85,000 marked coho. Calculate all commercial/recreational and sub-area allocations consistent with Fishery Management Plan defined sharing throughout Tables 1 and 2.

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

Motion 23: For tribal ocean fisheries in the area north of Cape Falcon, the Council adopt for public review the alternatives as presented in [Agenda Item E.7.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#), Table 3 (March 11, 2025).

David Sones/Corey Ridings (Motion 23 carried unanimously)

Motion 24: Council make the following appointments to the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel:

Oregon At-Large: Mr. Scott McMullen

At-Large: Mr. Mark Alan Lovewell

Corey Ridings/David Sones (Motion 24 carried unanimously)

Motion 25: Council make the following appointments to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel:

At-Large Trawl Fisheries: Mr. Chris Cooper

Oregon Charter Boat: Mr. Andy Martin

Additionally, I request the Executive Director re-advertise for the Tribal seat.

Lynn Mattes/Butch Smith (Motion 25 carried unanimously)

Motion 26: Council make the following appointments to the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel:

Commercial south of Point Conception: Ms. Joshlyn Cardoza

Northern Charter Boat Operator: Mr. Jon Yokomizo

Christa Svensson/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 26 carried unanimously)

Motion 27: Council dissolve the following Ad Hoc Committees:

- Cost Recovery Committee
- Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee
- Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee
- Equity and Environmental Justice Committee
- National Standards 4, 8, and 9 Committee

Lynn Mattes/Aja Szumylo Motion 27 carried unanimously)

Motion 28: Council establish an Executive Committee; we adopt the [draft charge language as the committee charge](#).

Virgil Moore/John Ugoretz (Motion 28 carried unanimously)

Motion 29: The membership of the Executive Committee include the following Council members:

One member of each of the four state agencies.

One member from the tribes.

One member from NOAA fisheries.

And the Chair, or Vice-Chair of the Council.

John Ugoretz/Lynn Mattes (Motion 29 carried unanimously)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 12:49 p.m.

Brad Pettinger
Council Chair

Date