

286th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council

March 3-9, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento, CA 95815

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The Council is meeting in person in Sacramento, CA 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 [March 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 [March Council meeting web page](#).

Tue	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
March 3	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9
SSC meets	Closed Session	Salmon	Groundfish	Highly Migratory Species	Highly Migratory Species
	Call to Order				
	Open Comments				
Wed	Salmon	Groundfish	Salmon	Salmon	Administrative
March 4			Groundfish	Pacific Halibut	Salmon
Advisory Bodies Meet	Groundfish			Ecosystem	
	Ecosystem				Habitat



286th Session of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 3-9, 2026

Proposed Detailed
AGENDA

Thursday, March 5, 2026

General Council Session
Grand Ballroom

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 | Roll Call | Merrick Burden |
| A.3 | Agenda | Pete Hassemer |
| | a. Council Action: Approve Agenda | |
| A.4 | 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. Salmon Management

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| C.1 | National Marine Fisheries Service Report | Angela Forristall |
| | a. Regulatory Activities | Susan Bishop |
| | b. Fisheries Science Center Activities | Nate Mantua |
| | c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| | d. Public Comment | |
| | e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate | |
| C.2 | Review of 2025 Fisheries and Summary of 2026 Stock Forecasts | Angela Forristall |
| | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| | b. Public Comment | |
| | c. Council Action: Review and Discuss Relevant Fishery Information, Adopt 2026 Abundance Forecasts and Annual Catch Limits, and Act on Relevant Conservation Objectives or Status Determinations, as Necessary | |

Thursday, March 5, 2026 - continued

D. Groundfish Management

- D.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report Katrina Bernaus
- a. Regulatory Activities Keeley Kent
 - b. Fisheries Science Center Activities Jon McVeigh
 - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate
- D.2 Adopt Stock Assessments Jessi Waller
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Stock Assessments

E. Ecosystem Management

- E.1 California Current Ecosystem Annual Status Report and 2026 Science Review Topics Gilly Lyons
- a. California Current Ecosystem Status Report Mary Hunsicker, Andrew Leising, Amanda Phillips
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Review the California Current Ecosystem Status Report and Consider Ecosystem Science Review Topics for 2026

Friday, March 6, 2026

8 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

A. Call to Order (*reconvene*)

- A.5 Commencing Remarks Pete Hassemer
Merrick Burden

C. Salmon Management (continued)

- C.3 Identify Management Objectives and Preliminary 2026 Management Alternatives Angela Forristall
- a. Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission Chair Phil Anderson
 - b. NMFS Recommendations Susan Bishop
 - c. Tribal Recommendations David Sones
 - d. State Agencies Recommendations K. Adicks, J. North, M. Yaremko
 - e. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - f. Public Comment
 - g. **Council Action:** Adopt Council Recommendations for Initial Management Measure Alternatives for Salmon Technical Team Collation and Consider Inseason Adjustments to Fisheries Prior to May 16, 2026

Friday, March 6, 2026 - continued

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

- D.3 Phase 2 Stock Definitions: Remaining Nearshore Species -
Final Action Katrina Bernaus
- 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
- D.4 Widow Rockfish Alternative Harvest Control Rule: Problem Statement, Range of Alternatives Jessi Waller
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Problem Statement, Range of Alternatives for Analysis
- D.5 Inseason Adjustments – Final Action Katrina Bernaus
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Inseason Adjustments for 2026

F. Habitat Issues

- F.1 Current 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

Saturday, March 7, 2026

8 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

A. Call to Order (*reconvene*)

Pete Hassemer

- A.6 Commencing Remarks

Merrick Burden

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

- D.6 Initial Harvest Specifications for 2027-28 Jessi Waller
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Confirm Preliminary Preferred Acceptable Biological Catch and Annual Catch Limits for Stocks and Stock Complexes, As Appropriate

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - continued

- D.7 Implementation of the 2026 Pacific Whiting Fishery under the U.S./Canada Agreement Katrina Bernaus
- a. Report of Joint Management Committee Members Frank Lockhart, Aja Szumylo
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Consider Necessary Actions for Implementing the 2026 Pacific Whiting Fishery

- D.8 Initial Stock Assessment Plan for 2027 and 2029 Jessi Waller
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt for Public Review a Preliminary List and Schedule of Stocks for Assessment

C. Salmon Management (continued)

- C.4 2026 Management Alternative Analysis Recommendations Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Council Direction to the Salmon Technical Team and Salmon Advisory Subpanel on Alternative Development and Analysis

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

- D.9 2027-28 Stock Assessment Terms of Reference – Scoping Jessi Waller
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Identify the Scope of Proposed Changes to the Terms of Reference for Assessments, Methodology Reviews, and Rebuilding Analyses

G. Highly Migratory Species Management

- G.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Report Kerry Griffin
Ryan Wulff
- a. Regulatory Activities
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate
- G.2 International Management Activities Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on U.S. Positions for Upcoming Regional Fishery Management Organization Meetings and Other Forums, as Appropriate

Saturday, March 7, 2026 - continued

- G.3 Exempted Fishing Permits – Preliminary or Final Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Endorse EFP Applications and Recommend NMFS Issuance; Request Additional Review and Consideration, as Appropriate

Sunday, March 8, 2026

8 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

A. Call to Order (*reconvene*)

Pete Hassemer

- A.7 Commencing Remarks

Merrick Burden

G. Highly Migratory Species Management (continued)

- G.4 Highly Migratory Species Roadmap: Exempted Fishing Permit Metrics and Benchmarks - Final Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
- Continued on Monday, March 9*

C. Salmon Management (continued)

- C.5 Further Direction for 2026 Management Alternatives Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Further Council Guidance and Direction, as Necessary

H. Pacific Halibut Management

- H.1 Incidental Limits: Salmon Troll Options and Fixed Gear Sablefish Final Action Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Recommend Inseason Changes to April/May 2026 Retention Limits in the Salmon Troll Fishery, as Necessary; Adopt Options for Public Review on Retention in 2026 and April/May 2027 Salmon Troll Fishery; Adopt Final Retention Limits for 2026 Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery

E. Ecosystem Management (continued)

- E.2 Special Project 3: Workshop to Develop New Fishing Systems Gilly Lyons
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Provide Guidance on Workshop Objectives and Structure

Sunday, March 8, 2026 - continued

D. Groundfish Management (continued)

- D.10 2027-28 Fisheries – Analytical Update and Limited Actions Todd Phillips
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review Draft Analysis, Recommend Modifications, and Provide Guidance, As Appropriate

Monday, March 9, 2026

8 a.m.

Grand Ballroom

A. Call to Order (*reconvene*)

Pete Hassemer

- A.8 Commencing Remarks

Merrick Burden

G. Highly Migratory Species Management (continued)

- G.4 Highly Migratory Species Roadmap: Exempted Fishing Permit Metrics and Benchmarks – Final (*continued from Sunday, March 8*) Kerry Griffin
- b. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Exempted Fishing Permit Metrics, Benchmarks, and Process Improvements, As Appropriate; Provide Guidance on Next Steps

I. Administrative Matters

- I.1 Approve Council Meeting Records Pete Hassemer
- a. **Council Action:** Approve Previous Council Meeting Records
- I.2 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

C. Salmon Management (continued)

- C.6 Adopt 2026 Management Alternatives for Public Review Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Ocean Salmon Management Alternatives for Public Review
- C.7 Appoint Salmon Hearing Officers Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Appoint Hearings Officers

Monday, March 9, 2026 - continued

I. Administrative Matters (continued)

- I.3 Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning Merrick Burden
 - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Council Discussion and Guidance on Future Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

ADJOURN

**286TH SESSION OF THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MARCH 3-9, 2026**

SCHEDULE OF ANCILLARY MEETINGS

Day 1— Tuesday, March 3, 2026

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

Day 2— Wednesday, March 4, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Secretariat	8:00 a.m.	California 1
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	California 2
Salmon Technical Team	8:00 a.m.	California 3
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8:00 a.m.	Sacramento
Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Yuba River
Ecosystem Workgroup	8:00 a.m.	Bear River
Enforcement Consultants	2:00 p.m.	Redwood Room

Day 3 — Thursday, March 5, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Secretariat	7:00 a.m.	California 1
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol B
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	California 2
Salmon Technical Team	8:00 a.m.	California 3
Scientific and Statistical Committee	8:00 a.m.	Sacramento
Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Yuba River
Ecosystem Workgroup	8:00 a.m.	Bear River
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Redwood Room
Chair's Reception	6:00 p.m.	Garden Terrace

Day 4 — Friday, March 6, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Secretariat	7:00 a.m.	California 1
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol B
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	California 2
Salmon Technical Team	8:00 a.m.	California 3
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Sacramento

Day 4 — Friday, March 6, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Highly Migratory Species Management Team	8:00 a.m.	Maxi's
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Redwood Room

Day 5 — Saturday, March 7, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Secretariat	7:00 a.m.	California 1
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol B
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Groundfish Management Team	8:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	Sacramento
Highly Migratory Species Management Team	8:00 a.m.	Maxi's
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	California 2
Salmon Technical Team	8:00 a.m.	California 3
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Online

Day 6 — Sunday, March 8, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Secretariat	7:00 a.m.	California 1
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol B
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	8:00 a.m.	California 2
Salmon Technical Team	8:00 a.m.	California 3
Enforcement Consultants	As Necessary	Online

Day 7 — Monday, March 9, 2026

	Time	How to Attend
Secretariat	7:00 a.m.	California 1
California State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol A
Oregon State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol C
Washington State Delegation	7:00 a.m.	Capitol B
Salmon Technical Team	8:00 a.m.	California 3

PFMC
3/4/2026

PROPOSED PACIFIC COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA, MARCH 3-9, 2026 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

	Thur, March 5	Fri, March 6	Sat, March 7	Sun, March 8	Mon, March 9
Acronyms can be found on the PFMC website	CLOSED SESSION 8 AM Discuss Litigation & Personnel Matters (1 hr) A. CALL TO ORDER 9 AM 1-4. Opening Remarks, Roll Call, Approve Agenda, Executive Director's Report (30 min) B. OPEN COMMENT 1. Comments on Non-Agenda Items (30 min) C. SALMON 1. NMFS Rpt. (1 hr) 2. Review of 2025 Fisheries & 2026 Stock Forecasts (1 hr 30 min) D. GROUND FISH 1. NMFS Report (30 min) 2. Adopt Stock Assessments (1 hr) E. ECOSYSTEM 1. California Current Ecosystem Annual Status Report and Science Review Topics (2 hr)	C. SALMON 3. Identify Management Objectives & Preliminary 2026 Management Alternatives (2 hr 30 min) D. GROUND FISH 3. Phase 2 Stock Definitions: Remaining Nearshore Spp. – Final Action (1 hr 30 min) 4. Widow Alternative Harvest Control Rule: Problem Statement, ROA (2 hr) 5. Inseason Adjustments (1 hr) F. HABITAT 1. Habitat Issues (1 hr)	D. GROUND FISH 6. 2027-28 Harvest Specifications - Interim Final OFLs & ABCs, Prelim ACLs (1 hr) 7. Pacific Whiting Treaty Implementation (1 hr) 8. Initial Stock Assessment Plan for 2027 and 2029 (1 hr) C. SALMON 4. 2026 Mgmt. Alternative Analysis Recommendations (1 hr) D. GROUND FISH 9. 2027-28 Stock Assessment Terms of Reference – Scoping (1 hr 30 min) G. HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES 1. NMFS Report (30 min) 2. International Management Activities (1 hr) 3. EFPs – Prelim or Final (30 min)	G. HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES 4. HMS Roadmap: EFP Metrics and Benchmarks – Final - <i>continued on Monday</i> (2 hr) C. SALMON 5. Further Direction for 2026 Mgmt. Alternatives (30 min) H. PACIFIC HALIBUT 1. Incidental Limits: Salmon Troll Options & Fixed Gear Sablefish Final Action (30 min) E. ECOSYSTEM 2. Special Project 3: Workshop to Develop New Fishing Systems (1 hr 30 min) D. GROUND FISH 10. 2027-28 Fisheries – Update & Limited Actions (1 hr 30 min)	G. HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES 4. HMS Roadmap: EFP Metrics and Benchmarks – <i>continued from Sun</i> (2 hr) I. ADMINISTRATIVE 1. Approve Mtg. Record (15 min) 2. Membership Appointments & Council Operating Procedures (30 min) C. SALMON 6. Adopt 2026 Mgt. Alternatives for Public Review (1 hr 30 min) 7. Appoint Salmon Hearings Officers (15 min) I. ADMINISTRATIVE 3. Future Council Meeting Agenda & Workload Planning (2 hr)
In Advance					
<i>CPSAS/MT, HC, EWG, FIW</i>					
Tue, March 3					
8 am SSC					
Wed, March 4	8 hr	8 hr	7.5 hr	6 hr	6.5 hr
8 am Secretariat 8 am GAP & GMT 8 am SAS & STT 8 am SSC 8 am EAS & EWG 2 pm EC	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 8 am GAP & GMT 8 am SAS & STT 8 am SSC 8 am EAS & EWG As needed EC 6 pm Chair's Reception	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 8 am GAP & GMT 8 am SAS & STT 8 am HMSAS & HMSMT As needed EC	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 8 am GAP & GMT 8 am SAS & STT 8 am HMSAS & HMSMT As needed EC (online)	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 8 am SAS & STT As needed EC (online)	7 am State Delegations 8 am Secretariat 8 am STT

DoubleTree, Sacramento Room Diagram—Pacific Fishery Management Council—March 2026 Meeting

