

COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
283rdSession of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council
September 17-24, 2025
Doubletree by Hilton Spokane City Center
322 North Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99201

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

Mr. Pete Hassemer, Council Chair, called the 283rd meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to order at 9:10 a.m. on September 21, 2025. A closed session was held before this open session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

2. New Council Member Appointments – Jennifer Quan

Ms. Jaime Diamond was given the oath of office by Ms. Jennifer Quan.

3. 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 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, Vice Chair
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 Mr. John Ugoretz, designee Ms. Caroline McKnight, designee
California Obligatory:	Ms. Corey Ridings
Idaho State Official:	Ms. Sharon Keifer, designee
Idaho Obligatory:	Mr. Pete Hassemer Chair
Tribal Official:	Mr. David Sones
At-Large:	Ms. Jaime Diamond Dr. Rebecca Lent Mr. Brad Pettinger Ms. Aja Szumylo
U.S. Coast Guard:	Mr. Chris German, nonvoting designee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:	Dr. Kyle Hanson, nonvoting designee Dr. Benjamin Cross, nonvoting designee
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:	Mr. Chris Oliver, Parliamentarian, nonvoting designee

Absent from the Meeting:

U.S. State Department:

Mr. Colin Brinkman, nonvoting designee

4. Agenda – Pete Hassemer

a. Council Action: Approve Agenda

Motion 1: Adopt [Agenda Item A.4, September 17-24, 2025, Council Meeting Agenda](#).

Sharon Kiefer/David Sones (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 1: (Reconsidered): Amend Agenda Item A.4 to add an agenda item to consider an emergency rule to update the 2026 harvest specifications and management measures for canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole. This new agenda item would be considered under Agenda Item G.7 Groundfish Inseason.

Aja Szumylo/Brad Pettinger (Motion 1, as reconsidered, carried unanimously)

5. Executive Director’s Report – Merrick Burden

B. Open Comment Period

1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items – Merrick Burden

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate

Motion 2: Council reconsider the adoption of Agenda Item A.4 September 2025 Council Meeting Agenda.

Aja Szumylo/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

C. Habitat Issues

1. Current Habitat Issues – Kerry Griffin

a. Report of the Habitat Committee

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 received a briefing on several current habitat issues (C.1.a, Supplemental [HC Report 1](#)) including the status of the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement (RCBA), the California Central Valley Project (CVP), and the Port of Coos Bay Pacific Coast Intermodal Port Project (PCIP). The Council expressed concerns about the cancellation of the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement (RCBA) as well as apparent changes in long-term operations of the CVP. The Council requested that the Habitat Committee (HC) continue to monitor the issue and provide updates on the RCBA when appropriate and tasked the HC with providing a status update on California water issues, including potential changes to the CVP long-term operations

plan. The Council also directed the HC to track the PCIP and be prepared to develop a comment letter on the Notice of Intent, anticipated for issuance in December 2025.

The Council also received a report from Dr. Lisa Wooninck (Superintendent, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary) on ONMS responses to Council questions from the ONMS annual coordination report in April 2025 (C.1.b, Supplemental [ONMS Report 1](#)). The Council expressed appreciation to ONMS for their efforts to follow up on important issues of mutual interest.

D. Highly Migratory Species Management

1. National Marine Fisheries Service Report – Kerry Griffin

- a. Regulatory Activities – Ryan Wulff**
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies**
- c. Public Comment**
- d. Council Action: Council Discussion and Guidance, 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 at Upcoming Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate**

Staff Summary: The Council received updates on recent and upcoming meetings described in Agenda Item D.2.a, [NMFS Report 1](#) and Supplemental [NMFS Report 2](#). Several ongoing Highly Migratory Species international management issues remain unresolved, including the Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBF) long-term harvest strategy harvest control rule, as well as delayed engagement in discussions that ultimately led to stalled negotiations under the U.S. – Canada Albacore Treaty. The Council also recommended NMFS engage in additional conversations with fishery stakeholders in the North Pacific Albacore fishery on ongoing efforts to translate fishing intensity into catch or effort controls, as that will be a topic of discussion next summer at both the Northern Committee and Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

Christa Svensson briefed the Council on the upcoming Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Permanent Advisory Committee meeting and noted there was an opportunity for the Council to submit recommendations for inclusion in Permanent Advisory Committee meeting materials for the October 6 – 8 meeting. The Council endorsed submitting a brief cover letter and attaching the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel reports from [June](#) and [September](#) 2025.

The Council expressed a strong desire for the Joint Working Group to convene an intersessional meeting to pursue agreement on a PBF harvest control rule, in advance of next summer's Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission meeting where PBF catch limits beyond 2026 will be considered.

E. Pacific Halibut Management

1. 2026 Commercial and Recreational Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations – Preliminary – Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt 2026 Commercial and Recreational Preliminary Catch Sharing Plan and Regulation Changes for Public Review

Motion 3: Council adopt for public review, status quo directed commercial fisheries season structure and the proposals in the WDFW and ODFW reports.

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 3 carried unanimously)

Motion 4: Council forward for public review a proposed change to the Catch Sharing Plan for the California recreational fishery that would establish the start date in each California subarea as April 1 of each year.

Marci Yaremko/Jaime Diamond (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted, for public review, proposed changes to the 2026 Pacific Halibut Commercial and Recreational Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and annual regulations change. The adopted proposals are consistent with those found in the reports from the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife \(WDFW\)](#) and the [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife \(ODFW\)](#), along with an additional recommendation made by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

WDFW proposed changes for only the South Coast and Columbia River recreational subareas. No changes from *status quo* were proposed for the Puget Sound and North Coast.

Washington South Coast recreational subarea:

Option 1: Analyze a 2A fishery constant exploitable yield (FCEY) threshold, starting with 1.4 million pounds. If the 2A FCEY is above that threshold, in May and June, open up to four days per week (Sun/Tue/Th/Fri). If the 2A FCEY is below that threshold, in May and June, open up to three days per week but different days than the three days open under *status quo* (open Th/Fri/Sun instead of Th/Sun/Tu).

In addition, under Option 1 WDFW proposed revisions to the South Coast subarea management objective and to the description of the season structure to reflect that, when applying *status quo* measures, there would be nine open days in June (rather than eight, as currently written).

Columbia River recreational subarea:

WDFW and ODFW both had proposals related to the Columbia River recreational subarea, which is jointly managed by the two states. Both states were supportive of the other’s proposals.

WDFW proposed maintaining the *status quo* season structure, except that the CSP language be revised to clarify how the decision on the additional dates for the month of June would be made, including whether the amount of quota remaining should be the only factor considered when making this decision.

ODFW proposed two options for the nearshore fishery:

- Option 1: Open the nearshore fishery seven days per week (beginning May 1), superseded by the all-depth fishery when both are open, *or*
- Option 2: Remove the nearshore fishery and allocate the 500 pounds assigned to the nearshore fishery to the Columbia River subarea all-depth fishery.

In addition to the Columbia River subarea, ODFW proposed changes from *status quo* for the Central Oregon Coast subarea, but no changes to the Southern Oregon subarea.

Central Oregon Coast recreational subarea:

Option 1: Allocate 75 percent of the subarea sub-quota to the spring all-depth fishery, regardless of the Area 2A FCEY, *and*

- Option 2: If the Area 2A FCEY is 700,000 pounds or greater, allocate 10,000 pounds to the nearshore fishery with the remaining subarea sub-quota allocated to the summer all-depth fishery, *or*
- Option 3: If the Area 2A FCEY is less than 700,000 pounds, allocate the remaining 25 percent of the sub-quota to the nearshore fishery.

(Option 1 would be combined with Option 2 or Option 3, depending on the 2A FCEY.)

In addition, the Council adopted ODFW’s proposal to build flexibility into the start date of the fishery, for public review:

That the nearshore season opens May 1, seven days per week, only in waters shoreward of the 40-fathom (73 meter) regulatory line, unless the Area 2A FCEY is less than 1.2M pounds, then it may be postponed and open on June 1.

All California recreational subareas:

Change the start date for all California recreational subareas to April 1. Under *status quo*, the recreational fishery in all California subareas start on May 1.

Commercial-Directed Fishing Regulations for 2026

The Council adopted, for public review, the *status quo* season structure for 2026, as described in [Section 5.6.4](#) of the current CSP.

The Council will adopt final changes to the 2026 Pacific halibut CSP and annual fishery regulations at their November 2025 meeting.

F. Salmon Management

1. Methodology Review—Final Topic Selection – Angela Forristall

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Identify Topics for Review in 2025

Motion 5: Council to advance the following methodology review topics for final topic selection:

1. The Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast methodology, including the index exponential-decay-weighting approach adopted for use in 2025 (ODFW/WDFW) as described in Agenda Item F.1, Situation Summary; and,
2. Proposed changes to the Oregon Coast Natural coho marine survival index (ODFW) as described in Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, ODFW letter to Chair Hassemer.

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Methodology review topics 1 and 2 in SSC Report 1 are moved forward for review at the October 2025 Salmon Methodology review.

Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Motion 6 failed, Ms. Ridings and Dr. Lent voted yes, Ms. Keifer abstained)

Staff Summary: The Council selected two topics for the 2025 Salmon Methodology Review Meeting, [scheduled to occur online on October 9, 2025](#):

1. The Oregon Production Index Hatchery forecast methodology, including the index exponential-decay-weighting approach adopted for use in 2025 (with Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW & WDFW) as the responsible agencies); and
2. Changes to the Oregon Coast Natural coho marine survival index (with ODFW as the responsible agency).

Topic 1 was [preliminarily selected by the Council](#) at the April 2025 Council meeting. At its April meeting, the Council also preliminarily selected two topics proposed by the Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup, but in September did not move them forward as final topics. Instead, it expressed interest in revisiting the proposals as part of a comprehensive review to update Sacramento River fall Chinook management through the Fishery Management Plan amendment process.

Topic 2 was an additional item requested at this September meeting by ODFW in a [letter submitted to the Council](#).

The results of the Salmon Methodology Review will be presented by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and Salmon Technical Team at the November 2025 Council meeting.

G. 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. Phase 2 Stock Definitions — Final Action – Katrina Bernaus, Todd Phillips

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

Motion 10: Council adopt as the Final Preferred Alternative (FPA), Alternative 1, identifying the following species as in need of conservation and management in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and should remain in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP):

Species	Opt. 1 stock	1	Opt. 2 2 stocks	Opt. 3 3 stocks	Proposed Delineations	Stock
Black rockfish (WA)	X				WA only	
Rosethorn rockfish	X				Coastwide	
Quillback rockfish (WA)	X				WA only	
Stripetail rockfish	X				Coastwide	

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 10 carried unanimously)

Motion 11: Council adopt as FPA, Alternative 2, identifying the following species as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ, and should be removed from the Groundfish FMP:

Black and yellow rockfish	China rockfish (CA only)	Harlequin rockfish	Olive rockfish
Black rockfish (CA only)	Copper rockfish (CA only)	Honeycomb rockfish	Pink rockfish
Blue rockfish (CA only)	Dwarf-red rockfish	Kelp greenling (OR & CA)	Pinkrose rockfish
Brown rockfish	Freckled rockfish	Kelp rockfish	Pygmy rockfish
Cabezon (OR & CA)	Gopher rockfish	Leopard shark	Quillback rockfish (CA only)
Calico rockfish	Grass rockfish	Light dusky rockfish	Swordspine rockfish
Chameleon rockfish	Halfbanded rockfish		Treefish

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 11 carried, Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 12: Council adopt as FPA Alternative 3, identifying the below species as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ but should remain in the FMP designated as Ecosystem Component (EC) species:

Rockfish Species	Flatfish Species
Bronzespotted rockfish	Butter sole
Flag rockfish	Curlfin sole
Greenblotched rockfish	Rock sole
Mexican rockfish	Sand sole
Rosy rockfish	Starry flounder
Speckled rockfish	
Tiger rockfish	

Guidance on Ecosystem Component Species Checkpoint for Re-evaluation

The Council requests Council staff and the Groundfish Management Team work to develop a checkpoint for mortality of ecosystem component species to prompt re-evaluation of the stock being an EC species, in time for the November 2026 meeting, when the next groundfish mortality report will be available.

Checkpoints could be based on:

- Exceeding recent mortality by a certain percentage
- the last year of ACL or ACL contribution for a species, if available, see [Tables 11-17 in Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1](#) for examples
- a percentage increase of mortality from one year to the next
- Analysis similar to what was done in [E.6.a, GMT Report 1 from June 2025](#)
- or other(s)

This list is not intended to be inclusive, but a starting point of ideas.

Lynn Mattes/Sharon Kiefer

Amendment 1: Strike “Bronzespotted rockfish, Flag rockfish, Greenspotted rockfish, Rosy rockfish and Speckled rockfish” from the list.

Corey Ridings/Heather Hall (Amendment 1 failed, Ms. Ridings voted yes)
 Motion 12 carried, Ms. Ridings voted no

Motion 13: Council adopt language in the FMP as shown [Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 2, September 2025](#), requesting Staff make any modifications necessary to comport to the Council's FPA.

Lynn Mattes/Brad Pettinger (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council considered adopting a Final Preferred Alternative for 42 species in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), identifying whether the species and their stocks are in need of conservation and management in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and if so, the appropriate stock definitions to include in the FMP. The decisions made at this meeting are in addition to previous Council action taken in June to define groundfish stocks in need of conservation and management in the EEZ.

The following stocks of species in Table 1 were identified as in need of conservation and management in the EEZ and were adopted under Alternative 1 – to be retained in the FMP. Stocks of black rockfish and quillback rockfish were already defined via Amendment 31 (A31). Only the stocks delineated off Washington were adopted under Alternative 1 for these species. Stocks of rosethorn and stripetail rockfishes were adopted under stock definition Option 1 – one coastwide stock.

Table 1. Species and their stock delineation as adopted under Alternative 1. *Stocks of black rockfish and quillback rockfish were already defined via A31.

Species	Stock Delineations
Black rockfish (WA)	WA only*
Rosethorn rockfish	Coastwide
Quillback rockfish (WA)	WA only*
Stripetail rockfish	Coastwide

The following species and stocks of species in Table 2 were identified as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ and adopted under Alternative 2 – to be removed from the FMP. For certain species, including black rockfish, copper rockfish, and quillback rockfish, only select stocks of those species (already defined via A31) were adopted under this Alternative.

For certain species, including blue rockfish, cabezon, China rockfish, and kelp greenling, stocks have not yet been defined for these species, but based on preliminary determinations of stock delineation, have been adopted under Alternative 2 in select areas.

Table 2. Species adopted under Alternative 2, where species are removed from the FMP, and area of removal.

Species	Area Removed From FMP
Black and yellow rockfish	Coastwide
Black rockfish	California-only
Blue rockfish	California-only
Brown rockfish	Coastwide
Cabezon	Oregon and California
Calico rockfish	Coastwide
Chameleon rockfish	Coastwide
China rockfish	California-only
Copper rockfish	California-only
Dwarf-red rockfish	Coastwide
Freckled rockfish	Coastwide

Species	Area Removed From FMP
Gopher rockfish	Coastwide
Grass rockfish	Coastwide
Halfbanded rockfish	Coastwide
Harlequin rockfish	Coastwide
Honeycomb rockfish	Coastwide
Kelp greenling	Oregon and California
Kelp rockfish	Coastwide
Leopard shark	Coastwide
Light dusky rockfish	Coastwide
Olive rockfish	Coastwide
Pink rockfish	Coastwide
Pinkrose rockfish	Coastwide
Pygmy rockfish	Coastwide

Species	Area Removed From FMP
Quillback rockfish	California-only
Swordspine rockfish	Coastwide
Treefish	Coastwide

The following species in Table 3 were identified as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ and adopted under Alternative 3 – to be designated as ecosystem component (EC) species in Table 3-1 of the FMP.

Table 3. Species adopted under Alternative 3, designating them as ecosystem component species in the FMP.

Rockfish Species	Flatfish Species
Bronzespotted rockfish	Butter sole
Flag rockfish	Curlfin sole
Greenblotched rockfish	Rock sole
Mexican rockfish	Sand sole
Rosy rockfish	Starry flounder
Speckled rockfish	
Tiger rockfish	

The Council also provided guidance related to future monitoring and evaluation of EC species. They requested that Council staff and the Groundfish Management Team develop a checkpoint to prompt re-evaluation of all EC species, including those that were designated under this action.

For a select group of nearshore species, the Council was not able to come to a Final Preferred Alternative decision for all stocks of these species. The Council intends to return to the Phase 2 action on these species/stocks at a future meeting.

Table 4. Species and specific areas to be considered at a later date. *Stocks of black, copper, and quillback rockfishes have already been defined via A31.

Species	Area(s)
Black rockfish	Oregon*
Blue and deacon rockfishes	State-specific preliminary stocks – Oregon and Washington
Cabezon	Washington
China rockfish	State-specific preliminary stocks – Oregon and Washington
Copper rockfish	Oregon/ Washington combined stock*
Kelp greenling	Washington
Quillback rockfish	Oregon*

3. Adopt Stock Assessments – Marlene Bellman

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Stock Assessments

Motion 7: Council adopt the following stock assessments, stock categories, and sigmas for use in 2027 and beyond (provided in the Council’s September 2025 Briefing Book, Agenda Item G.3) as recommended by the SSC:

Benchmark Assessments

Species	Stock	Category	Sigma
Yellowtail rockfish	North of 40° 10’ N lat.	1b	0.50
Chilipepper rockfish	Coastwide	1b	0.50
Quillback rockfish	CA only	1b	0.75
Sablefish	Coastwide	1	0.50
Rougheye/ Blackspotted rockfish	Coastwide	2	1.0

Update Assessment

Species	Stock	Category	Sigma
Yelloweye rockfish	Coastwide	1	0.5

Catch Only Projections

Species	Stock
Petrale sole	Coastwide
Canary rockfish	Coastwide
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide

And recommends widow rockfish go to a supplemental review in October to be brought back for the November 2025 council meeting, as recommended by the SSC and GAP;

And request that catch projections for black rockfish off Oregon and for bocaccio be provided using the original time-varying sigma, rather than the modified time-varying sigma described in [Agenda Item G.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 2, September 2025](#), for consideration at the November 2025 Council meeting.

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted several stock assessments for use in the next management biennium. This adoption also includes levels of scientific uncertainty (denoted as “sigma”) associated with these assessments for use in establishing buffers according to the Council’s risk policy.

Full Assessments

Yellowtail rockfish (North of 40° 10’ N. Latitude) – Category 1b, default Sigma = 0.5

Chilipepper rockfish (Coastwide) – Category 1b, default Sigma = 0.5

Quillback rockfish (California) – Category 1b, Sigma = 0.75

Sablefish (Coastwide) – Category 1, default Sigma = 0.5

Rougheye/Blackspotted rockfish (Coastwide) – Category 2, default Sigma = 1

Update Assessment

Yelloweye rockfish (Coastwide) – Category 1, default Sigma = 0.5

Catch-Only Projections

Petrale sole
Canary rockfish
Shortspine thornyhead
Darkblotched rockfish

The Council delayed adoption of an update assessment of widow rockfish and requested further review of this assessment as recommended by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and further outlined by the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee ([September 2025 Briefing Book: SSC GFSC Groundfish Stock Assessment Report 2](#)).

The Groundfish Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee is scheduled to conduct a [Supplemental Review](#) meeting October 14-16, in Seattle, WA to review any additional analyses for the 2025 widow update assessment. The Groundfish Subcommittee will provide their recommendations to the SSC for Council consideration at their November 2025 meeting, when the Council is again scheduled to adopt stock assessments.

The Council also delayed adopting catch-only projections conducted in 2025 for black rockfish off Oregon and bocaccio, as harvest specifications were calculated per SSC recommendation with an updated time-varying buffer approach when natural mortality is high, for which the Council desired further discussion prior to adoption. The Council requested the two catch-only projections be provided for the November 2025 Council meeting utilizing the standard buffers for harvest specifications.

4. Stock Assessment Methodology Topic Selection – Final Topics – Marlene Bellman

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Topics for Review

Motion 8: Council adopt the methodology review topic recommended by the SSC under this agenda item, G.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1.

Corey Niles/Lynn Mattes (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted a single topic for groundfish stock assessment methodology review in 2026. The proposal adopted from the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center aims to review commercial fishery-dependent index standardization and best practices for potential use in stock assessments ([Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental NWFSC Report 1](#)). The approach aims to generate more reliable abundance indices by correcting for non-random fishing behavior, reducing bias, and improving stock assessments for species poorly represented in traditional surveys.

5. Trawl Catch Share Program Review — Preliminary – Jessi Waller

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Provide Feedback on the Draft Review, as Appropriate

Staff Summary: The Council received a presentation on the preliminary draft of the trawl catch share program review and provided guidance to consider the recommendations provided in [Agenda Item G.5.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#) and [Agenda Item G.5.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#). The Council is anticipated to consider the review for final adoption, including a diagnosis of why the program is not meeting its goals and objectives, in November 2025.

6. Initial Harvest Specifications and Management Measures Actions for 2027-28 – Todd Phillips, Marlene Bellman

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Overfishing Limits, a Range of P*/Acceptable Biological Catches, and Annual Catch Limits for Stocks that may Depart from Default Harvest Control Rules; Adopt a Preliminary List of Potential Management Measures Necessary to Implement Harvest Specifications to be Included in the 2027-28 Regulation Process

Motion 14: Council conditionally adopt:

- the 2027-2028 OFLs, stock categories, and P* values presented in [Agenda Item G.6, Supplemental Attachment 1](#), and Table 2 in [Agenda Item G.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#), and the updates from [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#), except for chilipepper, bocaccio, and black rockfish off Oregon
 - o For those three species request OFLs be calculated using the original time-varying sigma and brought back for the November 2025 meeting.
- default harvest control rules for the species in the following table:

Stocks that were assessed in 2025, including catch-only projections, and using the default Harvest Control Rules (HCRs)

Stock	Assessment Type	Default HCR
Quillback rockfish off California	Full	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45
Sablefish		
Petrale sole	Catch-only projection	
Darkblotched rockfish		

- In addition, request projections associated with the alternative harvest control rules presented below as recommended by the GMT (Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, September 2025) and GAP ([Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September](#)

2025), prior to the November council meeting to further inform adoption of a range of alternative harvest control rules at that time.

Range of 2027-28 alternative HCRs

Stock	Default HCR	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Ad hoc phase-in	
Chilipepper rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ACL = 2,114 mt	
Rougheye/ blackspotted rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ACL = 519 mt	Constant ACL = 300 mt
Yelloweye rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.40 (SPR = 0.50)	Constant ACL = 85 mt	
Canary rockfish	ABC > ACL, P* 0.45 (40-10 rule)	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45, no 40-10 adjustment	
Shortspine thornyhead	ABC > ACL, P* 0.45 (40-10 rule)	Constant ABC = ACL 902 mt	
Petrале sole	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ABC = ACL 2,489 mt if e-rule, 2,501 mt if no e-rule	

- Widow rockfish is not included in this motion as a stock assessment has not yet been approved and adopted, that information is anticipated to be available in November 2025

The Council will confirm, or update, the values associated with these control rules after receiving results of the SSC’s review of all values in November 2025. Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Motion 15: Council adopt for public review the Preliminary Range of Management Measures identified in G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025, and as outlined in Table 4 from Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, September 2025. Caroline McKnight/Corey Ridings (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council adopted 2027-28 OFLs, stock categories, and P* values as presented in [Agenda Item G.6, Supplemental Attachment 1](#), and Table 2 (quillback rockfish off California) in [Agenda Item G.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#), and the updates from [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#), except for chilipepper, bocaccio, and black rockfish off Oregon. For these species, the Council requested the OFLs be calculated using the original time-varying sigma and brought back for the November 2025 meeting.

The Council adopted default harvest control rules (HCR) for quillback rockfish off of California, sablefish, petrale sole, and darkblotched rockfish, which represent stocks assessed in 2025 or with updated harvest projections.

The Council adopted the alternative HCRs for the eight stocks as described in Table 1 below (as detailed in [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3](#) and [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)):

Table 1. Stocks with alternative harvest control rules

Stock	Alternative 1: Default HCR	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Ad hoc phase-in	–
Chilipepper rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ACL = 2,114 mt	–
Rougheye/ blackspotted rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ACL = 519 mt	Constant ACL = 300 mt
Yelloweye rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.40 (SPR = 0.50)	Constant ACL = 85 mt	–
Canary rockfish	ABC > ACL, P* 0.45 (40-10 rule)	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45, no 40-10 adjustment	–
Shortspine thornyhead	ABC > ACL, P* 0.45 (40-10 rule)	Constant ABC = ACL 902 mt	–
Petrale sole	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ABC = ACL 2,489 mt	–

The Council adopted, for public review, the preliminary range of management measures identified in [G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025](#), and as outlined in Table 4 from [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, September 2025](#). Table 2 below summarizes those measures detailed in the reports. The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) will scope these and other management measures, as appropriate, at their [October 2025](#) meeting for Council consideration at the November 2025 meeting.

Table 2. Non-exhaustive list of potential 2027-28 routine management measures adjustments to be investigated by the GMT at their October 2025 meeting

Management Measures	Sector(s)	Description
Rockfish Conservation Area Modifications	All	Waypoint modifications, as needed
Off-the-top deductions	Research, and IOA	Consider converting default approach from recent 10-year maximum to recent 10-year average for some or all stocks
Two Year Allocations	Trawl/ Non-Trawl	Review biennial allocations as appropriate
Rebuilding Species Allocations	All	Review any rebuilding species allocations
Within trawl Set-aside	At-sea whiting	Review At-sea whiting 2027-2028 set-asides.
Within non-trawl HGs, ACTs, or Shares	LEFG/OA/ Recreational	Review 2 year non-trawl HGs or shares adjustments including, canary rockfish,
Commercial Trip Limit Adjustments	OA and LEFG	Adjusting trip limits as appropriate. Sablefish trip limit adjustments to accommodate new ACLs Cowcod trip limits off of CA (Agenda Item G.6.a, GMT Report 2, September 2025) Stock complex species-specific trip limits (Agenda Item G.6.a, GMT Report 2, September 2025)

Management Measures	Sector(s)	Description
Recreational Trip Limit Adjustments	OR, WA, CA Recreational	Adjustments to bag limits as appropriate. Explore All Depth fishing off California Cowcod bag limit off California Lingcod retention off Leadbetter Point in the YRCA

7. Inseason Adjustments – Final Action – Todd Phillips

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2025, Consider 2026 Harvest Specifications

Motion 16: Council adopt the following inseason actions, as recommended by the GAP (Agenda G.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1) and GMT (Agenda G.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1):

Primary Sablefish Tier Fishery: Increase the incidental Pacific halibut landing limit from 75 pounds to 100 pounds of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional halibut.

California Recreational: Modify bag limits to establish a two-fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish off California.

Marci Yaremko/Jaime Diamond (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council recommended two inseason adjustments. The first recommendation is to increase the incidental Pacific halibut landing limit from 75 pounds to 100 pounds of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional halibut. The second recommendation is to modify bag limits of the coast of California to establish a two-fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish. The Council adopted the recommendations based on the statements from the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) ([Agenda G.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025](#)) and GMT ([Agenda G.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1, September 2025](#)).

8. Emergency Action: Revised 2026 Specifications and Measures for Canary Rockfish, Shortspine Thornyhead, and Petrale sole – Final Action– Jessi Waller

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Revised 2026 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for Canary Rockfish, Shortspine Thornyhead, and Petrale Sole, as appropriate.

Motion 17: Council request that NOAA Fisheries initiate an Emergency Rule to implement the revised catch limits for canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole, with proportional increases for all fishing sectors, detailed in Tables 1-3 in Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1.

The Council recommends implementing this rule as soon as possible to allow for planning for the 2026 fishing year.

Aja Szumylo/Heather Hall (Motion 17 carried, Ms. Kent voted no)

Staff Summary: The Council recommended that NMFS implement an emergency rule to increase the 2026 harvest specifications and management measures for canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole. These specifications were endorsed by the SSC for use in management.

The table below shows the recommended harvest specifications (mt) based on the 2025 catch only projections endorsed by the SSC ([Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)) and recommended by the GAP ([Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)) and GMT ([Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)). The Council also recommended that the increases in annual catch limit (ACL) be issued proportionately to all sectors, excluding research and incidental open access, as described in [Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#).

Petracle Sole

	Current (2026)	Council Recommendation
OFL	2,424	2,676
ABC	2,255	2,489
ACL	2,238	2,489
EFP/Research/IOA	28.5	28.5
Tribal	290	322.5

Fishery HG	1,919.5	2,138.0
Trawl Allocation	1,889.5	2,104.6
At-Sea Set Aside	5	5.6
IFQ Allocation	1,884.5	2,099.0
IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs)	186,957	208,242
Non-Trawl Allocation	30	33.4

Canary Rockfish

	Current (2026)	Council Recommendation
OFL	655	673
ABC	609	626
ACL	573	626
EFP/Research/IOA	12.9	12.9
Tribal	50	54.7
Fishery HG	509.6	558.4

Trawl %	72.3%	72.3%
Trawl Allocation	368.4	403.7
At-Sea Set Aside	20.0	21.9
IFQ	348.4	381.8
IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs)	76,818	84,178
Non-Trawl %	27.7%	27.7%
Non-Trawl Allocation	141.2	154.7
WA Recreational	17.4	19.0
OR Recreational	26.1	28.6
CA Recreational	46.9	51.4
Commercial	50.8	55.7

Shortspine Thornyhead

	Current (2026)	Council Recommendation
OFL	961	970

ABC	831	902
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	825	897
EFP/Research/IOA	22	22
Tribal	50	54.4
Fishery Harvest Guideline (HG)	752.8	820.6
Trawl %	71%	71%
Trawl Allocation	534.5	582.6
At-Sea Set Aside	70	76.3
IFQ Allocation	464.5	506.3
IFQ Annual Vessel Limit (lbs)	92,158	100,464
Non-Trawl %	29%	29%
Non-Trawl Allocation	218.3	238.0

H. Cross Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

1. Adaptive Management and Flexibility — Scoping – Gilly Lyons

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Scope of Action, Provide Guidance on Next Steps

Motion 9: Council:

- Adopt the following problem statement:
 - Because management decisions in the Council process often unfold over years, Council actions can lag behind changes in the marine environment related to climate change and other unexpected events (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics).
 - We need to improve Council processes and operating procedures to support timely responses to rapidly changing conditions.
- Direct Council staff, within the timeline of the funding for this project, to develop execution plans for:
 - “If-then” management actions for FMPs where they make sense to allow for action to happen outside of a Council meeting;
 - EFP process improvements for all FMPs, using lesson from the FIW, and including pathways to efficiently move tested EFPs into regulation;
 - Improved Processes for Data Streams and Integration of Local and Indigenous Knowledge.

Aja Szumylo/Corey Ridings

Amendment 1: add the underlined to the above motion:

Council:

- Adopt the following problem statement:
 - Because management decisions in the Council process often unfold over years, Council actions can lag behind changes in the marine environment related to climate change and other unexpected events (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics) and keep pace with the science that underpins management decisions.
 - We need to improve Council processes and operating procedures to support timely responses to rapidly changing conditions.
- Direct Council staff, within the timeline of the funding for this project, to develop execution plans for:
 - “If-then” and in-season management actions for FMPs where they make sense to allow for action to happen outside of a Council meeting;
 - EFP process improvements for all FMPs, using lesson from the FIW, and including pathways to efficiently move tested EFPs into regulation;
 - Improved Processes for Data Streams and Integration of Local and Indigenous Knowledge.

Marci Yaremko/Pete Hassemer (Amendment 1 carried unanimously)

Motion 9, as amended, carried unanimously

Staff Summary: The Council adopted a problem statement and provided guidance to staff on a scope of work for Council Special Project 1, Adaptive Management and Flexibility. The project’s problem statement reads:

Because management decisions in the Council process often unfold over years, Council actions can lag behind changes in the marine environment related to climate change and other unexpected

events (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics) and [may not] keep pace with the science that underpins management decisions. We need to improve Council processes and operating procedures to support timely responses to rapidly changing conditions.

The Council identified the following priority actions to advance under this project: (1) “If-then” statements and in-season management actions for FMPs as appropriate, with a focus on allowing action to be taken outside of a Council meeting; (2) Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) process improvements for all FMPs, using lessons learned from the work of the Council’s Ad Hoc Fisheries Innovation Workgroup, and including pathways to efficiently move tested EFPs into regulation; and (3) processes for improving the timeliness of data streams and the integration of Local and Indigenous Knowledge into Council decision-making. The Council also requested that the Executive Director explore and identify other opportunities outlined in [H.1, Attachment 1](#) to increase procedural efficiencies as part of ongoing work under other initiatives, as appropriate.

2. Council Response to Executive Orders and Administration Updates – Kelly Ames

a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

b. Public Comment

c. Council Action: Adopt Final Priorities for Executive Order 14276, Provide Other Guidance, as Appropriate

Motion 18: Council update the draft letter found in Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 4 to include the specific strikeout and underline recommendations found in the Habitat Committee report (Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental HC Report 1) along with the wording suggestions and items for removal found in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel report (Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1) and to submit the letter along with the matrix found in Agenda H.2, Attachment 5 in response to Executive Order 14276.

John Ugoretz/Corey Ridings (Motion 18 carried, Mr. Wulff abstained)

Motion 19: I move the Council task the Executive Director and staff to finalize H.2.a, Council Member Report 1, with the following changes (in yellow) reflective of advisory body reports and public comment as follows:

- Cc; Mr. Soler
- Expand fisheries data collection
 - Fund ecosystem data collection to understand impacts of the changing environment on target stocks, forage species, and protected species
 - Fund long-term, novel and innovative data collection to support robust fisheries stock assessments, analysis, and methods to incorporate into future stock assessment (example: eDNA)
 - Provide funding pathways for commercial and recreational fishing community to collect data of opportunity or other data that could support fisheries management
 - Create better pathways for commercial, recreational, Indigenous and traditional fishing community knowledge and experiences to be incorporated into stock assessments and management

- Fund National SeaGrant College Programming that supports domestic fishing, ports, and coastal communities
- Support domestic infrastructure and modernization
 - Expand and update port infrastructure (e.g., ice houses, funding for port/harbor dredging, dock maintenance, fuel dock improvement/expansion)
 - Seafood processing infrastructure (including incentivizing cold storage facilities near coastal fishing ports, through the Port Infrastructure Development Program and the Water Resources Development Act)
 - Support expansion of public markets that increase access to American seafood
 - Design coastal and marine spatial planning that supports and includes U.S. fishermen and processors
- Design Market/industry support mechanisms
 - Expand USDA programs for food producers/farms to fishermen and processors, such as grants, insurance and access to capital
 - Stronger NOAA Fisheries marketing of primacy of U.S. fisheries management, and how that contributes to a sustainable, superior product
 - U.S. seafood commodity marketing support at levels commensurate with the agricultural sector (similar organizations to Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers)
 - Support/expand/expedite funding for fisheries disaster declarations
 - Develop/expand educational efforts dedicated to the nutritional value of seafood and the health benefits of its consumption

Jaime Diamond/Corey Ridings

Amendment 1: add underlined section to “Expand fisheries data collection” topic:

- Expand fisheries data collection
 - Fund ecosystem data collection to understand impacts of the changing environment on target stocks, forage species, and protected species

Corey Ridings/Jaime Diamond (Amendment 1 carried; Mr. Ugoretz voted no, Mr. Wulff, Ms. Kiefer and Ms. Mattes abstained)

Motion 19, as amended, carried (Mr. Ugoretz voted no, Mr. Wulff, Ms. Kiefer, and Ms. Mattes abstained)

Motion 20: Council submit the Council member letter to the Seafood competitiveness Executive Order Federal Register Notice Supplemental Attachment 6.

Aja Szumylo/Rebecca Lent (Motion 20 failed; Mr. Ugoretz, Mr. Pettinger, Ms. Diamond, Ms. Svensson, Mr. Sones and Ms. Keifer voted no, Mr. Wulff and Ms. Mattes abstained)

Staff Summary: The Council identified four priority actions in response to Executive Order (EO) 14276 Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness which will enhance flexibility, reduce the occurrence of fishery closures, and advance new innovative fishing methods to access underutilized stocks. The actions are 1) reconsidering the sardine stocks defined in the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP), 2) adding provisions to the Groundfish FMP to increase flexibility in establishing harvest specifications and management measures, 3) modifications to the Council Operating Procedures to streamline consideration of Highly Migratory Species exempted fishing permits, and 4) providing additional flexibility in the Pacific

halibut Catch Sharing Plan to increase attainment of the Area 2A allocation. The letter accompanying the actions in response to the EO will also emphasize the Council's overarching priorities.

The Council also recommended staff send a letter to the Department of Commerce Secretary Lutnik and Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Mr. Soler proposing additional actions beyond deregulation that could be taken to increase seafood competitiveness.

Both letters will be available on the [Council's Correspondence Website](#) in early October.

I. Administrative Matters

1. Fiscal Matters – Patricia Hearing

a. Report of the Budget Committee

b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies

c. Public Comment

d. Council Action: Consider Budget Committee Report and Recommendations

Motion 21: Council adopt a final CY2025 operation budget of \$5,926,734 as recommended in Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental Budget Committee Report 1, which includes planning for an in-person November 2025 meeting and providing guidance that the Executive Director has discretion on timing of filling the vacant staff officer position, particularly if budget uncertainties exist.

Sharon Kiefer/Pete Hassemer (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council approved a Calendar Year 2025 Operational Budget, which includes an in-person November Council Meeting and an allowance for backfilling the currently vacant Staff Officer position. The Council asked that the Executive Director use discretion in any future hiring decisions if further budget uncertainties arise.

2. Approve Council Meeting Record – Pete Hassemer

a. Council Action: Approve Previous Council Record

Motion 22: Council approve the Council meeting record for the 282nd Session (June 2025).

Sharon Kiefer/Brad Pettinger (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

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 23: Council appoint Mr. Steve Hines to the Tribal position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

David Sones/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 23 carried unanimously)

Motion 24: Council appoint Dr. Aaron Berger to the At-Large position on the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Sharon Kiefer/Lynn Mattes (Motion 24 carried unanimously)

Motion 25: Council adopt changes found in Proposed Revisions to Council Operating Procedure 20: Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3, September 2025.

Christa Svensson/Rebecca Lent (Motion 25 carried unanimously)

Motion 26: Council adopts changes to COP 27 as shown in I.3, Attachment 4.

Marci Yaremko/Rebecca Lent (Motion 26 carried unanimously)

Staff Summary: The Council appointed:

- Steve Hines to the tribal position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel
- Dr. Aaron Berger to an At-large position on the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Additionally, Chair Hassemer appointed Brad Pettinger as the Chair of the Budget Committee.

The Council adopted modifications to COP 20 Highly Migratory Species Protocol for Exempted Fishing Permits and COP 27 Process for Initiating Allocation Reviews as contained in [Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3](#) and [Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 4](#). Edits to COP 20 change the Council meetings at which EFP applications are reviewed to November and March (previously June and September), permit initial submission of applications for review at either of those meetings, allow the Council to make recommendations on applications within a single meeting, and include administrative edits. Staff were tasked with incorporating the administrative edits to other COPs, as appropriate, and bringing such edits back for final Council action at a future meeting. The edits to COP 27 align with recent Council actions on groundfish and halibut, including removing outdated Amendment 6 allocation language, revising species allocation categories, eliminating obsolete references, and incorporating inseason flexibility for Pacific halibut management.

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 and Workload Planning

Staff Summary: None

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

[Informational Report 1](#): Staff Report on Updating the SRFC Management Framework
~~Informational Report 2: EO 14276 Restoring America's Seafood Competitiveness~~
[Supplemental Informational Report 3](#): Seattle Times Obituary on Joel Kawahara
[Supplemental Informational Report 4](#): West Coast Take Reduction Team
[Supplemental Informational Report 5](#): HMS Draft Gillnet Bycatch Performance Report
[Supplemental Informational Report 6](#): Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Areas

VOTING LOG

Motion 1: (Reconsidered): Amend [Agenda Item A.4, September 17-24, 2025, Council Meeting Agenda](#) to add an agenda item to consider an emergency rule to update the 2026 harvest specifications and management measures for canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole. This new agenda item would be considered under Agenda Item G.7 Groundfish Inseason.

Sharon Kiefer/David Sones (Motion 1 carried unanimously)

Aja Szumylo/Brad Pettinger (Motion 1, as reconsidered, carried unanimously)

Motion 2: Council reconsider the adoption of Agenda Item A.4 September 2025 Council Meeting Agenda.

Aja Szumylo/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 2 carried unanimously)

Motion 3: Council adopt for public review, status quo directed commercial fisheries season structure and the proposals in the [WDFW](#) and [ODFW](#) reports.

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 3 carried unanimously)

Motion 4: Council forward for public review a proposed change to the Catch Sharing Plan for the California recreational fishery that would establish the start date in each California subarea as April 1 of each year.

Marci Yaremko/Jaime Diamond (Motion 4 carried unanimously)

Motion 5: Council to advance the following methodology review topics for final topic selection:

1. The Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast methodology, including the index exponential-decay-weighting approach adopted for use in 2025 (ODFW/WDFW) as described in [Agenda Item F.1, Situation Summary](#); and,
2. Proposed changes to the Oregon Coast Natural coho marine survival index (ODFW) as described in [Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, ODFW letter to Chair Hassemer](#).

John North/Christa Svensson (Motion 5 carried unanimously)

Motion 6: Methodology review topics 1 and 2 in [SSC Report 1](#) are moved forward for review at the October 2025 Salmon Methodology review.

Corey Ridings/Christa Svensson (Motion 6 failed, Ms. Ridings and Dr. Lent voted yes, Ms. Keifer abstained)

Motion 7: Council adopt the following stock assessments, stock categories, and sigmas for use in 2027 and beyond (provided in the Council’s September 2025 Briefing Book, Agenda Item G.3) as recommended by the SSC:

Benchmark Assessments

Species	Stock	Category	Sigma
Yellowtail rockfish	North of 40° 10’ N lat.	1b	0.50
Chilipepper rockfish	Coastwide	1b	0.50
Quillback rockfish	CA only	1b	0.75
Sablefish	Coastwide	1	0.50
Rougheye/ Blackspotted rockfish	Coastwide	2	1.0

Update Assessment

Species	Stock	Category	Sigma
Yelloweye rockfish	Coastwide	1	0.5

Catch Only Projections

Species	Stock
Petrale sole	Coastwide
Canary rockfish	Coastwide
Shortspine thornyhead	Coastwide
Darkblotched rockfish	Coastwide

And recommends widow rockfish go to a supplemental review in October to be brought back for the November 2025 council meeting, as recommended by the SSC and GAP;

And request that catch projections for black rockfish off Oregon and for bocaccio be provided using the original time-varying sigma, rather than the modified time-varying sigma described in [Agenda Item G.3.a, Supplemental SSC Report 2, September 2025](#), for consideration at the November 2025 Council meeting.

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 7 carried unanimously)

Motion 8: Council adopt the methodology review topic recommended by the SSC under this agenda item, [G.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#).

Corey Niles/Lynn Mattes (Motion 8 carried unanimously)

Motion 9: Council:

- Adopt the following problem statement:
 - Because management decisions in the Council process often unfold over years, Council actions can lag behind changes in the marine environment related to climate change and other unexpected events (e.g., natural disasters, pandemics) and keep pace with the science that underpins management decisions.
 - We need to improve Council processes and operating procedures to support timely responses to rapidly changing conditions.
- Direct Council staff, within the timeline of the funding for this project, to develop execution plans for:

- “If-then” and in-season management actions for FMPs where they make sense to allow for action to happen outside of a Council meeting;
- EFP process improvements for all FMPs, using lesson from the FIW, and including pathways to efficiently move tested EFPs into regulation;
- Improved Processes for Data Streams and Integration of Local and Indigenous Knowledge.

Aja Szumylo/Corey Ridings (Motion 9, as amended, carried unanimously)

Motion 10: Council adopt as the Final Preferred Alternative (FPA), Alternative 1, identifying the following species as in need of conservation and management in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and should remain in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP):

Species	Opt. 1 stock	Opt. 2 2 stocks	Opt. 3 3 stocks	Proposed Delineations	Stock
Black rockfish (WA)	X			WA only	
Rosethorn rockfish	X			Coastwide	
Quillback rockfish (WA)	X			WA only	
Stripetail rockfish	X			Coastwide	

Lynn Mattes/Heather Hall (Motion 10 carried unanimously)

Motion 11: Council adopt as FPA, Alternative 2, identifying the following species as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ, and should be removed from the Groundfish FMP:

Black and yellow rockfish	China rockfish (CA only)	Harlequin rockfish	Olive rockfish
Black rockfish (CA only)	Copper rockfish (CA only)	Honeycomb rockfish	Pink rockfish
Blue rockfish (CA only)	Dwarf-red rockfish	Kelp greenling (OR & CA)	Pinkrose rockfish
Brown rockfish	Freckled rockfish	Kelp rockfish	Pygmy rockfish
Cabazon (OR & CA)	Gopher rockfish	Leopard shark	Quillback rockfish (CA only)
Calico rockfish	Grass rockfish	Light dusky rockfish	Swordspine rockfish
Chameleon rockfish	Halfbanded rockfish		Treefish

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 11 carried, Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 12: Council adopt as FPA Alternative 3, identifying the below species as not in need of conservation and management in the EEZ but should remain in the FMP designated as Ecosystem Component (EC) species:

Rockfish Species	Flatfish Species
Bronzespotted rockfish	Butter sole
Flag rockfish	Curlfin sole

Greenblotched rockfish	Rock sole
Mexican rockfish	Sand sole
Rosy rockfish	Starry flounder
Speckled rockfish	
Tiger rockfish	

Guidance on Ecosystem Component Species Checkpoint for Re-evaluation

The Council requests Council staff and the Groundfish Management Team work to develop a checkpoint for mortality of ecosystem component species to prompt re-evaluation of the stock being an EC species, in time for the November 2026 meeting, when the next groundfish mortality report will be available.

Checkpoints could be based on:

- Exceeding recent mortality by a certain percentage
- the last year of ACL or ACL contribution for a species, if available, see [Tables 11-17 in Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1](#) for examples
- a percentage increase of mortality from one year to the next
- Analysis similar to what was done in [E.6.a, GMT Report 1 from June 2025](#)
- or other(s)

This list is not intended to be inclusive, but a starting point of ideas.

Lynn Mattes/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 12 carried, Ms. Ridings voted no)

Motion 13: Council adopt language in the FMP as shown [Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 2, September 2025](#), requesting Staff make any modifications necessary to comport to the Council's FPA.

Lynn Mattes/Brad Pettinger (Motion 13 carried unanimously)

Motion 14: Council conditionally adopt:

- the 2027-2028 OFLs, stock categories, and P* values presented in [Agenda Item G.6, Supplemental Attachment 1](#), and Table 2 in [Agenda Item G.6, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2](#), and the updates from [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#), except for chilipepper, bocaccio, and black rockfish off Oregon
 - o For those three species request OFLs be calculated using the original time-varying sigma and brought back for the November 2025 meeting.
- default harvest control rules for the species in the following table:

Stocks that were assessed in 2025, including catch-only projections, and using the default Harvest Control Rules (HCRs)

Stock	Assessment Type	Default HCR
Quillback rockfish off California	Full	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45
Sablefish		
Petrale sole		
Darkblotched rockfish	Catch-only projection	

- In addition, request projections associated with the alternative harvest control rules presented below as recommended by the GMT (Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, September 2025) and GAP ([Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025](#)), prior to the November council meeting to further inform adoption of a range of alternative harvest control rules at that time.

Range of 2027-28 alternative HCRs

Stock	Default HCR	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Yellowtail rockfish north of 40° 10' N. lat.	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Ad hoc phase-in	
Chilipepper rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ACL = 2,114 mt	
Rougheye/ blackspotted rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ACL = 519 mt	Constant ACL = 300 mt
Yelloweye rockfish	ABC = ACL, P* 0.40 (SPR = 0.50)	Constant ACL = 85 mt	
Canary rockfish	ABC > ACL, P* 0.45 (40-10 rule)	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45, no 40-10 adjustment	
Shortspine thornyhead	ABC > ACL, P* 0.45 (40-10 rule)	Constant ABC = ACL 902 mt	
Petrale sole	ABC = ACL, P* 0.45	Constant ABC = ACL 2,489 mt if e-rule, 2,501 mt if no e-rule	

- Widow rockfish is not included in this motion as a stock assessment has not yet been approved and adopted, that information is anticipated to be available in November 2025.

The Council will confirm, or update, the values associated with these control rules after receiving results of the SSC’s review of all values in November 2025.

Lynn Mattes/Caroline McKnight (Motion 14 carried unanimously)

Motion 15: Council adopt for public review the Preliminary Range of Management Measures identified in [G.6.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1, September 2025](#), and as outlined in Table 4 from [Agenda Item G.6.a, Supplemental GMT Report 3, September 2025](#).

Caroline McKnight/Corey Ridings (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 16: Council adopt the following inseason actions, as recommended by the GAP ([Agenda G.7.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)) and GMT ([Agenda G.7.a, Supplemental GMT Report 1](#)):

Primary Sablefish Tier Fishery: Increase the incidental Pacific halibut landing limit from 75 pounds to 100 pounds of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional halibut.

California Recreational: Modify bag limits to establish a two-fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish off California.

Marci Yaremko/Jaime Diamond (Motion 15 carried unanimously)

Motion 17: Council request that NOAA Fisheries initiate an Emergency Rule to implement the revised catch limits for canary rockfish, shortspine thornyhead, and petrale sole, with proportional increases for all fishing sectors, detailed in Tables 1-3 in [Agenda Item G.8.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#).

The Council recommends implementing this rule as soon as possible to allow for planning for the 2026 fishing year.

Aja Szumylo/Heather Hall (Motion 17 carried, Ms. Kent voted no)

Motion 18: Council update the draft letter found in [Agenda Item H.2, Attachment 4](#) to include the specific strikeout and underline recommendations found in the Habitat Committee report ([Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental HC Report 1](#)) along with the wording suggestions and items for removal found in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel report ([Agenda Item H.2.a, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)) and to submit the letter along with the matrix found in [Agenda H.2, Attachment 5](#) in response to Executive Order 14276.

John Ugoretz/Corey Ridings (Motion 18 carried, Mr. Wulff abstained)

Motion 19: I move the Council task the executive Director and staff to finalize [H.2.a, Council Member Report 1](#), with the following changes (in yellow) reflective of advisory body reports and public comment as follows:

- Cc: Mr. Soler
- Expand fisheries data collection
 - Fund ecosystem data collection to understand impacts of the changing environment on target stocks, **forage species**, and protected species
 - Fund long-term, novel and innovative data collection to support robust fisheries stock assessments, **analysis, and methods to incorporate into future stock assessment (example: eDNA)**
 - **Provide funding pathways for commercial and recreational fishing community to collect data of opportunity or other data that could support fisheries management**
 - Create better pathways for commercial, recreational, **Indigenous and traditional fishing community knowledge** and experiences to be incorporated into stock assessments and management
 - **Fund National SeaGrant College Programming that supports domestic fishing, ports, and coastal communities**
- Support domestic infrastructure and modernization
 - Expand and update port infrastructure (e.g., ice houses, funding for port/harbor dredging, **dock maintenance, fuel dock improvement/expansion**)
 - Seafood processing infrastructure (including incentivizing cold storage facilities near coastal fishing ports, through the Port Infrastructure Development Program and the Water Resources Development Act)
 - **Support expansion of public markets that increase access to American seafood**
 - Design coastal and marine spatial planning that supports and includes U.S. fishermen **and processors**
- Design Market/industry support mechanisms
 - **Expand USDA programs** for food producers/farms to fishermen **and processors**, such as grants, insurance and access to capital

- Stronger NOAA Fisheries marketing of primacy of U.S. fisheries management, and how that contributes to a sustainable, superior product
- U.S. seafood commodity marketing support at levels commensurate with the agricultural sector (similar organizations to Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers)
- Support/expand/expedite funding for fisheries disaster declarations
- Develop/expand educational efforts dedicated to the nutritional value of seafood and the health benefits of its consumption

Jaime Diamond/Corey Ridings (Motion 19, as amended, carried; Mr. Ugoretz voted no, Mr. Wulff, Ms. Kiefer and Ms. Mattes abstained)

Motion 20: Council submit the Council member letter to the Seafood competitiveness Executive Order Federal Register Notice [Supplemental Attachment 6](#).

Aja Szumylo/Rebecca Lent (Motion 20 failed; Mr. Ugoretz, Mr. Pettinger, Ms. Diamond, Ms. Svensson, Mr. Sones and Ms. Keifer voted no, Mr. Wulff and Ms. Mattes abstained)

Motion 21: Council adopt a final CY2025 operation budget of \$5,926,734 as recommended in [Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental Budget Committee Report 1](#), which includes planning for an in-person November 2025 meeting and providing guidance that the Executive Director has discretion on timing of filling the vacant staff officer position, particularly if budget uncertainties exist.

Sharon Kiefer/Pete Hassemer (Motion 21 carried unanimously)

Motion 22: Council approve the Council meeting record for the [282nd Session \(June 2025\)](#).

Sharon Kiefer/Brad Pettinger (Motion 22 carried unanimously)

Motion 23: Council appoint Mr. Steve Hines to the Tribal position on the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel.

David Sones/Sharon Kiefer (Motion 23 carried unanimously)

Motion 24: Council appoint Dr. Aaron Berger to the At-Large position on the Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Sharon Kiefer/Lynn Mattes (Motion 24 carried unanimously)

Motion 25: Council adopt changes found in Proposed Revisions to Council Operating Procedure 20: Protocol for Consideration of Exempted Fishing Permits for Highly Migratory Species Fisheries [Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 3, September 2025](#).

Christa Svensson/Rebecca Lent (Motion 25 carried unanimously)

Motion 26: Council adopts changes [to COP 27 as shown in I.3, Attachment 4](#).

Marci Yaremko/Rebecca Lent (Motion 26 carried unanimously)

ADJOURN

The Council meeting adjourned on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 2:18 p.m.

Peter F. Hassemer

December 9, 2025

Pete Hassemer
Council Chair

Date