

DRAFT COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
281st Session of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
April 9-15, 2025
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel San Jose
2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, CA 95110

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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 281st meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:00 a.m. on April 11, 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
	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. John North, designee
	Mr. Justin Ainsworth, designee
	Ms. Lynn Mattes, designee
Oregon Obligatory:	Ms. Christa Svensson
California State Official:	Ms. Marci Yaremko, designee
	Ms. Briana Brady, 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:	LT Skye-Marie Williamsz, nonvoting designee
	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: Council adopt Agenda Item A.3, April 9-15, 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**

Staff Summary: None

C. Cross Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

1. Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Report - Kerry Griffin

- a. Report of the ONMS - Sarah Fangman**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: Sarah Fangman, West Coast Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) presented recent and upcoming activities for the six west coast NMS, including research, outreach, and management-related activities. Ms. Fangman offered to follow up with the Council on several items of interest, including the pending revisions to ONMS guidance on coordination of fishing regulations with Regional Fishery Management Councils, an upcoming effort using the groundfish trawl survey data to create a West Coast NMS deep seafloor community tracker, information related to requests to change fishing regulations in west coast NMS, and research into the economic value of corals and other structure forming invertebrates to the groundfish fishery. In addition, the Council encouraged ONMS to schedule the upcoming Olympic Coast NMS management plan review comment period to overlap with a future Council meeting if possible. Finally, the Council expressed appreciation for the continued communication and coordination between ONMS and the Council on important matters of mutual interest.

2. Research and Data Needs - Marlene Bellman

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt Preliminary Research and Data Needs**

Motion 8: Council adopt the Scientific and Statistical Committee Report 1 ([Agenda Item C.2, SSC Report 1, April 2025](#)) and include any edits and recommendations from the Advisory Body reports to generate the Council preliminary priority document for review and final action in June 2025.

Lynn Mattes/Christa Svensson (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted their preliminary research and data needs, which included the Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendations ([SSC Report 1](#)) and the edits and recommendations from other Advisory Body reports. These will be used to generate a document representing Council preliminary research and data need priorities for review and consideration for final action, which is scheduled for the June 2025 Council meeting.

3. Socioeconomic Framework Workplan and Update - Gilly Lyons

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Consider Project Updates and Provide Guidance on Next Steps

Staff Summary: The Council received an update from staff on its Socioeconomic Framework project, one of three special projects for which the Council has received dedicated funding. Work on the project, which focuses on the development of a decision framework to support the Councils in identifying strategies that increase fishing community resilience and well-being, is expected to get underway this spring. During its discussion, the Council expressed support for the project's overall goals and anticipated products, with an emphasis on the importance of generating information that helps the Council better understand West Coast fishing communities, as well as improve its ability to weigh management alternatives that impact those communities.

4. Adaptive Management Workplan and Update - Gilly Lyons

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Consider Project Updates and Provide Guidance on Next Steps

Motion 13: Council adopt the following guidance statement for its Flexible and Adaptive Management project:

- Develop an action plan for exploring and implementing the general tools for increasing flexibility and adaptive management identified in [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 1](#), as well as other tools, in all of the Council's FMPs.
 - o The focus should be on increasing the Council's ability to quickly respond to environmental changes and unexpected and unintended events.
 - o Include exploration of ways to improve timeliness of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data streams, and including local and tribal knowledge.
 - o Prioritize the Groundfish FMP for this evaluation.

- For any tools developed prior to completing this report (for example, the Groundfish Harvest Specifications Flexibility Action), consider benefits across other PFMC FMPs and concurrently amend those FMPs, if appropriate.

Aja Szumylo/Christa Svensson (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council received an update from staff on its Adaptive Management project, one of three special projects for which the Council has received dedicated funding. The project's objective is to identify innovations or process improvements that make review and implementation of Council actions more timely, efficient, and responsive to rapidly changing environmental conditions. The Council adopted a motion to guide the next steps of the project, including the development of an action plan to explore tools and approaches that increase the capacity for flexibility and adaptive management across all of the Council's fishery management plans (FMPs). The Council also prioritized the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan for application of select adaptive management and flexibility tools in the near term, while further considering the potential benefits of those or similar tools to other Council-managed fisheries.

5. Council Operations and Priorities - Kelly Ames

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Consider Staff Report and Provide Guidance on Next Steps, As Necessary

Staff Summary: The Council received a report from staff on the ongoing efforts to improve Council operations in response to the Council's long-term budget prognosis, staff and advisor workload, and the need to address these challenges while maintaining and enhancing the Council's decision-making process. Of note, the Council will implement a new briefing book production period that calls for briefing books to be made available approximately two weeks prior to each Council meeting. Staff received additional feedback for implementing the recommendations and will provide an additional update in November 2025.

D. Salmon Management

1. ~~National Marine Fisheries Service Report—Angela Forristall~~ CANCELLED

~~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~~

- 2. Tentative Adoption of 2025 Management Measures for Analysis - Angela Forristall**
 - a. Update of Estimated Impacts of March 2025 Alternatives - Michael O'Farrell**
 - b. Summary of Public Hearings - Hearings Officers**
 - c. Recommendations of the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission - Phil Anderson**
 - d. North of Cape Falcon Forum Recommendations - Oregon, Washington, Tribes**
 - e. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
 - f. Public Comment**
 - g. Council Action: Adopt Tentative 2025 Ocean Salmon Management Measures and any Necessary Harvest Specifications for Collation and Analysis**

Motion 2: Council to tentatively adopt the ocean salmon fishery management measures for non-Indian fisheries in the area between the U.S./Canada Border and Cape Falcon as presented in Agenda Item D.2.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, dated April 10, 2025 for STT collation and analysis, with the following modifications:

For the Area north of Cape Falcon, set the overall non-Indian TAC to 115,000 Chinook and 108,000 marked coho.

- Adjust the identified trade to: Commercial troll traded 5,000 marked coho to the recreational fishery for 1,250 Chinook.
 - Chinook traded move from the Area 1 recreational to the July-September commercial troll fishery. Coho traded move from the commercial troll fishery to the Columbia River subarea recreational fishery.
- Set the pre-trade non-Indian commercial troll TAC to 59,000 Chinook and 17,280 marked coho. Resulting TAC post trade of 60,250 Chinook and 12,280 marked coho.
 - Set the May-June Chinook limit to 37,800 and the July-September Chinook limit to 22,450
 - Set subarea catch limits for the May-June fishery consistent with methods used for calculating those caps in all three alternatives from Preseason Report II (Agenda Item D.2, Supplemental Attachment 3)
 - U.S. Canada border to Queets River – No more than 10,000 Chinook
 - Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon – No more than 6,640 Chinook
- Set the pre-trade recreational TAC to 56,000 Chinook and 90,720 marked coho. Resulting TAC post trade of 54,750 Chinook and 95,720 marked coho.
 - Neah Bay Subarea: Marked coho quota of 9,430, Chinook guideline of 13,600
 - La Push Subarea: Marked coho quota of 2,360, Chinook guideline of 2,280
 - Westport Subarea: Marked coho quota of 33,570, Chinook guideline of 22,720
 - Columbia R. Subarea: Marked coho quota of 50,360, Chinook guideline of 16,150

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

Motion 3: Council to tentatively adopt for STT collation and analysis, the ocean salmon fishery management measures for fisheries in the area between Cape Falcon, OR and the OR/CA border as presented in Agenda Item D.2.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, dated April 10, 2025.

John North/Brad Pettinger (Motion 3 carried; Ms. Yaremko, Mr. Gorelnik, Ms. Ridings and Dr. Lent voted no)

Motion 4: Council to tentatively adopt for STT collation and analysis 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 D.2.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1 dated April 10, 2025, including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions, with direction to set the Sacramento River recreational fishery impacts at 8,000 Sacramento River Fall Chinook.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Motion 5: Council adopt for STT analysis the following Treaty Troll salmon management measures.

Makah Option

45,000 Chinook and 40,000 coho

The alternative consists of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and a July 1 – September 30th all-species fishery. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

QTA Option

40,000 Chinook and 35,000 coho

The alternative consists of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and a July 1 – September 15th all-species fishery. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: None

3. Clarify Council Direction on 2025 Management Measures - Angela Forristall

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Guidance and Direction**

Staff Summary: None

4. Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection - Angela Forristall

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt Preliminary Topics for 2025 Methodology Review**

Motion 6: Council approve adding SRWG items 1 and 3 as topics selected for inclusion on the preliminary draft list of methods to be reviewed at the fall 2025 methods review meeting. However, the outcomes of review of these two items shall not be applied to annual management

or apply to annual determinations of overfishing, overfished or approaching an overfished condition, until the Council completes a holistic review of the SRWG's recommendations for all updated SRFC reference points, conservation objective, and the harvest control rule.

To facilitate the Council's understanding of the holistic view, I request that Council staff, in consultation with the STT and SRWG, produce a document that outlines appropriate steps forward and their sequence necessary to achieve the SRFC conservation objective, and to bring that document back at the September 2025 Council meeting.

Marci Yaremko/John North

Amendment 1: *Add Bolded and delete strikeout of the following motion:* Council approve adding SRWG items 1 and 3 as topics selected for inclusion on the preliminary draft list of methods to be reviewed at the fall 2025 methods review meeting. However, the outcomes of review of these two items shall not be applied to annual management or apply to annual determinations of overfishing, overfished or approaching an overfished condition, until the Council completes a holistic review of the SRWG's recommendations for all updated SRFC reference points, conservation objective, and the harvest control rule.

To facilitate the Council's understanding of the holistic view, I request that Council staff, in consultation with the STT and SRWG, produce a document that outlines appropriate steps forward and their sequence necessary to **achieve the holistic review of the workgroup's recommendations for the SRFC reference points, conservation objective, and the harvest control rule** ~~achieve the SRFC conservation objective~~, and to bring that document back at the September 2025 Council meeting.

Susan Bishop/Marc Gorelnik (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 6, as amended, carried (Ms. Ridings voted no)

Staff Summary: The salmon methodology review ensures that any new or updated methods used in salmon management are reviewed prior to implementation. The review is a multi-step process that begins in April and concludes in November. In April, the Council reviews the list of candidate topics identified and adopts preliminary topics. At the April 2025 Council meeting, the Council considered reports by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Salmon Technical Team (STT), and Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup (SRWG), as well as a presentation by Council member Marc Gorelnik, and adopted three preliminary topics for review.

- The Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast methodology, including the index exponential-decay-weighting approach adopted for use in 2025 and additional aspects of the OPIH forecast methodology, such as breaking the forecast into component stocks, as time and staffing allows;
- Proposed SRWG Topic 1: Derivation of natural-area S_{MSY} for Sacramento River fall Chinook;
- Proposed SRWG Topic 3: Methods for deriving a total (natural areas plus hatchery) escapement objective based on consideration of natural production and hatchery needs.

In September, the Council will be updated on the topics ready for review and notified of any support needed from management entities to complete the review materials. The Salmon

Methodology Review will take place in October, and at their November meeting, the Council will receive the results of this review from the Scientific and Statistical Committee and STT.

Additionally, the Council directed Council staff, in consultation with the STT and SRWG, to develop a roadmap outlining the appropriate steps and sequence for a comprehensive review of the SRWG's recommendations for evaluating the Sacramento River fall Chinook reference points, the conservation objective, and the harvest control rule. The roadmap will be presented at the September 2025 Council meeting.

5. Review of Essential Fish Habitat – Scoping - Kerry Griffin

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt the Scope, Objectives, and Schedule for the Review

Staff Summary: The Council endorsed the scope and call for information (CFI) described in D.5, Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 and recommended that the salmon Essential Fish Habitat Review Team move forward with Phase 1 of the review process, as described in Council Operating Procedure 22. While the Council also expressed support for the proposed workplan, it was recognized that uncertainties exist regarding National Marine Fisheries Service and Council capacity to carry out the workplan as envisioned. The review team will issue the CFI soon with a 60-90 day comment period. Data and information received from the CFI, as well as any other information compiled by the review team, will be synthesized in fall 2025 and will inform the Phase 1 report tentatively schedule for Council consideration at its April 2026 meeting. At that point the Council will determine whether to proceed with the development of proposed changes to salmon essential fish habitat (Phase 2) and if so, will establish the scope for Phase 2.

6. Further Direction on 2025 Management Measures - Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Guidance and Direction

Staff Summary: None

7. Further Direction on 2025 Management Measures - Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Guidance and Direction

Staff Summary: None

8. Final Action on 2025 Management Measures - Angela Forristall, Robin Ehlke

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Management Measures for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fisheries

Motion 15: Council adopt for submission to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce the non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon management measures for the area north of Cape Falcon as presented in Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated April 15, 2025, with the following modifications:

TABLE 1

North of Falcon commercial troll management measures on page 1

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon (summer season)

- For subareas north of Leadbetter Point, change the season end date to September 15

TABLE 2

North of Falcon recreational management measures on page 7

U.S./Canada Border to Leadbetter Point (Neah Bay, La Push and Westport subareas)

- Change season end dates to September 15

Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon (Columbia River Subarea)

- Add, "Prior to June 25, possession of salmon on board a vessel is prohibited on days when the subarea is closed to salmon retention."

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council adopt for submission to the U.S Secretary of Commerce, the non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon management measures for the area from Cape Falcon, Oregon to the Oregon/California border as described in Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated April 15, 2025, including all season descriptions, minimum sizes, and requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions.

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 16 carried, Dr. Lent, Ms. Yaremko, Mr. Gorelnik and Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 17: Council adopt for submission to the U.S Secretary of Commerce, the 2025 non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon management measures for the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented in Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated April 15, 2025, including all season descriptions, minimum sizes, requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 17 carried, Ms. Ridings voting no)

Motion 18: Council to adopt the Treaty Indian Troll fishery management measures for submission to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for the area north of Cape Falcon as shown in Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, Table 3 (April 15, 2025) and the following edit:

July 1 through the earlier of a date in September, to be established in tribal regulations, or 22,500 Chinook quota or 37,500 coho quota are taken.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted management measures for 2025 ocean salmon fisheries and will transmit its recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service for implementation by May 16, 2025. Detailed [management measures](#) and a [press release](#) are posted on the Council's webpage.

E. 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 Habitat Committee's (HC) [Supplemental HC Report 2](#) includes information and updates on current habitat issues. The HC noted that the Columbia River Systems Operations (CRSO) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) public scoping meetings and comment period have been delayed. An updated timeline is expected sometime soon. The HC also discussed the California Senate Bill (SB) 605 Wave & Tidal Energy Draft Phase II Consultant Report and offered to work with the Marine Planning Committee to complete a succinct comment letter via the Council's quick response procedure. Finally, the HC heard an update on the Klamath River as it adjusts to the removal of the lower four dams. The HC will continue to track Klamath River habitat, water quality, and compliance issues and brief the Council as necessary.

F. Pacific Halibut Management

1. Incidental Catch Limits for the 2025 Salmon Troll Fishery – Final Action - Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Incidental Pacific Halibut Catch Recommendations for 2025 and Early 2026 Non-Indian Salmon Troll Fisheries

Motion 7: Council adopt the Option 1 (status quo) catch limit for the 2025 salmon fishery as described in Supplemental Salmon Advisory Subpanel Report 1 under Agenda Item F.1.a, April 2025.

Option 1 (status quo) Open May 16, 2025, through the end of the 2025 salmon troll fishery, and beginning April 1, 2026, until modified through inseason action or superseded by the 2026 management measures. License holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: Under the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan, the salmon troll fishery receives a portion of the non-tribal commercial halibut allocation for incidental retention. The Council has adopted halibut retention limits for the ocean salmon troll fishery, effective May 16, 2025, through the end of the 2025 salmon season, and resuming April 1, 2026, unless modified by inseason action or 2026 management measures.

Beginning May 16, 2025, vessels may retain one Pacific halibut per two Chinook salmon, with a maximum of 35 halibut per trip. Additionally, one halibut may be landed regardless of the ratio requirement (1+1 per 2, 35). These limits have been in place since 2019 and will continue to guide incidental halibut retention.

G. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report - Katrina Bernaus

- a. Regulatory Activities - Josh Lindsay**
- 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. Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) for 2025-26 – Final Action - Katrina Bernaus

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- b. Public Comment**
- c. Council Action: Adopt Final EFP Recommendations for 2025-26 Fisheries**

Motion 9: Council approve Agenda Item G.2 Attachment 1, CWPA EFP, April 2025 for 2025-2026 season.

Briana Brady/Rebecca Lent (Motion 9 carried, Mr. Lindsay abstained)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted the final exempted fishing permit (EFP) recommendations for the 2025-26 fishing year. This recommendation included the renewal of the proposal submitted

by the California Wetfish Producers Association to allow fishing for Pacific sardine for biological samples in the nearshore ([Attachment 1](#)).

3. Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures for 2025-26 – Final Action - Katrina Bernaus

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Assessment, Final Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures for the 2025-26 Pacific Sardine Fishery

Motion 10: For the 2025-2026 Northern Subpopulation of Pacific sardine Council adopt the following specifications:

Biomass	30,158 mt
OFL	4,645 mt
P*	0.45
ABC tier 2	3,957 mt
ACL	2,200 mt
ACT	2,100 mt

We also adopt the following Accountability Measures:

1. Incidental landing limit in CPS fisheries of 20 percent.
2. If the ACT of 2,100 mt is attained, a per-trip limit of 1 mt of Pacific sardine applies to all CPS fisheries.
3. An incidental per-landing allowance of 2 mt of Pacific sardine in non-CPS fisheries until the ACL is reached.

The specifications accommodate the EFP apportionment of 520 mt.

Rebecca Lent/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 10 carried, Ms. Brady abstained)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted harvest specifications and management measures for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine for the 2025-26 fishing year, based on a stock biomass of 30,158 mt projected in the 2025 update assessment ([Attachment 1](#)). Specifications followed the guidelines of the revised Pacific sardine rebuilding plan adopted by the Council in November 2024. These specifications included an overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC) with a tier 2 sigma (uncertainty level), a P* uncertainty buffer, an annual catch limit (ACL), and an annual catch target (ACT).

OFL	4,645 mt
P* Buffer	0.45 mt
ABC (Tier 2)	3,957 mt

ACL	2,200 mt
ACT	2,100 mt

Accountability measures adopted included:

1. Incidental landing limit in CPS fisheries of 20 percent.
2. If the ACT of 2,100 mt is attained, a per-trip limit of 1 mt of Pacific sardine applies to all CPS fisheries.
3. An incidental per-landing allowance of 2 mt of Pacific sardine in non-CPS fisheries until the ACL is reached.

4. Pacific Mackerel Specifications and Management Measures for 2025-27 - Final Action - Katrina Bernaus

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Catch-Only Update, Final Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 Fishing Seasons

Motion 11: Council:

1. Approve the Pacific Mackerel catch-only projection for US management in 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 (April 2025, Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1).
2. Adopt Tables 1 and 2 in Supplemental CPSMT Report 1 (April 2025, Agenda Item G.4.a).
3. If the ACT is met, adopt a 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific Mackerel are landed with other CPS, or up to 3 mt of Pacific Mackerel per landing could be landed in non-CPS fisheries.

Brana Brady/Corey Niles (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted harvest specifications and management measures for Pacific mackerel for the 2025-26 and 2026-2027 fishing years, based on a stock biomass of 61,737 mt projected in the 2025 catch-only stock assessment ([Attachment 1](#)). These specifications included an overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC) with a tier 2 sigma (uncertainty level), a P* uncertainty buffer, an annual catch limit (ACL), a harvest guideline (HG), an annual catch target (ACT), and an incidental landing allowance.

2025-26 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications (mt)

Biomass	61,737
P*	0.45
OFL	12,965
ABC _{0.45} (Tier 2)	10,084
ACL (=ABC)	10,084
HG	9,143
ACT	8,143
Incidental	1,000

2026-27 Pacific Mackerel Harvest Specifications (mt)

Biomass	67,954
P*	0.45
OFL	14,270
ABC _{0.45} (Tier 2)	11,099

ACL (=ABC)	11,099
HG	10,448
ACT	9,448
Incidental	1,000

Accountability measures adopted included:

- Incidental set-aside of 1,000 mt each fishing year, and associated ACTs 1,000 mt less than the corresponding HGs.
- For each separate fishing year, should the directed fishery realize the ACT, National Marine Fisheries Service should close the directed fishery and shift to an incidental-only fishery for the remainder of the fishing season.
- 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific mackerel are landed with other CPS, with the exception that up to 3 mt of Pacific mackerel per landing could be landed in non-CPS fisheries.

5. Science and Management Priorities - Katrina Bernaus

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Review the List of Science and Management Priorities; Consider Overall Workload and Provide Guidance on Priorities, Sequence, and Process

Motion 12: Council to

1. Adopt the list of Science and Management topics described in G.5, Attachment 1 as modified by Supplemental SSC Report 1.
2. Prioritize the above list for possible Council action:
 1. Pacific sardine stock structure
 2. Stock Assessment Frequency
 3. Managing Annual Opportunity

Corey Ridings/Rebecca Lent (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council reviewed the list of coastal pelagic species (CPS) science and management priorities detailed in [Attachment 1](#), adding topics recommended by the Scientific and

Statistical Committee (SSC) in their [Supplemental SSC Report 1](#), adopting this list, and prioritizing the following items and their subtopics:

1. Pacific sardine Stock Structure
2. Stock Assessment Frequency
3. Managing Annual Opportunity

Items added to the topics list by the SSC included two subtopics under Managing Annual Opportunity: (1) More responsive harvest control rules and (2) Review of overfishing limits for other CPS.

The Council recommended first scheduling an agenda item for the Pacific Sardine Stock Structure topic as the highest priority item and including consideration of the harvest control rule parameters *EMSY* and *DISTRIBUTION* within this topic. The Council did not recommend an additional scientific workshop or other similar process, but rather a review of current science to develop a range of alternative stock definitions to include in the CPS Fishery Management Plan.

H. Administrative Matters

1. 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 14: Council appoint Katie Davis to one of the National Marine Fisheries Service positions on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team.

Ryan Wulff/Lynn Mattes (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council appointed Katie Davis to one of the four National Marine Fisheries Service seats on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team.

2. Fiscal Matters - Patricia Hearing

- a. **Report of the Budget Committee (BC) - Pete Hassemer**
- b. **Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. **Public Comment**
- d. **Council Action: Consider Budget Committee Report and Recommendations**

Staff Summary: None

3. 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 and Workload Planning

Staff Summary: None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

[Informational Report 1:](#) 2024 Trawl Rationalization (TRat) Compliance Summary

[Informational Report 2:](#) SCS 8 Workshop Report (*Electronic Only*)

[Supplemental Informational Report 3:](#) Trawl Catch Share Program Review Workshop Summary

[Supplemental Informational Report 4:](#) Guidance Implementing Section 3 of EO 14192, Titled “Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation”

[Supplemental Informational Report 5:](#) U.S. Department of Commerce Letter

[Supplemental Informational Report 6:](#) CDFW News Release

[Supplemental Informational Report 7:](#) CDFW Central Valley Escapement Report

[Supplemental Informational Report 8:](#) NMFS Groundfish Assessments and Surveys Update

VOTING LOG

Motion 1: Council [Adopt Agenda Item A.3, April 9-15, 2025, Council Meeting Agenda](#).
Dani Evenson/David Sones (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 2: Council to tentatively adopt the ocean salmon fishery management measures for non-Indian fisheries in the area between the U.S./Canada Border and Cape Falcon as presented in [Agenda Item D.2.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, dated April 10, 2025](#) for STT collation and analysis, with the following modifications:

For the Area north of Cape Falcon, set the overall non-Indian TAC to 115,000 Chinook and 108,000 marked coho.

- Adjust the identified trade to: Commercial troll traded 5,000 marked coho to the recreational fishery for 1,250 Chinook.
 - Chinook traded move from the Area 1 recreational to the July-September commercial troll fishery. Coho traded move from the commercial troll fishery to the Columbia River subarea recreational fishery.
- Set the pre-trade non-Indian commercial troll TAC to 59,000 Chinook and 17,280 marked coho. Resulting TAC post trade of 60,250 Chinook and 12,280 marked coho.
 - Set the May-June Chinook limit to 37,800 and the July-September Chinook limit to 22,450
 - Set subarea catch limits for the May-June fishery consistent with methods used for calculating those caps in all three alternatives from Preseason Report II ([Agenda Item D.2, Supplemental Attachment 3](#))
 - U.S. Canada border to Queets River – No more than 10,000 Chinook
 - Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon – No more than 6,640 Chinook

- Set the pre-trade recreational TAC to 56,000 Chinook and 90,720 marked coho. Resulting TAC post trade of 54,750 Chinook and 95,720 marked coho.
 - o Neah Bay Subarea: Marked coho quota of 9,430, Chinook guideline of 13,600
 - o La Push Subarea: Marked coho quota of 2,360, Chinook guideline of 2,280
 - o Westport Subarea: Marked coho quota of 33,570, Chinook guideline of 22,720
 - o Columbia R. Subarea: Marked coho quota of 50,360, Chinook guideline of 16,150

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

Motion 3: Council to tentatively adopt for STT collation and analysis, the ocean salmon fishery management measures for fisheries in the area between Cape Falcon, OR and the OR/CA border as presented in [Agenda Item D.2.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1, dated April 10, 2025](#). John North/Brad Pettinger (Motion 3 carried; Ms. Yaremko, Mr. Gorelnik, Ms. Ridings and Dr. Lent voted no)

Motion 4: Council to tentatively adopt for STT collation and analysis 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 D.2.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1 dated April 10, 2025](#), including the commercial and recreational requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions, with direction to set the Sacramento River recreational fishery impacts at 8,000 Sacramento River Fall Chinook. Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Motion 5: Council adopt for STT analysis the following Treaty Troll salmon management measures.

Makah Option

45,000 Chinook and 40,000 coho

The alternative consists of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and a July 1 – September 30th all-species fishery. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

QTA Option

40,000 Chinook and 35,000 coho

The alternative consists of a May 1 – June 30 Chinook-directed fishery and a July 1 – September 15th all-species fishery. The Chinook quota should be evenly split between the two time periods.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Council approve adding SRWG items 1 and 3 as topics selected for inclusion on the preliminary draft list of methods to be reviewed at the fall 2025 methods review meeting. However, the outcomes of review of these two items shall not be applied to annual management or apply to annual determinations of overfishing, overfished or approaching an overfished condition, until the Council completes a holistic review of the SRWG's recommendations for all updated SRFC reference points, conservation objective, and the harvest control rule.

To facilitate the Council's understanding of the holistic view, I request that Council staff, in consultation with the STT and SRWG, produce a document that outlines appropriate steps forward and their sequence necessary to achieve the holistic review of the workgroups

recommendations for the SRFC reference points, conservation objective, and the harvest control rule and to bring that document back at the September 2025 Council meeting.
Marci Yaremko/John North (Motion 6, as amended, carried; Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 7: Council adopt the Option 1 (status quo) catch limit for the 2025 salmon fishery as described in [Supplemental Salmon Advisory Subpanel Report 1](#) under Agenda Item F.1.a, April 2025.

Option 1 (status quo) Open May 16, 2025, through the end of the 2025 salmon troll fishery, and beginning April 1, 2026, until modified through inseason action or superseded by the 2026 management measures. License holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip.

Heather Hall/Lynn Mattes (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Motion 8: Council adopt the Scientific and Statistical Committee Report 1 ([Agenda Item C.2, SSC Report 1, April 2025](#)) and include any edits and recommendations from the Advisory Body reports to generate the Council preliminary priority document for review and final action in June 2025.

Lynn Mattes/Christa Svensson (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Motion 9: Council approve [Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1, CWPA EFP, April 2025](#) for 2025-2026 season.

Briana Brady/Rebecca Lent (Motion 9 carried, Mr. Lindsay abstained)

Motion 10: For the 2025-2026 Northern Subpopulation of Pacific sardine Council adopt the following specifications:

Biomass	30,158 mt
OFL	4,645 mt
P*	0.45
ABC tier 2	3,957 mt
ACL	2,200 mt
ACT	2,100 mt

We also adopt the following Accountability Measures:

1. Incidental landing limit in CPS fisheries of 20 percent.
2. If the ACT of 2,100 mt is attained, a per-trip limit of 1 mt of Pacific sardine applies to all CPS fisheries.
3. An incidental per-landing allowance of 2 mt of Pacific sardine in non-CPS fisheries until the ACL is reached.

The specifications accommodate the EFP apportionment of 520 mt.

Rebecca Lent/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 10 carried, Ms. Brady abstained)

Motion 11: Council:

1. Approve the Pacific Mackerel catch-only projection for U.S. management in 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 ([April 2025, Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1](#)).
2. Adopt Tables 1 and 2 in [Supplemental CPSMT Report 1 \(April 2025, Agenda Item G.4.a\)](#).

3. If the ACT is met, adopt a 45 percent incidental landing allowance when Pacific Mackerel are landed with other CPS, or up to 3 mt of Pacific Mackerel per landing could be landed in non-CPS fisheries.

Brana Brady/Corey Niles (Motion 11 carried unanimously)

Motion 12: Council to

1. Adopt the list of Science and Management topics described in [G.5, Attachment 1](#) as modified by [Supplemental SSC Report 1](#).
2. Prioritize the above list for possible Council action:
 1. Pacific sardine stock structure
 2. Stock Assessment Frequency
 3. Managing Annual Opportunity

Corey Ridings/Rebecca Lent (Motion 12 carried unanimously)

Motion 13: Council adopt the following guidance statement for its Flexible and Adaptive Management project:

- Develop an action plan for exploring and implementing the general tools for increasing flexibility and adaptive management identified in [Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental Attachment 1](#), as well as other tools, in all of the Council's FMPs.
 - o The focus should be on increasing the Council's ability to quickly respond to environmental changes and unexpected and unintended events.
 - o Include exploration of ways to improve timeliness of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent data streams, and including local and tribal knowledge.
 - o Prioritize the Groundfish FMP for this evaluation.
- For any tools developed prior to completing this report (for example, the Groundfish Harvest Specifications Flexibility Action), consider benefits across other PFMC FMPs and concurrently amend those FMPs, if appropriate.

Aja Szumylo/Christa Svensson (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Motion 14: Council appoint Katie Davis to one of the National Marine Fisheries Service positions on the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team.

Ryan Wulff/Lynn Mattes (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Motion 15: Council adopt for submission to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce the non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon management measures for the area north of Cape Falcon as presented in [Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated April 15, 2025](#), with the following modifications:

TABLE 1

North of Falcon commercial troll management measures on page 1

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon (summer season)

- For subareas north of Leadbetter Point, change the season end date to September 15

TABLE 2

North of Falcon recreational management measures on page 7

U.S./Canada Border to Leadbetter Point (Neah Bay, La Push and Westport subareas)

- Change season end dates to September 15

Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon (Columbia River Subarea)

- Add, “Prior to June 25, possession of salmon on board a vessel is prohibited on days when the subarea is closed to salmon retention.”

Kyle Adicks/Butch Smith (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council adopt for submission to the U.S Secretary of Commerce, the non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon management measures for the area from Cape Falcon, Oregon to the Oregon/California border as described in [Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated April 15, 2025](#), including all season descriptions, minimum sizes, and requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions.

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 16 carried; Dr. Lent, Ms. Yaremko, Mr. Gorelnik and Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 17: Council adopt for submission to the U.S Secretary of Commerce, the 2025 non-Indian commercial and recreational salmon management measures for the area from the Oregon/California border to the U.S./Mexico border as presented in [Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, dated April 15, 2025](#), including all season descriptions, minimum sizes, requirements, definitions, restrictions, and exceptions.

Marci Yaremko/Marc Gorelnik (Motion 17 carried, Ms. Ridings voting no)

Motion 18: Council to adopt the Treaty Indian Troll fishery management measures for submission to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for the area north of Cape Falcon as shown in [Agenda Item D.8.a, Supplemental STT Report 1, Table 3 \(April 15, 2025\)](#) and the following edit:

July 1 through the earlier of a date in September, to be established in tribal regulations, or 22,500 Chinook quota or 37,500 coho quota are taken.

David Sones/Kyle Adicks (Motion 18 carried unanimously)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 12:42 p.m.

Brad Pettinger
Council Chair

Date