



Pacific Fishery Management Council MEETING NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2026

CONTACT: Mr. Merrick Burden

503-820-2280 or 866-806-7204

Pacific Fishery Management Council to Hold a Meeting September 16-21, 2026, to Adopt Management Measures for Ocean Fisheries

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC or Council) and its advisory bodies will meet September 16-21, 2026, in Vancouver, Washington and via webinar. The Council meeting will be live streamed with the opportunity to provide public comment in person and remotely starting Friday, September 18 at 9 a.m., and reconvening at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 19, through Monday, September 21, 2026. All meetings are open to the public, except for a Closed Session held from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Friday, September 18, to address membership appointments, litigation, and personnel matters. Advisory body meetings begin September 16 and will be conducted via a combination of online and in-person formats as described on the last pages of the attached proposed meeting agenda. Instructions for joining online meetings will be posted to the [September 2026 meeting page](#). Briefing materials will be available on the [September 2026 meeting page](#) no later than Tuesday, September 1, 2026, by the end of the day.

The Council is scheduled to address issues related to salmon, groundfish, highly migratory species (HMS), coastal pelagic species (CPS), Pacific halibut, habitat, and administrative matters. Several agenda items have impacts that span multiple fishery management plans (FMPs) and are labeled "Cross FMP." Key actions for consideration at the meeting include:

Salmon

- Identify final topics for the 2026 methodology review. The methodology review is tentatively scheduled for October 2026 with a report back to the Council in November 2026
- Receive an update on the status of Klamath River restoration efforts following the dam removal
- Receive an informational update regarding the development of salmon risk tables and methods for assessing and responding to bias and uncertainty, as described in Satterthwaite and Shelton 2023, with a focus on potential application to Sacramento River Fall Chinook. Further consideration of these tools, including their potential incorporation into the salmon risk management framework, could occur at a future meeting

Groundfish

- Develop a protocol for reviewing catch of ecosystem component species and identifying stocks in need of conservation and management. Such protocol would be considered for incorporation in the Council Operating Procedures at a future meeting

- Adopt a final preferred alternative to remove trawl time and area closures, which have been tested under an exempted fishing permit. Adopt updates to the declaration regulations to provide increased flexibility for trawl permit holders. Consider removing duplicative Federal recreational regulations regarding the sale of fish waste
- Adopt inseason adjustments for 2026 and technical corrections to the 2027-2028 harvest specifications and management measures, as appropriate

HMS

- Adopt a purpose and need and range of alternatives for adjusting the existing Pacific bluefin tuna trip limits, consistent with the If-Then framework explored under Special Project 1

CPS

- Revise key management provisions for the revised Pacific sardine stock, based on the interim final preferred alternative stock definition (see [April 2026 Decision Summary Document](#)), which includes all Pacific sardine in U.S. waters in the fishery management unit. Expected September action includes adopting a range of alternatives and a preliminary preferred alternative for a potential FMP amendment
- Adopt a preliminary version of the Stock Assessment Terms of Reference for CPS assessments. Final Terms of Reference are scheduled for adoption in November 2026

Cross FMP

- Hear an enforcement report from the Office of Law Enforcement, United States Coast Guard, and the Washington, Oregon, and California Enforcement agencies
- Receive a report from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
- Discuss project planning, updates, and clarifications related to the Council's Special Projects (Agenda Item C.3)
- Review progress toward implementing Council Efficiencies and discuss next steps
- Under Agenda Item C.5, discuss a nationwide review of If-Then statements to assess the feasibility of a similar approach for West Coast regulations, with further consideration under an FMP-specific agenda item at a future meeting, as appropriate. Consider changes to Council meeting requirements that could allow certain well-analyzed, broadly supported, and low-controversy FMP amendments to be completed in fewer Council meetings while maintaining applicable public notice and comment requirements

Habitat

- Discuss current habitat issues

Halibut

- Adopt 2027 preliminary commercial and recreational Catch Sharing Plan and regulation changes for public review. Final action is scheduled for the November 2026 Council meeting

Illness protocols: Illnesses can be disruptive and cause complications within any public setting. To help ensure the health of our community, Council process participants that fall ill are encouraged to attend the meeting using the online option of our Council session.

All meetings are open to the public and there will be an opportunity to participate and provide oral testimony in person and remotely for the Council session. For more information on the meetings, refer to the attached proposed detailed agenda. Information is also available on the [September 2026 meeting page](#) or by calling the Council office at 503-820-2280 or 866-806-7204 (toll-free).

The meeting of the Council will be live streamed on the internet. The broadcast will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 18, 2026. The meeting will continue daily at 8 a.m. through Monday, September 21, 2026. Broadcasts end daily at 5 p.m. or when business for the day is complete. Only the audio portion and presentations displayed on the screen will be broadcast. The audio portion for the public is listen-only except that an opportunity for oral public comment will be provided prior to Council Action on each agenda item. To access the meeting online, please visit the [September 2026 meeting page](#). It is recommended that you use a computer headset to listen to the meeting, but you may use your telephone for the audio-only portion of the meeting.

Advisory body meetings will be conducted in person and online according to the schedules in the attached proposed agenda. There will be an opportunity for public comment daily in each of the meetings. Instructions for how to connect to meetings being held via webinar will be posted on the Council's [September 2026 meeting page](#) prior to the first day of the meeting.

Public Comment Guidelines

The public is encouraged to comment on Council agenda items in writing prior to the meeting through our [Public Comment Electronic Portal](#). Additionally, there will be an opportunity for oral public comment in person and remotely prior to Council action on each agenda item. Timing of agenda items may change as the meeting progresses, and items not completed on the scheduled day will be carried over to later in the meeting, usually the next day.

Oral Public Comments

Oral public comments will be accepted in person and remotely during the meeting prior to Council action on each agenda item. Instructions for oral public comments will be available on the [September 2026 meeting page](#).

Written Public Comments

Written public comments must be submitted to our [Public Comment Electronic Portal](#). To submit written public comment, visit the [September 2026 meeting page](#) and select "E-portal for Public Comments", select the upcoming meeting, and then select the agenda item of interest. You can either enter your comments in the text box or upload a file containing your comments in Adobe pdf. The public comment portal opens on August 17, 2026, and closes on September 16, 2026, at 5 p.m. September 1 is the recommended timeline for submitting technical materials for SSC review, consistent with Council Operating Procedure 1, which provides that materials should be received at least two weeks before the SSC meeting.

Written comments after the Council meeting starts will only be accepted if they are in support of oral public comment and are submitted via the [Public Comment Electronic Portal](#) prior to Council Action on the agenda item.

To receive future announcements via email, sign up for the “[PFMC E-Mail Notification List](#).”

PFMC
08/17/26

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Telephone 503-820-2280 or toll free 866-806-7204, <http://www.pcouncil.org>

289th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council

September 16-21, 2026

Hilton Vancouver Washington

301 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA 98660

Telephone: 360-993-4500



The Council is meeting in person in Vancouver, Washington with live streaming and remote participation options including public comment. Ancillary meetings will be conducted via a combination of online and in-person formats. Instructions for joining online meetings will be posted to the [September Council meeting web page](#).

Proposed Detailed Agenda begins on next page

Please note that the timing—including the day—of the agenda items may change based on the time required for prior agenda items, and the order may change as required to effectively address the issues.

Council Action descriptions to adopt imply consideration to adopt; adoption is not mandatory.

Schedule of Ancillary Meetings follows the Detailed Agenda

Refer to the Schedule of Ancillary Meetings following the Council's Detailed Agenda for a complete list of technical and administrative committees, advisory bodies, work groups, state delegations, and special sessions. Instructions for joining online meetings will be posted to the [September Council meeting web page](#).

Wed	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
16-Sep	18-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep	21-Sep	
SSC meets	Closed Session	Habitat	Groundfish	CPS	
	Call to Order				
	Open Comment	Pacific Halibut			
	Cross FMP				
Thur		Cross FMP	Salmon	Cross FMP	Administrative
17-Sep					
Advisory Bodies Meet	Cross FMP		Salmon	HMS	
		Administrative		Cross FMP	



289th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
September 16-21, 2026

Proposed Detailed
AGENDA

Friday, September 18, 2026

General Council Session
Heritage A&B

8:00 a.m. Closed Executive Session

This session is closed to all except Council members, their designees, and others designated by the Council Chair to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

9 a.m.

A. Call to Order

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| A.1 | Opening Remarks | Pete Hassemer, Chair |
| A.2 | New Council Member Appointments | Jennifer Quan |
| A.3 | Roll Call | Merrick Burden |
| A.4 | Agenda | Pete Hassemer |
| | a. Council Action: Approve Agenda | |
| A.5 | Executive Director's Report | Merrick Burden |

B. Open Comment Period

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|
| B.1 | Comments on Non-Agenda Items | Merrick Burden |
| | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| | b. Public Comment | |
| | c. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate | |

C. Cross Fishery Management Plan

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| C.1 | Office of Law Enforcement, United States Coast Guard, and Tri-State Enforcement Biennial Report | Alyssa Seibt |
| | a. Enforcement Report | |
| | b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| | c. Public Comment | |
| | d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate | |
| C.2 | Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Report | Kerry Griffin |
| | a. Report of the ONMS | Laura Ingulsrud |
| | b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| | c. Public Comment | |
| | d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate | |

Friday, September 18, 2026 - continued

C. Cross Fishery Management Plan (continued)

- C.3 Special Projects: Project Planning, Updates, and Clarifications Gilly Lyons
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Council Discussion, as Appropriate

D. Administrative Matters

- D.1 Council Member Recusals Merrick Burden
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Council Discussion, as Appropriate

Saturday, September 19, 2026

8 a.m. Heritage A&B

A. Call to Order (*reconvene*)

- A.6 Commencing Remarks Pete Hassemer
Merrick Burden

E. Habitat Issues

- E.1 Habitat Issues Kerry Griffin
- a. Report of the Habitat Committee Scott Heppell
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Consider Habitat Committee Report and Recommendations

F. Pacific Halibut Management

- F.1 2027 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 Preliminary 2027 Commercial and Recreational Catch Sharing Plan and Regulation Changes for Public Review

G. Salmon Management

- G.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 2026
- G.2 Klamath River Dam Removal and Basin Update Angela Forristall
Dan Wilson
- a. Status of the Klamath Dam Removal Project
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate

Saturday, September 19, 2026 - continued

G. Salmon Management (continued)

- G.3 Risk Management Framework – Risk Tables and Other Approaches, Informational Angela Forristall
- a. Salmon Risk Tables Tim Copeland/Gilly Lyons/Angela Forristall
 - b. Presentation on ‘*Methods for assessing and responding to bias and uncertainty in the U.S. West Coast salmon abundance forecasts*’ (Satterthwaite and Shelton, 2023) Will Satterthwaite
 - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate

C. Cross Fishery Management Plan (continued)

- C.4 Council Efficiencies Kelly Ames
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary COPs Related to Governance and Process Improvements; Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate

Sunday, September 20, 2026

8 a.m. Heritage A&B

A. Call to Order (*reconvene*)

Pete Hassemer

A.7 Commencing Remarks

Merrick Burden

H. Groundfish Management

- H.1 Protocol for Reviewing Ecosystem Component Species Catch and Identifying Stocks in Need of Conservation and Management Katrina Bernaus
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Recommend a Review Process for Incorporation in the Council Operating Procedures, Provide Guidance, as Appropriate
- H.2 Moving Trawl Gear Exempted Fishing Permit into Regulations; Updating Declaration Requirements; Removing Duplicative Recreational Regulations – Final Action Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives and Fishery Management Plan Revisions

H. Groundfish Management (continued)

- H.3 Inseason Adjustments for 2026 and Technical Corrections for
2027-28 – 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 2026 and Technical Corrections to the 2027-28 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures, as Appropriate.

C. Cross Fishery Management Plan (continued)

- C.5 Special Project 1: Nationwide Review of If, Then Statements, and
Council Meeting Requirements Gilly Lyons
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Further Direction, as Appropriate; Recommend Adjustments to Council Meeting Requirements for Incorporation into the Council Operating Procedures

I. Highly Migratory Species Management

- I.1 Special Project 1: If, Then Management Measures for Bluefin
Tuna Trip Limits Kerry Griffin, Gilly Lyons
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Purpose and Need, Range of Alternatives

D. Administrative Matters (continued)

- D.2 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
- D.3 Approve Council Meeting Record Pete Hassemer
- a. **Council Action:** Approve Previous Council Meeting Record

Monday, September 21, 2026

8 a.m.

Heritage A&B

A. Call to Order (*reconvene*)

Pete Hassemer

A.8 Commencing Remarks

Merrick Burden

J. Coastal Pelagic Species Management

J.1 Fishery Management Plan Amendment: Management Provisions
for the Revised Sardine Stock

Katrina Bernaus

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Range of Alternatives and a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, if possible

J.2 Stock Assessment Terms of Reference

Katrina Bernaus

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Stock Assessment Terms of Reference, Provide Guidance, as Appropriate

D. Administrative Matters (continued)

D.4 Membership Appointments and Council Operating Procedures (COPs)

Kelly Ames

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Announce Membership Appointments; Adopt Changes to COPs, as Appropriate

D.5 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Merrick Burden

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

ADJOURN

**289TH SESSION OF THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 16-21, 2026**

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

Day 1— Wednesday, September 16, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8:00 a.m.	Heritage C

Day 2— Thursday, September 17, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Secretariat	8:00 a.m.	Alder
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8:00 a.m.	Heritage C
Habitat Committee	8:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Budget Committee	1:00 p.m.	Heritage D
Enforcement Consultants	2:00 p.m.	Oak

Day 3— Friday, September 18, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage D
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Secretariat	8:00 a.m.	Alder
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8:00 a.m.	Heritage C
Habitat Committee	8:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Oak

Day 4— Saturday, September 19, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage D
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Secretariat	8:00 a.m.	Alder
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel	11:00 a.m.	Heritage D
Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team	11:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Enforcement Consultants	As Needed	Online

Day 5 — Sunday, September 20, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage D
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Secretariat	8:00 a.m.	Alder
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Heritage D
Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team	8:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Enforcement Consultants	As Needed	Online

Day 6 — Monday, September 21, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage D
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Heritage E
Secretariat	8:00 a.m.	Alder

PFMC
8/14/2026

PROPOSED PACIFIC COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA, SEPTEMBER 16-21, 2026, VANCOUVER, WA

	Fri, Sept 18	Sat, Sept 19	Sun, Sept 20	Mon, Sept 21
Acronyms are defined on the PFMC website Advisory Bodies listed in bold below are scheduled as in-person sessions. All others are proposed as remote meetings (<i>italics</i>). Shading indicates potential meeting dates. Some Advisory Bodies will also be holding online meetings in advance of the Council meeting, check the Council web page for details.	CLOSED SESSION 8 AM Discuss Litigation & Personnel Matters (1 hr) A. CALL TO ORDER 9 AM 1-5. Opening Remarks, New Council Member Appointments, Roll Call, Approve Agenda, Executive Director's Report (1 hr) B. OPEN COMMENT 1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items (30 min) C. CROSS FMP 1. OLE, USCG, & Tri-State Enforcement Biennial Report (1 hr 30 min) 2. Annual Report Report of the ONMS (1 hr) 3. Special Projects: Project Planning, Updates, and Clarifications (2 hr) D. ADMINISTRATIVE 1. Council Member Recusals (1 hr)	E. HABITAT 1. Habitat Issues (1 hr) F. PACIFIC HALIBUT 1. 2027 CSP & Annual Regs – Preliminary (1 hr 30 min) G. SALMON 1. Methodology Review – Final Topic Selection (1 hr 30 min) 2. Klamath River Dam Removal and Basin Update (1 hr) 3. Risk Management Framework - Risk Tables, and Other Approaches – Informational (1 hr 30 min) C. CROSS FMP 4. Council Efficiencies (1 hr 30 min)	H. GROUND FISH 1. Protocol for FMP Species Review (1 hr) 2. Trawl Gear EFP into Regulation, Declarations Update, Recreational Fish Waste Sale - FPA (1 hr 30 min) 3. Inseason Adjustments and Technical Corrections for 2027-28 – Final (1 hr 30 min) C. CROSS FMP 5. Special Project 1: Adaptive Management –Nationwide If, Then Review, & Council Mtg Requirements (1 hr 30 min) I. HMS 1. If, Then Measures (Special Project 1), P&N, ROA (1 hr) D. ADMINISTRATIVE 2. Fiscal Matters (1 hr) 3. Approve Council Mtg. Record (15 min)	J. COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES 1. FMP Amendment: Sardine Stock Revision – ROA, PPA (2 hr 30 min) 2. Stock Assessment Terms of Reference – Preliminary (1 hr 30 min) D. ADMINISTRATIVE 4. Membership Appointments, SOPPs, & COPs (30 min) 5. Future Council Meeting Agenda & Workload Planning (1 hr)
Meeting in Advance				
EAS/EWG, GAP/GMT, HMSAS/MT, STT/SAS				
Wed, Sept 16				
8 am SSC				
Thur, Sept 17	8 hr	8 hr	7.8 hr	5.5 hr
8 am Secretariat 8 am SSC 8 am HC 1 pm BC 2 pm EC	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 8 am SSC 8 am HC Ad Hoc EC 6 pm Chair's Reception	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 11 am CPSAS & CPSMT Ad Hoc EC	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 8 am CPSAS & CPSMT Ad Hoc EC	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat